



**St Saviour's  
& St Olave's  
School**

*An 11-18 Church of England Girls' School*

HEADTEACHER: CATHERINE MAY BSC (HONS) MBA

New Kent Road, London SE1 4AN Tel: 020 7407 1843

email: [office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk)

26th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Silver Linings 11

I do hope that you are well and safe, and able to enjoy some of this beautiful weather. Here in school the sun is a constant reminder of what we are missing; summer is a time in schools when we usually have examinations taking place, followed by leavers celebrations and then activities such as Sports Day. We are still trying to do all of these end of term events, but in very different ways. Mr Gilder is getting creative to plan a Creative Arts Week, and all staff are working out ways to have an Activities Week. Do look out for further communications on these events.

Ms Ferguson communicated with all parents recently about how we will carry out end of term assessments this year. The information we gather will ensure that when we do return, we will be able to plan work appropriately to ensure everyone is able to be on track to achieving their potential. As I've said before, I continue to be so thankful for the staff at St Saviour's who continue to go above and beyond to deliver the best we can in circumstances we could never have envisaged just a couple of months ago. Throughout these last few weeks of term, thank you for your ongoing support and please don't hesitate to share any images of your lockdown learning experience so we can include them in our time capsule. Please send contributions to [office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk).

This week we have been able to welcome some year 12 students into school, in addition to year 10 and the community group. In total we are allowed just 45 students on site in addition to the community group, and it has been fantastic to see them. Year 12 have had some lessons in the spaces that are large enough to accommodate social distancing and can be well ventilated with doors to the outside. Following last weeks' superb attendance by year 10 we have also been able to offer some small group teaching sessions for them in their core subjects this week, and we hope to continue this with some option subjects before the end of term. We are pleased to be welcoming some students back to school for some sessions but we don't forget the majority are still working from home. We're also close to finalising year 9 option groups for their GCSE studies beginning next year, so please look out for communications from Ms Whitton-Kaluza on those. It is heartening to see that the vast majority of students in the year group will be able to study their first choice of options. This is made possible by our approach which tailors our offer to what our students want in each year group, recognising that subject preferences can change each year and trying as best we can to cater to the needs of our learners.

Given the number of our community who are classified as vulnerable we will be maintaining the social distance rule of 2m beyond the 4th July to protect everyone in our community. There are now three full weeks until the summer holiday and we must finalise our plans soon for the return in September, in order to communicate them properly with you. There has been a good deal of talk in the media regarding the official





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reduction to 1m distance which is to be welcomed but this would still equate to a maximum of only ten students per classroom. Further government guidance has been promised which we eagerly await, but we are mindful that for all students, in all years, this will be a return after a long period of disruption. We will therefore be including an extended period of induction into our plans for the first week back in September. With new lockers for everyone (which are not in classrooms), new practices for regular handwashing, reduced capacity in the dining hall, and a one-way system around the corridors, everyone (including staff) will need a slightly longer period of orientation. To some extent we will all be in the same boat as the new year 7's!

Today should have been our new intake induction evening, and for the year 7 students joining us in September this will be a more challenging transition than ever before. I have no doubt at all that current St Saviour's students will make them feel safe and welcome, and we've been doing our best to help them prepare for life in secondary school. We've been communicating with the primary schools and sending regular new intake newsletters. In this week's edition our newest St Saviour's students will find out who their form tutor will be and which house colour group they are in. The house system runs throughout the school, and is an integral part of our reward system. All students are able to collect them, even when learning from home, so *please remind your daughter to be collecting her credits, commendations and house points*. We will be awarding the house cup again in just three weeks.

Yesterday evening, instead of our new intake induction, there was a virtual staff forum led by Deputy Headteacher Ms. Ferguson, which gave staff the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about recent events and about what it means to be an anti-racist school. It is a crucial platform from which to begin the work that needs to be done. There are many ways in which our staff and students are able to voice their opinions and share their ideas on issues such as race and equality, whether that be through formal systems such as School Council, or forums such as the one that took place last night, and we will be working to enhance and develop these areas in the coming weeks and months. This week two of our Year 13 students contacted me with an extremely articulate email sharing their views on what they felt school had done well and what we could do better, particularly on the issue of racial equality. The students included links to petitions regarding the nature of the History curriculum in schools, asking the government to review it to ensure it is inclusive of black history. This contact was greatly appreciated, and we will be seeking to formalise ways in which we can fully hear your views.

