

18 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

### Headteacher's Newsletter 81

I would be grateful if you would tell your friends or family who work in Finance that we are currently looking for a Head of Finance. This is a very exciting opportunity and further details can be found on the school website by following this [link](#).

Now that term is well underway, I would like to warmly welcome the following new staff who joined the school at the beginning of term:

- Mr Ryan Fuller - Teacher of Physical Education
- Miss Itzaskun Olalde Scott - Teacher of Spanish and French
- Mr Thomas Smialowski - Teacher of Mathematics.
- Mr Andrew Sykes - Teacher of Economics (part-time)



It is with great pleasure, in these unusual times for the school, to bring to you this year's virtual Prize Giving on the school website. The Prize Giving programme, which features the prize winners and the speeches, can be found by following this [link](#). This has been a year where we have had to adapt to new challenges, which means celebrating our students' successes are more important than ever. However, we did miss hearing the students' names, watching them shake hands with the guest of honour and collecting their prizes. This year's version was different, but all prize winners should know that the pride felt in them by their family, teachers and friends is the same as any other year.

Prize Giving celebrates the achievement of students in Years 9 to 13, and prizes are not only awarded for academic success, but also for recognition of enthusiasm, commitment, imagination and contribution to school life. You will see from the programme that the list of prize winners is long. There are a range of speeches, including one from our guest of honour, Old Olavian, Squadron Leader Mike Ling, and we hope these will emphasise the rich diversity of student interests and achievements. We are hugely proud of all our students, including those who work equally hard, give of their all, but have not been awarded prizes this year. I do hope you enjoy this virtual event. The photograph shows Squadron Leader Ling flying into Biggin Hill airport this week with a view of the school in the distance.





I thought it would be good to introduce to you again our wellbeing dog called Shelby. When Shelby is in school, he spends most of his time in the Pastoral and Administrative area of the school. Students 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 begin 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. Shelby can go on lunch time walks

with students within student zones. There would be a rota for taking him out. At other times he may go with members of the team around the school grounds. Having Shelby in school will raise spirits and keeps staff and students 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 St. Olave's. 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.

I did mention this event in last week's newsletter, but I wanted to give you the names of the students who were selected to form part of what subsequently became the first UK team to win the International Space



Settlement Design Competition in over 5 years. The UK team worked hard to overcome technological and cultural barriers with a degree of professionalism and composure beyond their years and received praise from our company supervisors, who included an Engineer at Boeing and Old Olavian, Shayne Beegadhur. The International Space Settlement Design Competition is the highest level of space design competition in the world, and qualifying is an impressive feat in itself. After winning the London Regionals and the National Finals at Imperial College, 12 students from St. Olave's were invited to represent the UK at the ISSDC. Usually held over three days at Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, students from St. Olave's and Eltham College formed the UK contingent for this year's four-day virtual competition.

St. Olave's international team roles were fulfilled as follows:

- Frederick Skerrett (Vice-President of Engineering)
- Mitra Stainsbury (Vice-President of Business)
- Nadiya Ivahnenko (Head of Automation Design Department)
- Amro Fadel (Head of Human Factors Department)
- James Hayes (Cargo Integration Lead)
- Jonah McDonald (Atmospheric Regulation Lead)

- Angelika Kochajkiewicz (Hull Composition Lead)
- Caitlin Gallagher (Construction Processes Lead)
- Lucy Stock (Network Security Lead)
- Eleanor Yuen (Network and Communication Lead)
- Sophie Bata-Madden (Habitation Design Lead)
- Katherine Stanton (Medical Processes Lead)

Congratulations also go to the other St. Olave's team members who contributed to victories at Regional and National level:

- Chrysoula Prachalia
- Gregoire Dastros-Pitei
- Oghenekaro Agbro
- Sophie Lu
- Tavishi Prasad

A special mention to Mitra Stainsbury, who was awarded the prestigious Dick Edwards Award for Outstanding Leadership.



Congratulations to Year 11 student, Upanshu Tyagi, who entered the Immerse Education Essay Competition over the summer and won a place on an architecture summer school at Cambridge University. Congratulations also to Year 10 student, Wafi Ali, who has been accepted onto an Economics course, thanks to his excellent essay on 'Tulip Mania'. Wafi has been selected out of 5,000 entrants to achieve this so has done very well indeed.

There are some lively events coming up for our students as they consider their future choices and progression towards their career. More information on all the events can be found via MOODLE under Careers and Further Education.

For Olavians thinking of studying a Science degree, London's Imperial College offers two dates when they are showcasing their Faculty of Natural Science's research from academics and PhD students. They also have a two year programme for aspiring medics and subject specific workshops for those with potential in STEM subjects.

Also in London, historic Gresham College is right up to date with its online programme of free public lectures [www.gresham.ac.uk/schools](http://www.gresham.ac.uk/schools). These are delivered by world-class experts and range across the arts and sciences, covering music, astronomy, medicine and business. For our students these are a resource for careers advice, EPQ projects and UCAS statements.





Further afield, America's Fulbright Commission has moved online with a USA College Day. Students interested in attending university in the US will benefit from this free event that provides students, parents and teachers with the unique opportunity to meet representatives from over 150 American universities and learn about the US admissions

process from experts. Taking place on Saturday 26 September, this is the UK's official source of information on the US university admissions process. Tickets are booked in advance at [Virtual USA College Day](#)

Younger students may enjoy the new programmes from InvestIN for ages 12-14. These paid for programmes take place in January and bursaries and discounts are available for our students. Careers covered include investment banking, engineering, international politics, medicine and law. Details can be found on their website <https://investin.org>

Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

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

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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