

St Saviour's
& St Olave's
School

February 2023

newsletter

FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS, GOVERNORS AND STAFF

Spring Term Is Underway

Dear Parents & Carers

I'm delighted to handover the front page of our latest newsletter to our current headgirl.

Best wishes for a happy half term

Ms C May
Headteacher

Dear Parents & Carers

Now that the first half term of 2023 is drawing to a close, it is amazing to look back at everything we have already achieved. Students across the school have been actively working to improve their school community, especially the group of students involved with planning the Culture Event.

Through being in meetings with them throughout this term, I have seen just how hard everyone is working to ensure that this event goes ahead. This group has consistently dedicated their lunchtimes and time after school to organising it, and I want to personally thank everyone who has been involved so far!

This is just one example of the many types of student leadership that I have been lucky enough to see across the school this term. Under our new vertical structure for the school council, the Year 13 Senior Prefects have met with the school counsellors within their strand, and it has been wonderful to hear everyone's ideas.

This structure has really helped to improve the cohesion between different year groups within the school council. There have also been several year group meetings, and I look forward to continuing to implement the ideas of all the student leaders next half term.

Especially now that the Senior Prefects and the Year 11 prefects have all undergone leadership training in the last few months, it is clear that our student leaders are making an important contribution.

Another group of students that have shown commitment to their school community is our St Saviours and St Olaves debating club. Every week after school for the last year and a half, this group of students have shown commitment and passion for debating.

Running the club has been an amazing experience, and it has been such a pleasure to watch everyone improve. Some members of the debating club have even gone on to participate in the development squads for England's debating team.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this club, I feel like I have learnt as much from you as I hope you've learnt from me!

As we approach exams, next term will be an important one for many students. Regardless, I hope everyone manages to get some well-deserved rest over Half Term. It has been an amazing start to the new year!

Best wishes
Elsie
Headgirl



Important Dates for Parents & Students:

Diary Dates

20th February 2023
School Opens

23rd February 2023
Year 9 Parents Evening

1st March 2023
Year 9 Options Evening

14th March 2023
Commemoration Service

22nd March 2023
Parent Carer Forum

30th March 2023
Year 6 Interviews

31st March 2023
End of Spring Term

3rd to 14th April 2023
Easter Holidays

Carol Service

On the 13th December, it was wonderful to be able to return to Southwark Cathedral for our Carol Service for the first time since 2019. This is a very important tradition for our school, which many in our school community people feel marks the beginning of Christmas.

Our theme this year was “Emmanuel, God with us,” where we reflected on the extraordinary Christian message of God becoming a human being, and the strength we can draw from this.

We heard the Christmas story retold through readings and reflections, with accompanying artwork on a screen. The choirs of fifty plus students sounded incredible – we heard both classical and gospel pieces which were hugely appreciated; we also enjoyed singing traditional Christmas carols together as a community, with the service culminating in a beautiful candle lit procession.

We were joined by governors, ‘old girls’ and staff from our school. It was a joyous and uplifting occasion, and a wonderful expression of our school’s Christian ethos.



Year 7 Bible Assembly

On 24th January it was a joy to welcome the Bishop of Woolwich, Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu to our school. He took a lively assembly for the whole school with the poignant message that we are all held in God's hands and we can trust God with our future.

Bishop Karowei then stayed to give out Bibles to every member of Year 7 which was a generous gift from the Governors. Bishop Karowei spoke about the importance of the Bible for guidance through life, and encouraged us to continue to read it and learn about it throughout our lives.

Hopefully this gift is one which will continue to be a source of strength and positivity for our Year 7's as they move through school and beyond.

Thank you to our governors for their support of our Christian ethos at St Saviours & St Olaves.



Sovereign Art Foundation Exhibition

The Art department is delighted to inform you that a wonderful multi-media work by Otonye (Year 11G) titled 'The Pain of Beauty' won the **Public Vote Prize of the Sovereign Art Foundation Student Prize**, London 2022.

Her artwork was displayed at the prestigious Phillips Auction House, Berkeley Square, London.



So You Want To Be... A Scientist Speech

32 students from years 7-9 attended the 'So you want to be a scientist?' webinar hosted by JAGs. They heard from biotechnology student Sidney Lo, who is in her final year of studies at Imperial college London.

Sidney spoke about her educational journey and her experiences as a scientist in the field of immunotherapy. She shared her knowledge of the A-levels she studied, which laid the foundation for her degree in Biotechnology.

The webinar was focused on inspiring the younger students and giving them a glimpse into the world of science and research. Sidney shared her personal experiences and the challenges she faced along the way, as well as her passion for the work she does.

