

27 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians

Headteacher's Newsletter 90



You will be aware through our communications that the number of positive Coronavirus cases have increased over the last two weeks. This has led to students having to self-isolate in more than one year group. We know that you may find this concerning, but we have continued to monitor the situation and worked closely with Public Health England. I would like to stress that it can take a substantial amount of time to track who has been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive, and this has led to the school needing to initially send the whole year group home as we work this out. Please do bear with us whilst we do this, and I can only apologise for any inconvenience. The safety of all students and staff at St. Olave's will always be a key priority when we do this. The school will contact you again when track and tracing has taken place and confirm whether your child can return to school. Government guidance states that pupils of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies, and therefore we will endeavour not to self-isolate a whole year group. However, this is sometimes inevitable due to how the students are mixing at break, lunch and through the curriculum. We have been pleased with the way students who are self-isolating are engaging with remote (blended) learning, and I would like to thank all parents/carers for their support with this. Please be assured that your child can still engage with the curriculum whilst at home and teachers continue to monitor and review their progress.

Parents should be aware that if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. **Please make the school aware immediately if your child has tested positive.**

By the time you are reading this we shall just have completed our first stage Selective Eligibility Test, which this year was extended over two days. We look forward to processing the results before inviting a smaller cohort back for the Stage 2 tests. Thank you to Dr Sidhu, Mrs Brooker, Mrs Farrell and all the staff who helped to organise and ensure that the day ran smoothly.

Any parents/carers or students who are interested in applying for a place in our Sixth Form should be aware that our online application is now live. Please ensure that this is filled in as accurately as possible. Should the form detect any errors before submission, you will be required to repeat the process of uploading your photograph/any additional documentation. Applicants must complete this process no later than midday on Friday, 8 January 2021.



Over the half-term break, the Music Department hosted ABRSM graded music examinations for 52 candidates, ranging from Grade 1 to Grade 8 for saxophone, violin, jazz piano and voice among other instruments. The results are now in and we are pleased to announce a pass rate of 100%. Special congratulations go to the 27 musicians who gained Merit and Distinction results in this session. Well done to all who entered for an exam this time and who now embark upon the next stage of their musical development. It is hoped that there will be another exam session at St. Olave's in early 2021. Further details are available from Mr Blew (dblew@saintolaves.net).



On 23 November, Frau Probodziak and a number of Year 12 Germanists attended a live talk on Zoom held by the Institute of Modern Languages Research (of the University of London). The talk was titled 'Capturing the Zeitgeist' and featured comments and presentations from Kathrin Kunkel-Razum of the highly-regarded German dictionary and publisher, 'Duden', and from Wendalyn Nichols, publishing manager of the prestigious Cambridge University Press. The topic of the 'Zeitgeist' was in relation to the invention of new words, and when these are officially adopted into dictionaries in England, the USA, and in Germany. Students were able to hear interesting anecdotes about Wendalyn and Kathrin being lobbied by individuals passionate about particular words they had heard or invented, and about the linguistic research that both lexicographers undertake to ensure their work is well-founded. Students thoroughly enjoyed the talk and engaged with both speakers at the end of the presentation by asking questions.



I was very pleased to hear that since January Mr and Mrs Maltman have been helping to run a Community Fridge programme in Orpington. Food that is good to eat but just taken off the shelves is donated by a number of food retailers and supermarkets and is offered to anyone in the community. This is a great way of reducing food waste, helping reduce food bills for vulnerable families and getting fresh and nutritious food to many. They were delighted when Year 9 student, Bishal, asked if he could come along to help and they were even happier to welcome his dad, Birendra, as well! *"I first attended the Community Fridge for a school project and since then my dad and I decided to continue working there. It gave me an opportunity to meet people in our community and allowed us to learn more about them. It is really satisfying that I am able to contribute to our community and I hope to continue working there."*



On Saturday 21 November, around 90 students and 23 interviewers took part in Interview Preparation Day. The ongoing challenges created by COVID-19 meant that the annual event went online this year, with everyone working remotely on Teams. Students started with a group session to discuss interview planning and technique. They were then put through their paces in a mock interview. Feedback from the

interviewers was very impressive and reflected the wide range of skills and interests of our students. The event was a useful opportunity for students to prepare before their real admission interviews in December and we are very grateful to those who volunteered to conduct interviews. Thank you to Mr Birtchnell for organising the event and for those parents, Old Olavians and members of staff who gave up their time to interview our students. Good luck to everyone in their interviews.

