

11 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

## Headteacher's Newsletter 80

This has certainly been a busy week! This has included a full return to teaching, students remaining in bubbles, different start and end times and online whole school assemblies. I am so excited to welcome students back to school after such a long time apart. Although there are challenges ahead, we are ready to embrace them as a community and ensure that the young people in our care continue to experience the best education, co-curricular programme and pastoral care available. I know all the staff are working incredibly hard to ensure the transition back to school goes as smoothly as possible. I am aware of some teething problems with regards to COVID symptoms and journeys to school, which I highlight later in my newsletter.

It was good to speak to the parents of our new Year 7 and Year 12 at the remote Parents' Induction Evenings on Wednesday and Thursday. Parents were able to find out more details about how the school operates, what to expect during the next 12 months and what has taken place since the school went into



Welcome

lockdown. 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 have received several enquiries from new parents/carers about how they can donate to the Voluntary Fund. You will be aware that donations to St. Olave's School Voluntary Fund are used to support the provision of a wide range of curricular and co-curricular activities at the school and relieve the impact of overstretched government funding.

The conclusion of our Parents/Carers Survey in 2019 indicated that parents/carers were generally happy to contribute to the wide range of projects, activities, developments and opportunities the donations allow. Although there is no formal recommended amount, many parents/carers felt that £50 per month was an appropriate figure for them to donate. It is important parents/carers understand that there is no obligation to make donations, and families should give only as much as they would like. Any amount is welcome, and no student will be treated differently should their family choose not to contribute.



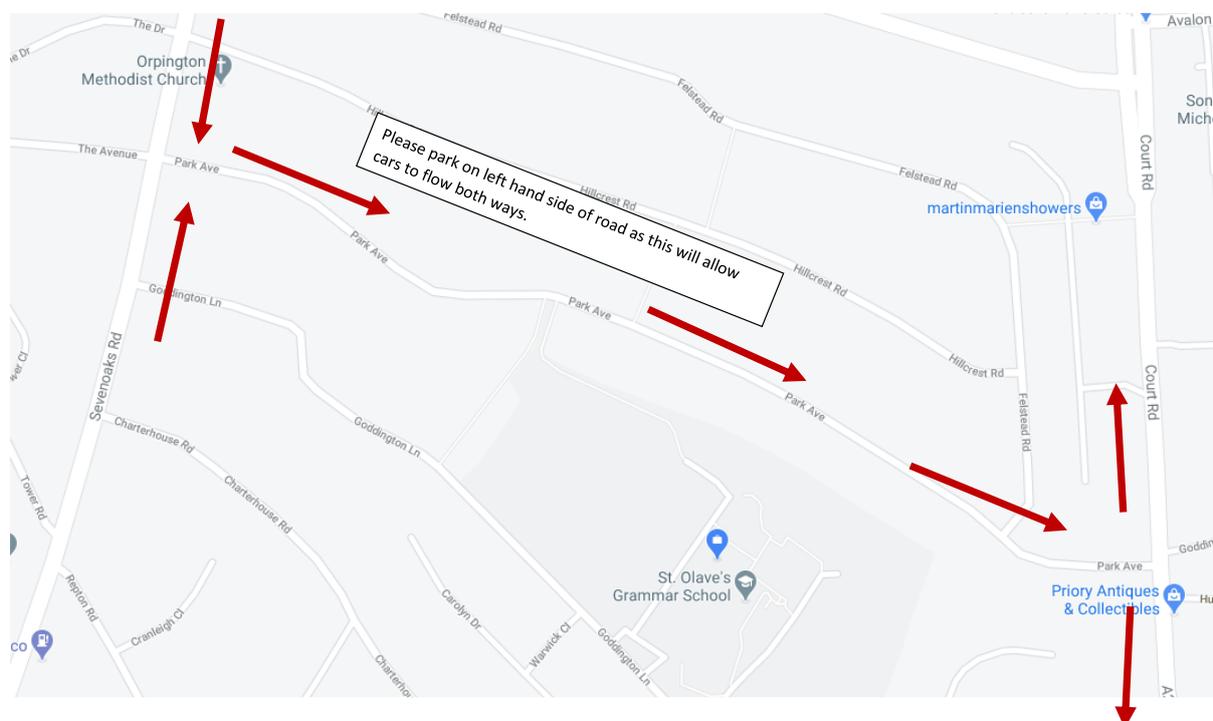
Your support and generosity are hugely appreciated and enables us to provide all our students with a great deal more than we would otherwise be able to offer. This includes numerous sporting and other co-curricular opportunities which help develop skills and characters beyond the classroom, as well as 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 toilets, including the facilities in the Sixth Form centre and main foyer. All computers have been upgraded in IT2 and IT3. The Voluntary Fund also helps support careers within the school, which I know many students have benefited from over the last year. As many of you are aware, we now have planning permission to develop an All Weather Pitch, and we would like to refurbish the Scout Hut for community use, which has been made possible thanks to the generosity of parental donations. Thank you for your continued support of St. Olave's Grammar School, and if you would like to donate, and you are not already doing so, please follow this [link](#) to the Virgin Money Giving webpage.

