

26 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

### Headteacher's Newsletter 100

I hope that you and your families managed to have a restful and safe half term break. As I reflected over half term, I was very proud of what the school community has been able to achieve during this recent period of national lockdown and how well our students and staff have responded. Our students settled into home learning very quickly and thank you again for supporting them.

This will be a much shorter Newsletter than normal as I know there have been a lot more communications coming from school following the government's announcement on Monday. I am aware I do not want to replicate information or bombard you with further messages. There is certainly light at the end of the tunnel with the news that schools will re-open from Monday 8 March. We are so pleased that students will be returning to school and we are all looking forward to welcoming everyone back. School is a very different place without the laughter and smiles of our students and staff. There is no doubt that the mornings are getting lighter, the sun seems to be shining more often and there is additional warmth in the air. I know this will help us tackle this next challenge as we continue to look out for each other, work together as a community and ensure we deliver the best education possible for the outstanding young people we are fortunate enough to have in our school. I am and always will be very proud to be part of this wonderful community.

We have begun to share the details behind how we will manage the re-opening and return to school. Your child is strongly encouraged to undertake a lateral flow test before they return to the school, and the initial test will be followed by two further tests on subsequent days. This will commence with a staggered start from Monday 8 March to give us time to implement the lateral flow tests for all of our students as we do not have the capacity to test them all on the first day. We will continue to run remote lessons for students as necessary.

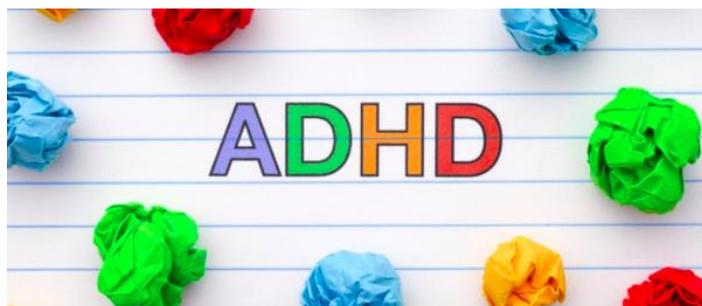
I am also aware that the arrangements for this summer's GCSE and A Level awards will be a source of angst for students, parents and teachers and we all need to know specifically what is expected of us. We will share further information about this in due course but the current government guidance can be found by following this [link](#).

Thank you for your patience while we work through the challenges of re-opening the school. Our priority is to ensure that the students and staff are safe, and we continue to provide an excellent education for every student at St. Olave's.



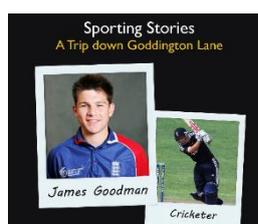
Congratulations to William Ndibe, George O'Connor and Bishal Shrestha who recently received Bromley Rotary Youth Awards for their outstanding contribution to the lives of family, neighbours, the community and the world at large. We were also pleased that Ayokunmi Adebayo, Rafiqul Choudhury and Rory Gee were awarded Commendations.

Congratulations also to the following students on their Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Awards: Shaurya Mehta, Angad Arya, George O'Connor, Arjun Arya, Rose Hind, Ayokunmi Adebayo, and Jeremiah Muoneke. These students have been invited to a digital event designed to celebrate the achievement of many young people, and Leader Award winners, from across London/Essex and their achievements will be featured in this event. Winners will also be receiving a boxed gold medallion, which they can collect when we return to school. Well done to all these students.



This week's Teen Tips features Gary Wood, an English IB (International Baccalaureate) teacher in China, who shares his story of living with ADD and ADHD, and how it affected his social, emotional and academic development. He gives tips and advice on how to create environments that support the needs of

young people with the condition. You can listen to his podcast by following this [link](#).



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. First up is former School Captain, James Goodman – you can see the podcast on Instagram (StOlavesSPORT) and the audio version will be available on Teams.

In Lockdown 3 Year 9 GCSE musicians have been learning about the use of music technology and studio effects in the 1970's, specifically related to one of the GCSE set works, 'Killer Queen' by Queen. Year 9 student, Alfie created a video, which can be seen through this [link](#) and presented this to his class demonstrating the main differences between



recording studio techniques in the 1970s and those used in the modern day. This was very well received by the students and I thought that the video was worthy of sharing more widely.

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

- Congratulations to Bharathsri Sivasritharan, Year 12, who has been invited to participate in Round 2 of the UK Chemistry Olympiad. Bharathsri gained the top Olympiad mark in the school.
- Well done to Pradhay Amarnath, Year 12, on winning the TCS goIT digital innovations challenge where there were multiple submissions from across the world. In this challenge he was tasked to create a digital solution highlighting actions that promote and support equality in a community. The judges were highly impressed with the app Idea 'BigOtry Fever' and the intention of preventing online bullying and hateful comments with a hate speech detector which uses natural language processing and sentiment analysis (using TF-IDF vectorizer and a customised dataset).
- Congratulations to Aneeq Weerasinghe, Year 8, on gaining a Distinction in his Trinity College Grade 3 Piano examination.

