

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Governors, Old Olavians and Grandparents

### Headteacher's Newsletter 64

You will not be surprised that my Newsletter has a different flavour to it this week. I am still able to highlight and celebrate some events and activities that have taken place, but these are now becoming few and far between. It does give me an opportunity again to update you with our plans for providing continuity of education in response to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. I am however aware that information relating to school settings is changing by the hour so please follow the various announcements relating to education as they may supersede what is contained in my Newsletter.

We would like to set up an InTouch email group for any parents who would like to receive regular topics for prayer. We are aware that often Parents and Carers cannot get to our half termly prayer meetings but still want to pray for the school. By creating an email group we can inform you, on a weekly basis, of any specific topics for prayer. If you would like to be part of this group and receive regular updates could you please email the Chaplain as soon as possible: [jbowen@saintolaves.net](mailto:jbowen@saintolaves.net) to have your name added to the group. Our intention is to have this up and running in the Summer Term. This group is open to everyone of any and all faiths who wish to pray for our school.



The Senior Girls 7's squad took part in the Kent 7's last week. The students played three games and despite tough games against Dartford and Judd, they beat Langley Park convincingly in their final match. Well done to all the girls in what was a great afternoon's set of fixtures. The Senior Boys 7's squad were more successful making their way to the Final of the Kent Plate. Top players on the day were forward, Daniel Shergold, who demonstrated relentless work rate and physicality, whilst in the backs, Kit Whitaker was outstanding, scoring several notable tries right across the pitch. Well done to the boys for making it to the Final.

Thank you and well done to the performers who took part in 'The Crucible' last week. It was an excellent production, from the acting to the costumes. The cast and production team should be highly praised for their talents and efforts. A special thanks to the staff team because I know it takes such effort to make these productions possible. We believe as a school it is absolutely worth it - for the experience of the actors, for the audience and for the spirit of the school.



The Royal Geographical Society provide an Excellence Award to students who have achieved the highest marks in the 2019 Geography examinations, and this includes one of our Year 12 students, Anujah Mohanathan. Congratulations to

Anujah for this fantastic achievement.



Congratulations to the First XV who won the virtual Rosslyn Park Sevens U18 Vase on Wednesday against Felsted School 67 – 33. This was a competition run by Fifteen Rugby and St Olave's triumphed in the Final due to the number of votes they received. I believe we took the upper hand in the second half after the virtual Felsted prop was yellow carded for sharing a rogue twitter link with the virtual St. Olave's scrum half six minutes before the final whistle.

Please tell your friends or family who are teachers that we are currently looking for teachers of Biology, Economics and French/Spanish. Further details can be found on the school website by following this [link](#).

Moving onto the Coronavirus, you will be aware the Government instructed English schools to close at the end of the day until further notice. The Government have also made it clear schools should remain open for the most vulnerable children and the children of key frontline workers who would be unable to work in the event of a complete school closure; we have put in processes to ensure this happens and I shared this with you on Wednesday evening following the announcement and again this morning. We will now deliver lessons remotely via the Microsoft Teams capability or MOODLE. Members of staff who are already using Sharepoint and Teams to communicate with pupils will add an instruction in the Unexpected School Closure MOODLE courses which directs them to check Sharepoint and their class and year Teams pages for work and guidance. An information sheet for parents has been sent home and all pupils have a working 'saintolaves.net' email address for them to contact staff if they are unable to access work.

During the school closure, Form Tutors and the Pastoral Team will still be able to provide pastoral support to pupils and should be the first point of contact for non-subject specific concerns. Contact details can be found on the school website. Please be sure to include your son's full name and form group to ensure the message reaches the intended recipient. In addition to the pastoral support structures common to all year groups (of Form Tutor, Head of Year and Assistant Headteacher), 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. We will continue to still make referrals to external agencies as deemed necessary.

With regards examinations, the latest news is the Government will aim for children to receive exam results in the summer although no GCSE and A-level exams will take place due to school closures. The Government has not yet confirmed how students will be assessed for these qualifications. They have also not confirmed how the UCAS process will work. We will update you when we know more about this, although it has been said an announcement will be made at some point today. We know Year 13 students may have also had their 'last day' and I would like to reassure them that we will organise another opportunity for them to say goodbye later in the year. They will be able to decorate their old blazers and we can celebrate their time at the school. We will also consider how we celebrate the end of GCSEs for Year 11.

The safety and wellbeing of our community remains a top priority for everyone at St. Olave's Grammar School. Thank you for your understanding, patience and continuing support. I would like to thank all the staff for everything that they have done to keep our school going throughout this difficult crisis so far. Our collective commitment to all of our children has never been more important and I know that we will all pull together to support each other in the weeks ahead. What the future will be looking like, both in the short and longer term, no-one can be certain, but what I do know is that the values of our school will shine through all our endeavours. We will continue to update you when we receive any further information, especially around the reopening of the school.

Look after yourselves and your families.

Yours sincerely



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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