

22 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 117

Thank you again for your patience following the challenges we have faced since our school servers went down. We are making excellent progress towards having systems back and running, and staff and student accounts came back online earlier this week. I apologise again for any inconvenience this may be causing. 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, the best way of doing this is contacting Reception on 01689 820101. I also 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.

You should have received letters recently from either Mrs Maxwell or Mr Birtchnell outlining the start of term arrangements. Government guidance may still be adapted over the summer depending on the national picture, but we are confident our revised risk assessment prioritises the safety of students and staff. The risk assessment can be seen on the school website by following this [link](#).

Thank you to Ms Ahmad and Mr Clarke for putting together an exhibition of Year 12 Art pieces earlier this week. It is also a pleasure to see our students' creativity and innovation, and this was evident in abundance. The students have produced exceptional work and well done to all involved.



Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our short survey on physical activity. Due to the recent server issues, we have extended the deadline for completing this to the end of July. If you have already completed it then there is no need to resubmit, however if you have not had a chance as yet, then I would kindly ask you to complete it by using the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iX0vmvIX1EWBBL5CKcYsZG7FdcJFgMIGtGSGtxrIX6RUNUJHWjUwRzZOQzM3QTK1SzI1TDcwU1ZKWC4u>

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

- Congratulations to Year 10 student, Aaravamudhan Balaji, who jointly won the Four Nations Chess League. Aaravamudhan also beat a Grand Master in the third round as well as drawing with another Grand Master in the fifth round. He was undefeated in the tournament and scored 4.5 points out of a possible 5, which saw his rating increase overall.
- Congratulations to Year 8 students, Arpan Sharma and Kaustubh Maliya whose entry to the Galactic Challenge, Mission IV and their design of the Metis Space Rescue Organisation was awarded 'The Presentation Award'.



The Gold Award for DofE is always the toughest expedition, and this year's practice comprised a five-day adventure in the Black Mountains, South Wales, either going up or coming down a mountain in whatever weather Wales can throw at you. On this occasion, there was a mix of torrential rain and sunshine, which brings other challenges, such as staying hydrated and biting

insects. During the practice, teams spent time with the instructors from Wild Country Consultants who check kit and food. Day 2 had less contact with the instructors where students are met at check points and watched from a distance. By Day 5, teams are only met at check points, and need to rely much more on each other. The week ended with a debrief, before a long trip home with students in more comfort than they had had all week. Thank you to all the staff who help to make these trips possible, including Mr Holland, Mrs Andrews, Dr Carpenter, Mr Haines, Mr Jewson and Mrs Rogers in Finance.



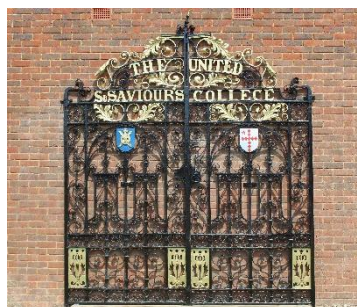
We have recently been retendering our catering contract and following this process we would like to wish The Pantry a very warm welcome. As our new catering partner, they cannot wait to get started in September - so they wanted to fill you in on all the important information about their new service before you head off

for a well-earned Summer Break! The Pantry have asked me to share the following information with you:

"We will continue to use the current sQuid payment system, so all you will need to do is ensure you have an up-to-date account to order with us in the future. However, diners will no longer use a FOB to pay - instead, you will be issued with a bespoke pin number, unique to each diner and account. Over the coming weeks in September, we will also be introducing facial recognition to diners' accounts, as well as an app to pre order in advance to beat the queues - all in the name of making your services more flexible and accessible. We are always open to feedback, so any comments or queries can be directed to office@thepantrycatering.co.uk or 0208 813 7040. Our phones are manned by our dedicated Customer Services Team from 8am–5pm Monday to Friday, and we always aim to respond to any out-of-hours requests the next working day. Our Refunds procedure is simple, too - just e-mail office@thepantrycatering.co.uk with the subject 'Refunds' quoting, the Students Full Name, Form, Bank Account Holders Full Name, Sort Code, and Account Number. Please allow seven working days to apply the refund via BACS. Our Nutritional Team are happy to accommodate any special dietary requests, so if you require any further information on our meals, or an

adjustment to be made, simply complete our Special Request Form by following this [link](#) or contact us on nutrition@thepantrycatering.co.uk."

Further information about the catering service is available on the website.



These beautiful gates are from the charity, United St Saviour's former almshouses in Hamilton Road, West Norwood. The almshouses were built in 1862 to replace the ancient almshouses which had been left to the charity by Thomas Cure and Edward Alleyne (and others) from 1588 onwards, in Park Street, SE1. These were demolished to make way for the new railway in London Bridge. These original almshouses were called Cure's College, and housed older people in need who came from St Saviour's Parish, Southwark. It was agreed that the Hamilton Road gates would be donated to St. Olave's School in 2006 as nobody else wanted them, and this year we have been restoring them back to their former glory. They proudly sit against the external wall of the Fives Courts and a descriptive plaque will be put next to them in due course. Thank you to Mr Rogers for overseeing this project.

We said farewell to four colleagues this week. Mr John Greenwood and Mr Ryan Fuller are moving onto other schools. Ms Itzie Olalde Scott is pursuing new challenges abroad and Mrs Stella Platts is retiring. Our warmest good wishes go with all of them.

It is with great sadness, that we have learned of the death of former member of staff, Mr David Matthews following a long illness. David was Deputy Headmaster at St. Olave's. As a School we offer our prayers and deepest condolences to his family.

As we move into the next academic year, I would like to express my thanks to the students, staff, parents, Governors, Old Olavians, the Foundation, the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education and the Local Authority for all that you have done during this challenging year. It is not over, but one thing is for sure, I



greatly appreciate the commitment, determination, loyalty, compassion, and care that you have shown and continue to give to the children, young people and adults that are all part of our school community.

Wishing you and your families a restful and refreshing summer 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. 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'
