

St Saviour's  
& St Olave's  
School

December 2023

# newsletter

For Parents, Students, Governors and Staff

## 'The light of the World'



In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."  
Matthew 5:16.

Dear Parents and Carers

It's been a fabulous term here at St Saviour's. A great deal of learning has happened both in and out of the classroom. Exam year groups all had a rigorous set of mock examinations which they managed well. We had a wonderful Awards Evening in November with Dr Palmer as our guest speaker, and lots of prizes distributed acknowledging the achievement and endeavour of our students.

I had the pleasure of accompanying our year 12 students to a competition at the Merchant Taylor's Hall and I'm delighted to say they won!

Then just over a week ago we had a beautiful start to the festive season with a wonderful Carol Service at Southwark Cathedral.

I hope you will find the newsletter informative and interesting. I wish you all an enjoyable Christmas, and a happy new year.

Best wishes

Catherine May  
Headteacher

### Important Dates for Parents & Students:

#### Diary Dates

8th January 2024  
Spring Term Starts

18th January 2024  
Year 11 Progression Evening

25th January 2024  
Sixth Form Parents Evening

1st February 2024  
Year 10 Parents Evening

12th to 16th February 2024  
Half Term

# Livery Academy Awards

In December, six Year 12 students from Business and Economics took part in the Livery Academy Awards at the Merchant Taylor's. The students were given a brief to come up with a technology-supported solution for a sustainable future and had to pitch their business proposal to investors in a presentation lasting 15 minutes.

We had three excellent mentors on hand to support us throughout the process. The students have grown so much in the 3 months spent preparing for this competition. They have been able to develop their team work, public speaking and knowledge and understanding of Business throughout the process.

They were an absolute credit to themselves and to St Saviour's & St Olave's School!

The students involved had a fantastic night and it was wonderful to have their family there to support them. The next day, we had the pleasure of hosting Foyle, another school in the competition, the students took them on a tour of the school and the local area and we are excited for our relationship with their school to continue to grow stronger.

We are delighted to announce that the students won their heat and have moved on to the Grand Final which will be hosted by the Lord Mayor in late January.

Unfortunately, their idea must be kept top secret for now! But watch this space...





# Tower Bridge Care Home Trip

On the 13th December, Miss Simms-Brown had the pleasure of taking some of the students to the Tower Bridge Care Home to drop off the Christmas boxes.

Over 80 boxes were put wrapped up and filled to the brim with Christmas goodies, the students were extremely helpful and positive about the trip.

They assisted with escorting the Christmas boxes to the care home and then were given the opportunity to sing a Christmas song to some of residents, which everyone enjoyed.

The sixth formers set an example for the younger students and were great chaperones. A special mention to Mr Sihuipaucar who also supported and ensured that the students got back safely.



# The Normans Class Exhibition

In History, Year 7 have been learning about the Norman Conquest and how it changed English history. One thing that the Normans introduced to England were castles!

Castles were powerful defensive structures and became the place which ordinary Anglo-Saxons associated with power and authority.

Year 7 have learnt all about their defensive features, and as groups have planned their mission to 'break-into' a Stone-Keep castle, they have also individually created their very own!

Here are some examples of their fantastic work:



## ARJ Construction Trip

On the 8th December, Mr Young & Miss Simms-Brown organised a trip to ARJ construction who are currently developing two sites within walking distance of St Saviour's & St Olave's School. We were given the opportunity to visit the site at Fendall Street.

The new schemes are for new homes for Southwark council. The visit gave our students the opportunity to learn about construction and available careers.

We thought who could benefit from this opportunity and we gave this opportunity to our Year 10 students who are currently studying Design & Technology for GCSE's.

Below is what one of our Students said about the trip;





"The trip was very educational and we learnt how multiple different roles come into play when it comes to when a building is needed. For example, an architect is who is responsible for the design aspect of a building while an engineer mostly deals with the technical problems of a building. My class was split into two groups and mine began with a talk with a woman who worked as an assistant site manager.

