

4 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians and Grandparents

Headteacher's Newsletter 79

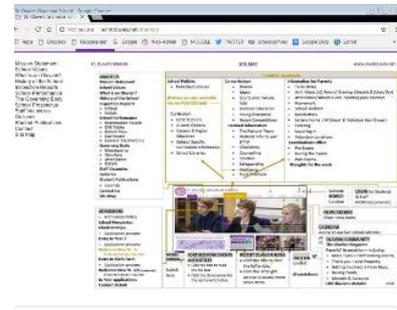


It was with great excitement, anticipation, planning and care that we welcomed Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12 in school for their Induction Days. All other year groups had individual appointments with their tutors to discuss any challenges, anxieties and worries about returning to school.

The whole school will return on Monday with staggered starts, which will be a big change for everyone within the school community. We are very mindful of the different lockdown experiences everyone will have had, and we wish to provide support wherever needed. Please do contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year if you have any further questions or concerns.



I would like to start by congratulating, and extending a very warm welcome, to all of our new students in Years 7 and 12 and their parents. I hope that you will find this weekly Headteacher's Newsletter a helpful mechanism for keeping track of, and celebrating, what is happening in school. Alternatively, to keep up to date with all the latest news, please follow us on Twitter @saintolaves or look at the information available on our website. A site map, located at <http://saintolaves.net/sitemap>, highlights the location of the most useful content. We are also in the process of finalising a new website, which we hope to make live by the middle of September. We felt we needed to stick with our existing website at the beginning of term as many of you would be able to find information quickly and easily due to your knowledge of the current site. We will keep you fully informed as to when the new site will go live.



Congratulations to all of the students on their achievements at A Level, AS Level and GCSE this summer. All of these results are a great testament to the talented students, devoted staff and supportive parents. These results have been achieved by students who have not only been focussing on their academic studies, but have also been active on the sports field, performing in musical concerts and drama productions, mentoring younger students, leading clubs and societies and engaging in Duke of Edinburgh. We wish our students the very best as they move onto the next stage of their education.

Over the summer holidays, the school has again been a building site due to the copious amount of work taking place. The toilets in the Foyer, Sixth Form block and Lower Humanities have been fully refurbished. Phase one of the project to replace the roofs over the Great Hall and Library has commenced, and is making excellent progress. The Green Room has also been decorated as part of the development of a new Wellbeing Centre around the area by the Chapel. The computers in IT2 and IT3 have been fully replaced and we hope this will solve the slow speed of the computers in these rooms so work of the highest quality can continue to be produced. Areas of the school have been spruced up and tidied, including the front of school and the Quads. Thank you to the site team for organising this work. Money from the Voluntary Fund and the Foundation has enabled these refurbishments to take place so thank you, once again, for your contributions.

There have been several changes to the staff since the end of last term and the following members of staff have joined us:

- Mr Ryan Fuller – PE
- Ms Itzaskun Olalde Scott - Spanish/French
- Mr Thomas Smialowski – Mathematics
- Mr Andrew Sykes – Economics

Also returning are:

- Mrs Philippa Metcalfe - English
- Ms Polly Vasileva - Mathematics.

I am sure you will want to join me in welcoming them all to the school.



Over last year, one of our leavers, Lulu was able to use the James Burdett Memorial Prize to support her visit to Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand. Among many highlights, in Sydney, Lulu watched Carmen at the Sydney Opera House, which was a long-awaited dream. She also visited the Botanic Gardens and Mrs Macquarie's Chair, a hand-carved sandstone rock, which has a sweeping view of

Sydney's magnificent harbour. Lulu highlighted that the biggest takeaway from her gap year is that not everything goes according to plan and being impulsive can lead to great memories. This year has definitely made her more independent through flying by herself and planning her own trips and destinations. She really enjoyed meeting new people during her travels and cannot wait to meet more people at university.



Finally, congratulations to the following on their achievements over the summer:

- Year 12 student, Navaneeth Madhavan, achieved a Silver award in the Galactic Challenge.
- Year 11 student, Sebastian Garnham-Jong, passed his Grade 8 Speech and Drama examination during lockdown via Zoom and achieved a Distinction.



Wishing you and your families a very successful term.

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.
