

25 June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 114

Please tell your friends or family that we are currently looking for a Part-Time Teacher of Mathematics (Maternity Cover) and a Part-Time Admissions Assistant. Further details can be found on the school website by following this [link](#).



You will now know that The Prime Minister announced on 14 June that step 4 of the roadmap would have to be paused for up to four weeks because of the spread of the new variant. With the increase in cases with variants of concern, it is important to continue regular testing in order to detect cases of coronavirus, stay ahead of the virus and keep Covid out of the classroom. This means that regular asymptomatic testing for all will continue, and we need you and your children to carry on testing at home, twice a week. As you know, testing has been playing a vital role in the government's response to the virus. It is helping to break chains of transmission by identifying asymptomatic positive cases quickly. This means those who test positive can self-isolate, keeping other students in face-to-face education. I want to thank you all for your efforts so far. I know that this has been an enormously challenging time for families, who have faced many pressures over the past 18 months. Your continued support in helping us fight the virus has been vital. Through your actions we can work together to keep everyone safe and ensure we can also keep your child in school with their friends.

We are currently looking ahead as to what the start of the autumn term might look like: business as usual? Bubbles, testing and face-coverings? Vaccination for older teens? Or something in between? We are still awaiting guidance from the Department of Education, so we can confirm what changes need to be made for September.

Year 12 Germanists and Frau Probodziak visited the Austrian Cultural Forum in South Kensington to see the exhibition 'Für das Kind'. They were the only visitors that day, so had the entire building to themselves and were guided by the visual arts manager of the exhibition and met the director of the Forum. The exhibition was all about surviving children of the Kindertransport out of Vienna in the 1930s reflecting on their journey to England and telling their story through objects they had held onto since the experience. It was very moving and informative.



Well done to our Year 7 tennis team who played against the City of London School. This was a very competitive fixture culminating in a close win for the A team and a loss for the B teams. Congratulations to all the players who performed so well in the sunshine. Also, well done to all the Year 10 athletes who competed at the Bromley Schools' Intermediate Championships.



Recently, we have been celebrating 'Pride Month' and in particular 'Diversity Week'. We see this as an important way that we can as a community actively support LGBTQ+ pupils in our school. We commenced the celebrations by raising the LGBTQ + flag, alongside students and staff at the front of the school. There are also some wonderful educational displays around school for KS3, KS4 and KS5 pupils, and the LGBTQ+ flag is proudly displayed in the canteen area. Staff are wearing their LGBTQ+ lanyards with pride and discussions are being held during registration time, which includes an educational quiz. The Library, with the help of pupils, has produced reading resources with some excellent book suggestions. Comments from students have been positive, and they have enjoyed learning from each other on the topic of LGBTQ+ and celebrating our inclusive community.

On Wednesday 7 July, we shall be holding our annual Lower School Celebration for students in Years 7 and 8. Years 9 and 10 will attend lessons during Lower School Celebration as their successes are celebrated during Senior Prize Giving in September. In the afternoon, we will be holding our annual Sports Day (weather permitting) for Years 7 - 10. Please could students in Years 9 and 10 attend school in their PE kits on this day. Year Group Bubbles will be maintained during this event. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite parents as we have done in past years due to Covid restrictions, but we will endeavour to include photographs in the Newsletter and on the website.

In this week's Teen Tips, there is a blog on 'Apprenticeships - Why They Might Be For Your Child'. Leaving school can be a daunting prospect for young people and it is easy for them to become overwhelmed by the seemingly endless possibilities. WildHearts discuss the positives of choosing an apprenticeship and how best to prepare for life after school. Further information can be found by following this [link](#).



May I remind you that La Martinere for Girls in Kolkata have invited our students to put forward entries for their Annual Science Journal on the following subjects:

- Integration of Science with Environmental Protection
- Challenges of the new normal and coping with it

Entries should a maximum of 1000 words and you can select any topic from the above. Students should send their articles to imgkolkata@gmail.com by 20 July 2021. The online journal will be released on 21 August 2021 at the inauguration of the Science Festival.



