

St Saviour's
& St Olave's
School

June 2023

newsletter

FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS, GOVERNORS AND STAFF

Best wishes to all students taking examinations this summer 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

It's been a really busy half term, with a lot of focus on preparation for examinations, but also a great deal of extra-curricular opportunity.

The exams began a couple of weeks ago and our students are managing the pressures extremely well. They will now have a well-deserved break to rest and recuperate, as they continue their revision.

I hope you will enjoy the news enclosed about the wider activities of St Saviour's students.

I wish you all a sunny and restful half term and look forward to seeing some of you at sports day, in arts week, or at our school production; 'The Little Shop of Horrors' in the coming half term.

Best wishes

Ms Catherine May
Headteacher

A message from the Admin Team

If you are on a low income, your child may be eligible for Free School Meals.

To check your eligibility, please go to the following website:

<https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/>

If you are eligible, please email the school with the following details: Your full name, NI Number, your child's name and DOB.

Reporting your child absent or late?

Please report your child's absence by 9:00am and any medical appointment to attendance@ssso.southwark.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Attendance Team.

Important Dates for Parents & Students:

Diary Dates

5th June 2023
School Reopens

19th to 23rd June 2023
Whole School Exams Week

26th to 30th June 2023
Activities Week

10th to 14th July 2023
Creative Arts Week

14th July 2023
Sports Day

20th July 2023
End of Summer Term

St Mary's Eco Church Presentation

On the 12th May, Reverend Sharon Moughtin, vicar of St Mary's Eco Church in Lambeth came to speak to Key Stage 4 & 5 in assembly. This was to continue our theme of Earth Week. Reverend Moughtin told us about the exciting new project she is leading at St Mary's Eco Church.

The church was founded by Lambeth Palace and the Diocese of Southwark in 2021, in response to the climate emergency and biodiversity. Their vision is to create innovative spaces for people to encounter each other, the rest of nature, and God. Although the church is not based in a building, it can be found in pop-up spaces, around the river near Lambeth Palace, and can often be found meeting in Archbishop's Park.

They hold regular discussion groups for adults, outdoor groups for young children, outdoor worship on Sundays, and a weekly after school group for teenagers in Archbishop's Park where they do fun drop-in activities like nature photography and clay modelling. Our students are very welcome to join this group any time.

Being aware that many of our students were about to face exams, Reverend Moughtin spoke about the importance of rest and breaks in revision, and reminded students that going for a walk outside, taking time to notice the natural world around them can be very therapeutic. She also gave students the challenge of taking 10 minutes to create one photo of something they see in nature, really taking care and time to observe and plan their photo.

It was extremely inspiring to hear about this new and important initiative by the church, and exciting to know that we can be part of it.

It was also wonderful be reminded of the connection between all faiths and care for the earth – that caring for the earth is the same as showing love for each other and for God.

Information for St Mary's Eco Church can be found here:

Home | St Mary's Eco Church | England (stmarysecochurch.org)

Rev Sharon Moughtin



Therapeutic Gardening

On the 28th of April, Ms Kazandjieva along with Laminra and Naomi planted some coriander, New Zealand spinach, broccoli and alfalfa and calendula seeds.

Since then they have beautifully germinated and have sprouted into beautiful plants. We have replanted half of them into one of the garden planters.

Gardening helps me calm down when I feel anxious and reminds me to stop and breathe and enjoy the world around me. Working together brings us closer and gardening has become a part of my weekly routine so it helps promote structure and mindfulness.

Next, we will plant some beautiful flowers such as peonies, sunflowers and violets.

Greetings from the Therapeutic Gardening Group (TGG at St Saviours St Olaves)



Student Leadership & Head Girl Speech

Being a student leader involves two things: communication and growth. As a school council representative, I act as a bridge between the staff and students by fostering effective communication.

Whether it involves sharing important information with my peers or representing their concerns in student council meetings, communication is something that not only student leaders but all leaders should embody.

As for growth, by effectively communicating and addressing the needs of students, we contribute to the overall growth of the school environment.

Personally, being a student leader has allowed me to witness my own growth, but it is equally rewarding to witness the positive transformation in the school community.

Student leadership not only builds up the community but also has the ability to build you up as a person.

Thank you,
Otonye
11 G

This term has been a busy one for all Year 11 and Year 13 students preparing for exams, and the A-Levels and GCSEs are now underway. A massive congratulations to everyone who has got this far, and good luck for all the exams to come after half term! I am looking forward to a long summer holiday this year, and I am sure we all deserve it.

It is also sad to think that for many of us, our time at SSSO is coming to an end. If I think back to 2016 when I started Year 7, so much has changed since then, both for me personally and for the world.