I found her inspiring as before this experience I felt as if construction was a male-dominated industry however, after this trip I have come to the realisation that women can in fact work in construction. This trip also showed me that construction isn't just a physical labour field of work as there are multiple office jobs involved such as office managers and construction coordinators."

"The AJR construction trip was very interactive as we were constantly asked questions throughout the talk and Mr Young even encouraged us to think of our own question to ask. My question was about working in construction as a woman which had definitely been answered.

After the talk, it was my groups turn to visit the actual construction site. We began by putting on the safety equipment such as a high visibility jacket, waterproof boots and a helmet. We entered a building that was nearly completely empty.

These buildings were aimed to modernise the Bermondsey community and were made more versatile as they were made to be accessible for people with disabilities. The man took us around the buildings which were completely empty besides a few draws it was interesting to imagine what the buildings would be like after they're furnished.

The worker who took us around worked as a site manager which means looking after the teams on a construction site, as well as cooperating with clients. After we finished, we were kindly given notebooks, pens and rulers all with the company's logo.

This trip was a wonderful experience for me as someone who wants to work in architecture and I'm thankful to be given the experience."

**Kharis**

*10R*

## Lagos Peckham Exhibition

'During Black history month, Ms Duvoisin's Year 10 Art class went to the South London Gallery in Peckham.

Below is a Student's analysis on the trip;

"I found it really interesting as it was based on artists from Nigeria and their artwork. There was a video that was shown in the Gallery and it was about Nigerian's migration to the United Kingdom. Especially Peckham, and how they built the reputation in Peckham. I loved it a lot as I could relate to it as my parents had a similar story. I would love to go again!"

**Fatima**

*10B*



# STEM Club

Students were given the opportunity to take part in a 5 week programme at London Southbank University.

The STEM explorers programme consists of academics hosting a one-off 45 minute interactive session on their specific subject area to give our students exposure to STEM degrees, topics and careers fields.

The STEM club opportunity was given to our Year 9 students. Students took part in the programme were;

Ya-Sapor (9B), Abigail (9B), Hermella (9B), Nifemi (9R), Shea (9R), Sali (9R), Bolu (9Y), Adebimpe (9Y), Ngozi (9B) and Cindy (9G).

In the first session we learnt about robotics, particularly about the parts of drones and got to see students at LSBU's robotics projects.

Our second lesson involved forensic science, and we were taught how to identify the three different types of fingerprints: the arch, the whorl and the loop.

This was my personal favorite because I enjoyed solving murder cases based on people's fingerprints. The third session was a whirlwind. We saw three different vehicles and discovered the LSBU are trying to break a speed record in a special car they made themselves!

We even got a chance to sit in the car and imagine what it would be like to be a race car driver. Thank you for that LSBU.

When the last session came, we were all excited to see what LSBU would end with for us; and we were not let down! We learnt about DNA, made DNA with gummy bears and even got amazing lab coats so we looked like real scientists.

All the students who took part in this would just like to say thank you to everyone who helped put this this together at SSSO and LSBU.



# Teach First Business Presentation

On the 7th December, Our students were able to take part in a careers talk hosted by MS Amlin, who are one of the leading insurance company.

We offered this opportunity to students in Year 10 who are studying Business Studies. The two volunteers from MS Amlin gave our students their careers journey and what skills companies are looking for.

The volunteers spoke about apprenticeships which a lot of our students were keen to hear more. MS Amlin could offer work experience placements during the summer, Mr Young knows alot of our students will be keen to take up this opportunity.

“We had a business workshop where two people came in talking to us about how they balance their lifestyle and work, also about their educational life.

This workshop was really inspiring because having someone speak to you, and you being able to feel more educated on jobs and career pathways really helps you see things from a different perspective.

My favourite thing about the workshop was when we found out about the journey of jobs the two people have had, and how different they were from each other.”

