

12 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 102

I would like to start by thanking pupils, parents and staff for their patience and support as pupils have returned to school. Staff at St. Olave's have worked incredibly hard to prepare for this return, and the requirement to provide on-site testing has been a logistical challenge, especially due to the weather over the last three days. Despite these challenges, there is a sense of joy and hope within the school with pupils enjoying face to face lessons again, assessments taking place for Year 11 and Year 13, and the smiles of laughter of young people filling the corridors. Please look out for the latest SLT communications about Home Testing and also the Summer 2021 Exam Series as we move forward with pupils returning.

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

It was good to meet the pupils and parents who will be joining us in September during two virtual Taster Sessions that we ran on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thank you to Mrs Maxwell and Mr Wearn for their talks on transition, pastoral care and settling in and to Miss Lawrence, Dr Stewart and Miss Wilkie for their engaging, challenging and fun lessons in Mathematics, Science and English respectively. Thank you to the parents who wrote to us after these sessions, highlighting the interactivity of the lessons and the enthusiasm and commitment of the teachers. We welcome you all to the St. Olave's community.



Welcome

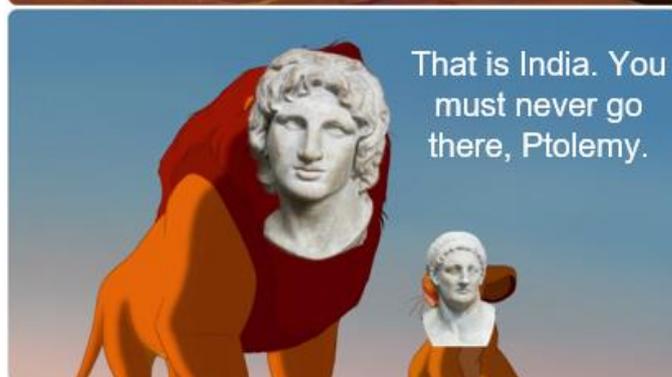
Last week saw every year group pit themselves against each other (and the staff) in a challenge to see who could walk/run the furthest. There were some inspirational efforts from people in every year group. Although a competition, it was great just to see so many people getting out for some fresh air and exercise. Well done to everyone involved, but the title goes to Year 12!

Year	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Staff
Total KM	141.12	141.06	221.84	88.91	95.33	447.28	148.03	352.29
Position	5 th	6 th	3 rd	8 th	7 th	1 st	4 th	2 nd

In celebration of International Women's Month, St. Olave's hosted its first ever International Women's Day webinar on Monday 8 March. The event was a chance for pupils and parents to come together and celebrate a range of work from Year 7 through to Year 13, including poetry, music, and art, created by pupils to reflect their understanding of gender equality. The evening featured talks from a range of external speakers, including Dr Jessica Wade, Rebecca Bond,



Srishti Rentala and Chloe Ollis-Smith. An anthology "The Power of Us: A Collective" provided an insight into the work of the wonderful women who spoke during the webinar but also includes a range of student work that has been created in celebration of the event. Feedback from the evening was excellent with comments such as: "I also thought all the other parts that you brought to the audience was superb - from the poetry, singing, musical support and obviously the guests - great content, and well managed as it was a large on line audience, so well done to all the other contributors - the poetry was amazing!". Thank you to Ms Smith for putting this evening together.



Olavian Latinists and Classicists were lucky enough to receive two talks for the Classics Lecture afternoon on 3 March from the Department of Greek and Latin, UCL. The first was from Dr Stephen Colvin on Indo-European. This vastly interesting talk was about how English and other languages derive from Latin and Greek and how to go about proving it. For example, the Latin sound 'p' maps onto the modern 'f' in English, and 'pater' becomes 'father'. It was followed by Dr Antony Makrinos' talk about 'Homeric Heroes and Heroines'. He elaborated on the traits and features that constituted an Homeric hero – the superlatives they had to fulfil and their commonalities. Every hero had at least one almost superhuman physical trait - strength, beauty, speed etc. and all became leaders of their time. They often had very complex backstories and were all extremely brave. Ultimately, he reflected on how culture has changed over time comparing our modern superheroes with these ancient legends. There were myriad questions from Olavians regarding Indo-European and how Homer has influenced our heroes from Superman to Tolkien's Frodo and Sam. A recording is available upon request from Mr Carroll.

Frodo and Sam. A recording is available upon request from Mr Carroll.

