

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

31 March 2021

### Headteacher's Newsletter 105

Well done and thank you! We made it – another term has come to its close and the whole school community has done an incredible job supporting each other to get to this point.

May I remind you that following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme, the Department for Education continues to stress the importance of pupils testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. 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 NHS Test and Trace over the Easter break, please would you email Mrs Maxwell ([rmaxwe@saintolaves.net](mailto:rmaxwe@saintolaves.net)) if your child tests positive so we can fulfil the necessary contact tracing. **All pupils should test before returning to school for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, so we can find and isolate any positive cases.**



It gives me great pleasure to announce the new Senior Prefect Team for 2021 - 2022. I am sure you will join me in offering our warmest congratulations to joint Captains of School: Steven Coker and Millie Hennessy, with Vice Captains: Anupam Bandi, Nikhil Doosa, Scarlett O'Keefe, Rhea Rentala,

Jahnvi Singh and Matthew Todorov. Thank you and well done also to the students who put themselves forward to be part of the team but did not make the final selection.



Thank you to everyone who supported our odd socks days in school. I am pleased to announce that we raised £791.50 to support the Down Syndrome Association and raise awareness for Down Syndrome across the community.



I wrote to you on Monday sharing the excellent news that the works to build the new All Weather Pitch are due to commence during May half-term with the facility ready for use in the new academic year in September. We are thrilled that we are now able to commence these works as the All Weather Pitch was a project we said we would commit to back in 2018. This will be a first-class facility for students and the wider community to use and will allow the School to develop hockey as well as many other sports as part of our curriculum. The School has financed this project through the donations by parents to the Voluntary Fund. The cost of this project is approximately £815,000. We are extremely grateful to all parents who have contributed to the Voluntary Fund over a number of years as without these donations this facility would not be able to be built. Thank you once again.



This week's Teen Tips features a blog on how to talk to young people about consent. You can read the blog by following this [link](#).

This week of celebrations across the French-speaking world, led by the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, was an opportunity to raise awareness in and outside lessons on the extent to which the French language is widely used: as an official language, as a second language or as mother tongue. French lessons varied in content from the ordinary and research projects were undertaken by 7B and Year 9 students. Year 8 French classes watched a modern French anime which takes place in Paris. Year 12 students discovered the origins and the evolution of the language and discussed the pros and cons of preserving regional dialects. The French Prefects Shruti and Griffin organised Kahoot quizzes for KS3 and KS4 students to complete during form time as well as a presentation on what the week was about to present to tutor groups. The French Department wishes to thank the catering team for preparing a French menu mid-week and Dr Sidhu for showing a series of slides on various aspects related to French-speaking countries on TV screens. Finally, the 'Grand Quiz' which was organised by the High Commission of Canada in the UK was sent out for all



staff to participate. Dictations which are an iconic event in French school life and beyond were offered to non-teaching and teaching staff so that they could test their level of written accuracy based on three levels of difficulty. Congratulations to Mr Price who reached a very commendable level, even if like most native speakers the "sans faute" eluded him and to Mr Carroll who reached a very noble level of accuracy too. Bravo! We hope that all participants enjoyed the experience.

On Friday 26 March, students of German in Years 11 and 13 were fortunate enough to attend a GCSE and A Level conference respectively, with a senior examiner and German expert, live on Zoom. These Keynote student conferences provided the students with a chance to ask questions directly of Wanda Marshall, who has twenty years of experience as a German teacher and Head of German, as well as being an experienced examiner with our exam board, AQA. Students received a



comprehensive resource pack with activities that they worked through with Wanda during the conferences, and which also contained references and tips for students to take away and use for revision. The conferences were very thorough, informative, and engaging, and the students went away with lots of ideas of how to better prepare for further assessments of their GCSE and A Level courses.

