

19 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 103

As we move to the end of our second week, and having heard from teachers and pupils around the school, it has been wonderful to hear such joy of our community fully returning together, friends reunited, and the beginning of the restoration and renewal after the challenges



of this term so far. Thank you to everyone for what you are doing and

have done to make that such a positive experience for pupils, parents, staff, and the whole community. Thank you also to the Old Olavians who have processed over 3000 Lateral Flow Tests. Their help has been vital as the school has reopened and we have welcomed pupils and staff back.



All pupils have now been given kits to test themselves at home. Your child should take the test twice a week, before coming into school or the night before. A leaflet giving instructions on how to do the test was given out with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#). If anyone tests positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You need to report your result (positive, negative or void) to both NHS Test and Trace and to school. Please click on the following [link](#) to report your test result to school.

On the last day of term, Wednesday 31 March, we have decided to support the 'Down's Syndrome Association' and raise awareness for Down Syndrome



Down's Syndrome Association

A Registered Charity No. 1061474

across the community. This has been requested by a member of staff who has their own personal reason for asking for our support for this very worthy cause. We ask students to wear odd socks on this day and make a small donation to the charity via sQuid. Further details will be shared closer to the time.

There has been a lot of UCAS preparation taking place over recent weeks, and we have hosted our annual Higher Education, Oxbridge and Medics evenings for Year 12. These events were held remotely this year but they still allowed

UCAS

Year 12 students and their parents/carers to hear from a wide variety of external and internal speakers on matters such as life at university, student finance, apprenticeships and how to make successful applications. Among others, we were joined by representatives from the University of Birmingham, University of Cambridge and Imperial College. A number of Old Olavians also took part and shared their first-hand experiences, as well as answering questions from the audience. Students were given

information that will now allow them to start thinking in greater depth about the future. They can also engage with activities that will help make their applications for university, apprenticeships or employment stand out. We are hugely grateful to all those who gave up their evening to speak to the year group and for supporting them in their future endeavours.



**DANIEL
SPARGO
-MABBS**
Foundation

The Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation is a drug and alcohol education charity that aims to support young people to make safe choices about drugs and alcohol and reduce harm. This week's online wellbeing talk for parents was well attended and proved to be incredibly informative. The Foundation was set up in January 2014 by Tim and Fiona Spargo-Mabbs in response to the death of their 16-year-old son Daniel having taken ecstasy.

Fiona spoke personally, powerfully and sensitively about her family's experience. This, coupled with evidence based information, enabled our school community to better understand the challenges and choices young people face and it provided helpful tips for parents with regards to how to deal with what might be difficult conversations about drugs and alcohol with their children. Do visit their website for further information. <https://www.dsmfoundation.org.uk/>

This week's Teen Tips features Annie Brocklebank, a Surrey-based psychotherapist working with children, who explains the difference between sex and gender, the whys and how's, the developmental changes that influence a young persons' identity, and how parents and carers can support their child if they are questioning their gender identity. You can listen to his podcast by following this [link](#).



Our Year 12 students have once again performed fantastically well in the British Physics Olympiad Senior Challenge. Overall, 34 students took part and all of them achieved a graded award. 12 students managed to

achieve a Gold award which puts them in the top 15% of physicists in the country! A further 16 achieved Silver which is testament to their hard work and dedication to their studies. Congratulations to all the students who took part!

St. Olave's Cultural Evening

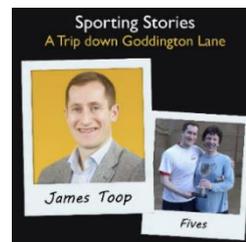
Cultural Evening is here!
It's time to celebrate the diversity and talent here at St. Olave's, which is why we need you to get involved!

If you would like to perform a cultural act, fill out [this form](#) and send a recording to arunabh.bagchi@saintolaves.net by March 29. Performances must be less than 2 minutes.

If you would like to submit a recipe for the cultural cookbook, please fill out [this form](#).

I mentioned in a previous Newsletter that this year's Cultural Evening Committee are hoping to put together their first ever 'Olavian Cultural Cookbook' with submissions from amongst all members of the Olavian community. They are looking to include your original recipes which celebrate the hugely diverse array of cultures that make up our Community and of which we are so proud. (Please note we are unable to accept/re-publish recipes already published/copied from the Internet) so your original recipes only please. Olavians are invited to submit their original recipes before Monday 22 March via the following [link](#). The Cultural Evening Committee are also trying to put together a virtual Cultural Evening. If you would like to perform a cultural act, please send a recording to arunabh.bagchi@saintolaves.net by 29 March 2021. Performances must be less than 2 minutes.

