

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

November/December 2019
newsletter
FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS, GOVERNORS AND STAFF

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

This Autumn term has flown by and so much has been achieved and enjoyed. This newsletter will give you a flavour of the activities we have been engaged in.

There have been famous visitors, special assemblies, a most uplifting carol service, an inspirational awards evening in amongst all of the hard work and learning. I was particularly pleased to hold our first ever coffee morning for parents and carers, and I hope we can make this a termly event. Please look out for the invitation.

Staff and students have worked incredibly hard and deserve a well-earned rest. I look forward to all that the new year will bring us, but first, let's enjoy this holiday and I wish you all of the peace, joy and hope that this Christmas season offers.

With best wishes
Catherine May

Hope springs eternal at the cathedral



Diary Dates

- Start of Spring Term
Mon 6th Jan
Start time 9.30 for all years
- Equality Diversity & Rights
Cambridge Technical Exam
Weds 8th Jan 9.00am
- Enterprise & Marketing Concepts
Cambridge National Exam
Thurs 9th Jan 9.00am
- Health, Safety & Security
Cambridge Technical Exam
Fri 10th Jan 1.30pm
- Anatomy & Physiology
Cambridge Technical Exam
Tues 14th Jan 1.30pm
- Year 11 Parents' Evening
5.00pm Thurs 16th Jan
- Eucharist
Tues 21st Jan 1.00pm
- 6th Form Parents' Evening
5.00pm Thurs 23rd Jan
- PSHCE Day 3
Wed 5th Feb
- Year 8 Parents Evening
5.00pm Thurs 13th Feb
- Half Term
Mon 17th – Fri 21st Feb





Poignant message of hope on election day

On Thursday 12th Dec we had our annual Carol Service at Southwark Cathedral. It was a joyful and uplifting occasion, which many said felt like the beginning of Christmas. Our theme this year was 'Hope', which proved to be a particularly poignant message as our country stands on the brink of change. As ever, the choirs sang beautifully, with traditional pieces like The Coventry Carol from Senior choir, and a rousing rendition of 'He Reigns' by Kirk Franklin from the Gospel choir. As the Christmas story was read from the Bible, we heard reflections drawing out the message of hope in each reading. Throughout the service a work of art was gradually revealed. This spelt the word 'Hope', in the style of the artist Robert Indiana, who had produced a famous work, 'Hope' for Barak Obama's first election campaign. Our Head Girl, Dominique reminded us of a Bible verse full of hope: *"Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31.* It was wonderful to be reminded of the hope and positivity of the Christmas message; this has given us all something to focus on and savour throughout this season.





Bishop Karowei presents Bibles to Year 7's



We were very pleased to welcome once again the Bishop of Woolwich, Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu to our school.

He conducted a Q & A style assembly for the whole school, stressing the importance of focus and determination being key ingredients for academic success.

He then stayed to give out a Bible to every member of Year 7, a generous annual gift from the Governors.



Merchants' gift befits our amazing choir

Thanks to the generosity of the Merchant Taylors Company, which does so much to support the school, members of our choir now have beautiful new folders from which to sing. They were unveiled at this year's brilliant Carol Service to great effect. Thanks to our fantastic teachers the choir have maintained a tremendous level of performance for many years, and richly deserve this welcome gift



This year's Christmas Card Design winner is Selam Finazzi, Year 7, Well Done!!





Dramatic departure in style results in classic success



This November saw a departure in style for our annual school production. Homer's *The Odyssey*, in a new version by Zoe Thomas-Webb, is a tale of adventure, persistence, hospitality and strength. This new adaptation gave the cast and crew the opportunity to re-tell a classic tale but with a modern twist. Told from the point of view of a teenager who is trying to get to grips with the ancient text, the play is brought to life for her by a group of actors who all play the Greek army and multi-role all of the other characters, from Gods to monsters, slaves to suitors and everything in between.

The production was a huge success, performing to sell-out audiences, including a matinee of over 150 primary school students. The cast were all onstage throughout which required a focused and intense level of team-work. Once again our students out-shone themselves, bringing the audience both laughter and tears. Well done to all involved!