INTERVIEW



Bromley School Wellbeing Service offers free Emotional Wellbeing support to young people and those that care for them

BROMLEY Y (parents/carers and school staff) in the Bromley Borough. For more information please go to their website - www.bromley-y.org. They are trying to

better understand what people think about Mental Health and support they can access in Bromley. This information will help them to develop their service in the best way possible. They have created an on-line survey and ask if you might be prepared to fill it out via the link or QR code below by 31 December 2020. It should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.

The survey can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s8-t7hd8AkKWy2ocUVGS7mjeUIwLWoFBgpIIlBZWogpFUNOMyNDBGNk9OT0Y1MEZJTU1DNzVDRThRNy4u>

Or here by scanning this QR code:



Upon completion, you will be entered into a prize draw to win one of five £20 vouchers, and the winner will be notified by email by 15 January 2021.

Finally, I would like to highlight a few activities that have taken place over the past week:

- Year 13 student, Noah Cassidy, presented to Space Society on *The Space Race*.
- Environmental Society held a discussion over Teams about *The Life and Legacy of Brazilian environmental activist, Chico Mendes*.

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

Wishing you and your families a restful weekend.

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.



Those Olavians with an interest in healthcare or science are invited to attend virtual webinars in December exploring the progress in developing vaccines and medicines against COVID-19 and the drug journey of a painkiller. These taster lectures are delivered by St George's, University of London, and are free to attend. They will give insight into studying on the [Clinical Pharmacology BSc course](#) at St George's. The professors who are co-directors of the course will answer students' questions about the development of vaccines and medicines.

All our students now have access to the careers and progression website Unifrog. One of their most recent updates is helping students looking for virtual work experience opportunities. Students can browse these via the Special Opportunities tool. They need to select the 'Online/Worldwide' link under country and then filter to 'Virtual Work Experience' to find opportunities in tech, cyber security, data, banking, health and architecture. Many opportunities are free and some are paid for and offered by InvestIN which offers discounts to our students.

It may seem early to plan for the summer but applications are now open for the University of London Royal Holloway Summer University residentials for Year 12 students. Open to students who meet Widening Access criteria, these are free opportunities to stay on campus, to work alongside current university students and take part in a variety of subject tasters and information sessions. Full details can be found on their website at <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/schools-and-colleges/events-on-campus/residential>



The National Apprenticeship Service's latest Parents' and Carers' Pack highlights those employers recognised for their success in running apprenticeships and in developing the skills of their apprentices. Also promoted is the annual WorldSkills UK Live which this year will be held online from the 26 - 28 November in partnership with BAE Systems. This event is for parents, carers and their children to hear from leading employers and inspirational speakers offering guidance to help young people make decisions about their future. Nadiya Hussain, Great British Bake-Off winner, Roma Agrawal, structural engineer for The Shard and Grant Hinds, YouTube marketer, are among the speakers. Also of interest are the level 6 and 7 apprenticeships in archaeology and health and science being promoted by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. The pack is available via the link <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2020/11/Parent-Pack-November-2020-1.pdf>

The coming months see Morgan Stanley's latest programme of events for students considering an apprenticeship with the company including their technology degree apprenticeship. Those attending the early evening events can meet existing apprentices, hear about their roles and gain some understanding of the projects they are involved with whether in the technology, operations or finance divisions of the company. Also on offer is a CV and interview skills workshop to assist those who enter the application process.

Morgan Stanley

The award-winning platform Investment20/20 was set up by industry experts with the aim of bringing more diverse talent into the investment management industry. They work with 42 established city companies to highlight school leaver and graduate trainee programmes to students considering a career in this area. There is more information at <https://www.investment2020.org.uk/>



The Council for British Archaeology is promoting the career and training opportunities available as an archaeologist. With plenty of advice and links to follow, their lively website is worth visiting if this is the direction a student is considering for the future. www.archaeologyuk.org

All these events and more can be explored by our students on Moodle.