Year 12 student, Tyrone Ziwa, and his friends will be attempting to do a 10km run (in under an hour) on 3 July 2021, in order to raise money for the charities 'Sickle Cell Society' and 'The Ben Kinsella Trust'. These charities are very close to their hearts, so they want to exceed all expectations and raise as much money as possible. They have named this project 'Ten Toes'. Further details of their chosen charities can be found at <https://benkinsella.org.uk/> and <https://www.sicklecellsociety.org/>. All and any donations would be really appreciated, and can be made via the following link: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/TenToes10kCharityRun>

Finally, we are delighted to have been able to donate £396 to the Disaster Emergency Committee, following a recent sale of school hoodies to Year 11 Leavers and staff. The DEC brings together 14 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently when large-scale disasters hit countries without the capacity to respond.

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

I hope you and your families have 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 or via the [sQuid login](#). The offer is called 'Donation to the School Voluntary Fund'

Appendix 1

Careers News

Individual careers interviews have now resumed for Year 12s and will continue to the end of term. These are run virtually via Teams by Mrs Christine Edwards, our qualified careers advisor, and students can prepare for their discussion by weighing up the options they are considering for their futures.



Year 10 students who have participated in the Morrisby careers and progression programme this spring have now completed the process. Next year's Year 10 students will have a brief introduction to Morrisby from Mrs Sally East, our Morrisby advisor, on Thursday 15 July during their careers' morning. Morrisby is a commercially run programme that individual students pay for and as such it is a part of our careers offer which aims to be inclusive for all our students. Individual careers and progression interviews will be provided for all Year 10 students during the next academic year.

Events for students in Years 7 to 12 are being promoted by the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. 'Oxpire' is Oxford's interactive digital platform for 11-18 year olds. It tackles complex ideas across a wide range of subjects. 'Oxpire's Big Questions' draws on the latest research at Oxford to engage the audience in topical debates and to stimulate students' minds. The aim is to encourage students to think in a way which provides some useful preparation for the highly interactive learning which undergraduate students experience through tutorials. To find out more, use the link: <https://oxpire.org/>

Also from Oxford, their 'Choosing the Right Course' webpage includes the chance to look at courses related to specific areas of interest, plus a video explaining the decision-making process. For the webpage use: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/choosing-what-study> This year, Oxford's open days will be held virtually on 30 June, 1 July and 17 September. These will provide the information and support offered during an in-person open day and participants will have the opportunity to put their questions to tutors and current students. To register, go to: http://newsletter.admin.ox.ac.uk/k/Ouc/open_days_registration_2021

The University of Cambridge is running virtual subject masterclasses through the summer for Year 12s. Students will experience Cambridge teaching, gain an insight into course content and structure, and learn more about studying there. Academic staff will be presenting lectures and taster sessions, providing more details about course admissions and will be joined by student ambassadors for Q&A. <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/masterclasses>

Also from Cambridge, the departments of life sciences, humanities and social science offer events. On June 28 to July 2 their medicine taster programme comes from Fitzwilliam College and is run after school for prospective students. Topics beyond the school curriculum will be explored via: <https://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/medicine-taster> On demand until August, talks, taster lectures and Q&A sessions with staff, current students and alumni are available on the interdisciplinary area of theology, religion and philosophy of religion. More information at: <https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/study-here>



Work experience opportunities in law are offered virtually by the firms Clifford Chance and Latham and Watkins. More information can be found on Moodle. Other work experience opportunities are promoted via Springpod in psychology, law and engineering with Siemens. The deadline to apply is 26 July. All Year 10s and above have access via their school emails at: <https://www.springpod.co.uk/experience>

Appendix 2

Library News

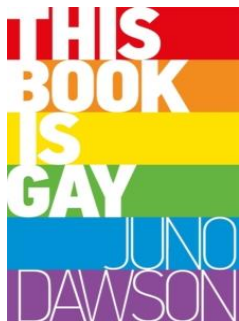


Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honour the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan.