I am pleased to share with you a slightly longer Virtual Concert this week and fitting finale to take us into the Easter break, this playlist has the largest number of student contributors yet. We hope that you have enjoyed following their musical achievements this season while we have embarked upon this little experiment in the online world. Here is the link to the 6<sup>th</sup> playlist <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT-gSVpNbD-RGXAl2yjitRkuygvoA2vJp> where you will hear from:

- Year 12 Band 'SINAD', comprising Caleb Lee, Daksh Mehta, Griffin Keemer and Yash Karlekar
- Oliver Soo, Year 8
- Year 7 students Arvin Anvari, Gabriel Doyle, Aaron Liang and Ishan Srinivas in a montage
- Alfie Beston, Year 9
- Sharath Chivukula, Year 12

Additionally, many colleagues will remember the student-led choral group 'Cantores' – I believe to have been officially founded by Oliver Morrell – and so will be pleased to know that an iteration of this group lives on! Alfie Beston and Matias Morgan have been collating remotely-recorded video from various alumni of the group to produce three recordings so far. Here is one of them <https://youtu.be/ICEYc-sobug>, which features Lucy Morrell on the organ and singers Richard Decker, Liam Butterworth (Year 7), Ewan Butterworth (Year 9), David Wade (Year 7), Matias Morgan (Year 12), Oliver Morrell and Alfie Beston (Year 9). If you ever want to encourage people outside of the school community to see our students' performances, please do share the above links or otherwise point them to the [Music page](#) of our website, where there are links to all the previous Virtual Concerts as well. Many thanks for your support and encouragement in these endeavours – it has been a great pleasure to have so many students involved in the projects so far and this might well be one of the positives to have come out of the troubled last year which we can keep in some format into the future.



Following excellent results in the Astronomy and Astrophysics Challenge, which was sat one morning before school during the Autumn Term, Daksh Kaushik and Linus Luu were both invited to take part in the British Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad.

This was conducted remotely on a Saturday morning in February, and involved three gruelling hours of really fiendish questions, on concepts which for the large part are not taught within the physics curriculum. Daksh obtained a Silver Certificate, and Linus a Gold, both outstanding achievements in this very difficult and highly competitive paper. Linus and Daksh have also been invited to take part in the Selection Camp for the international competition, another really amazing accolade. Following their successes in the Physics Olympiad (both Daksh and Linus received 'Top Gold' awards) they were invited to take part in Round 2 of the competition. This took place the Saturday after the Astro Olympiad and saw them both once more tackling questions set at the level of 'extreme challenge' according to the organisers! Designed to be a test of stamina, determination and resilience, not merely knowledge of physics topics and technical skills, it is set as a direct challenge to students' academic strength. Bearing all this in mind, the news this week that Daksh has obtained Silver, and Linus Gold in this round is really amazing, and such a credit to these two talented students.

I would like to highlight further student achievements and activities that have taken place recently:

- Congratulations to Year 13 student, Gloria, who has been offered a place within the Fitzwilliam College Chapel Choir as well as gaining the Fitzwilliam College Musical Leadership Scholarship. It is pleasing enough that she has been invited to sing within the Chapel Choir, which at Cambridge is a hugely significant feature of life at any college. The fact that they have recognised and acknowledged her individual leadership strengths and encouraged her existing enthusiasm for Gospel music with a formal scholarship is particularly special.





- Congratulations to our three Olavians, Alfie Beston, Isabelle Soo and Rohan Selva-Radov who are amongst the finalists of the 'Rotary Classical Singer and Trotman Instrumental Competitions' and will perform at BYMT on 8 May 2021 in the final.
- Well done to James Guest who, having achieved a Distinction in his Grade 6 Saxophone exam earlier this term, has now also achieved a Distinction in his Grade 6 Clarinet exam.
- Congratulations to Year 9 student, Keshav Sheshadri who won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Piano, Open Class for 14-16 years at the Purley and Coulsdon Music Festival.
- The German Department is very happy to announce that Joseph Davies in Year 11 has entered the 'word of the future' competition run by the DAAD (Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienste). This required him to invent a new German word that captures the "Zeitgeist", or 'spirit of the times', define this new word, and provide a short dialogue where the word is used in a context. The word and definition Joseph created was 'Krankenhauspferd', used to describe an individual in a particularly unusual position.



