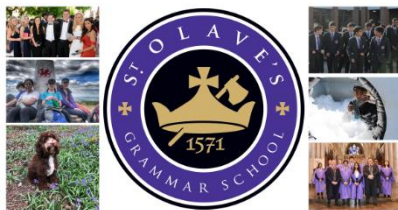


10 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 119

I would like to start off by confirming that the concern around erroneous items on your sQuid accounts should now be resolved. Please do contact the Finance Office if you believe this is not the case. New parents in Year 7 and Year 12 were emailed instructions on Wednesday on how to create a sQuid account. Please check your junk mailbox if you have not received this.



Welcome

It was good to speak the parents of our new Year 7 and new Year 12 at the Parents Induction Evenings on Wednesday and Thursday. Parents were able to find out more detail about how the school operates, what to expect during the next 12 months and what has taken place since their child was offered a place to join the school. This was also a good opportunity to hear from members of the pastoral teams and a

representative of the Parents' Association. It is vital that we get some new parents of Year 7s and Year 12s involved, so please, if you are prepared to actively support your child's education, please do look at this [link](#) to the school website for more information.

I thought it would be good to introduce to you again, Shelby our wellbeing dog. When Shelby is in school he spends most of his time in the Pastoral and Administrative area of the School. Safeguarding, pupils with pastoral concerns and those with Special Educational Needs will be able to have access to him. Wellbeing dogs have been shown to reduce symptoms of trauma in some situations with young people when used over time. Having Shelby in the room relieves the pressure for eye contact and means there is something to discuss if it is hard to get started talking about sensitive topics. The DSL/SENCo will use Shelby when difficult disclosures are being discussed. Again, the feeling of safety and comfort that Shelby will bring can help these situations. Having Shelby in school will raise spirits and keeps staff and pupils attached to 'the real world'. Teaching and learning can be demanding activities, it is hard to stay stressed when Shelby is around. Shelby would contribute to the creation of a climate of nurture and care at Olaves. Our school is already focussed on a positive approach to education and the presence of a wellbeing dog decreases any view of school as a separate institution that is not linked to the real world.



In the annual Young Olavians day fixtures on Wednesday, this year ended in an overall victory for the Young Olavians by three fixtures to two. Thank you to Vice-Captain, Nikhil and Old Olavian, Srikar Namireddy for organising the teams. The results, in the format Current Olavians: Young Olavians, were as follows:



| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Football | 0 (4 pens) | 0 (5 pens) |
| Netball | 2 | 12 |
| Fives | 3 | 5 |
| Basketball | 24 | 16 |
| Rugby | 45 | 21 |
| Overall | 2 | 3 |

Outcomes aside, this was a day of fine sportsmanship and camaraderie and it was good to catch up with many of our recent leavers as they prepare to go off to university.



Congratulations to Year 13 student, Matias who completed an ultra-marathon over the summer break. The event was the Gatliff Marathon which took place on 22 August, with an ultra-distance route of 50km (just over 31 miles) on paths and trails through the Kent and Surrey countryside. It was not just a run though as the course was not marked and had to be navigated by following written instructions only which added to the challenge, and meant a distance of 55km (34 miles) was actually covered! Matias finished in a total time of just over 9 hours with a well-deserved jam and cream scone at the end!

I would like to celebrate other impressive student achievements, which have happened recently. Congratulations and well done to:

- Year 13 student, Flora who won the Young Historians Prize for Local History for her essay 'Offspring of the Stink: Park Fever Hospital'. She has beaten hundreds of other students to win this very impressive prize. Her work will be published in the Journal 'The Historian' and she has also won a cash prize for her efforts.
- Year 13 student, Ebum who was highly commended by the National College of Humanities for her essay on 'Whether liberal democracy is in decline worldwide'.
- Year 13 student, Rhea whose hard work has been recognised at an extremely high level after entering the John Locke Institute essay competition in the Philosophy and Psychology categories. Rhea's essay has been shortlisted and she has been selected as a finalist in the Psychology category, an outstanding achievement, as there were over 4000 global entries. As a finalist, she has been invited to attend an awards dinner and a three-day academic conference at Oxford University. We wish her the best of luck for the remainder of the competition.
- Year 10 student, Aaditya Nandwani who achieved Grade 8 in his New Era Gold Medal Reading with a Distinction.
- Year 8 student, Noah Terry who passed his Grade 5 Electric Guitar and Grade 5 Drums exams and attained a Merit in both.
- Year 8 student, Kayden Garnham-Jong who achieved a Distinction in his Grade 5 Drums examination.
- Year 7 students, Aarush Gandham and Yash Parekh who have both been playing cricket for Bromley CC U11 and on Saturday won the Plate as runners up. Both were awarded Gold medals for their efforts.
- Year 10 student, Shrish Proddaturi who passed his LAMDA Grade 6 Public Speaking Exam with Distinction.
- Year 9 student, Devaansh Lulla, who won a Silver award in the Galactic Challenge for the design of Horizon, a space rescue organisation.



We have recently received a communication from Virgin Money Giving regarding their decision to close down. The information outlined in this communication can be found by following this [link](#). Unfortunately it means that we will no longer be able to collect donations to our Voluntary Fund via this platform. We have looked at alternatives, but due to fees charged by these platforms and the complexity of the Gift Aid claim process, we have concluded that the most efficient way for you to donate is to set up a Standing Order with your bank. If you donate via Standing Order it does mean that the school receives 100% of your donation as we do not incur any processing or transaction fees. We will send another communication shortly with the bank details so you can set this up yourselves, or a form that you can complete and we will send to your bank on your behalf. We will also require a Gift Aid Declaration Form to be completed and sent back to us. If you have any questions, please contact the Finance Office via email: financeoffice@saintolaves.net

Your support and generosity are hugely appreciated and enables us to provide all our students with a great deal more than we would otherwise be able to offer. This includes numerous sporting and other co-curricular opportunities which help develop skills and characters beyond the classroom, as well as supporting academic achievement. It also allows us to invest in up-to-date resources, and the ongoing refurbishment of the learning environment. This summer, we refurbished the foyer, improved the pathway to Park Avenue and placed Promethean boards in every classroom. The Voluntary Fund also helps support careers within the school, which I know many students have benefited from over the last year. Also, as many of you are aware, we now have planning permission to develop an All Weather Pitch, which has been made possible thanks to the generosity of parental donations. We would also like to refurbish the Scout Hut for community use. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of St. Olave's Grammar School, and if you would like to donate, and you are not already doing so, please do contact the Finance Office as soon as possible.

Please see the Appendix below for Careers news, including an introduction from Mrs Mato, our new Careers Leader.

I am looking forward to our first block of rugby fixtures this weekend against Cranbrook School. Good luck to all the teams and I wish 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 the [sQuid login](#). The offer is called 'Donation to the School Voluntary Fund'. You can also donate via standing order. Please contact the Finance Office (finance@saintolaves.net) for more information.

Appendix 1

Careers News

I would like to welcome you all to the new academic year 2021-2022. My name is Mrs Mato and I am excited to announce my new role at St. Olaves Grammar School as the designated Careers Advisor/Careers Leader. I am situated in the main school library where I am easily accessible and have an open-door policy. I am passionate about helping to support our pupils reach their aspirations.



Your child is entitled to one-to-one careers information, advice and guidance that is impartial, encouraging them to make informed decisions about their future career choices, exploring their options to make an informed choice. They can come along and speak to me or arrange an appointment via their tutor. Alternatively, students can contact me via email on: jmato@saintolaves.net

Important Career Events



Our first Careers Event will take place on **Monday 13 September 2021**. **Life Skills, Barclays** will be an exciting workshop in The Great Hall for our Year 12 students. This session will focus on the concept of personal values, and in particular accountability, respect, understanding, perseverance, courage and collaboration - all the skills that are required to shape them for life in general.

Unifrog is a platform that we use to manage the progression process of our pupils effectively. Unifrog is a one stop shop where your child can easily explore their interests, and we will be launching this with Year 7 this September.