You may be aware that the PE department are producing a series of podcasts where they interview Old Olavians to see what impact sport has had on them, both during their school days and currently. Next down Goddington Lane is Fives player, James Toop. You can see the podcast on Instagram (StOlavesSPORT) and the audio version is available on Spotify via this [link](#).



There will be a Zoom prayer meeting for parents and supporters of St Olave's on Friday 26 March at 10:30 am. Please click on the following [link](#) for this meeting or it can be accessed using this Meeting ID: 864 6921 8392 and Passcode : C9KAXP

I would like to highlight the following student achievement that has taken place recently:

- Well done to Year 8 student, Shaurya Kadian, who completed his 30 day running challenge (7km everyday) for charity to raise money for Meghan's cancer treatment. He has so far managed to raise £415 for her treatment. Meghan's story can be read by following this [link](#), and Shaurya's fundraising page can be found by following this [link](#).

Please see the Appendices below for further Careers news from Mrs Platts, and information about reading from Mrs Martine, our librarian.

I hope you have a restful weekend and we look forward to your child returning next week.

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 this [link](#) to the Virgin Money Giving webpage.

Appendix 1

There are now opportunities for students from age 14 to participate in events related to progression as well as activities for older students such as virtual work experience over the Easter holiday and forthcoming university taster experiences.

Imperial College, London has opened applications for its 'Online Maker Challenge' for students aged 14-18 who enjoy making, designing and engineering. The programme has over 10 virtual workshops. Students will develop a creative idea from concept to prototype. The programme will run from 26 April - 29 June and has a deadline of 18 April.

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/be-inspired/student-recruitment-and-outreach/schools-and-colleges/students/on-campus-activities/programmes/maker-challenge-programme/>



From the University of Sheffield, throughout the months of March and April, there are free online opportunities for Year 12 pupils in taster sessions in Science, Social Science, Engineering, Arts and Humanities, Medicine, Dentistry and Health. <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/taster-days>

'Insight into University' is an on-line course running in the summer for 16+ students. It enables them to experience university STEM studies and the career opportunities that these can offer. Universities and companies are involved in running workshops, guidance and study modules towards the Silver Industrial Cadets Award. There is a fee payable for administration, however, bursaries are available. Applications close on 30 April and more information is on Moodle and at: www.etrust.org.uk

Finance company, Morgan Stanley, wish to widen the diversity of their employees and are reaching out to recruit those who are under-represented in their workforce. Their 'Step In, Step Up Foundations In Finance' programme is for Year 13 students who are eligible and is now open for applications. Details are shown on Moodle or via the link below. The course runs from the 31 August to 3 September. On completion students have the option of fast-tracking to Morgan Stanley's Spring Insight Programme. <https://www.morganstanley.com/people-opportunities/students-graduates/programs/early-insights/step-in-step-up-foundations-in-finance/>



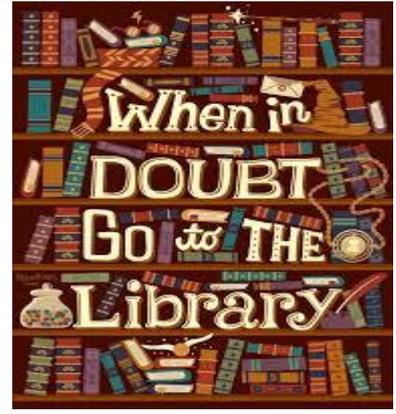
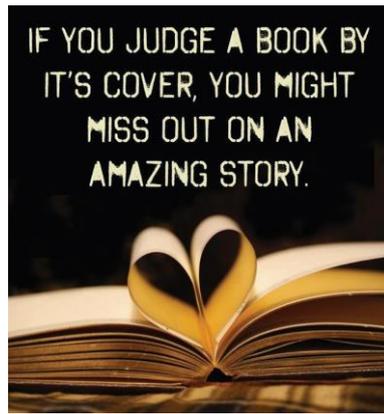
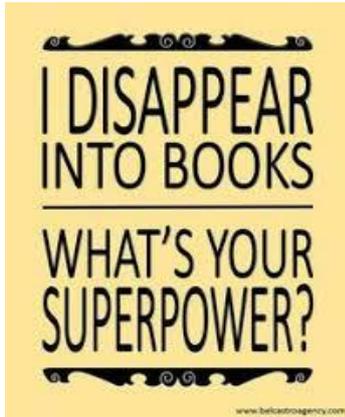
Bloomberg is sponsoring an event on 29 and 30 March, 'Women in Innovation Conference' for Year 12 and 13 black girl students interested in STEM careers. Inspirational black female innovators will talk about start-ups and entrepreneurship. The sponsors, as well as other companies, will be in attendance. Students will be exposed to several career options and the opportunity to network with the organisations participating. The event is organised by WCAN (Women in the City Afro-Caribbean Network). To register please use the link: <https://www.wcan.uk/events/black-women-in-innovation>



