

28 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

### Headteacher's Newsletter 111



Congratulations to the four Year 5 pupils who have been offered places as a Wakeham Chorister at The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy following the Academic and Voice Tests taken at St. Olave's recently. We had a large number of children proceed to the Voice Test this year and the calibre was excellent. The Chapel belongs to Her Majesty The Queen as part of the Duchy of Lancaster. It stands on the north bank of The Thames just below the Savoy Hotel. The original Chapel dates back to the Middle Ages and was destroyed in 1318 in the Peasants' Revolt. The present Chapel is the last surviving building of a hospital founded by Henry VII in 1512 for homeless people. Over the last 40 years, trebles in the Choir have been drawn exclusively from St. Olave's and in recent times have been known as Wakeham Choristers in recognition of the 49 years of association that the late Michael Wakeham had with the Choir.

Please tell your friends or family who are teachers that we are currently looking for a Teacher of Spanish and also a School Counsellor. Further details can be found on the school website by following this [link](#).

I would like to share my sincere thanks to all parents and students for your support during this half term with the Lateral Flow Testing and ongoing COVID arrangements. I wrote to all parents on Wednesday highlighting the recent cases in Bromley connected to the new variant, and how all students must now wear face coverings indoors, including corridors, communal areas and classrooms until further notice. The Department for Education continues to stress the importance of pupils testing at home throughout the holidays and into next half 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. Please would you also email Mrs Maxwell ([rmaxwell@saintolaves.net](mailto:rmaxwell@saintolaves.net)) or Mr Birtchnell ([mbirtchnell@saintolaves.net](mailto:mbirtchnell@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 second half of term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, so we can find and isolate any positive cases. This news clearly shows that the impact of COVID is far from over and we all need to continue to review our protective measures to keep our school community safe. Please would you ensure your child also reports their LFD result (positive, negative or void) to school by using the following [link](#).



Protecting and improving the nation's health



Students recently completed a survey where they were asked a series of questions relating to school life. The responses from the students were extremely positive with the main points being students strongly believe:

- They are safe at school.
- They are happy at school.
- The school makes them aware of what they will learn.
- They receive valuable information about their progress.
- They do well at school.
- They believe bullying is dealt with effectively.
- The transition into the school is smooth.
- They receive detailed information and support when preparing for university applications.
- Student-led societies are a valuable aid to confidence and independent learning for Sixth Form students.
- There are plenty of opportunities for student leadership.
- The school promotes values appropriate to a Church of England school.
- The School is currently well-led and managed by all leaders.
- Given the difficulties the country has faced due to the pandemic and the restrictions school has had to implement – the school has enabled them to make good progress.
- Given the difficulties the country has faced due to the pandemic and the restrictions school has had to implement – the school has supported their wellbeing.

Students also praised the induction process, the Sixth Form, the co-curricular provision and the cleanliness of school. As you would expect with the quality of the pupils and students at St. Olave's, they also highlighted some areas for development around careers provision and creating a culture within school where they can more easily approach a member of staff if they are unhappy. There were a large number of positive comments, including:

*“Love the sense of community at Olaves, so much diversity in all aspects and truly feels like everyone, staff and peers, are supporting you and want to see you succeed. For a school of its size, Olaves has surprising goof pastoral care with a number of approachable staff on call to help.”*

*“Olaves is a home away from home, from seeing friends every day to studying in lessons with such passionate teachers. Everything feel like I am provided with the best head start at life possible. Extracurricular activities are so varied and provide us with the platform to grow our interests in subjects we are passionate about.”*



Congratulations to the Physics Department who have been awarded Isaac Physics Embedded School Status at Bronze level. Isaac Physics is a project funded by the Department of Education and it allows all students to gain free access to high quality Physics learning resources. Well done to the department for gaining this award.

On Wednesday 26 May, the Goethe Institut in London opened the doors to its cinema after a long break due to COVID-19 restrictions. For this re-opening, a number of Year 12 Germanists travelled into London to attend a screening of the film: 'Curveball: a true story. Unfortunately'. The film is a German production from 2020 and portrayed the fascinating story of the German foreign intelligence service's involvement in the claim that Saddam Hussein was authorising the production of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq in the '90s; a claim which ultimately was used as part of the justification to invade Iraq in 2003. The film, although dealing with such serious political subject matter, is satirical in nature, and was very entertaining. Students enjoyed learning more about the international relations behind this story and broadened their language skills through the experience of watching this German film.



