



22 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 96

May I start by reminding parents that any absences and any positive COVID Tests should be reported to school via registration@saintolaves.net. Please continue to report absence this way so information can be held centrally rather than your child messaging staff through Teams.

Please tell your friends or family who are teachers that we are currently looking for a teacher of Mathematics and a part-time teacher of Art (maternity cover). Further details can be found on the school website by following this [link](#).

I am delighted for our students who received offers from the University of Oxford last week on the following courses:

Course	College
Physics (4-year MPhys)	Trinity
Chemistry	Balliol
Chemistry	St Hugh's
Physics (4-year MPhys)	University
French and German	New College
Geography	Hertford
Law	Hertford
Economics and Management	Brasenose
Physics (4-year MPhys)	Keble
Computer Science and Philosophy	Hertford

Cambridge will be making their offers from 25 January. All of Year 13 must be congratulated for the excellent work on their applications, their offers and their achievements as a whole. Please remember, the Pastoral Team are keen to support student wellbeing and academic achievement so do make the relevant Head of Year aware if you have any concerns.

I highlighted last week the Government has confirmed that GCSEs and A and AS Level exams will not go ahead this summer. The details will need to be fine-tuned in consultation with Ofqual, the exam boards and teaching representatives, but having had the opportunity to properly consider the proposals in the consultation, the key points about the suggested process are that:

- Grades will be based on teacher/centre assessment. Grades will be submitted as late as possible to maximise the time for catch-up teaching and ongoing assessment.
- Teacher assessment will be based on the current, ongoing performance of students; rather than a hypothetical prediction of what students may have got had exams run as normal; or what students would have got had the pandemic not disrupted their learning.
- Exam boards may provide some external assessment tasks, which would be based on exam paper questions.

- Schools will be expected to provide quality assurance, with support and advice from the exam boards.
- Exams will also provide external quality assurance, both during the process of determining grades, and once grades are submitted.

I would encourage you to respond to the consultation yourself by following this [link](#).

Another reminder that the school remains open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. If you are classified as a critical worker and would like your child to be on site to access their remote learning, let us know as soon as possible via email to either Mrs Maxwell (rmaxwe@saintolaves.net) or Mr Birtchnell (mbirtchnell@saintolaves.net) including details of your occupation and employer. Please contact us also if you feel your child is vulnerable and they would benefit from being on site. You should inform us if your son or daughter is not engaging with remote learning or you have difficulties with your Wi-Fi or accessing a laptop.

Whilst the students are not in school, refurbishment work on areas of the school has taken place. The Humanities corridor is being redecorated with the walls being painted and a new floor going down. Work on the Fives Courts continues with concrete being poured to reinforce the walls and the inside surfaces being skimmed.

The Music Department this week launched their second 'Virtual Concert' – a playlist of students' musical performances hosted on YouTube. The Music Department very much hopes that you will all have the chance to listen to and enjoy each of the students' offerings. They have worked hard to prepare these and would no doubt be thrilled to receive acknowledgment of that. The five students are Ruiqi Zhang, Wessel Haartsen, Dhruv Bhatia, Raphael Loges and Sean Lee, and their performances can be found by following this [link](#).

Our students' determination to shape their own futures has been demonstrated by the participation of 26 Olavians in last term's virtual career experiences with InvestIN, a company we are partnered with.



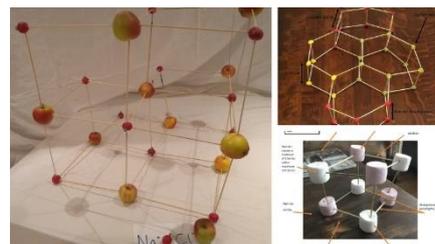
These paid for experiences over weekends or holidays cover a range of careers and are currently delivered online. The diverse career programmes our students chose to attend illustrates the wide interests they have when considering their options. Subjects attended included law, investment banking, medicine, filmmaking and computer science. InvestIN are now promoting their spring offering for around 20 careers. Available to students aged 12-18, participants will experience role-plays, seminars, simulations and networking sessions with professionals in their chosen industry, all virtually. Our students have access to 10% discount by using the code SAINTOLAVES at the payment page. There are some bursaries available for the Spring Live Online weekend programmes. More information is available by following this [link](#).

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

- Hardiv Harshakumar, Year 12, successfully completed the 'Issac CS Cryptography Challenge' organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation and received a Raspberry Pi 4 desktop kit after completing the November 2020 'gameboard challenge'. To finish the Cryptography Challenge, he needed to follow the OctaPi: brute-force Enigma project and successfully decrypted the encrypted message using a Python program run on a Raspberry Pi. He received an 'Isaac CS Cryptography Challenge' certificate this week after sending the decrypted message along with the Python code.