The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In the United States the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day," but the actual day was flexible. In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events.

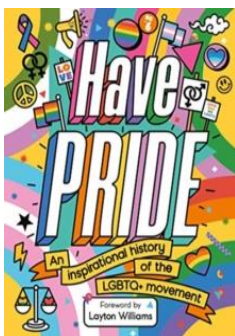
Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

Below are relevant resources, including some recommendations from Rohan Selva-Radov 11N, who also very kindly wrote a synopsis for each one.

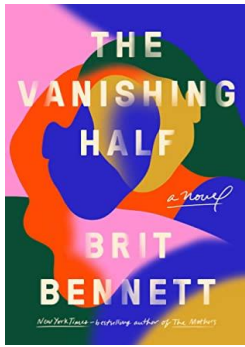


Following her previous book *Being a Boy*, young adult author and former PSHCE teacher Juno Dawson offers up a funny, frank look at all things LGBT in this intelligently-written non-fiction book. Including testimonials from people across the gender and sexual spectrums, this is an accessible and inclusive take on what it is like to grow up LGBT, addressing all the worries and anxieties young people may have about this topic - whether or not they are questioning their own sexuality. Dawson writes responsibly and sensitively about her subject, but has plenty of fun along the way with

Spike Gerrell's irreverent illustrations adding an extra dose of humour too.

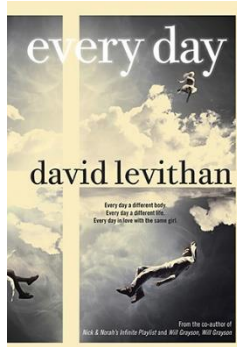


Whoever you are, HAVE PRIDE. This inspirational history of the international LGBTQ+ movement will teach readers to accept and have pride in themselves and others, whatever their sexuality. Detailing the struggles and successes of LGBTQ+ movements around the world, looking at decriminalisation, the Stonewall riots and their legacy, global Pride movements, the HIV/AIDS crisis and equal marriage It also includes profiles of significant LGBTQ+ figures from history and messages from young, modern-day members of the LGBTQ+ community, explaining why they have pride in themselves - and why you should, too. 'Have Pride' offers an inspirational history of the LGBTQ+ movement in glorious rainbow technicolour'.

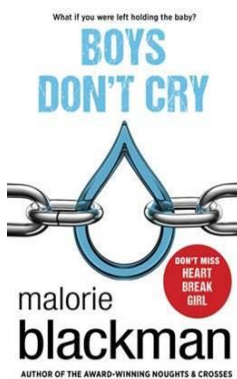


The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it is not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it is everything: families, communities, identities. Many years, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. **Rohan writes:**

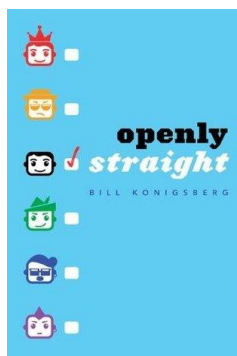
“historical, set in the 1950-90 in the USA. Is about fluidity in races and gender identity through the perspectives of two mixed race twins”.