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

- Well done to Year 12 student, Arjun Arya, for his hard work and dedication to support community work needed due to COVID in India. His initial target was £1,000 and together with his team, he has raised over £2,000 to provide oxygen cylinders and food for 400 patients. Further information about his work can be seen by following this [link](#).
- Congratulations to Year 7 student, Henry Etherington, who has been selected to represent Tower Hamlets as the senior tennis player in the London Youth Games. Well done as Henry also beat competitors much older than him to gain selection.
- Congratulations to Mikel Awuah in Year 8 whose work 'Under' has been selected for the Royal Academy's Young Artists' Summer Show 2021. His work was selected by a panel of judges from over a massive 33,000 entries this year and will be displayed online from 13 July on the RA website.



- Well done to Year 7 students, Henry Etherington, Aaron Liang, Xirui Mao, Advait Prabhu and Mikhail Sapozhenko and Year 8 students, Shrish Devaramani, Veerarjun Jassal, Aarit Maheshwari, Shaurya Mehta, Lewis Owens, Eashan Rautaray, Daniel Rous, Remy Tanna and Ryan Tran who qualified for the Junior Maths Olympiad recently. These students were in the top 1,200 from the 150,000 who entered the competition.

In this week's Teen Tips, they talk to Rosalind who is a personal trainer, yoga teacher and someone who has recovered from an eating disorder herself. They discuss the addictive nature of gym culture, the dangers of using steroids, body positivity, eating disorders, diets and body dissatisfaction. Rosalind explains how we need to



shift from placing too much value on 'results' to appreciating the mental and physical health benefits of exercise. Our bodies are amazing! They keep us alive and strong, and we need to look after them. You can listen to the podcast by following this [link](#). If you have been using any of the resources, Teen Tips would appreciate you completing their survey for staff, students and parents to inform the Hub content going forward. Links to each of the surveys can be found below:

- Staff Survey Link: <https://tinyurl.com/7mx4jhr2>
- Parent Survey Link: <https://tinyurl.com/49tk2vnn>
- Student Survey Link: <https://tinyurl.com/5edrc2rx>

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

I hope you and your families have an enjoyable half term 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 or via the [sQuid login](#). The offer is called 'Donation to the School Voluntary Fund'.

---

## Appendix 1

### Careers News



The University of Bath is holding weekend virtual open days to help students find out more about living and studying in Bath. Dates are Saturdays 12 and 19 June. Current students and teaching staff will deliver the programmes. To find out more and book, visit [Undergraduate Open Days \(bath.ac.uk\)](https://www.bath.ac.uk/undergraduate-open-days)

This week we are featuring some opportunities that may interest students looking for work experience or alternative pathways into a career. The UCAS website has detailed information about how students can apply for university at the same time as they consider other routes into a career. Find out more here: <https://www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships/how-apply-apprenticeship/apply-for-apprenticeship-and-uni>

Traineeships are an opportunity to gain paid work experience towards a career. The world-wide investment management company, Federated Hermes, is offering an investment trainee programme from September 2021. The trainee will work on a year-long placement during which time they will undergo a rotation with different investment teams and the risk and compliance team. This experience will lead to a solid understanding of investment management alongside the opportunity to gain industry qualifications. Trainees can progress to a higher apprenticeship lasting 18 months or two years. On completion the trainee will have the possibility of a permanent role with the company. There is more information on Moodle under careers and work experience. The deadline to apply is 3 June.

The creative industries in the UK account for around one in ten jobs and currently Pearson College in London is promoting a virtual open day on 5 June for those keen on a career in animation, video game art or visual effects. Students will study at Escape Studios from September 2021. Participants in the open day will meet on-line with existing students and tutors who can advise on building a successful portfolio and choosing courses as well as meeting with alumni now working with London studios. Contact: <https://www.pearsoncollegelondon.ac.uk/escape-studios/visit-us/events>



Management consultancy, McKinsey & Company, has established a leadership academy for Year 13 students. On-line and in person workshops will introduce students to roles within this industry. During the two-year programme, participants will learn the skills of leadership, have the opportunity to network, receive mentoring and explore career opportunities. Fuller details are shown on Moodle. Applications should be made by 30 May to: <https://www.mckinsey.com/uk/careers/leadership-academy>