The past few years have been an unusual time to be a student, but without a doubt this has shaped us into the people we are today. Endings are also exciting because they lead to new beginnings; it is wonderful to think of everything that we are going to go on to achieve in the future.

It has also been an important term for the student leadership team. Last week we came together to celebrate the achievements of our school council and prefect teams, and I want to personally thank everyone who has been involved in student leadership this year. Meeting with you all and seeing your passion for representing your fellow students has been such a privilege, and I know you will all become the leaders of the future.

Working alongside a group of sixth form students to create an assembly for Earth Day was also a highlight of this term for me, because sustainability is such an important issue to address as a school.

All in all, being Head Girl, this year has been an amazing experience, and I wish all the candidates in Year 12 the best of luck in the selection process for next year.

Stay safe and enjoy your half term!

Elsie
Head Girl

Thinking About Medicine

Thinking About... webinars are a joint project between Dulwich College and The Southwark Schools' Learning Partnership SSLP, where participants of SSLP and their neighboring schools are invited to join weekly guest speakers Thinking About a variety of topics.

There was an opportunity to participate in a workshop about Medicine with Adam Kay who worked as a doctor between 2004 and 2010. After leaving the profession he wrote *This Is Going to Hurt* based on his diaries from when he was a junior doctor.

The book was a number one best seller and has been translated into 28 languages. Last year the BBC broadcast a seven-part TV comedy-drama adaptation with Adam as one of the co-executive producers.

Here is an account from one of the participants,

Ronni Whitnall-Gaylard

Most adults fully encourage teens when they say they want to go into medicine. "You'll be great, you'll save lives, your parents must be so proud!"

To be honest, when I signed up for the workshop, that was what I was expecting. Yet Adam Kay appeared to have one message: it's difficult – long hours, underpaid, stressful. He didn't describe a tale of glorified suffering, but rather of the trauma that health professionals face.

He was honest in a way I've rarely seen adults be. He wasn't trying to convince us to become doctors, instead, he was encouraging us to go into a field that we actually knew about.

By discussing the issues surrounding the NHS, he showed us the importance of essentially knowing what you're getting yourself into before choosing a career.

"Overall, the experience was insightful, refreshing, and incredibly informative. I'm glad I went!"



La Casa de Bernarda Alba Trip

On the 30th March, a group of Year 12 students visited a small theatre in our local area to watch "La Casa de Bernarda Alba".

It was dramatic and the audience was very close to the action so we felt like we were part of the performance. We felt the rage of Bernarda and the rage of the sisters. Overall it was great!"

Nana, Shanai, Sahra, Nosaibah and Mycavel Year 12



Williams Racing Presentation

During this term on the 29th March, Year 12 physicists were given a detailed and interesting talk from Hugo Parry, a Merchant Taylors' Company member who is an engineer working at Williams Racing in Formula One.

He talked about his education and career journey and gave a very clear description of what students could expect if they did an undergraduate engineering degree at university. He also talked about his work with Formula One.

Dr H Price Science



St Paul's Cathedral Visit

On the 26th April, Ms Blackman and 15 students were invited to the Clergy Support Trust's 368th Choral Festival at St Paul's Cathedral. It was an exquisite worship which includes five sensational pieces of choral music sung by some of the country's best choirs (St Paul's, Leicester and Llandaff).

It also gave students the opportunity to study and participate in an Anglican cathedral worship on a large scale, in one of the world's most famous buildings.

Here is what two of our students said about the visit to St Paul's Cathedral;

"When we first arrived at the Cathedral, I was really excited and nervous. However, when we went inside, the walls were decorated with Bible verses and statues plastered onto the wall."

When we looked at the ceiling it was decorated with pictures of people from the Bible and their names, while other parts of the ceiling had words in Church Latin. Which as a whole was eye capturing?

When we went downstairs, we walked through the mini shops which had so many items based off the Coronation of our newly crowned King. When the procession started adults and kids wore white robes and held candles.

Everyone looked professional. The part I loved the most was the singing as their angelic voices filled the hall.

My ears felt blessed. I had an amazing experience. If I ever get the opportunity, I would go again.

Georgia-Renee
10Y

"The cathedral was a fun experience, and opened my eyes up to many things I have never thought of before.

I thought it would just be choirs singing, but the sermon was also very informative and engaging."

Abigail
8B



Buddhism Class

On the 9th May 2023 the Religious Studies department hosted their first Buddhism class. We had the privilege to have an expert from the London Buddhist Centre to deliver our students an introduction to the religion and lead a mediation session.