Sidney also talked about her placement year with an Oxford-based immunotherapy company, where she gained valuable hands-on experience in the field. The students were particularly interested in hearing about Sidney's current role as a laboratory scientist, where she is working on developing drugs to treat cancer. She shared how she uses her scientific knowledge and skills to make a real-world impact on people's lives, which was a source of inspiration for the students.

Samara in 9B said

"I found the biotechnology talk very informative. It gave me a clear perspective into what a career in STEM would look like and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I am hoping that more talks will be held in the future."

In conclusion, Sidney's talk was well received by the students, who were left with a greater understanding of the opportunities available to them in the field of science. Her passion for her work and her dedication to making a difference in the world of cancer treatment was an inspiration to all who attended.



So you want to be ... a Scientist

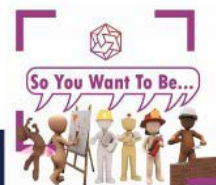
Thursday 2 February 12:40-1:10 or 1.20-1.50pm via SSLP Zoom link

Years 7-9 students are invited to attend this **LIVE** webinar with Sydney Lo who will talk about her degree in Biotechnology



After an exciting placement year with an Oxford Immunotherapy company, Sydney is now in her final year of Biotechnology at Imperial College London.

"It's hard work balancing both my lives as a student and as a scientist in a lab making drugs to treat cancer patients, but I make it work. Sign up for this talk if you want to be a popping 'life scientist' and you'd like to hear more about university study at a top STEM uni, as well as what an early career in science would look like for someone just starting out in the industry! You also get to hear me nerd out about my job where I torture protein molecules just to see what happens to them 😊"



Digital Library Catalogue (We Are Live!)

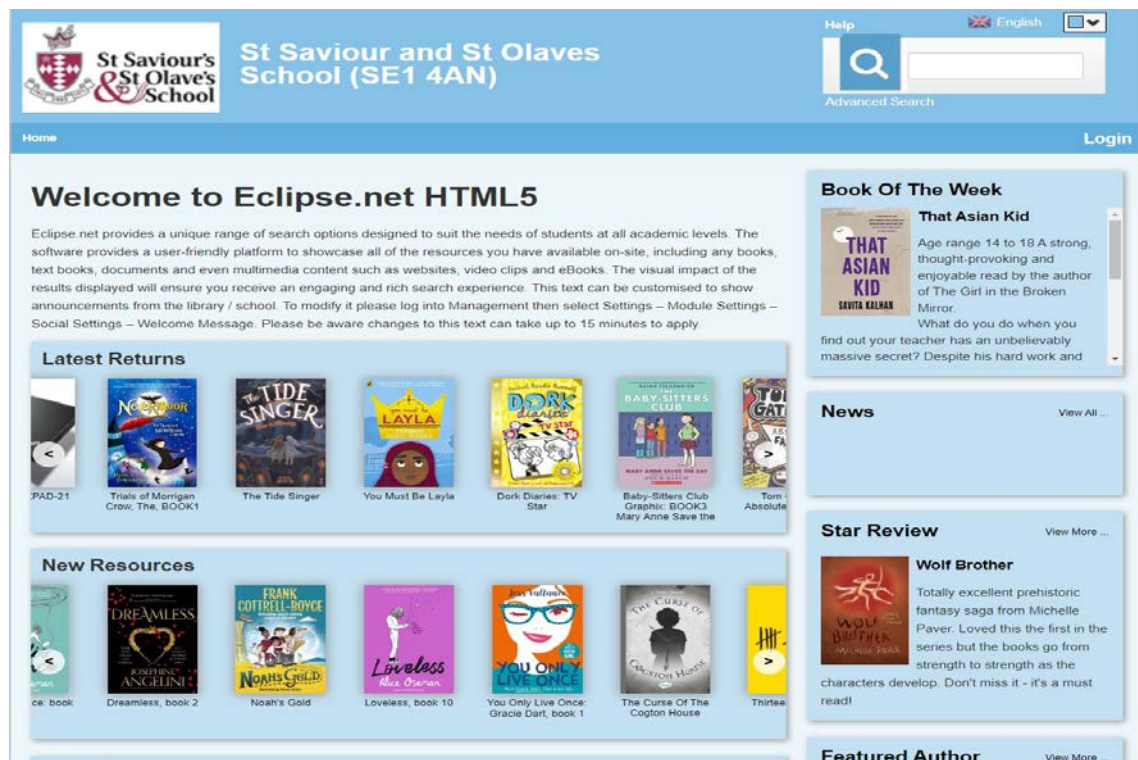
Having a library catalogue is essential for users to search all resources, read blurbs/reviews and check resources' availability. The library system offers more than that users can manage their own library accounts using the library system and access comprehensive loan histories for all active and historical loans as well as add or remove reservations.