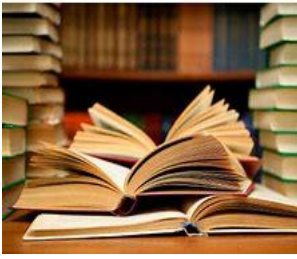


The Springpod platform regularly posts work experience opportunities with leading employers in careers as diverse as banking, health and engineering. They also promote virtual degree tasters in English, Psychology and Law where prospective students can discover more about studying these subjects as well as gaining information about student life. All students in Year 10 and above can

login to Springpod using their school email address at: <https://app.springpod.co.uk/>



## Appendix 2



Books are important for the mind, heart, and soul. From building your vocabulary to reducing stress, preventing age-related cognitive decline and increasing your ability to empathize, reading books is an easy way to look after your mind and body. Whether you are an avid reader or wish you read more, I hope you enjoy these quotes about books and reading!

*“A word after a word after a word is power.”* – **Margaret Atwood**

*“One glance at a book and you hear the voice of another person, perhaps someone dead for 1,000 years. To read is to voyage through time.”* – **Carl Sagan**

*“Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world.”* – **Napoleon Bonaparte**

*“When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young.”* – **Maya Angelou**

*“Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, a duty. It should be offered as a gift.”* – **Kate DiCamillo**

*“I think books are like people, in the sense that they’ll turn up in your life when you most need them.”* – **Emma Thompson**

*“Books are mirrors: You only see in them what you already have inside you.”* – **Carlos Ruiz Zafón**

*“Think before you speak. Read before you think.”* – **Fran Lebowitz**

*“If you don’t like to read, you haven’t found the right book.”* – **J.K. Rowling**

*“I can feel infinitely alive curled up on the sofa reading a book.”* – **Benedict Cumberbatch**

*“Some books leave us free and some books make us free.”* – **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

*“We tell ourselves stories in order to live.”* – **Joan Didion**

*“Books are, let’s face it, better than everything else. If we played Cultural Fantasy Boxing League, and made books go fifteen rounds in the ring against the best that any other art form had to offer, then books would win pretty much every time.”* – **Nick Hornby**

*Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else’s shoes for a while”* - **Malorie Blackman**

*“We read to know we are not alone”* . – **C.S. Lewis**

*“It is really hard to be lonely very long in a world of words. Even if you don’t have friends somewhere, you still have language, and it will find you and wrap its little syllables around you and suddenly there will be a story to live in.”* – **Naomi Shihab Nye**

*“Read a lot. Expect something big, something exalting or deepening from a book. No book is worth reading that isn’t worth re-reading.”* – **Susan Sontag**

*"Have books 'happened' to you? Unless your answer to that question is 'yes,' I'm unsure how to talk to you."* – **Haruki Murakami**

*"A story can always break into pieces while it sits inside a book on a shelf; and, decades after we have read it even twenty times, it can open us up, by cut or caress, to a new truth."* – **Andre Dubus**

*"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."* – **Frederick Douglass**

*"Literature is the safe and traditional vehicle through which we learn about the world and pass on values from one generation to the next. Books save lives."* – **Laurie Anderson**

*"Reading fiction is important. It is a vital means of imagining a life other than our own, which in turn makes us more empathetic beings. Following complex story lines stretches our brains beyond the 140 characters of sound-bite thinking and staying within the world of a novel gives us the ability to be quiet and alone, two skills that are disappearing faster than the polar icecaps."* – **Ann Patchett**

*"Both reading and writing are experiences – lifelong – in the course of which we who encounter words used in certain ways are persuaded by them to be brought mind and heart within the presence, the power, of the imagination."* – **Eudora Welty**

*"We don't need a list of rights and wrongs, tables of dos and don'ts: We need books, time, and silence. Thou shalt not is soon forgotten, but Once upon a time lasts forever."* – **Philip Pullman**

*"A room without books is like a body without a soul".* – **Cicero**

*"The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries."* – **Rene Descartes**

*"That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet."* – **Jhumpa Lahiri**

*"A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading."* – **William Styron**

*"I guess a big part of serious fiction's purpose is to give the reader, who like all of us is sort of marooned in her own skull, to give her imaginative access to other selves."* – **David Foster Wallace**

*"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive."* – **James Baldwin**

*"Reading is important. If you know how to read, then the whole world opens up to you."* – **Barack Obama**

*"That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong."* – **F. Scott Fitzgerald**

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