- Congratulations to Gail Joshua Yip, Year 12, who took part virtually in the ARTiculation prize heat at the Courtauld. She presented on 'The Death of Socrates' by Jacques Louis David. The grand final will be held at the National Gallery in March.
- After reading about the molecular models of Crick and Watson and Sir Harry Kroto, 10J furthered their knowledge of chemical bonding and structures by making their own models using food items.



Though Festival 2020 necessarily took quite a different form to what is typical for the day, it still brought everyone together in other ways. During the event, students took part in an inter-form competition. This comprised logo trivia, charades, and 'St. Olave's Past and Present': a quiz with questions ranging from 'Where were St. Olave's pupils evacuated to during WWII?' to 'How many volumes of the Olavian are there?' Scores have now been collated, and the victors are:

- Winner Year 7-8: 7H
- Winner Year 9-11: 10M
- Winner Sixth Form: 13Q

Overall champions:

- 1st: 13Q
- 2nd: 7H and 10M (tie)
- 3rd: 13T

Special thanks must go to the form tutors for their involvement in the running of Festival; they readily took up a much larger role than normal and the event's success was contingent upon them. The continual contribution of all the staff to school life does not go unrecognised or unappreciated and is proving especially meaningful to students during this academic year.

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

Wishing you and your families 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.

Appendix 1

Careers News



Careers in STEM subjects are sometimes overlooked as appearing less glamorous when compared with well known,

established careers. EDT is an educational charity with the intention of engaging young people through STE(A)M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) focused experience days, projects and placements. They are running a virtual paid for STEM course Routes into STEM for students aged 13+ between 5 - 21 February. The course covers 20 hours to be completed over two weeks inclusive of half term and can be studied around others to suit individual circumstances. Some bursaries are available. The course aim is to equip students to recognise the variety of opportunities available to them after taking their GCSEs by giving them access to key information on different pathways into a STEM career. Participants will be able to ask questions of STEM professionals and student ambassadors. The deadline to apply is 31 January.

<https://www.etrust.org.uk/routes-into-stem-read-more>



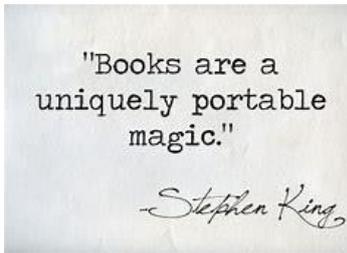
Springpod is hosting an apprenticeship virtual careers fair on 27 January. Organisations including HSBC, Network Rail, EY and Cancer Research UK are all attending. Some of those providing talks and interacting with students are also either due

to run virtual work experience programmes in the coming months or are already accepting applications. This means that, not only will students be able to learn about potential apprenticeships at each company, but also find out about current programmes and insight days that they can get involved with from home.

<https://apprenticeships.springpod.co.uk/>

Appendix 2

Library News



Our choices in reading are often swayed by the books we would normally read but at times we all need some inspiration to change. Below is a mixed ability reading list to maybe provide a little incentive for **Year 7 to choose something different!** There will be some books here that are familiar and others that could encourage them to try something new. This is one of my favourite websites <https://www.goodreads.com> for you to explore further.

1. Watership Down by Douglas Adams
2. The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson
3. The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aitken
4. Peter Pan by J M Barrie
5. The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper
6. Wolf by Gillian Cross
7. Boy and Going Solo by Roald Dahl
8. The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
9. The Weirdestone Of Brisingamen by Alan Garner
10. A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
11. Across the Barricades by Joan Lingard
12. War Horse by Michael Morpugo
13. Stone Cold by Robert Swindells
14. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
15. Holes by Louis Sachar
16. Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman
17. The Garbage King by Elizabeth Laird
18. The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak
19. Call of the Wild by Jack London
20. Raptor by Paul Zindel
21. Lark by Anthony McGowan
22. Shadow Jumper by J M Forster
23. Indigo Donut by Patrick Lawrence
24. The Silver Sword by Ian Serrailier
25. Ready Player One by Ernest Cline
26. Wonder R J Palacio
27. Inkling by Kenneth Oppel
28. The Harder They Fall by Rai Bali
29. Northern Lights by Philip Pullman
30. Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Famous opening lines that could entice you read on...

- 'It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen' 1984 by George Orwell
- 'In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit' The Hobbit by J R R Tolkien
- 'All children except one grew up' Peter Pan by J M Barrie
- 'The year 1866 was signalised by a remarkable incident, a mysterious and inexplicable phenomenon, which doubtless no one has forgotten' Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne