

ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

‘Guys and Dolls’ performances on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd of March. Tickets on sale soon via sQuid.

Poet Laureate 2019

This year we had many fantastic entries for the Poet Laureate competition and would like to thank everyone who entered. After whittling it down to a shortlist of nine poets, we heard the students deliver their poems in front of their peers, including our 2018 Poet Laureate Edwin Roberts, to ensure they would be able to cope with the public nature of the role. We are delighted to announce that this year we have decided to have two Poet Laureates and have offered the post to Victoria Akinleye in Year 12 and Ben Davies in Year 11. These two students are both extremely bright and talented with very different styles and ideas to bring to the role, so I am sure they will prove fantastic ambassadors for the school. I am very excited to work with them in 2019 and hope we will bring more poetry to St Olave's. Please scroll down to read their entries, and be inspired to write some of your own.



School Musical: ‘Guys and Dolls’

Rehearsals are well underway for this year's school production of 'Guys and Dolls' and the students have been working hard on their roles. We are very grateful that our Hotbox girls and Havana dancers have had the opportunity to work with choreographer Judith Winters, and our principals have had a fantastic singing masterclass with former opera singer David Guest. We look forward to seeing it develop further over this half term.

Good luck to all students in Year 11 and 13 taking their January mock exams.

‘Speak Up, Speak Out’ public speaking training for Year 9 and 10

On the 4th of December, thirty Year 9 students took part in a full day workshop focussing on their public speaking and presentational skills. Congratulations to our finalists: Rico Rhodes Evans, Shri Vishnu Vatsam, Rohan Chavali, Siddharth Mishra. These students will perform their speeches in front of their peers, and one will then be selected to compete against students from other schools on the 12th February. Congratulations also to Mayokum Alade and Daniel Kenward who were awarded most improved.

On the 14th of December fifty students from Year 10 also did the workshop and delivered speeches on a wide range of subjects, impressing the course facilitators. Our finalists from this session were Jachure Dixon, Vitheeshan Kajanthan, Behrad Nasser, Tausif Samad, Audit Deshmukh and William Boyd. Congratulations to all of them.

THINK EXPLORE COMMUNICATE EMPATHISE ENJOY

A Level trip to see 'Twelfth Night'

'Twelfth Night', was vividly brought to life at the Young Vic theatre. Their new Artistic Director, Kwama Kwei-Armah had updated the play to include an awe inspiring community choir with songs composed to capture the key themes. Love in all its forms was examined in a riot of urban contemporary colour. Viola/ Caesario enjoyed her freedom asking, 'Is it as simple as putting on a pair of pants?' While Malvolio delighted us with his cross-gartered lycra exercise kit and his narcissistic posturing.

The performance delivered a deeper understanding of the play and was hugely entertaining.



LAMDA

Congratulations to all students who took their Lamda exams on the 20th December!

We hope you enjoyed it and feel proud of what you have achieved.

A Level trip to Strawberry Hill House

We enjoyed our trip to Horace Walpole's faux gothic castle to enjoy a guided tour and lecture on gothic fiction. We hope this will inspire our students to read his novel 'The Castle of Otranto' now they have seen where it was written and heard about the different features that inspired his imaginative text.



Theatre Society

Our first trip was to see 'The Jungle', a play set in the Calais refugee camps. We experienced the intense, moving and uplifting encounters between refugees from many different countries and the volunteers who arrived from the UK. We then went to see 'Caroline, or Change'. Based loosely on Kushner's life, 'Caroline, or Change' is set in Louisiana in the 1960s where Noah is struggling with the death of his mother, and his father's remarriage to her best friend. He spends his time with their maid, Caroline, who works in the family's basement. Caroline, who has a family dependant on her, faces a moral dilemma when a novel opportunity to fund her family presents itself. These plays were completely different and gave the students the opportunity to see different styles of drama. We are now looking forward to seeing 'Nine Night' at Trafalgar Studios at the end of January.

The term ahead

29th January: Theatre Soc trip to see 'Nine Night'

6th Feb: Vocal workshop with Janette Catell

12th Feb: Year 9 'Speak Up Speak Out' final at Buller's Wood

7th March: World Book Day

16th March: Saturday rehearsal for 'Guys and Dolls', 9.30am – 4pm

20th March: Matinee performance of 'Guys and Dolls' to students

21st and 22nd March: Evening performances of 'Guys and Dolls'

25th March: Yr 7 trip to The Globe theatre to see 'Romeo and Juliet'

28th March: Lamda exams

Poison

Sat silent, on the handle of the door
A-234
A harbinger of the new cold war
Born out of unsettled scores
And open sores, of wars, (un)finished, long before

Divisions then, now still divide
Divisions 'twixt the left and right
Have cleft my fragile, frazzled mind
Bereft, I've left it far behind

And in its stead, I have anew
A poisoned, toxic form of news
That took my mind, and warped my views
With standpoints of a different hue

A viral worm inside my brain
Implanted views, I once disdained
And engineered a friendship feigned
The need to 'non-conform' has waned

but

Despite the door, the spy survived
Despite the stream so to shall I
Through this mental poison fight
And change then what was wrong to right

By Ben Davies

Sweet Taste of Victory

There is something saccharine,
undeniably addictive,
that swashes around the mouth of the victor.
It tastes of molten golden splendour,
ornate with irrefutable success
as it moulds itself around the victors' gums.
Like a chasm-pool
of thick, resplendent, liquid gold slabs,
scintillated with blazing rays of accomplishment
it caresses the mouth's palate.

A lustrous sparkle,
or a twinkle if you will,
of hard-earned triumph
appears like encrusted diamonds between
the teeth.

And as they smile,
while they collect their prize
they draw the bead of the eyes,
they water the mouth,
and they leave a pang of hunger
in those who watch.

That hankering desire,
to have that same effulgent
glimmer in the teeth,
the same lucent shine
in the eyes.

To have that wrench
of desire quenched,
with the sweet taste of victory.

By Victoria Akinleye

100 Years of Silence by Edwin Roberts (Olavian Poet 2018)

That one, cool breath ebbed away,
That one, brass note that shook my heart,
Bowed my head, looked threadbare, enough to say,
I'm here today.

Cruel valley, valley of silence, where morbid clouds roll in,
And the wounded green beguiles a crimson-covered glen,
Plundered by petals - but peace now:
One hundred years of silence in seconds dozen by ten.

And we will remember them.