

5 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

### Headteacher's Newsletter 101

Recent months have taught us a great deal about what a school really is.

The challenges of the COVID season with all its twists and turns, pressures and strains have revealed a community of students, staff, parents and governors that is continually committed to going above and beyond every expectation of what a school usually does - this is sometimes seen, sometimes unseen. I know we have continually focused on providing the best experience for every child and every family in our care.



As we prepare to welcome all our pupils back next week, it is important that we focus deeply on rebuilding and reconnecting our community. We cannot wait to get our pupils back to school so this can begin. There are numerous practical arrangements in place to ensure all is well planned and implemented as the safety and wellbeing of staff and students will remain our utmost priority. These plans have been shared with you through various communications from the Senior Leadership Team.

Everyone will have their own challenges, anxieties and stress as they return, and Form Tutors and the Pastoral Team will be able to provide pastoral support to pupils and should be the first point of contact for non-subject specific concerns. In addition to the pastoral support structures common to all year groups, the School has other avenues of pastoral support. The School's Chaplain, School Counsellor, and Safeguarding Team can offer additional support and advice for students facing a range of difficulties.

I continue to be astounded at the care, passion and purpose shown by everyone connected with St. Olave's and I thank you all deeply for everything you are doing at this time to bring the whole school back together.

Please tell your friends or family who are teachers that we are currently looking for a part-time teacher of Art (maternity cover). Further details can be found on the school website by following this [link](#).

This year's Cultural Evening Committee are hoping to put together an 'Olavian Cultural Cookbook' and have asked me to share with you the following:

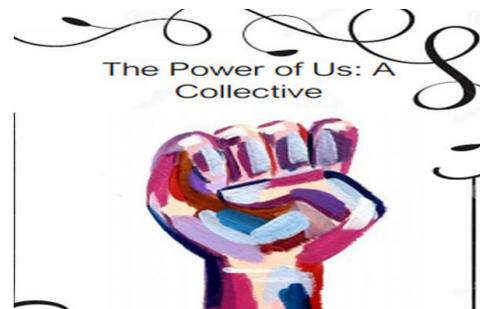
"Are you wondering how to get actively involved with our school's amazing community despite the situation we face today? Are you looking for a way to express your culture among such a multi-diverse



society? If the answer to any of the above is yes, then look no further! The first ever 'Olavian Cultural Cookbook' is on its way and you can be a part of it! We are looking for recipes to celebrate the hugely diverse array of cultures on display at St. Olave's and this is your chance to display your culture as well as your culinary talents that you may not have otherwise had the chance to showcase. However, we are looking for Olavian recipes and so if we can find your exact recipe copied from the internet then I am afraid we

will have to discount your contribution. This is a great way to spread a little happiness throughout these times and so we would love to see contributions from all members of our school's community whether you may be a student, a teacher, or a parent - this is your chance, just be sure to submit your recipes before Monday 22 March! Now, if that was not enough to whet your appetite (pun intended!), then we will be giving out rewards to those who contribute the greatest number of recipes to the 'Olavian Cultural Cookbook' and every recipe counts so be sure not to miss out. All recipes can be submitted through the form found at the following link and if anyone has any further queries then please do not hesitate in contacting Mitra Stainsbury in Year 13. We cannot wait to see all the delicious delicacies that the Olavian community has to display! The form to submit recipes can be found by following this [link](#)."

Thank you to Ms Smith who has put together a wonderful collection of poetry that has been written by students in celebration of International Women's Month (which began on Monday 1 March), and it also features details of the speakers who will be attending the International Women's Day webinar taking place on Monday 8 March. This event will be a chance for students and parents to come together and celebrate a range of work from Year 7 through to Year 13,



including poetry, music, and art, created by students to reflect their understanding of gender equality. The collection of poetry can be found on the school website by following this [link](#).