Please be aware if anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of or change in their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). If they have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms. Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first displayed symptoms. Parents should inform the school immediately of the results of a test.

If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

If someone tests positive, they should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

I did write to parents/carers earlier this week after receiving several complaints from residents on Park Avenue about cars being parked across driveways as parents/carers wait to pick up students at the end of the school day. When I was at Park Avenue, I can sympathise with their frustration due to the amount of traffic and how drivers were parking. The problem is exacerbated by drivers making U turns when the road is already heavily congested. I would like to suggest a one-way system for Park Avenue where you approach the school from Sevenoaks Way and leave at the top of Park Avenue onto Court Road. If drivers then park only on the left-hand side, this will allow cars to pass the other way.



You will appreciate that we are not able to enforce this one-way system, but I think it would help with congestion and may speed up travel for everyone at the end of the school day.

Despite the challenges of the virus, the careers sector is well underway with plenty of offers of remote experiences and assistance for students. Upcoming opportunities will be regularly posted onto MOODLE under Careers and Further Education. Some of the events to look out for include university entry guidance, technology and law placements.

To support students working towards the October UCAS deadline there is the Meet the Russell Group Virtual Event on Wednesday 7 October from 12pm to 6pm and its Pre-Event Webinars on Wednesday 23 September and Wednesday 30 September (both at 12pm). Students can register via these Zoom links [Applying to Oxford and Cambridge](#) and [Applying for Russell Group Universities](#). Those who register will also be sent a link to the YouTube Channel to enable catch-up on the webinar after school.

Youth and social mobility charity, Big Voice London, have opened applications for their annual flagship project, the Model Law Commission. This is a three-month long project that provides A-Level students with the chance to simulate the work of the Law Commission. Due to coronavirus, the project is online over Zoom. Our A-Level students are eligible to apply and the deadline for applications is 3pm on Sunday 20 September.

Our partner organisation, InvestIN, is offering new paid for immersive career experiences. Ten St. Olave's students attended their events during the summer. The most popular industries for our students have been investment banking, engineering, computer science and medicine. This term they will be running one and two-day programmes in 20 different industries, including the launch of brand-new careers of dentistry, veterinary science, international development, music production, art, publishing, management consultancy and fashion design.

Looking towards opportunities during the October half-term holiday, Travers Smith PRIME, a leading corporate law firm based in the City of London, offer a four-day online work placement scheme in commercial law for Year 12 students. This opportunity has eligibility criteria.

Congratulations to the following students on their recent achievements:

- Ishan Kalia, Year 13, received an honourable mention and a certificate for the Gonville and Caius College History essay competition, which was an object biography on the Delhi Iron Pillar.
- Sanah Suresh, Year 13, was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 2020 LSE SU Economics Essay Competition.
- The St. Olave's team won the national final of the International Space Settlement Competition last term and ten of them won a place to compete at NASA in Florida for the UK team. This



event was unfortunately cancelled, but the competition continued via video link. Due to their commitment and performance over the days (and nights) of the competition, the UK team won the international event. Congratulations to all the students involved.

- Ameya Athawale, Year 11, worked independently and gained his Silver CREST award over the Summer, looking for the ideal growing conditions for garden peas.
- Year 11 students Daniel Shahrabi Atari, Rohan Selva-Radov, Srij Bera and Abhishek Sundararaman undertook the Galactic Challenge - Journey to Mars as a group of four and received a Gold award.
- Tavishi Prasad, Year 13, gained the Industrial Cadets Silver Award, which involved over 30 hours of work on 'The study of nanoscale interactions between light and metals.'



Finally, I would like to draw your attention to our annual Prize Giving ceremony, which will take place virtually next Wednesday with links on our school website. This will be a celebration of our Middle and Upper school students' successes and it is always a great pleasure to congratulate our prize winners. They have done superbly well to be nominated for an award, in whichever category, especially when you consider the very high standards at St. Olave's. There will be a range of speeches, including one from our guest of honour, red arrow pilot, Old Olavian Squadron Leader Mike Ling.

Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Andrew Rees in black ink.

Andrew Rees  
Headteacher

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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](mailto: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.

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