

26 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 104

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school, the Department for Education continues to stress the importance of pupils testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. If anyone tests positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You need to report your result (positive, negative or void) to both NHS Test and Trace and to school. Please click on the following [link](#) to report your test result to school.

All pupils should test before returning to school for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, so we can find and isolate any positive cases

On the last day of term, Wednesday 31 March, we have decided to support the 'Down's Syndrome Association' and raise awareness for Down's Syndrome across the



Down's Syndrome Association

A Registered Charity No. 1061474

community. The campaign aims to raise awareness of Down's Syndrome and the Bromley Down's Syndrome Support Group is currently fundraising to set up a circle group for young people aged 11-20 who have Down's Syndrome. This will be run by professionals who will help and guide the young people to develop their personal, emotional and social journey. Your donations will help fund this fantastic initiative. Donations can be made via your child's sQuid account and should be paid by the end of Wednesday 31 March. We will announce how much money has been raised after the Easter holiday. We hope to see lots of colourful, mismatched socks next Wednesday.

This week's Teen Tips features tips on helping young people develop good social skills, which inevitably enable them to establish healthy friendships and relationships. We hope you find it useful. You can read the tips by following this [link](#).

TEEN TIPS Wellbeing Hub



During the Autumn term, the History Department ran a competition for Years 7 and 8 to create a documentary video of no more than 5 minutes on an historical topic which is not normally covered in the curriculum at St. Olave's. There were a large number of entries and judging took place during the lockdown, with the first round being judged by our Academic Prefects (Edward Foxhall and Rishi Desai) before the final being judged

by staff. Pupils were judged on a number of factors, including production quality, on screen presence and the quality of the history they were explaining. It was a close competition. The Year 7 Winner was Abhinav Malladi (7H) for his work on the Aztecs and the overall winner (and winner in Year 8) was

Aryaan Shaikh (8C) for his documentary on India's railways. Abhinav was congratulated on his video by Dr Caroline Dodds Pennock, Senior Lecturer in International History at the University of Sheffield, who praised his pronunciation of the difficult Nahuatl language and the quality of his video production. Well done to all participants!

We are excited to launch our international reading project and invite pupils, staff and parents to read around the world with us. Each half term we will focus on a different continent, with a new short story or poem by a writer from that continent released each week. We will start with North America and Canada, travel down to South America, over to Africa, up to Europe and then out to Asia. At the end of each half term we will have a meeting to discuss the texts we have read. To get us started we invite you to read Amanda Gorman's 'The Hill We Climb'. Stealing the show at President Biden's inauguration, it is a great example of the power of poetry. Click on this [link](#) to watch her performance.



Following on from the outstanding performance by Year 12 in the British Physics Olympiad, Year 11 students once again performed fantastically in the British Physics Olympiad Intermediate Challenge. Overall, 31 students took part and all of them achieved a graded award. This is the first time that every student achieved either a Bronze, Silver or Gold award in both the Senior and Intermediate challenges so everybody who took part deserves a special mention! Of the Intermediate Physicists, 17 students managed to achieve a Gold award which puts them in the top 18% of physicists in the country. A further 14 achieved either Silver or Bronze which is testament to their hard work and dedication to their studies. Congratulations to all the students who took part.

I would like to highlight further student achievements and activities that have taken place recently:

- This week's Trip down Gooddington Lane is runner Holly Page, who left in 2018. Holly convincingly won the English Schools Cross Country Championships in 2018, as well as qualifying for the World Juniors for the 3000m steeplechase. The audio version is available on Spotify via this [link](#).
- Congratulations to Year 11 student, Srij Bera, who passed his Grade 7 Piano Performance Examination with Distinction.



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

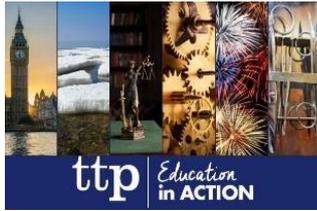
The [St. Olave's website](#) and Twitter page - [@saintolaves](#) has many more stories of student endeavour and success. Please do keep sending me news items and student successes either via colleagues or email. The email address is publicityteam@saintolaves.net. Do not forget to include all the details 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.

