

18 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 93

As I write this in the last school week of the year, 2020 has undoubtedly been a difficult year for everyone. Over the last months, so many of you have played your part, supported the community, and helped keep everyone at St. Olave's safe. Thank you for your efforts, but we are still in challenging times. I want to reassure you that support is available, and we will continue to get through this time together emerging stronger at the other side.

I think we sometimes need to be reminded that St. Olave's is a fantastic community to be part of, full of caring and compassionate pupils and staff. This year has brought us closer together and shone a light on the togetherness and compassion that has helped us through the challenges. I am in no doubt that these values will get us through the rest of this year, and we can look forward to a better 2021.



I wrote to you earlier in the week stating that the Department for Education has contacted all schools to inform them of the need to continue to provide Track and Trace support for a six-day window from the final day of term. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced. As staff will be having a well-deserved rest over the holiday period our telephone and office email system will not be manned. Therefore, if your child has tested positive, and had symptoms that began **before 20 December** then please email the relevant Assistant Headteacher, using the following email addresses:

- Mrs Maxwell in Years 7 to 11 (rmaxwe@saintolaves.net)
- Mr Birtchnell in the Sixth Form (mbirtchnell@saintolaves.net)

The government announced yesterday that all schools with secondary-age pupils will be offered the opportunity to test their pupils, reaching as many pupils as possible from the week of the 4 January. We are still awaiting further information as to what this will look like, and how we find the capacity and expertise to carry out testing, including exactly what support will be provided. If there are any parents, retired teachers, nurses, doctors or anyone willing to support testing and provide an additional workforce, please do get in touch (rmaxwe@saintolaves.net) as your help would be appreciated.

The government have also announced that only Year 11 and Year 13 will be expected to come into school during the first week back. All lessons will be virtual for **all** students on Tuesday 5 January following our INSET Day on Monday 4 January. **On Wednesday 6 January, Year 13 will commence normal lessons and Year 11 will begin their mock exams.** All other pupils will not attend that week and will be provided with remote education. Please be aware that Friday 8 January is also an INSET day so that the Stage 2 Test papers can be marked. No work will be set remotely for students on this day. **Year 11 mock exams will continue.**

As we look ahead to next term, I am sure Year 11 and Year 13 will be organising their revision for the upcoming mocks. However, students should also be mindful that a sound work life balance is maintained; students need to rest properly as well as spending time with family and friends. As ever, the pastoral team are keen to support student wellbeing and academic achievement so please make the relevant Head of Year aware if you have any concerns.

Today, we hosted the annual Festival in aid of charitable causes. This year students decided to raise money to support the chosen charities: 'The Maypole Project' and 'Pencils of Promise'. Festival was shortened this year, but it was still full of entertainment, enjoyment and, of course, teachers participating in popular game shows. Overall, we raised £2522 - a fantastic achievement! Thank you to everyone who contributed to these worthy causes.



I am delighted to share with you our students' successes in the online STEM competition, Galactic Challenge Mission III: A New Home. Students were challenged to design a space settlement on Mars and present it as a brochure to prospective residents.

Student names	Age group	Vehicle name	Award
Amogh Bhat and Srithan Chanda	Year 9	Palace of Fire	Gold Award
Pranav Gillella	Year 8	Redhawk Trekker	Gold Award
Arpan Sharma and Kaustubh Malviya	Year 8	The Martian	Silver Award
Aayush Kampani and Aryaan Shaikh	Year 8	Marstopia	Participant

I would like to highlight a number of achievements and activities that have taken place over the past week:

- Year 11 student, James D'Silva, recently scored a Distinction in his Grade 4 Piano exam.
- Sixth Form chemistry students have put together a molecular Christmas tree.
- The Medics Society has continued with a variety of engaging presentations. Last week, Daksh Mehta gave a talk titled 'The Story of the Most Complicated Organ in the Body', during which he discussed the development of patient-based learning in neurology. This was excellently delivered and received. St. Olave's Medics Society continues to look forward to upcoming presentations and debates on medical ethics and current affairs.
- Year 11 students completed the Maths Feast on Thursday, which tested their problem-solving and teamwork skills.



Our thanks and best wishes go to departing member of staff, Mrs Clea De Melo Rutherford, who has been an outstanding and caring cover supervisor since 2004. The students gave Mrs Rutherford a round of applause in the quad to wish her well.

Finally, in the spirit of The 12 Days of Christmas, I leave you with 12 photos from our school year, all of which have featured in many of our publications...



I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas. Please use the holiday to re-energise and replenish, and to spend time with your families. Thank you to all the students, staff and governors for their tremendous commitment throughout this very long autumn term, together with parents and members of the PA who have worked so hard to support this outstanding school. Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you all.

Please see the Appendix below for this week's Careers news.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful festive break.

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.



unifrog The holiday may give students and their families some time to consider options for the future. All our students and parents/carers have access to the careers and progression platform Unifrog. Here students can build their individual profile by adding activities and competencies as well as exploring future education and career options. For those seeking to exercise their minds, there are many on-line courses (MOOCS) available on Unifrog of a variety of durations. Students use their school email to access the site and parents login with the code parentsstolaves where they can visit the platform as if they were a student.

Soon after we return in January, all Year 12s will begin to have one-to-one careers interviews via Teams with our qualified careers advisor, Mrs Christine Edwards. Details will be sent out via Form Tutors. Also, soon after the start of term, we will be offering Year 10 students the opportunity to take the paid for Morrisby careers profile tests. These are in depth psychometric tests which this year the students will sit at home. Morrisby have well established protocols for running their tests in this way and full instructions will be sent out to you. Students receive their results immediately after the tests and following this have access to a lifelong login where they can update their profile as well as contact careers guidance professionals on-line throughout their career.



In early January, St George's, University of London, are hosting a free taster webinar on 6 January 2021 at 4:00 pm on the physiology of the heart. The lecture will explore the anatomy of the organ and how it supports circulation in the body. It will be delivered by Dr David Gilliott who is a Senior Lecturer in Reproductive Physiology. Those who are interested should register at <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/events/taster-lecture-physiology-of-the-heart>.

Rothschild & Co The summer may seem far away, but applications are open for the Rothschild & Co one week work experience opportunities for August 2021. These have the application deadline of 31 January 2021. Any interested students who may be eligible for either of their opportunities are welcome to apply via the links below. Participants will gain a valuable insight into life as a banker at Rothschild & Co as during the programme they will have the opportunity to experience the working environment by spending time shadowing junior bankers as well as taking part in skills sessions and listening to presentations from a variety of business areas including wealth management and merchant banking. There will be tours of the Rothschild historical archives where students can see how across two centuries the business has been shaped by the involvement of the Rothschild family and their unique business model. Following the week, those who are then inspired by a career in the financial advisory sector will be offered a stay in touch programme about a career with the company. More information can be found by following this [link](#).

Those Year 12 students already planning their February half-term activities may wish to consider a week's work experience offered by Vodafone UK. Students are invited to apply via Springpod at <https://www.springpod.co.uk> for the [Innovators Virtual Work Experience Programme](#). This is aimed at the next generation of technology innovators. Participants will design their own 'Internet of Things' connected device as well as attending (virtually) a series of live webinars, panel discussions, learning content, and team workshops. They will learn about the variety of business areas involved in launching a new product including Technology, Digital, Marketing and Consumer.