## Divine *10G*





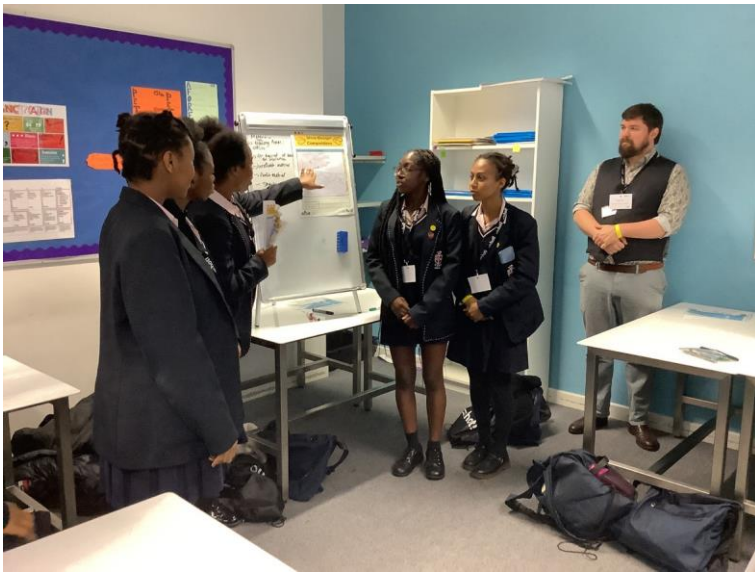
# AFBE Careers Day

On the 16th November, 23 students from Year 10 attended the AFBE Careers day. The purpose of the careers day is to introduce engineering as a career pathway. The event was held at South Bank University in Brixton Hill.

Our students were able to hear from leading engineers, finding out about apprenticeships and taking part in real life activities.

The careers event was attended by other schools in the local area, the event really made our students to start thinking seriously about engineering as a careers pathway.

AFBE – Association for Black & Minority Ethnic Engineers is one of our school partners.





# Construction Youth Coaching

*Construction Youth*, are one of St. Saviour's & St Olave's partners. We have been doing some great work with this organisation. 12 students from Year 13 having been taking part in a KS5 Coaching Programme.

The programme aims to help students make an informed decision about their post-18 transitions by exploring careers options that might be suited to their individual strengths and interests and preparing them to make a successful transition along their next steps.

Part of the programme, students will gain direct access to Higher Level and Degree apprenticeships opportunities with top industry employers through Live Vacancies sessions.

A highlight of the programme was on the 13th November, we were able to visit Overbury's project at 31 Borough High Street.

The purpose of the visit is to demonstrate the range of professional positions available in the industry, with a special focus on project Management and Architecture.

Students who were part of the programme, Olade (13N), Gabrielle (13D), Blessing (13S), Eunice (13D), Mariam (13D), Rebecca (13D), Raima (13B), Shani(13D), Daniella (13S), Henriette(13B), Josephine (13S) and Sharon(13N).



# Into University Trip

On the 22nd November, 24 students in Year 10 who are part of the Into University programme were invited to McKinsey London office.

During the trip students worked together with representatives from the Business Management Consultants from McKinsey.

Our students took part in a Music Charity business simulation aimed to develop their understanding of business and entrepreneurship.

The day was designed to build competencies in team-building, leadership, mentoring and planning.

“ This great experience of being able to visit such a professional company and work with into university staff and people who worked within the company gave us a huge insight to jobs in the outside world and allowed us to be able to broaden our horizons on the type of jobs we would maybe want to do. During this workshop that took place in McKinsey company, we were split into two big groups and we each had a specific role which we picked by looking at our skills for example; ceo, press manager, creative design, budget management and many more.

Although we had individual roles we worked together to come up with an idea, pitch, debate and pick a donar and theme for a concert which both groups had to plan to raise money for their given charity throughout the day we had variety of different tasks that would give us the money to get to spend for promotion, experience and payment for the workers.”

I can gladly say this was an amazing experience and project we got to take part in and is something I would recommend to everyone given the opportunity to take part in.

