



25 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 82

I cannot emphasise enough the joy in hearing the noise of learning and laughter around the school - the year is now truly up and running. Of course, this year will be different, and our priority remains to keep adults and children safe as well as ensuring our community continues to be happy and successful.

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](#). The closing date is Wednesday 30 September.

May I also remind you that the virtual Prize Giving, which features the Prize winners and the speeches, can be accessed via this [link](#).

Public Health England have produced a letter for schools to distribute to parents which explains when a person requires a coronavirus test and what the symptoms of coronavirus are. The intention of the letter is to help prevent children being taken out of school unnecessarily and answer some of the questions parents may have around testing. A copy of this information can be found by following this [link](#). It is important that if a parent/carer needs to report a student absence, it is completed by 9:30 am on the day of absence, using one of the following options: <http://www.saintolaves.net/attendanceandabsence>



I am aware that my ability to highlight trips and activities has diminished due to the pandemic and this has always been a key feature of my Newsletter. This does, however, enable me to give greater prominence to student endeavour and success so please do keep sending me news items and details of student achievements, either via colleagues or by 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.

This leads me nicely on to saying congratulations to the following students on their recent achievements in the Immerse Education Essay Competition that took place over the summer:

- Sophie Lee, Year 12, was one of the top entries out of thousands, winning a scholarship to the Medicine summer school at Cambridge University.

- Arjun Javagal, Year 10, and Vaibhav Mehra, Year 11, gained a place in Economics and Physics respectively. We know that a number of our students have applied for places and would like to congratulate everybody who has written a successful essay.



It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to our new Wellbeing Room, a place where students can tend to their social and emotional needs. We have created a safe and calm environment where Mrs Ward, our Pastoral Support Worker, is available throughout the day and students will be made to feel welcome and listened to. Students can visit the Wellbeing Room if they need to talk with someone, feel they are struggling academically or socially, or just need a quiet space to sit and reflect.

Our aim is to identify barriers that students' face which are preventing them from reaching their full potential. This includes: helping boost their confidence and self-esteem by acknowledging their achievements and recognising their strengths; assisting students in developing their knowledge, skills, understanding, capabilities and attributes which they need for their social, emotional, mental and physical wellbeing; and showing understanding and treating students individually, promoting positivity, respect and trust. We acknowledge that students' wellbeing is fundamental to their overall health and success and believe this will be a valuable addition to our Pastoral Care at school.



INDEPENDENTCATERING | EDUCATERLIMITED
FABULOUS FOOD SERVED IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT
 Independent Catering is delighted to be back providing your child with a healthy prepared meal at lunchtime and providing great food at great value.
 We provide a safe eating environment for all pupils and have adopted COVID secure processes which follow government guidance.
 We all know the importance of healthy eating to learning and our hot lunches provide, over the week, a nutritional balance that helps your children well on to school.
 We have adapted our menus to make sure our suppliers can meet demands, whilst making sure our teams can work safely. We will introduce our standard menu in conjunction with our school when safe to do so.
 Please support your school caterer over the next few months!
IMPORTANT!
 There is a cashless card system for purchasing food at school. Students have been issued with a contactless payment card. Parents/Careers can use any bank they feel appropriate for their child to spend each day in the school dining room. Limits can be set for morning lunch and lunchtime if required - you can even set what your child is eating under certain circumstances.
 If your child has any specific dietary requirements please discuss this with the school. All allergies are printed on the menu or food in our kitchen.

SAFETY FIRST
 OUR MEASURES TO ENSURE A SAFE EATING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL PUPILS
 CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

OUR MENUS
 WE ARE CURRENTLY OFFERING 4 MENU OPTIONS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND 2 OPTIONS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS
 CLICK HERE TO VIEW ALL MENUS

FREE SCHOOL MEALS
 IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE?
 CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

WE ONLY USE
 PEPPERMAINT | PEPPERLIFE | MINTO | ORGANIC | QUALITY TEAS | HONEYBUNNYS

INDEPENDENTCATERING.CO.UK | EDUCATERLIMITED.COM

Now that daily routines are beginning to settle, I would like to encourage our students back to the canteen and for them to purchase food at school. The caterers are currently taking much less than in normal circumstances as a consequence of not being able to offer a breakfast and/or breaktime service. This is due to the implications and logistics of organising 'bubbles' and maintaining social distancing. The caterers are though able to offer a fairly full lunchtime service and I would urge parents to enable students to support the canteen this year. The canteen staff know all of our students. They look out for them, notice changes with them and are, simply, a vital cog in the machine – a valued member of our school community. Please help us to support them by giving them your custom.

Next week sees the start of Black History Month. As a school we have been making changes over the last few years to our curriculum to make it more reflective of the students we teach, but we welcome this month as an



opportunity for our students to learn more. As we are unable to hold our annual Black History Month show, we will be organising a series of podcasts on a wide variety of topics. These will be sent out to students each morning via Teams, and we hope students will listen to them on their way to school. These are being made on behalf of departments, student societies and students who have previously been involved with the show. Each one will be around five minutes long and will range in topics from a focus on Gospel Music to Black Excellence, to Economics. We hope our students will find them engaging, entertaining and a rich source for discussion.

Moving onto careers, a recent newspaper article highlighted how many more young people have been inspired to investigate careers in healthcare as a result of the virus. This positive response illustrates the desire of 18-24 year olds to contribute to this sector. The NHS careers website received over 50% more visits during March and April compared with the same period last year and by far most of the enquiries were from young people. Apart from the more obvious routes into the health service, degrees in subjects such as Computing, English and Mathematics can also lead to careers in health in the areas of informatics, communications and finance.

Employers are still offering apprenticeships despite the employment downturn. These are opportunities which have appeal for those students with a clear idea of their future career. Senior leaders in international companies often began their careers as apprentices. To assist parents in understanding the different types of apprenticeship, The Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools and Colleges programme (ASK) publishes monthly updates for parents available at <https://amazingapprenticeships.com>



This month's edition has a special focus on apprenticeships in the NHS, in particular, coding skills. More information about applying for apprenticeships is available via the UCAS website <https://www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships>

Universities are well underway with promoting the university experience via virtual presentations and events. Royal Holloway, University of London offers webinars for Year 12 and Year 13 students in preparing for university <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/>. The University of Birmingham webinars contain topics of general interest to prospective students, plus subject specific detail for courses at Birmingham <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/>. Students keen to study in Canada where they can enhance their language knowledge in a bilingual society are offered the EduCanada virtual undergraduate fair on 3 October <https://educanadavirtual.com/>

More information on careers opportunities is posted regularly on MOODLE, accessible to all our students via the website.

I wrote to parents/carers earlier this term 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. I can sympathise with their frustration due to the amount of traffic and how drivers are 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. Your co-operation is appreciated as time is required when these complaints are raised.



The Physics Department have found innovative ways to socially distance and allow students to remain within their zone and bubble by using the fine weather and the PA Quad to carry out Physics practicals. Year 12 students completed an oscilloscope practical using a mobile telephone app as a frequency generator and another app as an oscilloscope. The students sat at the tables in the PA quad.

Wishing you and your families 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.