Doors make Christmas Number 1

Knock, knock – who's there? The winners of this year's Y7 Christmas Door competition! And for the first time ever, there is a joint first winner! Blue and Red ticked all the boxes, by incorporating elements that reflect our ethos, festivity, the school, religion and showing inclusivity. Well done to the students and staff in both forms, but also to the whole of Y7 for the wonderful efforts they put into decorating their doors. Trust me, it was not easy to choose...





School hosts Southwark's first Apprenticeship Fair



In our changing educational landscape, apprenticeships are becoming more and more available and attractive to young people.

Students often have the opportunity to attend University Fairs but it is important that they are shown a broad range of post Sixth Form opportunities.

On the 10th December we hosted the first ever Southwark Schools apprenticeship fair where a diverse range of companies showcase why they would like our young people to join them and be able to talk to them about what they have to offer.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed meeting people from top London businesses including KPMG, Virgin Media, The FCA and Accenture, and asking them questions about what an apprenticeship with them might be like! We are looking forward to making it bigger and better next year.

Sema banks top essay prize and a fast track to the future

Huge congratulations to Sema Damon who fought off strong competition from over 120 entries to win the prestigious Worshipful Company of International Bankers' Essay competition. Her sophisticated answer to whether Banks still need a presence on the High Street won her both a cash prize and entrance onto an elite fast track to city careers scheme.

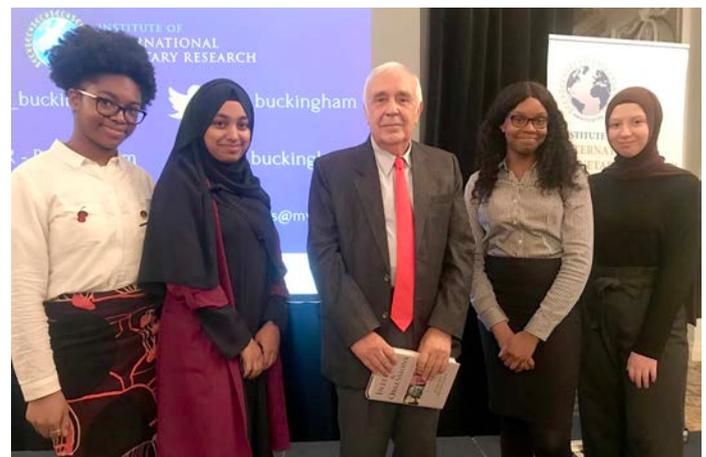


Smart Choices Information Day

In December, we hosted a Smart Choices Information Day that provided Year 12 students (from our school and others) with the opportunity to learn how to identify, secure and analyse professional and academic experiences. Smart Start equips students with the skills to excel in a range of career sectors and start building their own network of contacts. All Smart Start students then had the opportunity to sign up receive support from a business mentor over the course of the following academic year and apply for one of two scholarships, worth £10,500.

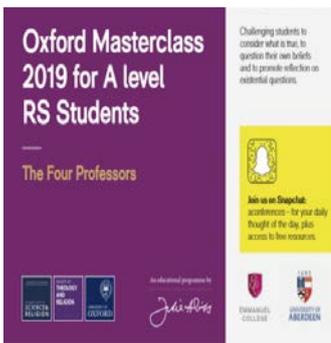


Yr 12 Economists went to the very prestigious Institute of International Monetary Research for their annual lecture which this year was about radically rethinking how the government taxes and spends in order to boost our economy on the global stage. A valuable experience for both their studies and for our contemporary political climate!





Religious Studies News



Vardy's Candle a good one

In November, Year 13 went to the annual Philosophy and Ethics 'Candle' conference. This is hosted by Peter Vardy (a famous name in the RS world) where we listened to a series of lectures around religious language, considering questions such as 'what do we mean by good'?. It was a great opportunity to be around students from other schools studying Religious Studies and we were certainly challenged to think hard. It gave us a real sense of what it is like to be at university.



Four Profs Masterclass

On Friday 6th December, 10 6th Form and Year 11 RS students went to a conference in Bloomsbury Baptist church called Oxford Masterclass with Four Professors. Many topics concerning religion were discussed such as what believers see as a source of authority for them and the nature of it by Professor Keith Ward and how religious language can be more suited for modern day society and the androcentrism it contains by Professor Daphne Hampson. It was exciting to hear from some of the philosophers we are studying as part of A Level Religious Studies. The last part of the conference was an active debate about whether different truth claims made by world religions showed that all religion was fundamentally false led by Professor Tom Greggs and Julie Arliss. This was insightful and interesting because we heard many different views from them and those from other schools which was good practice for essay writing and also, it was a chance to apply the knowledge we have learnt in class and outside of lessons as well. This trip was exciting and useful because we had the opportunity to discuss different issues and debates in philosophy and ethics that we haven't come across before so I learnt new facts that helped broaden my knowledge further which I can apply to my exams so it was a great experience.

Claire Baiden 13N

Play sheds new light on extremism

On Thursday 14th November, some of us attended a play called 'Extremism' at Theatre Peckham organised by the RS and PSHCE departments. It was extremely eye-opening and brought to light the current issues faced by students in school and the educational environment. There were some shocking scenes that I didn't expect such as a Muslim girl being forced to her knees by other pupils and a black student who was the laughing stock of the class as he spoke a different language. I'd say that the play is a microcosm of society as it amplified the suffering(s) of minority groups who are depicted in a negative way by many – especially the media. As reflected in the title, the play explored different aspects of 'extremism' which we tend to overlook in our society. I thoroughly enjoyed and would recommend it!



Ketsia-Patience Kassongo 13S

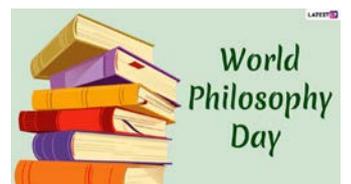
Philosophical celebrations

SSSO celebrated World Philosophy Day on 21 November 2019. It was a wonderful opportunity for all students to engage with deep philosophical and ethical questions such as can everyone do what they want at the same time? Is it logical to hold a robot to account for a crime? Is it ok to sell people?

All students also had the opportunity to enter the RS Philosophy Quiz of which the five winners are: Miracle – 10 Yellow, Sofia – 7 Blue, Janice – 9 Green, Yoma – 9 Green and Oreoluwa – 7 Blue. Well done girls! Year 11 to 13 students enjoyed a screening of 'The Matrix' by the 6th Form Film Club. The screening was a great success with many students attending and enjoying the snacks provided. The film raised many philosophical questions regarding the nature of reality, the self and the future. It offered the idea that life as we know it is actually a stimulation created by machines to subdue us whilst they use our body heat for electrical power. *'Throughout human history, we have been dependent on machines to survive. Fate, it seems, is not without a sense of irony.'*

You still have a chance to enter the essay writing competition, deadline for submission first week back after. See the RS Department for essay questions.

Rosamond Daboh 13D



YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO SET ANOTHER GOAL OR TO DREAM A NEW DREAM (ARISTOTLE)





Challenging 'Takeover' for H & S C students

On 29th November some of our Health and Social Care students were given the opportunity to participate in a 'Takeover Challenge' day at Evelina London Children's Hospital. The Takeover Challenge puts children and young people into real-life decision-making positions in organisations. The young people also gain experience of a busy health care environment. The girls were given a choice of activities which included: **Working in a research lab; experiencing a day in the life of a nurse, using the mannequins that are used to train members of staff; understanding why it is necessary to take an individual's blood pressure and practising this using specialist equipment. Here's what three of our students made of their experience:**

*At the Evelina Children's Hospital, I participated in the nursing activity which centred around how to give CPR to children in emergency situations at home. We were also shown how to take our own pulse and heart rate, as well as our blood pressure. After lunch we travelled to Guys Hospital where I participated in a stem-cell investigation. We had to use different scientific methods of investigation to find out who kidnapped the director of the stem-cell department. The session was very informative and the nurses were so kind and patient towards us, this encouraged me to learn new things. Overall, the experience at both of these hospitals was so enlightening I am now considering a career path as a children's nurse. **Britney Tandoh***

