

29 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

### Headteacher's Newsletter 97

May I remind you 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](#).

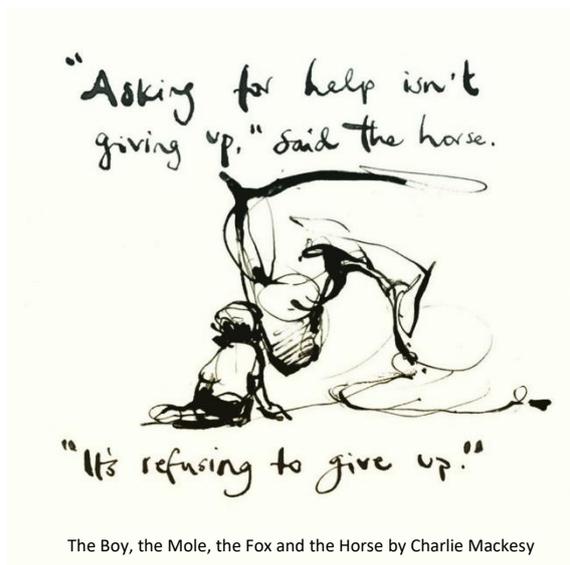
I highlighted last week the Government has confirmed that GCSEs and A and AS Level exams will not go ahead this summer. The details will need to be fine-tuned in consultation with Ofqual, the exam boards and teaching representatives, and I would encourage you to respond to the consultation by following this [link](#). The consultation ends this evening.

I am delighted for our 27 students who received offers from the University of Cambridge this week on the following courses:

English	Murray Edwards
Economics	St John's
HSPS	St John's
Comp Sci	Murray Edwards
Economics	Fitzwilliam
Law	Pembroke
Law	Homerton
Geography	Emmanuel
Law	Fitzwilliam
French and Spanish	Gonville & Caius
Medicine	Clare
Medicine	Clare
History & Politics	Fitzwilliam
Land Economy	Homerton
Maths	Fitzwilliam
Maths	Christ's
Medicine	Emmanuel
Maths	Emmanuel
Medicine	Selwyn
Natural Sciences	Homerton
Medicine	Pembroke
Law	Christ's
Maths	Girton
Medicine	Pembroke
Natural Sciences	Selwyn
Maths	Girton
Engineering	Queens

This brings our Oxbridge numbers to 37 for the year. Students have been successful in gaining places in a wide range of subjects, and not just mathematics and science, which is sometimes said about our successful application. I would like to emphasise the number of successful law applications, which is outstanding. Thank you to Mr Birtchnell, the Exams Office, departments, and everyone who supported the student applications this year, and not just for Oxbridge. All of Year 13 should also be congratulated for their excellent work on their applications, their offers and their achievements for whichever course or university they have applied for.

In these very uncertain times, next week's Wellbeing Week seems more important than ever. Recent national surveys show the significant impact on wellbeing of young people both during the first lockdown as well as the return to school and the anxiety surrounding academic attainment. Promoting wellbeing amongst the student body continues to be a key priority of school. We have constantly looked to evolve our provision and the success of the constantly staffed Wellbeing Room and the Wellbeing Hub are testimony to this. The aim of the week is to enable students across the school to consider mental health and the importance of looking after one's wellbeing. The week hopefully will serve to highlight the many issues concerning mental health that relate to students within our school.



Plans have been adapted because of the national lockdown however we will continue to use this time to help focus our community on the importance of looking after one's self. Each day **Trailblazers** will present talks to different year groups. Students will access form time presentations remotely on various topics. Presentations will be given to Year 9 and 10 by Jennifer Langley from the **Charlie Waller Memorial Trust** on eating disorders and anxiety. Alicia Drummond from **Teen Tips** will speak to Year 11 with a focus on the teenage brain. Andy Caress from the **Charlie Waller Memorial Trust** will address the Sixth Form looking at the impact of lockdown on mental health and anxiety.

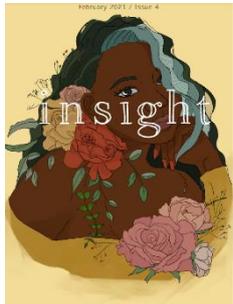
We have recently invested in a 'Wellbeing Hub', developed by child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing experts, Teen Tips. I am delighted to let you know that, as an Olavian parent/carer, you are entitled to free access. As a member, you benefit from:



- Complete Parenting Teens Audio & Video Courses
- Weekly Updated Resources - podcasts, blog posts, interviews, tips and articles
- Weekly Live Q&A with a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist
- 'Inspiring Futures' Careers Mini-Podcasts to play to your child
- Ask the Expert Q&A Service
- Q&A Library
- Parents Forum

- Member Offers
- Access to Specialists (paid service)
- 25% Discount on Teen Tips Open Webinars

Instructions on how to register and links for accessing the Wellbeing Hub are detailed [here](#).