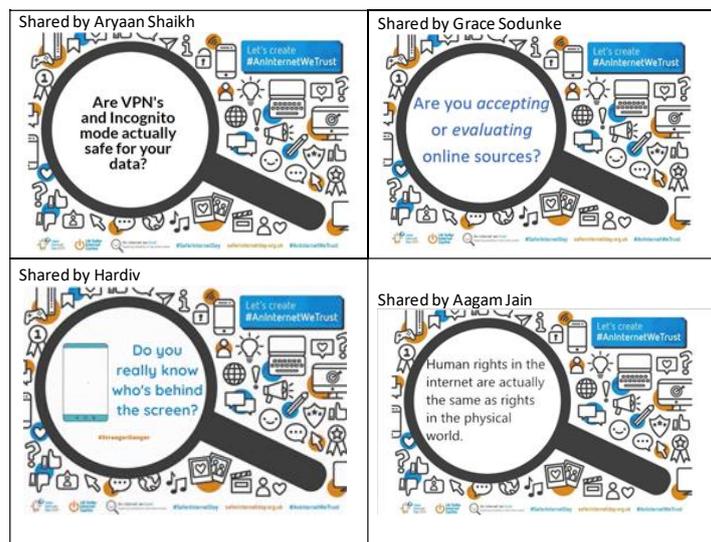
The German and Classics Departments are delighted to announce that a number of Year 12 students who sat the UK Linguistics Olympiad have been recognised with Bronze and Silver Award Certificates. Matthew Todorov, Elise Stringfellow, William Boyd, and Wren Welfare received Silver Award certificates and Abdul-Rahman Muazu, Anupam Bandi, Derin Burke, Kiran Pearce, and Ritvick Sharma received Bronze Award certificates. The students thoroughly enjoyed the challenging paper - Frank Shrimpton in Year 12 was so inspired by the questions on Native American Indian languages that he researched these further and presented his findings to the Modern Foreign Languages Society. Well done to all participants and congratulations to the winners.





Computer Science students in KS4 recently entered the first round of the Perse Coding Team Challenge. Congratulations to the 110 students who achieved Distinction and Merit certificates, and we are pleased to announce 37 teams are through to the second round of the competition. Congratulations to Year 11 students Harry Chen, Harrison Luff, Tharuniyan Kanesalingam, Callum Kwan, Year 10 students Oluwaferanmi Akodu and Ojas Tiwari, and Year 9 students Amogh Bhat and Arnav Sharma for being among the top four performing teams from the school in the first round.

We recently took part in the global celebration of Safer Internet Day. Students in all year groups participated in a range of activities on eSafety provided by the UK Safer Internet Centre. The students shared questions and reflections on exploring reliability in the online world and online behaviour, and some of these questions can be seen below:



On Monday 1 March, we started the meteorological spring, and in celebration, the Music Department have put together a new playlist (and a colourful sunset from outside their classrooms) for you all to enjoy over what I hope is a very restful weekend. Their fourth virtual concert includes the lovely second movement of

a piano piece which is a GCSE Music set work, among a collection of very enjoyable performances from students across the lower school. The performances can be seen by following this [link](#). Thank you to Ben, Mark, Robin, Pranav and Aaron on their splendid performances. Links to the previous three playlists can be found on the [Music page](#) of the St. Olave's website.



Over the past couple of weeks, Year 7 have been looking at the extraordinary life of Eleanor of Aquitaine who reigned in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, both in England and France and went on to be the mother of both Richard I (the Lionheart) and King John. The pupils have been looking at why she is significant in history, her influence at the time and that of the family that she raised, her time ruling England whilst Richard I was on Crusade and her life in general. It is a new topic for this year, previously the curriculum had very much focused on the Kings, but this has added some much-needed representation to our curriculum. The final task asked the pupils to write a letter to other schools to explain why Eleanor of Aquitaine should form a key part of their Year 7 curriculum. Well done to Year 7 on their fine work.

This week's Teen Tips features a specialist practitioner in sexual health and contraception, Alex Fryer. She provides educational talks, workshops and training sessions for students, teachers and parents. She discusses puberty, pornography, sexting and contraception and how parents and teachers can help prepare young people for these often awkward conversations. You can listen to her podcast by following this [link](#). You may require the registration coupon code to access this talk if this is the first time you have registered. This was circulated by Ms Maxwell earlier this term.



Congratulations to Year 10 student, Mayukh Jayagopal who has achieved a Merit in his recent NEW ERA Grade 8 Reading for Performance exam.



We are very proud to share the following link to a photo documentary project, which features the thoughts and experiences of Old Olavian, Seyi Adeleye (2015-2017). Seyi is currently a fourth-year medical student, working in the COVID-19 ICU ward at University College Hospital, London and was interviewed by the Guardian about her work helping on the COVID wards during the pandemic. The article can be seen by following this [link](#).