Day in a life of a nurse

*I learnt different techniques that nurses use in their daily lives dealing with patients on the children's ward. I learnt how to insert tubes containing IVF fluids into a cannula. I also learnt how to insert fluids from a syringe into the cannula tubes. During the day we also used a sphygmomanometer to check blood pressure; we then had to record the results in a PEWS Escalation written record. This is crucial as the results have to be recorded every few hours. I learnt the procedure to go thorough if a baby has stopped breathing and has fallen unconscious. The steps were really easy to follow as the nurse guided me through the procedure and what to do in a real-life situation. In the second part of the day I got to see the expansion of a new day centre at the 'Evelina'. I liked seeing the new day care centre and learning how the designers will make it patient and family friendly. I also helped them make decisions about how they can make the centre better, for example, using colours and technology to create a safari theme. **Blessing Ogundipe***

*With regards to the opportunity I was given by my teacher to attend the insight day at Evelina children's hospital I believe the sessions were informative and well explained by the nurses in charge of the day. The knowledge I gained, has given me a clear insight into how I could combine my twin interests in journalism and children's healthcare within nursing, such as hosting the radio station Lollipop. The presenters on this radio station use their clinical skills and knowledge to try and improve the lives of the children whilst they are in hospital. I was pleasantly surprised to see the different career paths that are open for me should I choose to pursue a career in healthcare. As well as meeting the nurses and finding out what they do every day, I was able to physically practice some of the techniques I learned, on the mannequins provided, this made the experience even more realistic. Overall, as I am interested in childcare I believe this day was very insightful for me and it was also very beneficial as I was also offered work experience by one of the nurses. I am glad and thankful I had the opportunity to attend the Takeover Challenge as it has been very exciting for me and my future. **Monae Richards***



Better by design

Design is everywhere! From our pens and toothbrushes, the buildings in which we live and work through to the sophisticated equipment that supports and surrounds us every day. Everything has been designed. And it is here in school where the seeds are planted for the designers of the next generation. It is the creative minds of our students which could shape the products that we use in our future.

The Designer of the Year prize is awarded to students for the outstanding design work which they have created during their year 10 Design & Technology GCSE course. It recognises innovation and flair and serves to acknowledge their hard work and inspire them to go on the greater things.

This prize is supported by the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors and we were delighted to welcome back Tony Joyce (Master of the company) and Amanda Jackson to give the awards.

The winning students this year were:

Winner	Rekiya Shodunke
Runners up	Tiffany Ta, Indra Ramku

As well as receiving a prize and certificate the student's names will be added to the honours board in the school hall. It is this final point that students tell us means the most; their names forever on show recognising their achievements.

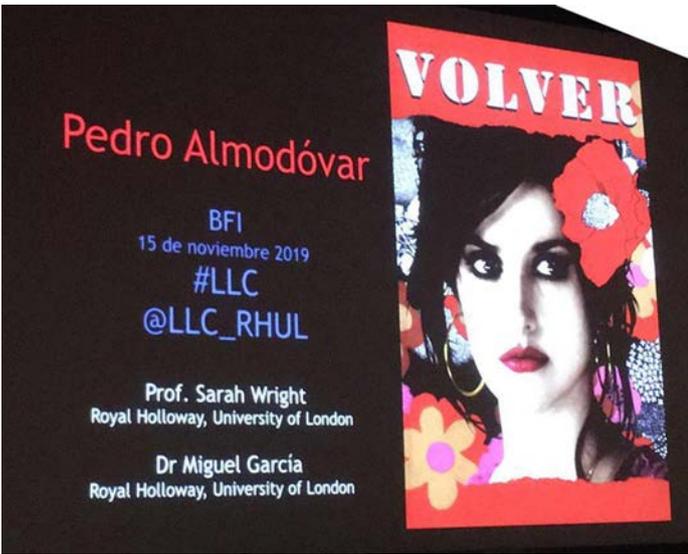
Readathon raises over £550!