Just this week I heard from one of our year 9 students, Amecia, who has also been involved in a project with Evelina Children's Hospital, sharing her ideas and opinions with architects and designers as part of a group of young people involved in designing new spaces there. What an amazing opportunity for Amecia to be involved in and for our community. I am also delighted to hear that one of our year 10 students, Shalom, was a finalist in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, which took place digitally this year; Shalom shared her voice on her speech, 'Insecurities', in which she spoke about self-confidence and self-belief. I would also like to draw your attention to a competition inviting students to share their ideas and visions on 'Life after Covid-19', which openDemocracy and UCL are jointly running, in which they want to hear from students aged 14+ on what post-lockdown life should be like. You can find the link to that at the end of this letter, alongside the usual useful links and this week's 'Thoughts for the Day' provided by Reverend Imogen, which continue to provide much comfort.





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In recent weeks it has been lovely to hear from some of our year 13 students' voices on their personal experiences on what the lockdown has meant to them, and this week I am pleased to have one of our Year 11 Prefects contribute their voice on what life has been like for them, so here is Indra, talking about her experience:

*When we were told that we would not be sitting our GCSE's I couldn't help but feel uncertain and like I had wasted years studying hard for exams that I wasn't even going to sit. However, our teachers made it clear that our studying was not for nothing and that our hard work would be recognised. During this lockdown, as well as relaxing after 2 years of hard work and taking care of both my physical and mental health, I have been introducing myself to A-level content to make sure I am prepared for my next chapter. Learning at home instead of in a traditional classroom set up has been a huge shift, but we are all slowly adapting and making the best of what we have whilst also becoming more independent in the process. No matter what happens next, I know that I have family, friends and teachers that will understand and support me through these unprecedented and uncertain times. Seeing the support from all around the world in regards to the Black Lives Matter movement is truly heart-warming and reminds us that in these troubling times, we must stick together and love each other no matter what.*

Thank you again for your continued support throughout this period of lockdown. We are pleased to be welcoming some students back to school for some sessions but we don't forget the majority are still working from home. The focus and determination exhibited by our students is testament to the support they have at home and their own ambition to succeed. We are all looking forward to a full return whenever that may be.

Stay safe and stay well, with very best wishes

Catherine May  
Headteacher





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## Links / Resources

This week's faith-based assembly is on KINDNESS and can be found here:

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/activity-clubs/faith-at-home/episodes/kindness-secondary>

## Prayers / Thoughts for the Day

'This is a wonderful day. I've never seen this one before.' Maya Angelou

'And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.' Ephesians 3: 17-19

'The love you give recycles and circulates throughout the universe, no expression of love is ever lost or wasted.' Calm Collective

'The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.' Galatians 5: 22-23

'Encouragement is like oxygen to the human spirit. Don't forget you're carrying someone else's air. Encourage them, help them. Breathe.' Glory Designs

'Where the spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.' 2 Corinthians 3:17

'You can't go back to the beginning and change the start but you can start where you are and change the end.' C.S. Lewis

'God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.' 2 Timothy 1:7

**Life after Covid-19** – link to competition information for students aged 14+ can be found here:

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/world-after-covid/>

## Holiday food and activity programme:

This week Southwark announced a new partnership with Lambeth and the Mayor's Fund to provide an extended programme of holiday food and activity this summer. Beginning July 22nd, the 'Lambeth and Southwark's Summer of Food and Fun' programme will ensure that children and young people (aged 4-19 years), their families and/or carers are able to access a regular source of free nutritious meals over the summer, whether at a local club or at home, and join an array of community activities including sports, theatre, arts and crafts and cooking. For more information please see the link below:

<https://www.mayorsfundforlondon.org.uk/lambeth-southwark-summer-food-fun/>





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**Latest Guidance from DfE on the re-opening of schools can be found here:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

**NSPCC support and guidance on talking to children about Coronavirus link:**

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