Year 13 students, Rose Hind and William Song, together with Mrs Maxwell, have put together a journal, which demonstrates how Olavians take their study beyond the classroom. I am grateful to all of those involved in putting this publication together and hope it provides a moment of reflection. The challenges facing all of us during these times cannot be underestimated. The impact these challenges have on wellbeing has to be acknowledged. I hope journals like this serve to encourage people to feel they can talk about issues they face and recognise the need to engage with appropriate support.

Further information about Mental Health Week and the Wellbeing Hub have been sent to you by Mrs Maxwell earlier this week. Thank you to Mrs Maxwell for putting this excellent week and resources together.

Thank you to the Academic Prefects for putting together a list of super-curricular opportunities in each subject for students currently thinking about Higher Education. The deadlines for these activities vary from January to August. Whilst these are mainly targeted for students in the Sixth Form, there are activities that may engage younger students. The activity guide can be found on the school website or by following this [link](#).



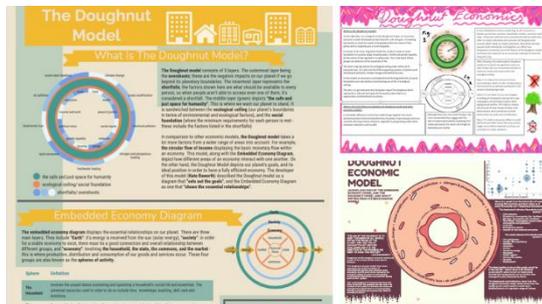
Congratulations to Zoe Khan and a team of five other Year 12 students who are participating in WOHA's fundraising challenge to help send children around the world to school. Due to the pandemic and the subsequent remote schooling, many of their previous plans for fundraising had to be cancelled. They have, however, come up with another fundraising idea that can be done by the whole school community, whilst still following the government's COVID guidelines. Their website is [alphacentaurii.wixsite.com/wohaa](http://alphacentaurii.wixsite.com/wohaa) if you would like to take part.

We are excited and proud to share the below link to the Goethe Institut's 'Sag's mir' Podcast. This is because Year 12 student, Matthew Todorov, was part of the team of young people who organised, edited, and interviewed for the production of this series of podcasts. Following this [link](#) you can read more



about the project, and listen to the podcasts. They are designed for students learning German and are on the topics of culture, politics, and STEM, and how German supports and interlinks with all of these. Well done, Matthew!

Good luck to Joseph Davies, in Year 11, who has submitted a fantastic video entry to the Lancaster University 'Modern Languages in Schools' prize. Joseph created a playful sketch of him discussing the benefits and drawbacks of Google Translate in learning a language and understanding a culture. Furthermore, Patrick Kenny and Serena Onamade have each entered the competition at the Sixth Form level with essays in Spanish and in German respectively. Patrick and Serena's essays responded to the question: 'Is Internationalism important in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?'



Year 12 economists recently undertook a project studying the Doughnut model, a 21<sup>st</sup> Century economics framework designed by Kate Raworth. The model challenges society to meet the needs of all within the means of the planet and is a response to traditional economic models which have neglected the negative impact of economic growth on the environment. Students were asked to develop a

summary of the model, but most importantly to come up with three steps as a household to play their part in the fight against climate change. This included only buying what is necessary, re-using or repairing items, buying locally, eating more sustainably, reducing energy consumption, and driving less. All of these initiatives were incredibly inspiring to read and show the value that our students place on the future of our planet. This is all part of a wider project which Mr Haines is undertaking alongside Kate Raworth and her team to design resources for schools to use nationally and internationally. Well done to the Year 12 students and thank you to Mr Haines for promoting this.

Dr John Patterson (Magdalene, Cambridge) held a captivating remote Classics talk on Tuesday about Cicero's Second Philippic and the political turmoil of 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC Rome. With an outstanding turnout to the event (over a hundred), Cicero's political prowess was exceptionally elucidated by Dr Patterson. He discussed in depth the animosity between Mark Antony and Cicero and how the latter brutally likened or contrasted him with prominent historical figures at the time, such as Pompey, Clodius and Catiline to sully Antony's reputation and highlight how he paled in comparison to them. The talk finished with the opportunity for questions leading to ten extremely interesting queries being raised, half of which originated from Olavians.

You may be interested to know that SecEd, an educational magazine in the UK, have produced a valuable article [Lockdown teaching and learning: A quick guide for families](#) (19 January 2021). The article provides a summary of research on how children best learn and how parents can support them. It provides tips on what parents can do to check and deepen the learning, without becoming the teacher who is transmitting content. It also contains an excellent research summary and bibliography.

### Key points:

- Talk with children about the key ideas (concepts): review key vocabulary, events or learned concepts so they become automatic in a child's mind.
- Ask questions: ask your child to provide a 60 second summary.
- Megabyte the learning into manageable 'chunks' or segments.
- Review learning: spend 10 minutes each day reviewing the learning of the day and what is coming up the next day with your child.
- Review teacher expectations - by going on the Teams and checking what the teacher expects - so you can help your child.
- Unplug the distractions - especially during periods of learning.

