



Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 116

Thank you for your patience following the challenges we have faced since our school servers went down. We are making progress towards having systems back and running, but progress is slow due to the challenges we encountered. We have put notices out on Twitter and our website, and if you do have any concerns, wish to report an absence or positive COVID-19 case, please telephone Reception on: 01689 820101. We do have emails to key staff up and running and I apologise again for any inconvenience this may be causing. I do suggest you look at the school website (www.saintolaves.net) and our Twitter feed (@saintolaves) as this will allow you to receive the regular updates we are sharing. All important letters will also be shared with your child via pupil post if they are still in school so please ask them for the letter if an update is shared via Twitter or the website. For Year 11 students, who are wanting to access bridging work, we are looking further into this and will update you when this is accessible. We will ensure that this does not impact their start in September.

I have been asked to share with you this message from Dr Wright, Chair of Governors:

I am writing to inform students, parents and Staff that, at the end of this academic year, I shall be stepping down both as Chair of the Board of Governors and as a Governor.

As my four years in Office draws to a close, I just wanted to thank all those who have worked with me in my role. As many of you know, we have had some real challenges to face, but I believe that the School is in a good place on a number of levels. I particularly want to thank Mr Rees, Mr Budds and Mrs Maxwell. It was in the November of 2017 that I requested that between them they should take on the responsibility for the day-to-day running of the School, and with Mr Rees as Acting Head they did an excellent job and continue to do so in their new roles.

With nearly a new Governing Board, I think the School has been managed well, including facing an OfSTED Inspection. There have been challenges, not least with all that Covid-19 brought, but through all this everyone has done their very best and worked to the best of their abilities.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be part of the life of a really fantastic School. I am only sorry that this last year or so we have not been able to enjoy some of the great high points of the School as it comes together through music and culture, worship and sport, in the way that we had got used to. I have every confidence that the School will continue to provide a first-class education, set within a context of enabling all the students to flourish as individuals and to prepare them for the opportunities and challenges that the wider world will bring them.

God bless,

Paul Wright

Chair of Governors

Despite the challenges around a lack of technology, there has still been a huge amount going on in school. Last week, Lower School Celebration took place, which allowed us to celebrate the achievements of students in Years 7 and 8. Congratulations to all the prize winners who were awarded prizes for academic excellence, diligence and for their role in their tutor group. Students were also awarded Governors' Awards, St. Olave's Bronze Awards, Jack Petchey Awards and an Award for Services to the School. It was pleasing to hear the reports from the Heads of Year, Dr Abbattista and Mr Wearn, as well as the speeches and presentations from students. It has been a difficult year for all the Lower School students due to lockdown and bubbles, and the outstanding work and effort that was evident during this celebration was a credit to them all, whether they won a prize or not, and the staff who have supported them during the course of the year.



Thank you and well done to all the competitors who took part in Sports Day this year. There were a number of outstanding performances, and the winners of the Junior Victor Ludorum were Year 9 student, Jacob Plater and Year 10 student, Tony Ndukwu. In the House competition, Year 7 was won by Cure, Year 8 by Bingham, Year 9 by Cure and Year 10 by Harvard. This led to Bingham winning the overall competition, with Harvard coming in second, closely followed by Leeke and Cure. Thank you to Mr Kenward for putting together a splendid event and all staff who helped make this an excellent afternoon's competition for the students. We did miss the noise made by the spectators and cannot wait until next year when you once again will be able to attend this event.

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

- It was pleasing to see the Year 13 students packed and ready to complete their Gold DofE expedition on Monday as they prepared to travel to Wales.
- Thank you to Mr Thomas who performed a rendition of 'It's Coming Home' on the organ in the Great Hall in support of England's bid to win the European Championship. This received a lot of likes on Twitter and it was disappointing that it did not lead to a winning result.
- Congratulations to Year 7 student, Vedkumar Nidimamidi, who has achieved a Merit in his Grade 3 Piano Exam.



It was a pleasure to speak to Year 7 students who completed their cross-curricular day on Tuesday on the topic of 'Castles' from a History, Geography and Art perspective. The students were tasked with putting together sketches of what their castles would look like after considering the different views. Examples of the work created can be seen below:



Other activities have taken place and a selection of photos can be seen below:



For those who have taken clarinet lessons over the years at St Olave's, we wish Ms Paula Peniston our very best wishes as she retires after over 20 years of committed service both to the school and the profession overall.

Please tell your friends or family that we are currently looking for a Sports Coach to help support the PE Department with Games lessons, training and fixtures. This might suit someone who is taking a gap-year or just finished university. Please do contact the School Office (office@saintolaves.net) if you would like further details.

The Parents' Association is holding a second a sale of second-hand and PE kit on Monday 19 July at lunchtime for students. Items are in great condition if you want your child to update his kit.



In this week's Teen Tips, there is a tip sheet on 'The Hero Role' within a family. The Hero Role often (but not always) falls to the eldest child whose job it is to make the family look good. They are the conscientious, easy to parent ones, who pump oxygen into the family system and seem

to succeed in life. We discuss how to encourage young people to step out of the hero role and build their own self-esteem and confidence. Further information can be found by following this [link](#).

Finally, it is with great sadness, that we have learned of the death of former member of staff, Mrs Sarah Beston following a long illness. Sarah joined the school in 1995 and was an outstanding geography teacher and Head of Year. She enjoyed music, netball and trips to the Isle of Rum. As a School we offer our prayers and deepest condolences to her family and we will do all we can to support them at this difficult time.

I hope you and your families have a restful weekend.

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 or via the sQuid [login](#). The offer is called 'Donation to the School Voluntary Fund'