All students in Years 10 and above have access via their school emails to login to the Springpod platform. This is very useful for those students seeking virtual work experience with well-known companies. The latest opportunities are at: <https://www.springpod.co.uk/virtual-work-experience-programmes>

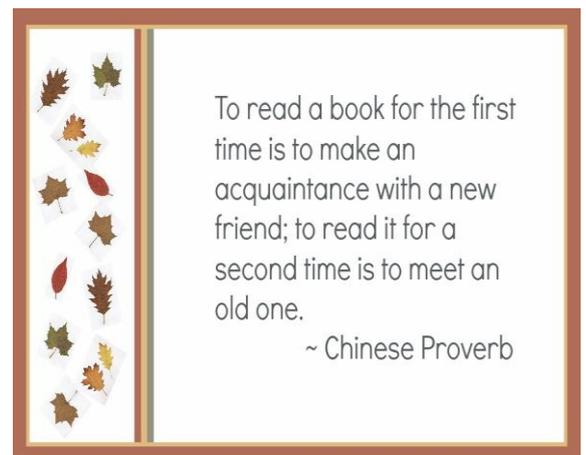
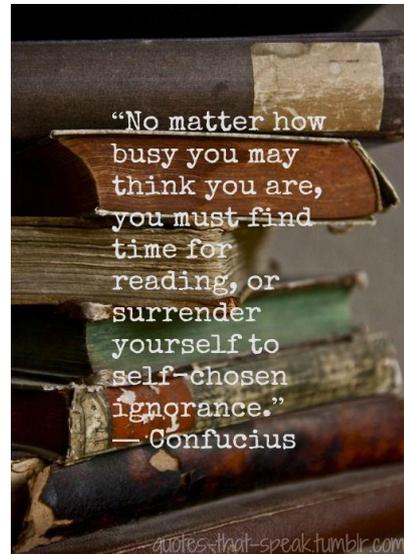
Appendix 2

Library News



The following is a **Year 10 Recommended Reading List:**

1. The Great Godden by **Meg Rosoff**
2. The Rest of Us Just Live Here by **Patrick Ness**
3. A Song for Ella Grey by **David Almond**
4. Hello Darkness by **Anthony McGowan**
5. The Bunker Diary by **Kevin Brooks**
6. Life An Unexploded Diagram by **Mal Peet**
7. The Book Thief by **Markus Zusak**
8. After the Fire by **Will Hill**
9. White Rabbit, Red Rabbit by **Tom Pollock**
10. Moonrise by **Sarah Crossan**
11. The Hate U Give by **Angie Thomas**
12. That Asian Kid by **Savita Kalhan**
13. Snowflake, AZ by **Marcus Sedgwick**
14. Fountains of Silence by **Rupta Sepetys**
15. Dracula by **Bram Stoker**
16. Hello Now by **Jenny Valentine**
17. The M Word by **Brian Conaghan**
18. The Black Flamingo by **Dean Atta**
19. Clouds Cannot Cover Them by **Jay Hulme**
20. Furious Thing by **Jenny Downham**
21. The Places I have Cried in Public by **Holly Bourne**
22. Every Day by **David Levithan**
23. Never Let Me Go by **Kazuo Ishiguro**
24. American Gods by **Neil Gaiman**
25. Wuthering Heights by **Emily Bronte**
26. Great Expectations by **Charles Dickens**
27. Long Walk to Freedom by **Nelson Mandela**
28. Atonement by **Iain McEwan**
29. The Road by **Cormac McCarthy**
30. Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep by **Phillip K Dick**



Any questions or comments kindly email librarian@saintolaves.net.