Student feedback was very positive and some enquired about the possibility of holding classes in the future.

A year 9 student described the experience as follows;

"The Buddhism workshop was very fun for me. I liked learning about the different practices and I loved the meditation.

It was very different from Christianity, but it was still very refreshing."

Winnie's World

Winnie has been a real support to Year 11 during their exams. She sent all the tutor groups a good luck card on the day of their first GCSE and goes down to the hall for each exam to settle last minute nerves as students are lining up.

Exam time also puts additional pressure on staff and Winnie's presence is really appreciated by members of staff who take turns taking her out for her lunchtime walk.

Winnie loves her break duty in any weather but has particularly loved the recent good weather as seen with the beautiful flowers in the back playground.

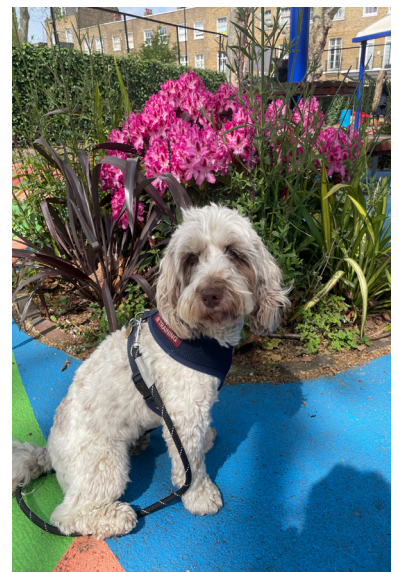
She is not so keen on the school bell but getting used to loud noises is all part of her training.

Winnie's library time every morning between 0815 to 0830hrs is one of her favorite times of the day.

Year 7 students take responsibility for collecting her and taking her to the library and she is building a special relationship with the students who spend time with her.

10th May 2021 was Winnie's first day in school as a 9-week-old puppy so this term also marked 2 years of dedicated service to the school – with 100% attendance.

Well done Winnie!



Drama & Performing Arts Exam

On the 19th May Year 12 A-Level Drama and Theatre students completed their devised performance exam.

The original performance was created entirely by the students themselves in response to Innua Ellams Barber Shop Chronicles and using the style of British theatre company, Kneehigh.

The performance is set in a hair salon and features three stereotypes faced by women of colour: The Sapphire, The Mammy and The Jezebel.

Within the work the students unpick how three women of colour come to embody these stereotypes and then learn how to shed them with the empowering message:

Educate yourself, Express yourself, Check yourself.

The piece the Year 12's developed was of such a high quality and relevance to our students, given our stated aim of working towards becoming an anti-racist school, that the cohort performed their work in front of the whole of Year 12.

On the 26th May Year 13 Performing Arts Practice BTEC students performed their final practical assessment, a naturalistic staging of Amanda Whittington's Be My Baby.

The play is set in 1964 in a home for un-married pregnant young women who reside there until they have had their baby who is then given up for adoption. The play is deeply moving and touches upon the expected themes of motherhood and family relationships, but also sexual abuse, abortion and mental health.

In its essence it is an exploration of how the women are forced to respond to their society's expectations and prejudices and how they develop bonds of friendship to see them through trying times.

If all this sounds pretty intense, it's because it is! Year 13's absolutely nailed it!

The performance was a culmination of everything they have learnt over the two-year course.

They outshone themselves with their sensitive and subtle performances, even rising to the challenge of performing in the round!

Congratulations to all involved!



Cultural Evening

St Saviour's & St Olave's hosted its first Cultural Evening on the 26th April and it was an honour to not only participate in but to also be a member of the committee and help organise such an incredible event.

Through continuous determination and optimism, the entire event was truly an evening to remember.

From the very beginning, our priority was to embrace the diversity and culture within our school, and after months of planning, we could not be prouder of the respect shown and the knowledge gained by everyone who attended.

"I really enjoyed how everyone was so supportive of each other even if they didn't know the person on the runway/stage.

I also enjoyed how we were able to try and read about different cultures and their food. This was such a great experience and I'm happy St Saviour's & St Olave's had such an evening, and I hope for there to be more events such as this in the future as it brings us together as a community despite our differences.

I also loved how family and people from other schools could experience such a lovely thing!"

Neriah 7R

We appreciate every single person who came, and with your support, we have been able to raise over £300, which will be donated to The Stephen Lawrence Foundation.

Also, we thank everyone who helped make the cultural evening happen, including those who performed, participated in the cultural clothing showcase, helped with decorations, helped with music, prepared different foods and the teachers who aided us throughout the evening but also assisted us with planning from the very beginning.

Shakthi 10 G



Cultural Evening

