

23 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

### Headteacher's Newsletter 86

There have been some wonderful photos taken recently as we prepare for the launch of the new website at the beginning of the next half term. I thought you would appreciate having a flavour of some of these. It is pleasing to see the smiling faces through a challenging half-term. We are looking forward to the launch of the new website and receiving feedback from parents/carers.



We are excited to announce that Year 12 student, Matthew Todorov, was successful in his application to participate in a highly sought-after German work experience week, organised by the Goethe Institut. Sixth Formers studying German from all over the country were invited to apply. The week should have taken place in Germany over half-term, but has been moved

to run online in light of Covid-19 restrictions. Matthew will be working with a team of other students and members of the Goethe Institut in London as well as those from Schwäbisch-Hall (Germany) to produce podcasts and interviews - all in German - designed to support others learning German. These materials will then be shared by the Goethe Institut on their website and through a social media



campaign. This is an excellent opportunity for Matthew and we are excited to share with you the finished resources after half-term.



The Geography department would like to invite your son/daughter to enter a competition run by the Royal Town Planning Institute who are the UK's leading planning body for spatial, sustainable and inclusive planning, and are the largest planning institute in

Europe. The competition encourages students to use and improve upon a variety of skills such as independent research and investigation, design, literacy and presentation skills. Competition entries need to be sent via email to [vwatson@saintolaves.net](mailto:vwatson@saintolaves.net) by Wednesday 11 November. The competition has two age categories: 11-15 and 16-18. More details can be found in the files section of each whole year groups' team page.

After winning last year's London Regionals, Nationals and Internationals, the St. Olave's Space Design Competition Team - Purple Nebula - have successfully finished their recruitment process this year. Open to Year 11 and 12, there were over sixty applications made. Applicants, after providing a written statement, were invited to take part in a 'Challenge Heat' last week in which they had only an hour to design a settlement on Titan, Saturn's largest moon, according to the brief given to them. Following this, several applicants were invited to an interview which took place earlier this week. We are now incredibly pleased to announce the Purple Nebula team 2020-2021, with a special congratulations to the nine new members and wish them all the best for the upcoming qualifiers for the national competition.



- Mitra Stainsbury**, Year 13 - President
- Angelika Kochajkiewicz**, Year 13 - Vice-President of Engineering
- James Guest**, Year 12 - Vice-President of Sales and Marketing
- Caitlin Gallagher**, Year 13 - Head of Structural Engineering
- Jonah McDonald**, Year 13 - Head of Operations and Infrastructure
- Katherine Stanton**, Year 13- Head of Human Factors Engineering
- Lucy Stock**, Year 13- Head of Automation Systems Engineering
- Tavishi Prasad**, Year 13 - Structural Engineering
- Nathan Plater**, Year 12 - Structural Engineering
- Anandi Brown**, Year 12 - Structural Engineering
- Elodie Gorter**, Year 12 - Operations and Infrastructure
- Anupam Bandi**, Year 12 - Operations and Infrastructure
- Sophie Lu**, Year 13- Human Factors Engineering
- Scarlet Donoghue**, Year 12 - Human Factors Engineering
- Macey Pattenden**, Year 12 - Human Factors Engineering
- Karo Agbro**, Year 13 - Automation Systems Engineering
- Jiang Yi Pan**, Year 12 - Automation Systems Engineering
- Shri Gopal**, Year 11 - Automation Systems Engineering

Congratulation to the following on their recent achievements:

- Year 9 students, Oliver Tovarlaza and Sandy Collins who took their Grade 4 Acting Duologue New Era Exam over the summer break and passed with Distinction.

- The winners for the MFL Bake-Off are:

German category:

1. Chendoor Pushpanathan
2. Sami Kagan and Thomas Howcroft
3. Dennis Ellimooti

French category:

1. Noah Margolies

Spanish category:

1. Akshit Gupta

Most impressive bakes:

1. Harsha Pendyala
2. Shrish Proddaturi



**unifrog** Moving onto Careers, Mrs Platts, our Careers Co-ordinator, would like to highlight Unifrog. The purpose of the platform is to enable all students to build their own progression profile as well as explore future options for study and careers. Over the half term holiday younger students can join with their parents in exploring the site and recording personal achievements through the activities and competencies sections. Skills such as creativity, teamwork and leadership can all be demonstrated as competencies of interest to universities and employers. Academic and extra-curricular pursuits such as reading around subjects, music and sport can be added to an individual's profile under activities. Older students can begin to discover academic and career routes available in the UK and abroad. They may also enjoy searching the range of on-line courses (MOOCs) offered which cater for a huge variety of interests. Parents visiting the platform have the opportunity to experience Unifrog as a student, although they cannot access their child's profile. To visit the site as a parent please use the form code [parentsstolaves](https://www.unifrog.org/code) and sign up at [www.unifrog.org/code](https://www.unifrog.org/code)



**InvestIN** We are partnered with the organisation InvestIN which provides paid for immersive career experiences for students. They are launching a new 5-day programme 'Young Leaders Global Summit' which takes place between the 19-23 December. Unlike their previous programmes, this is not focused on one specific career, but more about the skills common to those pursuing ambitions in careers such as entrepreneurship and political leadership. Each day will cover the key skills required to be a leader in any field: innovation, team-building, negotiation, public speaking, strategy and critical thinking. British astronaut and inspiring leader, Major Tim Peake, will be giving the keynote speech with live Q&A during the course. More details of this and their other events can be found on their website at <https://investin.org>. St Olave's students are eligible for discounts and bursaries are also available.

We are still requiring volunteers to help support our annual Interview Preparation Day for Year 13 students on Saturday 21 November. This is a valuable opportunity for students to experience an interview before the process of university admissions begins in December. If you are able to help out,

even for a short time 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.

Finally, another 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.



Thank you to all staff, students and parents for your tremendous commitment throughout the first part of the term. It is a season which continues to challenge us all in so many ways, and it feels like as we move forward through the Autumn, those challenges may continue to grow. As half term comes, may you find some time to rest and replenish.

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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