My final request for any parent/carer who may be interested in leading on this year's Olavian, and has publishing or editing experience, please do get in touch as this is an area I would like to develop.

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

Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Rees  
Headteacher

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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.

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## Appendix 1

### Careers News

Numerous events are available over the forthcoming weeks of spring offering information, advice and guidance as our students consider the directions their school career, personal qualities and outside interests may point them towards. Universities are grouping together to publicise their courses, locations, student life and finance.

In London, six universities present their London roadshow webinar on 2 March between 5-6pm. The London Universities Group is a collaboration between members of the University of London: City, Goldsmiths, Queen Mary, Royal Holloway, SOAS and St George's. Between them, they cover a wide



variety of subjects including business, creative subjects, engineering, healthcare, humanities, languages, law, psychology, sciences and the social sciences. There will be an opportunity to ask

questions via the typed Q & A running throughout and around 12 university experts available to answer questions. To join in use the link: <https://www.unitasterdays.com/londonroadshow>

Via Unifrog students can access the UK University webinar series. This presents 13 after school sessions between 1 and 11 March with each one focussing on a specific region in the UK. Over 40 universities are participating in assisting students in their choice of where to apply. To join in go to <https://www.unifrog.org/webinars>



The difference between traditional degrees and degree apprenticeships will be explained in one of the 10 webinars available from the University and Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair taking place on 17 March from 12.00-6pm. Over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers are participating. Students and parents/carers can already register

and view the programme at: <https://ukunisearch.vfairs.com/>

The website Success at School contains information of interest for parents and carers as well as students. It advertises apprenticeship opportunities and career advice. They are currently showing an accountancy apprenticeship with the National Audit Office in London. The deadline to apply is 8 March. <https://successatschool.org/jobandcoursedetail>





Our partner organisation, InvestIN, is proving to be popular with students across the school and they are now publicising their weekend programmes running throughout the spring. A variety of careers are featured ranging from architecture to veterinary science. Our students can obtain a 10% discount by using the code STOLAVES2019. For more information:

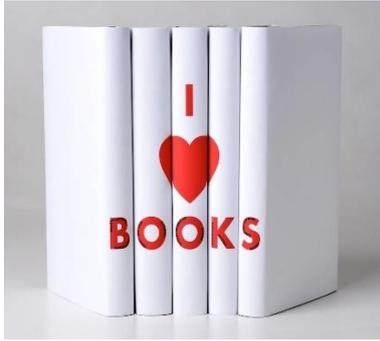
[www.investin.org](http://www.investin.org)

Looking forward to the summer, UCL in collaboration with the Sutton Trust is once again running its Year 12 Summer School in July, this year online. Potential students will be introduced to degree programmes and university life. Applications are now open and the deadline is 2 March. To find out more follow the link: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/widening-participation/learners/year-12-and-13/summer-schools>

PwC is running a virtual insight week in July which will introduce students to the career opportunities available with the company as well as enabling them to participate in graded workshops thus gaining skills towards their future progression. To apply and find out more information go to: <https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/student-careers/school-careers/our-programmes/insight-weeks.html>

## Appendix 2

### Library News



Try to remember the many reasons why we read: for pleasure, to escape, to learn and develop, to travel, to increase or inspire our imagination, to feel, to know ourselves and others better, to expand our mind, to learn to empathise, to grow...

<http://www.rd.com/article/what-happens-when-we-read-every-day>

The following is **Year 9 Recommended Reading List**:

1. Monsters of Men by **Patrick Ness**
2. Maladapted by **Richard Kurti**
3. Are you there God it's me Margaret by **Judy Blume**
4. Hatchet by **Gary Paulsen**
5. The Call by **Peadar O'Gullin**
6. The Twilight Saga by **Stephanie Meyer**
7. The Amnesia Clinic by **James Scudamore**
8. Brave New World by **Aldous Huxley**
9. Brighton Rock by **Graham Greene**
10. Catch 22 by **Joseph Heller**
11. Thief by **Malorie Blackman**
12. The Catcher in the Rye by **J.D.Salinger**
13. Collected Poems by **Philip Larkin**
14. The Count of Monte Cristo by **Alexandre Dumas**
15. Dracula by **Bram Stoker**
16. Empire of the Sun by **J.G.Ballard**
17. Noah Can't Even by **Simon James Green**



18. Frankenstein by **Mary Shelley**
19. I, Claudius by **Robert Graves**
20. The Mosquito Coast by **Paul Theroux**
21. Shakespeare by **Bill Bryson**
22. The Odd Man and the Sea by **Ernest Hemingway**
23. One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by **Alexander Solzhenitsyn**
24. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by **Ken Kesey**
25. Paddy Doyle Ha Ha Ha by **Roddy Doyle**
26. The Remains of the Day by **Kazuo Ishiguro**
27. Scoop by **Evelyn Waugh**
28. To Kill a Mockingbird by **Harper Lee**
29. The Collected Works by **Stefan Zweig**
30. The Boxer by **Nikesh Shukla**

Any questions or comments kindly email [librarian@saintolaves.net](mailto:librarian@saintolaves.net).