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

- Aditya Palaniappan, Year 13, achieved Grade 8 in his guitar examination.
- Callum Kwan, Year achieved Grade 8 in his piano examination, as well as Grade 3 in violin.

Old Olavians may remember Desmond Swinburn, who taught music at St. Olave's from 1957 to 1977. It is with great sadness we heard of his passing this week. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family during this time.

Finally, 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

Events giving careers and progression advice and guidance for both parents and students come from a variety of organisations. Some of these are government funded and others are social enterprises or businesses supporting entry into careers via apprenticeships or higher education. Free events provide the opportunity for all ages to discover information and ideas for discussion at home without any commitment to a specific choice.

Barts Health NHS Trust is delivering Routes in Healthcare, parents' engagement webinars on 8 February between 18:00-19:30 and 9 February at 10:30-12:00. Parents can learn more about the routes into the healthcare careers of medicine, dentistry, nursing, midwifery, allied health professions, and apprenticeships through a live Q&A session. The webinar is delivered via Zoom (Zoom Link Meeting ID: 829 7999 3510 Passcode: HHParent).



**ASK Apprenticeships**, the National Apprenticeship Service, is holding a parent webinar on February 3 at 6-7pm. This is aimed at helping parents to understand more about apprenticeship programmes, what is available, and how to support your child through the application process. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-support-and-knowledge-ask-parent-event-tickets-131442795941>

**Ford Motors** have three information evenings on 9/10/11 February for students who are interested in higher and degree engineering or IT apprenticeships. Successful completion will lead to the qualifications of Honours BSc or BEng degrees. Details are posted onto Moodle under Careers and Higher Education and bookings are via Eventbrite.

**The Nuffield Research Programme** scheme offers Year 12 students exciting research placements in industry, universities and with local organisations. The application system for these in 2021 is now open. Students in their first year of post-16 science, technology, engineering and maths (including social and data sciences) courses should apply.

This scheme is aimed at students who come from low income families or do not have a family history of going to university. There is financial support available to those who apply. The closing date for applications is 31 March 2021.

Undertaking a placement will inspire and motivate students and help give them the skills and confidence they need to get a place at a top university or secure a career boosting apprenticeship. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, placements will take place online. The scheme in 2021 will be an evolution of the 2020 model, whilst still being committed to supporting young people to have empowering, life-changing experiences working on research.

Interested students are invited to contact Sally Moore, Nuffield Research Placements Coordinator, by email at [s.moore@stempointeast.org.uk](mailto:s.moore@stempointeast.org.uk)

More information is also available on the website, including case studies at <https://www.stem.org.uk/nuffield-research-placements>

**Unifrog** is running an after-school skills development webinar for students on communication and presenting at 16:30 on 2 February. All our students have access to the Unifrog platform which contains lively and informative material on careers and future choices at: <https://www.unifrog.org/>



**Plumpton College** in East Sussex offers a variety of animal degree courses and more information is provided in their YouTube video by following this [link](#).

**Success at School** is a comprehensive and interactive website offering information and advice on opportunities available in careers and the routes to reach them: <https://successatschool.org/>

## Appendix 2

### Library News

Libraries are still available for use during the lockdown and one of the easiest ways to find your nearest facility is to use this website: [www.gov.uk/local-library-services](http://www.gov.uk/local-library-services).

Just enter your postcode and it will show you where to locate your local library and everything it currently has to offer. Libraries have embraced the digitalization of their services and now provide many different avenues to access them remotely and online.

If you are local to the school the Central Library in Bromley and the Orpington Library are worth a virtual visit:

- <http://www.better.org.uk/library/london/bromley/bromley-central-library>.
- <https://www.better.org.uk/library/london/bromley/orpington-library>.

There is a link to join the library via their website and gain access to the huge range of online services by clicking '**Browse our Catalogue**' then '**Online Resources**.' Below are some examples of what is on offer:

- eBooks/eAudiobooks
- eNewspapers/eMagazines
- eMusic
- 24hr Library
- Facebook Programme



One of the tools I recommend is <http://www.whonextguide.com>

When children ask: "Who can I read next?" / "Who writes like my favourite author?" the answers are here in **Who Next...?** Writers of children's fiction are listed with suggestions of other authors who write in a similar way, together with key book and series titles.



In the news last week there was a report on the virtual library created by **Oak National Academy**. Here is the article if you have not seen it : <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55692137>

**Oak National Academy** and the **National Literacy Trust** have come together to launch the Virtual School Library to keep children reading during lockdown. Whilst this is mostly aimed at primary school children, every week a popular author will become 'Author of the Week' in order to provide free access to a singular book or audiobook.



The graphic features a photograph of Jacqueline Wilson on the left. To her right are the logos for the National Literacy Trust and Oak National Academy. A quote from her is displayed in green text: "I think it's vitally important that every child should have an opportunity to access books. As most schools - and their libraries - are closed at the moment the free online library is needed more than ever." Below the quote is her name, Jacqueline Wilson. At the bottom, a green banner contains the text: "Visit [library.thenational.academy](http://library.thenational.academy) to find out more #VirtualSchoolLibrary"