Appendix 1

Careers news

One-to-one careers and progression interviews for Year 12 students begin on March 30 via Teams and will continue through the summer term. Our Careers Advisor, Mrs Christine Edwards, will focus on assisting students with guidance related to their chosen careers. She will be sharing information about available websites, interview expectations and employers' selection tests. Students are free to discuss their options and raise questions they may have so are advised to give their future plans some consideration before their interview.



Events are now available for students in KS3 as well as the later years in school. The Training Partnership's summer programme on careers and issues is now open for booking. While the live events are in school time, all events will be available on demand for a week following. The issues events cover democracy and climate and the careers focus is on law, engineering and medicine. To find out more and to book use the

link: <https://thetrainingpartnership.org.uk/>

'Insight into University' is an on-line course running in the summer for 16+ students. It enables them to experience university STEM studies and the career opportunities that these can offer. Universities and companies are involved in running workshops, guidance and study modules towards the Silver Industrial Cadets Award. Students complete core modules and others chosen to suit their interests. There is a fee payable for administration, however, bursaries are available. Applications close on 30 April 2021 and more information is on Moodle and at: www.etrust.org.uk

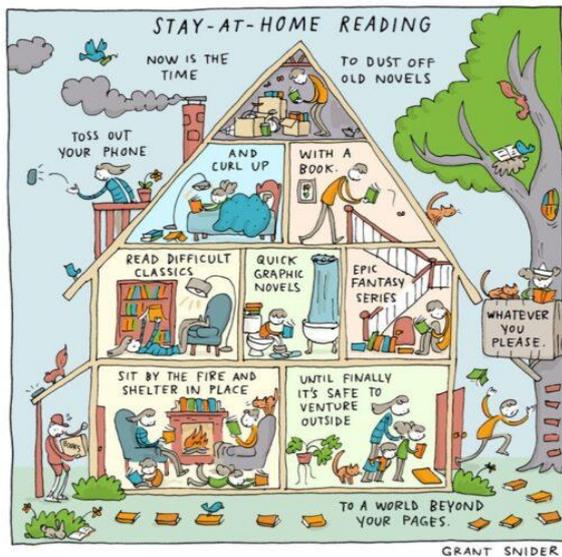
The organisation Speakers for Schools has a lively programme of fresh talks each week. These are posted on Moodle and can be accessed after the event if students or parents miss the delivery time. Subjects are varied and speakers are eminent figures from industry, academia and the public sector.

Students throughout the school continue to take up InvestIN's immersive career experiences. These are paid for events over weekends or longer and have proved popular. One Sixth Form student who attended their Young Publisher programme gave a feedback score of 10/10. InvestIN's latest digital brochure of summer internships can be viewed here: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/83563479/2/>



Appendix 2

Library news



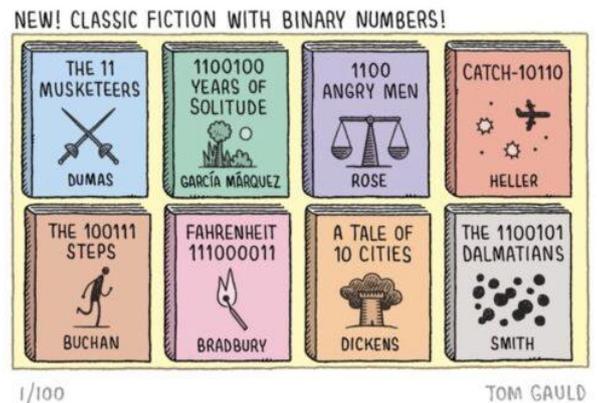
It turns out books can be a more effective and efficient relaxation method than listening to music, meditating, or even taking a short walk. A study in 2009 found that just reading for **6 minutes** can reduce stress by **68%**:

<https://worldliteracyfoundation.org/reading-reduces-stress/>

But what can be an even better stress reliever? Yes, a good cartoon. An engaging, visually stimulating cartoon will not only make you laugh out loud and thereby force stress to leave but in doing so will instantly lift your mood.

Cartoons about books and libraries are exceptional because they are entertaining. They provide and encourage book lovers with a steady visual flow of reasons why reading is important!

Just like books, these clever cartoons will help you reduce stress – and provide refreshing reasons to read even more books:



Any questions or comments kindly email librarian@saintolaves.net