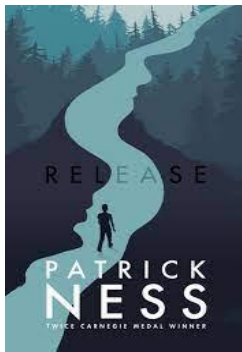
It is all fine until the morning that A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. Because finally A has found someone A wants to be with—day in, day out, day after day. **Rohan writes:** ***“Narrator A, ends up in a different body every day so the book explores what it is like when not to have a fixed gender or sex”.***



Dante is waiting for the postman. It is 'A' level results day and he has high hopes, but a knock on the door brings an old girlfriend and some news that will change his plans for good. Written from the point of view of two teenaged brothers: Dante, who is looking forward to university and a successful career, unexpectedly finds himself faced with the demands of full time single parenthood, and Adam, who is happy to be gay and makes no secret of it, but ultimately suffers from the intolerance of those around him. **Rohan writes:** ***“Centres on teenage pregnancy but there is a secondary school storyline on the protagonist's brother who is struggling with his sexuality. Two very interestingly contrasting perspectives on what it means to be a teenage boy”.***



Rafe is a normal teenager from Boulder, Colorado. He plays soccer. He has won skiing prizes. He likes to write. And, oh yeah, he is gay. He has been out since 8th grade, and he is not teased, and he goes to other high schools and talks about tolerance and stuff. And while that is important, all Rafe really wants is to just be a regular guy. Not that GAY guy. To have it be a part of who he is, but not the headline, every single time. So when he transfers to an all-boys' boarding school in New England, he decides to keep his sexuality a secret -- not so much going back in the closet as starting over with a clean slate. But then he sees a classmate break down. He meets a teacher who challenges him to write his story. And most of all, he falls in love with Ben . . . who does not even know that love is possible. **Rohan writes:** ***“Funny and clever. The main character is openly gay but fed up with that being the only part of his identity which people think counts—he'd much rather be seen as an ordinary teenager, who happens to be gay, and that's what he tries when he”***



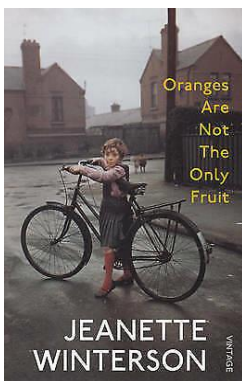
It is Saturday, it is summer and, although he does not know it yet, everything in Adam Thorn's life is going to fall apart. Relationships will change, he will change, but maybe, just maybe, he will find freedom in the release.

Time is running out though, because way across town a ghost has risen from the lake. Searching, yearning, she leaves a trail of destruction in her wake. **Rohan writes:** *"The main character is a teenage boy who realises he is gay, and the book, amongst other things, looks at how he confronts his ultra-religious dad's homophobia".*



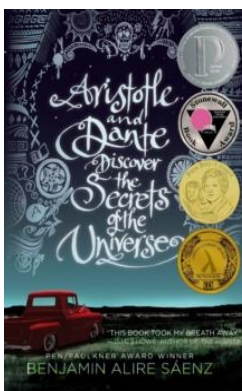
Charlie, a highly strung, openly gay over-thinker, and Nick, a cheerful soft-hearted rugby player, meet at a British all-boys grammar school. Friendship blooms quickly, but could there be something more...? Based on Alice Oseman's bestselling graphic novel series.

Charlie and Nick are at the same school, but they have never met until one day when they are made to sit together. They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he does not think he has a chance but love works in more surprising ways, and Nick is more interested in Charlie than either of them realised.



This is the story of Jeanette, adopted and brought up by her mother as one of God's elect. Zealous and passionate, she seems destined for life as a missionary, but then she falls for one of her converts. At sixteen, Jeanette decides to leave the church, her home and her family, for the young woman she loves. Innovative, punchy and tender, **Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit** is a few days ride into the bizarre outposts of religious excess and human obsession.

Rohan writes: *"It is a sort-of-autobiographical coming of age novel about being a lesbian teenager in a religious, working class family in 1960's England. Each chapter is named after a book of the Bible., and the book is dotted with allusions to Old Testament stories".*



This Printz Honor Book is a "tender, honest exploration of identity", that distills lyrical truths about family and friendship.

Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison.

Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world.

When they meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the two loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special kind of friendship--the kind of friendship that changes lives and lasts a lifetime.

And it is through their friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves--and about the kind of people they want to be.