Have you ever really wanted to try out an athletics event but have not had the opportunity? On Sunday 25 April at Norman Park Athletics Track at 9:00 am Blackheath and Bromley Harriers AC are giving you the opportunity to try out new events with experienced coaches and other young athletes who will be on hand to help and provide advice about all the events. Further information can be found by clicking this [link](#).

Finally, we are delighted to invite you to attend the School's inaugural Earth Day Webinar, to be held online on the 22 April 2021 at 5:30 pm. Further details can be found in Appendix 3 at the end of this newsletter.

I hope you have an enjoyable and restful break.

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](mailto: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

### Careers News

This week we have universities offering advice on courses, applications and student finance as well as companies inviting applications onto their apprenticeship schemes for those keen to pursue advanced qualifications in finance and STEM careers.

There is still time to sign up for the University of Bath's Easter programme of interactive workshops for Year 12 and 13 students on academic skills. Sessions include Building Resilience, Time Management, Presentation Skills, Academic Writing, and Leadership. Students can sign up to any of the sessions at: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/be-ready-holiday-programme-easter>

Student finance is a topic where guidance and information are always helpful and Queen Mary, University of London, is delivering a variety of events in April covering aspects of university applications for students and their parents and carers. More information is provided via the link:

<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/outreach/hub/journey-to-higher-education-webinar-series/>



Law and Criminology are the subjects of a virtual event from Swansea University's School of Law on 21/22 April. This is intended for Year 12 and 13 students and introduces the study of these subjects at degree level and also covers their career options. Academics, industry professionals, current students and graduates will all be taking part in live taster sessions and pre-recorded lectures. To book the event use the link: <https://www.swansea.ac.uk/law/showcase-registration/>

PwC is promoting its Flying Start degree apprenticeships which are available in either accounting or technology. Under this scheme, students attend university as well as beginning their career and gaining a degree and industry relevant professional qualifications. The accounting courses are available at Newcastle, Manchester, Nottingham and Reading universities and technology is offered at Birmingham, Leeds and Belfast universities. Successful graduates from these courses can go on to a graduate job with PwC. Further information on is via: <https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers>

Ford's recruitment team is promoting the company's apprenticeship schemes aimed at those thinking of going into STEM related industries. Full details and how to apply can be found via the link: <https://ourclients.randstad.co.uk/ford-motor-company/apprenticeship/> The closing date is 12 April.



Specifically for Year 12 students, the Universities of Bath, Cardiff, Exeter, Lancaster and Warwick are hosting a series of online 'Next Steps Conferences' aimed at providing information, advice and guidance on their offer and how to apply. On 24 April sessions are between 13:00 to 15:30 and include: Applying to a competitive university, the UCAS process, Choosing a course, Personal statements and How to make the most of virtual open days. To register go to:

<https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/FOEU02d0YRXBrHIX>

## Appendix 2

### Library News



The clocks went forward on Sunday and we are officially in Summertime!



Below are some articles and a video explaining the rationale behind why there were initially put in place and why.

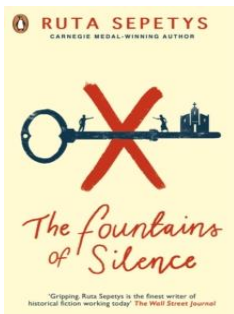
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z6kdp8>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/37645854>

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/british-summer-time-bst-daylight-saving>

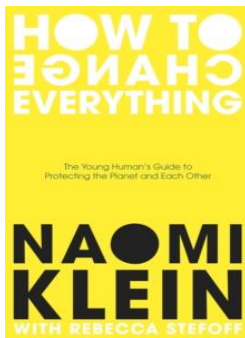


As we approach the end of term, I would also like to share with you some Spring/Summer Highlights for 2020/2021. Have a very Happy Easter and relaxing break.



A haunting and romantic novel set in post-war Spain.

Daniel, young, wealthy and unsure of his place in the world, views the city through the lens of his camera. Ana, a hotel maid whose family is suffering under the fascist dictatorship of General Franco. Lives and hearts collide as they unite to uncover the hidden darkness within the city. A darkness that could engulf them all. Ruta Sepetys once again shines light into one of history's darkest corners in this epic, heart-wrenching novel about identity, unforgettable love and the hidden violence of silence.



