

9 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

### Headteacher's Newsletter 84

The Sixth Form Open Evening for **external students** will take place on Thursday 5 November starting at 6:30 pm. For those of you (or your friends) with sons or daughters in other schools, this is an important evening on which to find out all about our outstanding Sixth Form, details of the courses, expectations, co-curricular opportunities and the application process.

On Saturday 21 November we will be holding our annual Interview Preparation Day for Year 13 students. It is likely that this will take place remotely this year. It is a valuable opportunity for students to experience an interview before the process of university admissions begins in December. The event is able to run thanks to the kindness of volunteers and we are grateful to all those who help out. If you are able to help out for a few hours in the morning, please contact Mr Birtchnell ([mbirtchnell@saintolaves.net](mailto:mbirtchnell@saintolaves.net)), mentioning the subject(s) you would be able to help with.



Congratulations to Aaditya, Daksh, Hardiv, Jamie, Nathan and James who have won an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. This is the most prestigious scholarship of its type in the UK to inspire and nurture school-age students to be the country's future leaders of the Engineering Profession. The Scholarships are awarded to high-calibre 16 year old students through a rigorous selection process and supports students through the two years

of their A levels. Well done indeed.

Congratulations to the following on their recent achievements:



- Year 13 Arun will be taking on the First XV rugby captaincy for the forthcoming season. We would all like to take this opportunity to wish Arun and the team the very best for the season, whatever this might look like.
- Old Olavian, Keiron Walton, is playing Premier League Hockey for Exeter University Hockey Club



Thank you to Old Olavian, and former Olavian poet laureate, Edwin Roberts, who kicked off our poetry feed, which can be seen on the school's Twitter feed, as part of National Poetry Day. (Did you spot the clever acrostic down the right-hand side?)

### O Clouds Unfold

There were days when mauve clouds would bring  
the wild light of wonder; it would whirl around me  
and elucidate young performers on a stage. My  
favourite tale: launching a rocket like an arrow from a bow,  
space explorers bound from star to star. Bullet points of  
a research paper, underlined by a smile sent kindling with the burning  
embers of the stories we shared; memories on a film of immutable gold.

There were days when mauve clouds would bring  
the hurling rain upon drenched fields, and you'd throw me  
a stunning, yearning pass. I'd leap and land in an infinite library, my  
lost poems erased, pages among a wreck of splintered arrows,  
but, in time, I have always depended on the kindness of  
friends (a new story, after *A Streetcar Named Desire*)...

Edwin Roberts



It was good to see so many parents at the virtual Year 9 Information Evening on Wednesday. Thank you to Head of Pastoral, Mrs Maxwell, for overseeing the event and Head of Year 9, Mr Twose, for outlining the academic and pastoral support available to students as they commence their GCSE courses. As stated by Mr Twose, often this is the time when your sons

need you the most, so do get in touch if you have any concerns about your son as he starts the next part of his academic journey. Thank you also to Steve Coppin from The Life Skills Company who shared with the audience how making GCSE revision more effective can really help enhance results. Year 9 were also off timetable for three lessons during the morning to attend a virtual Revision Skills event entitled 'Maximising Success'.



Our Chaplain, Reverend Dr Julie Bowen, would like to highlight that our usual Parents' Prayer Meeting will be going virtual via Zoom. It will take place on Friday 23 October at 10:30 am. Current parent Victoria Cattermole is organising this and has given permission for her email address ([victoria@cattermole.org.uk](mailto:victoria@cattermole.org.uk)) to be sent out to you so you can contact her for the Zoom link and about any other information concerning this event.

At this time of year, we would usually be asking for donations for the Harvest collection, sadly this is not possible this year because of the restrictions. You may be aware that the need is actually much greater with several hundred thousand extra people now accessing foodbanks to simply survive because of COVID-19. Even though we cannot collect here you can still contribute. Many supermarkets are collecting for the foodbanks, with instore collection points, allowing you to buy extra and donate it. You can also take your own contribution to the foodbank should you so wish. If you are happy to drop off food donations, please take them to the warehouse:

- Ex Adventure Kingdom Building  
Stockwell Close  
Bromley  
BR1 3UH

This venue is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 am – 11:30 am.

Alternatively, we have collection boxes at the following supermarkets:

- Waitrose – Green Street Green
- Sainsbury's – Orpington, Locksbottom, Petts Wood, West Wickham (Station Road)
- Chislehurst
- Tesco – Orpington, Bromley

We appreciate you have a lot to contend with at present but if you can contribute something to help others it would be gratefully received.

Despite the unusual conditions, interhouse competitions remain an important aspect of school life. This is a summary of the interhouse competitions that are taking place, albeit in a very unusual way, and those you should contact if you wish to get involved.

The MFL Prefects recently ran a baking competition, where entrants sent pictures of the baking process and the finished product, with a link to the languages and cultures they are studying. It was a great way to get involved with modern foreign languages outside the classroom! The winners are soon to be announced.

A 'Chemistry at Home' video competition has been set up by the Chemistry Prefects - an exciting way for students to engage in the practical aspect of the subject even with school labs unavailable for use. This is open to all years and there are plenty of prizes to be won!

Last week saw, in keeping with celebrating the European Day of Languages, the Geography Prefects launching a school-wide short-essay competition. The question being posed to students is: 'How can geography help to solve problems during this pandemic?'. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to take the knowledge gained inside the classroom and apply it to a highly relevant and pressing issue concerning the wider global community. The most impressive of entries will receive house points and be announced in a subsequent Newsletter.



The Law profession is keen to encourage access to the full range of law careers. These can seem challenging to enter with a variety of career paths that can appear hard to navigate. In addressing this issue, a recent collaboration between legal professionals and academics has led to the creation of podcasts from ReImagine Law who believe that "Talent

is everywhere, Opportunity is not". Career advice is delivered from both experts and current students and helps those interested in a legal career to find out what it is like to work in the legal sector and to discover the reality of careers there. There are ten episodes so far including: 'Your Career Starts with Knowing Yourself', 'Apprenticeships: A Surprise for The Old School', 'Commercial Awareness: What is it and how do you get it?' and 'How to Access Opportunities and Insights Within the Legal Profession While in Education'. The latest podcast focusses on developing BAME talent in the profession. The podcasts are available on Apple Podcast, Spotify or via the link <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/reimagine-law/id1520665111>.

A forthcoming progression event for students aged 15-19 and their parents will take place virtually on 6/7 November. Registration for 'What Career Live?' and 'What University Live?' is free. Over the two



What  
CAREER  
LIVE

What  
UNIVERSITY  
LIVE

Virtual Event 2020  
6 & 7 November

days there will be opportunities to take part in interactive workshops and experience one-to-one advice sessions with the UK's top companies and universities. Students can compare the opportunities and consider their next steps for when they finish school. To register use the link [WhatLive.co.uk](http://WhatLive.co.uk). Those taking part include Cardiff University, BP, University of the Creative Arts, Mott MacDonald, University of Surrey, Coca-Cola and many others.

Another free event is the innovative [UK University and Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair](#) on 4 November from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm. For students in Years 11 to 13, it is designed this year to feel exactly like a careers fair but instead it is presented on-line. Students who have registered can visit a virtual exhibition hall containing over 90 universities, colleges, and apprenticeship providers, scroll through their stands and chat directly to representatives. Russell Group, red brick, modern and specialist universities will be attending. There will also be a virtual auditorium where live webinars will take place throughout the day.

Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

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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