Finally, we are really looking forward to meeting our new Year 7 students for their virtual taster sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday next week, The students, and their parents, deserve congratulations on gaining a place at the school and we welcome them to the St. Olave's community.

Please see the Appendices below for further Careers news from Mrs Platts, and information about reading from Mrs Martine, our librarian.

I hope you have a restful weekend and we look forward to your child returning next week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads '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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## Appendix 1

### Careers News

**unifrog** Opportunities for our students to take part in virtual work experience and to attend on-line talks and find out about careers and university courses are being actively promoted by organisations. For individual profiles and searches, we use Unifrog which is now available to all St. Olave's students. Here there is a wealth of information about careers, how they link into school subjects as well as details of university courses and free on-line courses. The Springpod platform is also accessible to all students in Years 10 and above and it is currently featuring free virtual work experience with Virgin as well as for careers in politics, TV and film. Current information about events as well as general information can also be found on Moodle.

Parents may be interested to dip into two comprehensive publications produced with employers and designed to help support those exploring ideas for future progression. The [School Leaver 200](#) ranks the top 200 employers in the UK as voted for by school leavers. It offers advice and information on the range of programmes available such as higher and degree apprenticeships, as well as advice for those going to university full time. [Paths to Careers – a Parent's Guide](#) is designed for parents and carers of 15 to 18 year old students and offers advice on supporting young people with their career choices, decisions about university and information on employer programmes.

Any students considering an army career may be interested in the army internship which can be taken before or after university for 6-18 months. Students attend Sandhurst's Royal Military Academy and shadow an officer in the UK and beyond although not on operations. Participants are paid throughout and can decide if a military career is for them following the experience. More information via the link: <https://apply.army.mod.uk/how-to-join/entryoptions/army-internship?cid=mail7985968179>

Royal Holloway, University of London, invites parents and students to a UCAS webinar on 17 March at 6-7pm. There will be an opportunity to ask questions from a student ambassador and panel experts on the application process. Booking is via



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parents-and-supporters-webinar-and-qa-tickets-141409366221>



Swansea University offers several after-school taster sessions for prospective Year 12 and 13 students this month. A variety of subjects are covered including finance and accounting, economics and marketing as well as the opportunity to question current students and recent graduates. To book the sessions: <https://swanseauniversity.zoom.us/webinar/register>

## Appendix 2

### Library News



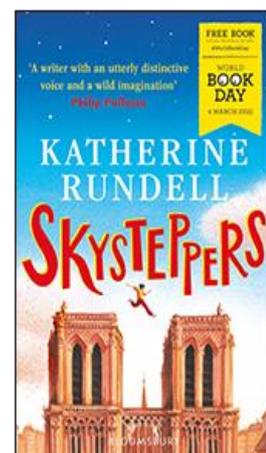
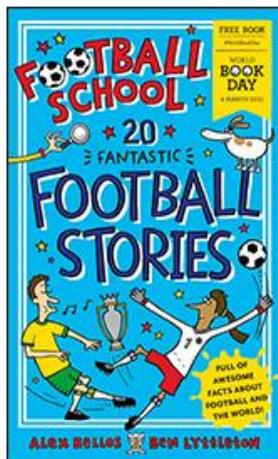
Thursday 4 March 2021 was **World Book Day**.

**World Book Day** changes lives through a love of books and shared reading. Their mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own.

Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. We want to see more children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them.

World Book Day was created by UNESCO on **23 April 1995** as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. It is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. The first World Book Day in the UK and Ireland took place in 1997 to encourage young people to discover the pleasure of reading.

Spending **just 10 minutes a day** reading and sharing stories with children can make a crucial difference to their future success and it is fun for all involved. That is why **World Book Day** continues to encourage children and young people to read for pleasure through its work with authors/illustrators/publishers/bookshops/libraries.



The £1 book tokens can be swapped for a World Book Day book in most bookshops or used against any full priced book or audiobook instead until the **28 March 2021**. I have selected the above titles that may be of interest, but you can find out more and explore some fun resources at <https://www.worldbookday.com/>.

If you would like a book token please send me a message and I will get one to you during form time: [librarian@saintolaves.net](mailto:librarian@saintolaves.net)