All these features were great. However, access to the library catalogue was limited to the onsite school computers.

Out of the library's keenness to facilitate the use of the library and offer users an enjoyable experience; we have had a major system upgrade that has made accessing the library system more convenient.

Users can now access the library catalogue anytime, anywhere using any device by visiting:
<https://u021195.microlibrarian.net/>

Individual login details and instructions have been emailed to all users.



Parent & Carer Forum

On Wednesday 22nd March between 1700hrs to 1900hrs we are hosting a special evening of discussion and information-sharing to better support our students and their families.

If confirming your attendance for the first time, please use this link
<https://forms.office.com/e/nT518VAJB6>

If you previously confirmed attendance for the now rescheduled date on February 1st, please use the link below
<https://forms.office.com/e/f6T2SjkJmQ>

'Old Times' Performance

On the 10th February, the school was treated to an amazing performance of Year 9 students in the activity studio.

The cast of 15 performed a new play, 'Old Times' as part of National Theatre Connections - a nationwide festival celebrating playwrighting for young people. As part of the project professional directors from The Soho Theatre and The National Theatre came to watch the performance.

They were so impressed by what they saw, praising the cast for their intensity, focus and emotional performances.

The play is about a 13-year-old boy called Tom-Joy who is unwittingly involved in the murder of a policeman. His friends conspire against him and so five years later, when he is released from prison, he comes to seek his revenge... or does he?

The performance was at times moving, funny and energetic, but always intense. The cast are to be applauded for their hard work during the entire project and on the day of the performance itself when they were off-timetable all day in technical and dress rehearsals.

There is a chance to see the performance again, newly improved following feedback from our professional directors, at The Soho Theatre on Monday 6th March at 7pm.

Tickets are from £6, and available from

<https://sohotheatre.com/shows/old-times-by-molly-taylor-performed-by-st-saviours-st-olaves-school/>



Prefect Leadership Training

At St Saviours and St Olaves, we continue to nurture our students and bring out the best in them.

The year 11 and senior prefects have had bespoke leadership training this term, and they explored the leadership of purpose, public speaking, making a difference, how to delegate, work as a team and lots of transferrable skills. They continue to work collaboratively with various stakeholders of our community as Children of the present and makers of the future.

Our students continue to develop their confidence and character with opportunities for students to develop leadership skills through a variety of projects that impact positively on learning, teaching, and well-being for both students and staff.

The specific areas of students' leadership responsibilities foster connectivity across all year groups. Our student leadership team is diverse and representative of our student body and, our student leaders to continues to embody our ethos and core values.

Our Student leadership areas are:

Transition & Future, Curriculum and Enrichment, Mental & well-being and Faith & Ethos.

Diversity & Inclusion empowers in a meaningful way in which students voice their ideas respectfully and have their opinions considered in decisions that impact them.

Mrs. Jacobs
Assistant Headteacher



Matilda Trip

On 8th February, twenty Year 7 students went to Peckhamplex to watch the wonderful new musical version of Roald Dahl's classic story, Matilda.

This was a reward for their 100% attendance in the autumn term. With lots of very catchy songs and a well-loved plot – good defeats evil – we watched Miss Trunchball meet her destiny, as Miss Honey and Matilda triumphed to live happily ever after.

You can't beat a story line like that and all the characters were larger than life!

Congratulations to those twenty students who did not miss a single day of school in their first term at secondary school:

Amal, Dami, Yanting, Bernice, Lailaa, Maia, Maya, Esther, Abigail, Favour, Temi, Danielle, Gbemi, Janai, Sinead, Milley, Eunbitt, Sofia, Chioma and Patricia.

Thank you to Mr Young for coming with us.



Winnie's World

Winnie has enjoyed showing off her new winter suit in school colours during break duty on a Wednesday. She has even started 'helping' with homework in the playground.

Winnie also does a tour of the playground on a Monday when Lilyana from Year 13 takes her to meet younger students. Winnie had a real first in February when she took part in an exam.

Year 11 languages students have had their mock speaking exam and Winnie was on hand to calm their nerves and provide a useful distraction from the digital voice recorder. Amongst all these responsibilities Winnie spends her down time in the languages office and is lucky that sixth form students pop in to see her sometimes snuggling her up in a blanket during the really cold spell in January.

Winnie also has been known to help staff out with the crossword at lunch time. Her vocabulary is limited to 'sit' 'paw' 'stay' 'treat' and 'walkies' so, more often than not, it is just moral support.

We are very lucky to have her.



Top University Application Places

University Destinations 2021–2022



**St Saviour's
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