This first book for younger readers by internationally bestselling social activist Naomi Klein: the most authoritative and inspiring book on climate change for young people yet.

Are you ready to change everything?

Includes notes on the COVID-19 pandemic and how you can get involved to make the world a safer and better place. From the Great Barrier Reef to Hurricane Katrina to school environmental policies to Greta Thunberg - climate change impacts every aspect of the world you live in and you have the power to lead the way by enacting change.



This wonderful tale transports the reader from the city to the forests and fells of Northern England.

Under a boundless starry sky, the unforgettable Sylvia Carr reconnects with the ancient past and discovers what it really means to be young in the world today. Sylvia, brave hearted and rebellious, moves into wild Northumberland from the city of Newcastle. She feels alien in this huge, silent, seemingly empty landscape, but then she meets Gabriel, a strange yet familiar boy. As they roam the forests and fells together, she sees nature with new eyes. This is a book of hope and joy and explores the deep connections between ourselves and nature.

## Appendix 3

St. Olave's Grammar School  
Goddington Lane  
Orpington  
Kent BR6 9SH

Headteacher: Mr Andrew Pies BSc



Contact: 01689 820101  
office@saintolaves.net  
www.saintolaves.net  
@saintolaves

St. Olave's & St. Saviour's Schools Foundation

CAB/AS  
30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Students, Parents/Carers and Old Olavians,

We are delighted to invite you to attend the School's inaugural **Earth Day Webinar**, to be held online on the **April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 17:30**. You can attend this event by clicking [here](#) at the correct time, a waiting screen will be shown until the event goes live on the day.

This event, organised by our **Environmental Society**, will offer participants the chance to come together, albeit virtually. We hope it will be an excellent opportunity for all in the school community to reflect on the broad scope of so many environmental issues, particularly climate change.

All attendees will have the chance to put their comments and questions to our speakers, with each having roughly 20 minutes to present their talk and field audience questions. There will be a range of speakers from different specialisms each with their own perspectives on environmental issues, including:



**Professor Tim Jackson FRSA FAcSS**, an academic at the University of Surrey, and director of the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity. Tim has written 3 books and delivered a TED talk about what he terms the "skewed priorities" of modern capitalism, most recently *Post Growth—Life After Capitalism*. It was described by Caroline Lucas as "utterly inspiring" and Kate Raworth (author of *Doughnut Economics*) as "economic wisdom wrapped up in poetry". Tim is also an award-winning radio playwright!



**Lola Fayokun**, a climate campaigner and politics undergraduate at LSE who has been heavily involved with the UK Student Climate Network, the grassroots organisation behind the UK's youth climate strikes. Lola's work is centred around promoting an anti-racist vision of climate justice and has involved projects with groups including Greenpeace.



**Danielle Sams**, an intersectional climate activist and social justice campaigner currently working at the Leibniz Institute for Neurobiology. Danielle works with Pass the Mic Climate, a campaign aiming to amplify marginalised voices on the frontlines of the climate crisis.



**Thomas Paulsen**, an Old Olavian and analyst at the FTSE 100-listed private equity firm intermediate Capital Group (ICG) where he is heavily involved with Responsible Investment and ESG products. Tom works on establishing or building the green credentials of companies and infrastructure firms that ICG invests in.



**Rob Greenfield**, who is behind Earthopia, the largest eco-community on TikTok, which launched in 2020 with the aim of providing young people the information they need to help in the fight against the climate crisis. They have recently worked with brands including Lush, The Climate App, and Netflix.

This event is open to all members of the Olavian community but may be of particular relevance to Sixth Form students considering their university and career options. We do hope that you are able to make it to what promises to be a cross-cutting, illuminating, and provocative discussion on the many aspects of climate change.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Benham  
Staff Lead of Environmental Society



Millie Hennessy, Rohan Selva-Radov and Teodor Water  
Student Leads of Environmental Society