Every year at this time, we launch the Readathon Fundraiser event. Reathon is an event which encourages students to get into the habit of reading and to help others who are ill.

The money raised buys books for schools and brings the power of stories to children in hospitals. Readathon aims to create a whole school reading culture and encourage reading for pleasure. The library distributed sponsor forms to students who participated in the event. This year, the girls raised £556.70!! Many thanks to those who participated in the event and to all sponsors.





Almodóvar at the BFI

A level Spanish trip to the British Film Institute

On the 15 November, Spanish A level students were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to go to a Pedro Almodóvar film study day at the BFI (British Film Institute). Almodóvar is an internationally celebrated Spanish film director who is known for his unique techniques in his films. During the trip students learned about the film frames used, camera angles selecte,d and the significant use of the colour red (which is a reoccurring colour in many of his films). Vanessa bravely took the microphone and gave her opinions in Spanish in front of hundreds of other A level Spanish students, many of whom were native speakers. She linked the film's title Volver to the significance of the director going back to work with actress Carmen Maura after a gap of many years. Iy-ta also braved the microphone and compared the film's poster to one of Sara Montiel, an actress whose work Almodóvar greatly admired. These points demonstrated the girls in-depth knowledge of the director and showed off how confident they have become when speaking Spanish ¡muy bien!

Best way to study Art



When studying artworks, googling them on the internet isn't the best way to get an understanding of the real meaning behind them.

Going to the Tate Modern to see Ed Rusha's books and Kara Walker's installation was a wonderful experience for me, as I had never gone to an Art Gallery in my life and loved taking photos of the fantastic art we had studied in class.

When I was there I thought there was more to artworks than what we see on the internet, we have to personally be there to see it and to truly understand what the artwork is about. This trip was truly enlightening and I would love to go again to truly absorb the essence of art.

Romesa Kashif 10R

CyberStart Club

When I first started participating in Cyberstart, it was extremely challenging. The problem solving involved made me think out of the box. It had consisted of various cyber security challenges such as using your knowledge of Binary and programming. I have now moved on to CyberStart Game, it consists of many levels ranging from further problem solving to identifying secret messages within code. The experience I have gained has inspired me to explore Computer Science in greater depth and ways of troubleshooting creatively. By: Olivia Rankin, 9 Blue



Olivia has just been selected by the National Cyber Security Center to take part in one of the final stages of the CyberStart program which focusses on encryption techniques. Well done, Olivia!



Sage Futuremaker's Workshop

On the 31st of October 2019, I was given the opportunity to attend phase 3 of the Sage Futuremaker's workshop. The Futuremaker's lab is an ambitious program that encourages others to get involved with programming and problem solving to help aid many of the issues in the modern world. As Sage is one of the largest software companies in the UK and I have an interest in software development, the opportunity to attend the pilot for this incredible program was something I did not want to miss.

We created a website to advertise ways to diminish or reduce poverty, and to identify possible vulnerabilities which could occur within this platform. Also, we considered the ethics behind our website and ways in which this could be exploited. Overall, I found the day inspiring and with the ambitious nature of the Futuremaker's lab I hope to see it prosper and inspire others to pursue a career or interest in technology. By: Joanna Jeevaruban, 11 Blue

STOP PRESS!! WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARENT GOVERNOR

Congratulations and a warm welcome to our new Parent Governor, Mr Christopher Nicholson.

**Reminder to Parents:
Students return to school on
Monday 6th January 2020 at a later
time of 9.30am**





Awards Evening 2019



Our Guest of Honour this year was Sophia Bennett, pictured left. She is a children's writer, author of several novels for young adults. Sophia's speech at our Awards Evening was inspiring: she talked about her journey in becoming a published author and the many publishing houses she had to go to before finally achieving success. She talked about the determination that you need if you want to achieve your goals. She talked about how she is inspired by creativity, courage and kindness and girls discovering their inner power.

