

17 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 120



We celebrated our recent Year 13 students' successes with the Annual Prize Giving on Wednesday evening. It is always a great pleasure to congratulate our prize winners and their parents. They have done superbly well to be nominated for an award, in whichever category, especially when you consider the very high standards at St. Olave's. Prizes were awarded by Stephen Hickey, Old Olavian and Her Majesty's Ambassador to Iraq, for a range of achievements, including curricular and

co-curricular activities. It was fascinating to hear Mr Hickey share his reflections on his time at St. Olave's, how it helped him with his career as a diplomat, and his views on global challenges. Thank you also to our leavers, Alice Ibbott and Camille Saunders, supported by the Music Department, for their excellent musical interlude.

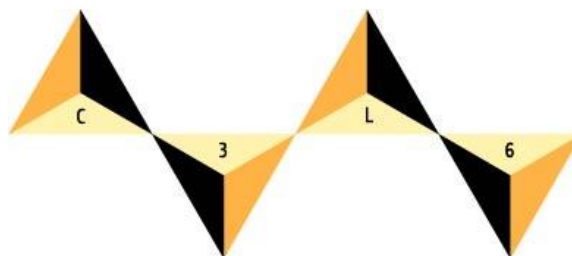
By the time you are reading this we shall just have completed our first stage Selective Eligibility Test. Fortunately the good weather made things easier to organise for the 1300 eager boys who came in to sit the exam. We look forward to processing the results before inviting a smaller cohort back for the Stage 2 tests. Thank you to Mrs Farrell and the Admissions team, all the Support Staff, Sixth Form Prefects and Year 12 students who helped to organise and ensure that the day ran smoothly.

Due to the pandemic, last year's U12 team had to wait until last Friday to play their county Plate final against Judd. The opposition eventually posted a total of 150 and, despite an excellent 58 not out from opener Yuvraj Tibrewal and an enterprising 28 from captain Liam Butterworth, we fell 20 runs short. An excellent occasion though and well done to the boys for playing so well.



It seems a long time since the beginning of term and the Year 9 Team Building Day. It was a great opportunity for students to have some fun, while working together and getting to know their new tutor group. Many thanks to the Year 9 tutors and prefects who helped supervise and encourage the students during the day.

Congratulations to the 52 Year 13 students who entered the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge in July. 44 students were awarded medals, including Kathir Saravanan, Ishaan Bhargava, Toan Truong, Charlotte Heard, Anthony Lu, Aaditya Deshmukh and Adrian Manickarajah who won Gold medals. Well done to Bharathsri Sivasritharan who gained the top mark, winning a Roentgenium medal and was invited to attend a chemistry summer school at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge.



Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Lower 6th



Thank you to Steve Coppin and Chloe Mills from The Life Skills Company who this week worked with our Year 13 students on enhancing the skills and qualities needed for success at university, in employment and in our everyday lives. They worked with students to identify their strengths and weaknesses, how to make an outstanding first impression and discussed what university and employers want from successful applicants. Good luck to Year 13 as they begin to think about interviews later this term.

I would like to celebrate other impressive student achievements, which have happened recently:

- Congratulations to Year 13 student, Surya Senthilkumar whose essay was selected as a favourite entry for the Caius Explore Competition in Medicine/Biological Natural Sciences by Caius College Cambridge.
- Year 10 student, Sai Reddy achieved success in badminton by winning a Bronze medal in the Kent U16 tournament, especially impressive as he is a year young for this.
- Year 12 student, Caleb Boy recently turned professional as a squash player and has already played a couple of professional matches. In the boys U17 national rankings for this month he is ranked at number one in England. Congratulations and we look forward to following his squash career!
- Well done to Year 10 student, Arjun who won a Silver in the U16 Boys Double at the Kent Junior Restricted Badminton Tournament held in Canterbury.
- Well done to our First XI football team who won 5 – 0 against Harris Academy Beckenham on Wednesday.
- Congratulations to Year 9 student, Dannish Ashiq who was awarded a Distinction in his LAMDA Level 1 Award in Performance (Grade 3).



TEEN TIPS
Wellbeing Hub



In this week's Teen Tips, they discuss how to create a culture of success for your child and how that culture will have an impact on their attitude to learning, their attitude to failure and potentially to their mental health and wellbeing. They explain what process and end goal cultures are, and how they affect young people. There is also a tip sheet on how to cultivate a process of goal culture in your household. You can listen to the podcast by following this [link](#), and information for how to access Teen Tips can be found via the [link](#) on the school website.

You should have received a letter earlier this week from Mrs Maxwell, Deputy Headteacher, as we have been made aware of several members of our school who have tested positive for COVID 19. We know that you may find this concerning but are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. The letter provides advice on how to support your child.

To all new parents, and some who may have forgotten, students must use the Park Avenue entrance (not Goddington Lane) before school and between 3.30pm and 5.30pm. Only in exceptional circumstances should students be dropped off or collected at the front of School (e.g. if they are carrying a large musical instrument or have a sports injury) during this time. Please would parents also be mindful of where they park on Park Avenue as I have already had complaints from residents about cars being parked across driveways and cars performing U turns in the middle of the road when the road is already congested. After 5.30pm students should be collected from the front of School as the Park Avenue gates will be locked. Your support with this would be appreciated.

Please see the Appendix below for Careers news from Mrs Mato.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Rees
Headteacher

The [St. Olave's website](#) and Twitter page - [@saintolaves](#) has many more stories of student endeavour and success. Please do keep sending me news items and student successes either via colleagues or email. The email address is publicityteam@saintolaves.net. Do not forget to include all the details along with a high-resolution photo you are willing to share and have published on the school website.

If you would like to donate into the Voluntary Fund to support the development of our school and enhance learning, and you are not already doing so, please follow the [sQuid login](#). The offer is called 'Donation to the School Voluntary Fund'. You can also donate via standing order. Please contact the Finance Office (finance@saintolaves.net) for more information.



CAREERS NEWS

It has been a good start to the new academic year, with the first of our Careers related sessions being delivered by the Life Skills Company. Our Year 13 students had the opportunity to interact and take part in a variety of interview skills sessions, giving them a deeper understanding around the following:

- What universities and employers want?
- Non-verbal communication at interview?
- Emotional intelligence at interview?
- Answering questions at interview?

It was fantastic to see how much our students valued the sessions, interacted in role plays and engaged well. We received some great positive feedback post assembly.



I am excited to announce that St. Olaves Grammar School has a vested interest in Pathway CTM this academic year. Pathway CTM is a Career Platform that our students can use to register and create an account. This will enable them to take advantage of an online outreach programme and to benefit from a wide range of careers related sessions. Students will have the opportunity to enjoy a huge wealth of employer encounters, experiences and insights, within a wealth of industries and can also explore apprenticeships or sponsored degrees.

We will ensure our students are well informed about the variety of pathways leading into the aspiration of their choice, giving them a full awareness of the variety of options available to them. This will provide them with a breadth and depth of careers education, enabling them to make well informed decisions combined with virtual experiences that they can log into in their own time.



We encourage all parents to remind their child to be consistent with updating their Unifrog profile, using their email address to sign in. All activities and competencies should be added to reflect their hard work. They can

explore careers by completing the personality quiz, which will help them to explore their subject strengths and become reflective and enquiring.