The St. Olave's Year 12 Debating Society, run by Wren Welfare, proudly participated in The Oxford Schools Debating Competition recently. Four teams consisting of two individuals each covered two rounds of intense debates over Zoom against over 40 other teams. As the first motion was announced, 'This House Believes the Media should not Report on the Private Lives of Politicians,' the eight individuals had to prepare a five-minute speech in under 15 minutes, with no previous preparation

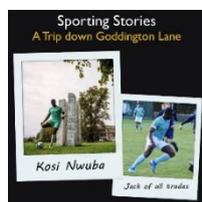


and no access to outside knowledge. After an intense 40 minutes of continuous debating, the teams were given their next motion, 'This House Prefers a World where the Research, Writing and Teaching of History Focuses on Studying the Lives of Ordinary Individuals as Opposed to that of Important Leaders of Society'. This motion was very specific and different to any the team had encountered before. After a long evening of debating, we were delighted to find out that our second team, Martha Hodgson and Gail Joshua Yip, broke through to the nationals. All were immensely proud, especially as St. Olave's was the only state school to do so and they are very much looking forward to competing again soon. Thank you to Wren Welfare for their continuous support and commitment to our improvement, with constant feedback that has helped the team reach this point. We would also like to thank Miss Benham and Miss Clift for their support of the Society and attendance during the competitions. Congratulations to Laura Gander and Alfie Holland, Zachariah Fischer and Thomas Magee-Brown, Ebunoluwa Bello and Nils André, for participating and doing so well in our first competition, and good luck to Martha Hodgson and Gail Johsua Yip in the next round.



34 Year 12 and 30 Year 11 pupils took part in the BPhO Senior and Intermediate Physics Challenges recently. These are a series of very difficult competitions for Physicists of all ages. All pupils took part in their own time and managed to navigate the tricky online platform extremely well. A huge congratulations to all who took part – we look forward to announcing the results as soon as they are available.

All Year 12 pupils studying French entered The UK Linguistics Olympiads in February and out of 1017 participants nationwide three of our pupils won a Bronze certificate at the Advanced level. To put their performance into perspective, here are the languages they had to decipher: Mandombe, Old and Middle Chinese; Ngikolmpu; Sauk and Dagaare. Congratulations to Damita Laryea, Maya Parmar and Viraj Seelam on their performances.



You may be aware that the PE department are producing a series of podcasts where they interview Old Olavians to see what impact sport has had on them, both during their school days and currently. Next 'Down Goddington Lane' is former School Captain, Kosi Nwuba (2010-2017). You can see the podcast on Instagram (StOlavesSPORT) and the audio version is available on Spotify via this [link](#).

The Music Department have put together Virtual Concert #5. Our latest selection of student videos includes our first group performance (filmed in the Autumn Term either remotely or within bubbles), the first of many more hopefully. Please click on the following [link](#) to see the performances from:

- Aaditya Nandwani, Year 10
- Advait Prabhu, Year 7
- Rohan Mann, Year 8
- Aashman Kumar, Year 9
- Jazz Chickens

I hope that you have been enjoying our playlists. All the previous four have links on the Music page of the school's website, if you ever want to go back and have another listen. Do feel free to subscribe to the department's YouTube channel when you next visit!

This week's Teen Tips features part two of specialist practitioner in sexual health and contraception, Alex Fryer. The podcast discusses how to talk to young people about STI's; contraception and where to find support; consent and vulnerability; and sexting. This is a really open and honest discussion, and one that we hope you will find useful when it comes to initiating conversations on all of the above. You can listen to his podcast by following this [link](#).



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

- Congratulations to Harry Chen in Year 11, Pradhay Amarnath, Nils André, Hardiv Harshakumar in Year 12 and Linus Luu in Year 13 on gaining a place in the final round of the Oxford Computing Challenge taking place on 18 March 2021.
- Well done to Grace Sodunke, Year 12, who has been selected to attend the Women in Maths residential organised by Christ's and Trinity Colleges, Cambridge
- Congratulations to Tanish Arjaria, Year 9, who passed his Grade 4 piano examination with Merit.

Finally, a reminder that the Drug and Alcohol Awareness Workshop' webinar is being delivered online by the drug education charity the 'Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation' on 16 March 2021. Please see Mrs Maxwell's previous letter to register your interest.

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

I hope you have a restful weekend and we look forward to your child returning next week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Rees'.

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



Year 10 pupils are now invited to take the Morrisby profile on-line at home. The cost for this which includes a one-to-one zoom follow up interview after the profiling is £85. Pupils who complete Morrisby have the benefit of a login for life which gives them access to the platform where they can revisit their profile and obtain careers information in years to come. Of course, this is just one part of the careers and progression programme offered by the school and all pupils receive careers guidance and experiences during their school career.

Careers in the theatre offer plenty of different professions apart from 'treading the boards'. There are associated careers in tech, marketing, development and operations. London theatre, The Old Vic, is publicising these options as well as skills for CVs and cover letters. To find out more use the link: <https://www.oldvictheatre.com/join-in/education-hub/careers>

High profile tech company Virgin media offers technical, engineering and business apprenticeships and future career schemes. Information on their apprenticeship scheme is available for parents and pupils via the link:



<https://vimeo.com/518534038/6a599713c3>

On 19 March at 4pm Virgin media is delivering a live webinar which will give more information about this scheme. In addition, their Situational Judgement Test (SJT) that forms part of their recruitment process can be practised as many times as the pupils wish from here: <https://virginmedia.shortlist.me/lobby>

The Women in the City Afro-Caribbean Network (WCAN) has its Annual Law Conference for Year 12 and 13 black girl pupils interested in careers in law on 18 March. This event is targeted at aspiring lawyers at all levels as well as those who are curious about a career in law. Participants will hear about several career options as well as having the opportunity to network with the organisations in attendance. This is run in partnership with global law firm, White & Case, and several top law firms will also be in attendance. www.wcan.uk



Parents and pupils looking for careers and related information may enjoy a visit to the icould platform. This is lively, fun and informative with a personality quiz and career videos from current employees ranging from the health sector through banking to technology. Information for parents is presented clearly with useful links to other organisations of interest. To connect go to: <https://icould.com/>

King's College, London, is publicising its on-line events taking place in March and April for parents, carers and prospective pupils. Topics covered include making applications to Russell Group universities and arts and humanities degrees. The format will be webinars, panel discussions and Q&A sessions. To attend the events use the link:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/events/series/info-session-navigating-your-way-to-university>

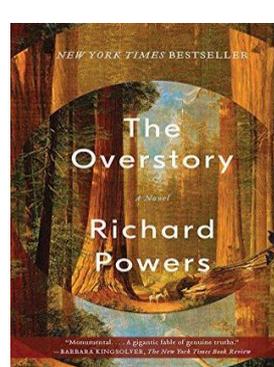
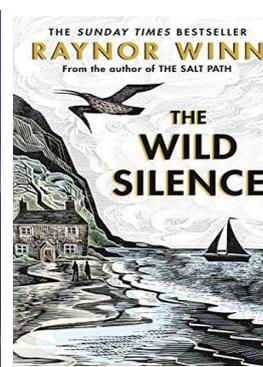
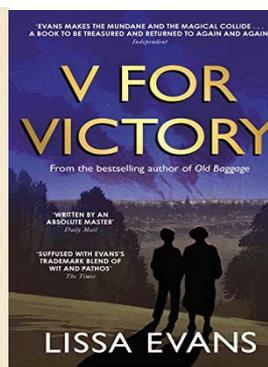
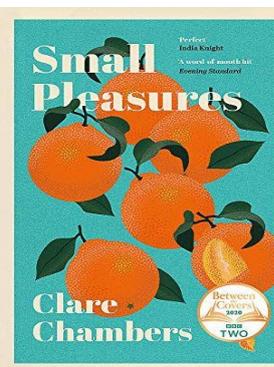
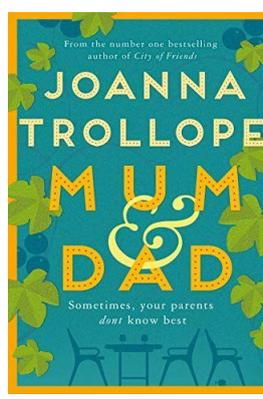
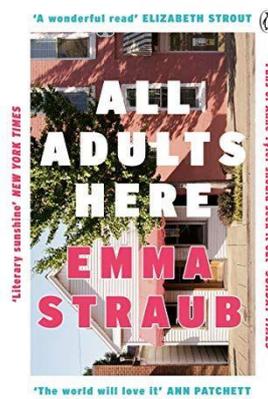
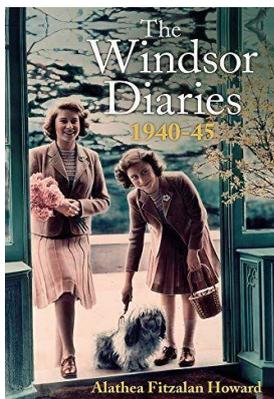
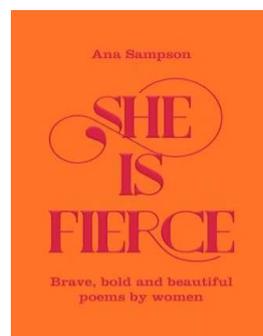
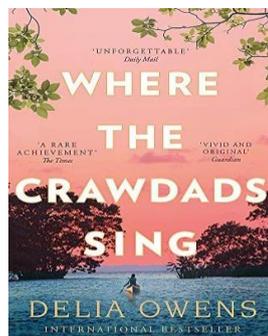
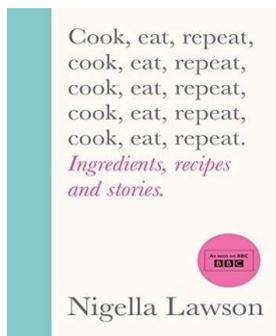
Appendix 2

Library News

This Sunday 14th March is **Mothering Sunday** when we are given the opportunity to spoil our mothers. If your mother is a book lover why not give the gift of words to show her how much you think of her? The gift of a book is a timeless one but with so many titles out there, it can be hard to choose.

I have created the selection below to hopefully provide some inspiration and maybe you could even add a dated *inscription* to the title page to make it even more special thereby creating a memory for you both to look back on and cherish.

"God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers."
- RUDYARD KIPLING



Any questions or comments kindly email librarian@saintolaves.net.