



16 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 85

ST OLAVE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL



**CO-EDUCATIONAL SIXTH FORM
VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING EVENT**

THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER AT 6:30 PM.

External applicants and their parents/carers are warmly invited to join our virtual online Open Evening event which is for those who are preparing for **Sixth Form Entry 2021.**

This is an opportunity to find out all about our outstanding Co-Ed Sixth Form, details of our courses, expectations, co-curricular opportunities and the application process. Full details are available via our website

A reminder that 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.

I did write to parents/carers earlier this term, but I would like to highlight that I continue to receive regular 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 members of staff are on Park Avenue, they sympathise with the frustration of residents due to how parents/carers are parking. The problem is exacerbated by drivers making U turns when the road is already heavily congested. I would like to again 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 only park on the left-hand side, this will allow cars to pass the other way. Your help and support with this matter would be appreciated greatly.

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. The letter can be found by following this [link](#). It is also 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 options, which can be found in the following link: <http://www.saintolaves.net/attendanceandabsence>



Test and Trace

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY AFTERNOON

THE SPORTS HALL 13.10.20 12.20-2.15PM

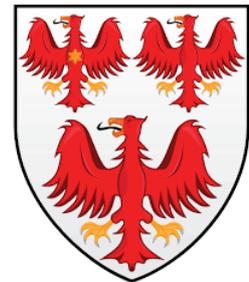


On Tuesday, Year 12 took part in the Diversity and Inclusivity afternoon led by Miss Benham and Miss Clift. This session covered issues surrounding gender, race, sexuality and disability. Students engaged well with the material covered and discussed a number of important issues related to these topics. All students were given resource packs which contain key information and reading suggestions. We encourage all students involved to reflect on the issues covered and respond to the survey on their year group Team. A resource pack will also be emailed out to parents via the Parent App.



On Tuesday 13 October, Year 12 Germanists were invited to watch a film screening from the BFI London Film Festival of 'Undine', a brand new German-language feature film. The film was released in Germany earlier in the autumn, but its appearance on the BFI Film Festival this week marks its British Premiere. It is a modern-day reimagining of the mermaid fairy-tale of 'Ondine', originally from the French medieval period. This was an excellent chance for students to expand their linguistic horizons and share in this cultural experience. Over the last

week, students of German have learnt more about the skill of translation. This is in preparation for a competition that students in Years 7 - 13 will be taking part in later this academic year. Year 7 students looked at 'concrete poems' in the shape of pugs, whilst Year 9 translated a poem about saying farewell by May Ayim, a prominent black female poet from Germany - this also formed the basis of further discussions around celebrating Black History Month. Year 10 tackled a poem by the renowned Goethe, in the original language of the 1700s. The competition later this year is being run by Queen's College, Oxford, and the students are very excited about taking part.



Congratulations to the following on their recent achievements:

- Year 12 student, Saakshi, who has also won an Arkwright Scholarship. Saakshi was awarded this prestigious scholarship following her application through her previous school, and we look forward to hearing more about it as her project develops. Saakshi joins the six other students who have been awarded a scholarship this year.
- Thank you to all our Olavians who raised a magnificent £315 for Young Minds last Friday in recognition of World Mental Health Day.

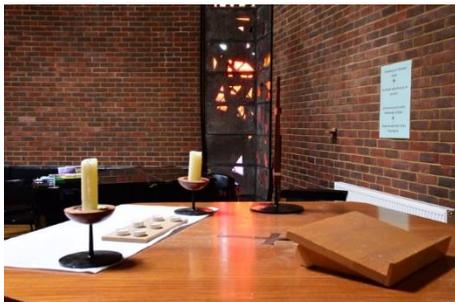
Moving onto our weekly careers' news, St. Olave's students interested in a career in the law are invited to a virtual Zoom event co-hosted by international law firm Simmons & Simmons LLP and Barclays legal team. This is a special race and ethnicity event created for Black History Month and will go out on Wednesday 21 October at 4:00 pm. Expert panellists from leading organisations will discuss the issues raised by questions of diversity across the profession. Among the discussion points are the experiences of legal professionals of race and ethnicity inclusion at work, what organisations are doing to drive race and ethnicity equality and relevant graduate opportunities in the City. For more information and to register, students can find details on Moodle under Careers.



Varieties of learning styles were called upon during the Year 9s' Revision Skills workshop last week. Now that students have considered their own preferred revision methods, they will be able to apply these when preparing for forthcoming tests and exams. We are inviting the students to give feedback on the sessions via a brief questionnaire using the following [link](#). There is also a question about the usefulness for parents of the Transition Evening delivered by 'The Life Skills Company'. Responses so far have been positive considering the session had to be delivered virtually and all comments are useful to us as we plan future events.

Our school intranet, Moodle, has student courses for Careers and Work Experience opportunities as well as for Higher Education. These areas are updated regularly with information we receive from employers and academic institutions. All students are welcome to browse the courses to see details of exhibitions, short work experiences and university and college open days.

On Saturday 21 November we will be holding our annual Interview Preparation Day for Year 13 students. It is likely that this will be run 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 assist for a few hours in the morning, please contact Mr Birtchnell (mbirtchnell@saintolaves.net), mentioning the subject(s) you would be able to help with.



Finally, a reminder 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) to be sent out to you so you can contact her for the Zoom link and about any other information concerning this event.

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.