**Tiarnnah**  
*10G*



# BBC Workshop

On the 14th December, some of our students from a mix of key stages were able to hear from Josie Verghese, who is the BBC Young Reporter Editorial Lead and Assistant Editor, UK Insight – BBC News. This was a great opportunity for some of our students who wanted to hear more about journalism and working for the BBC.

Josie talked about her careers, but gave our students an insight about *What is News? What makes a good story? Reporting on topical issues.*

Our students were given the task to create 3 x story suggestions and 3 x regular features, this was a good exercise as students were able to feedback this back to the group.

Josie explained all the different roles at the BBC from coders to camera crews, accountants and archivists.

BBC Young Reporter is a programme that Josie organises and we hope from our careers talk that we will have students from St Saviour's and St Olave's taking part.



## British Film Institute Visit

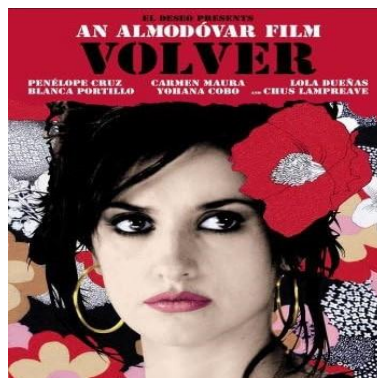
On 5 December, Spanish A level students from Years 12 and 13 were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to go to a Pedro Almodóvar film study day at the BFI (British Film Institute). Almodóvar is an internationally celebrated Spanish film director who is known for the unique techniques in his films.

During the trip students learned about the film frames used, camera angles selected and the significant use of the colour red (which is a reoccurring colour in many of his films).

Shanai bravely took the microphone and, in front of hundreds of other A level Spanish students, was the only one able to translate the phrase 'éxito taquillero' into English (box-office success).

The students also compared the film's poster to one of Sara Montiel, an actress whose work Almodóvar greatly admired.

These points demonstrated the students' in-depth knowledge of the director and showed off how confident they have become when speaking Spanish ¡Qué impresionante!



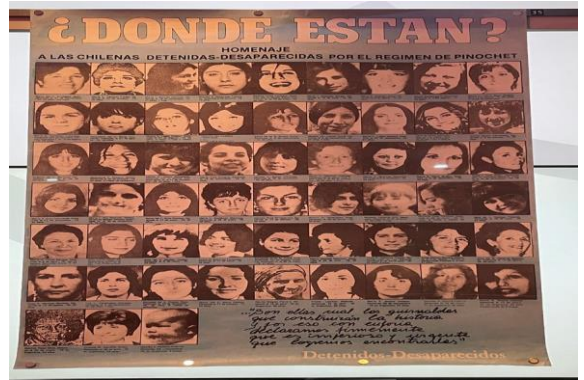


# London School of Economics Visit

2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the military coup that ousted the legally elected government of Chile which happened on 11th September 1973 and changed the course of history for this South American country.

A number of events are being held throughout the UK to remember the solidarity that many people in the UK showed to support Chileans at the start of a bloody coup that claimed thousands of lives. This exhibition at the London School of Economics shared photos of people that were 'disappeared' by the military and letters between those in exile and their loved ones back in Chile.

It was humbling to see Chilean people were also attending the exhibition at the LSE. We will remember them.



## Kooth's live chat hours over the holiday period

24th December (Christmas Eve) - 4pm - 8pm  
25th December (Christmas Day) - 4pm - 8pm  
26th December (Boxing Day) - 4pm - 8pm  
31st December (New Years Eve) - 4pm - 8pm  
1st January (New Years Day) - 4pm - 8pm

Other days over the holiday period will follow our usual live chat hours of 12pm - 10pm on weekdays and 6pm - 10pm on weekends.

[kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com)

**kooth**



# Winnie's World

Winnie has extended her range of responsibilities by meeting up with a group of Year 7 students every Friday morning during form time. Each form tutor has chosen a student who would benefit from some Winnie time and Miss K accompanies the group. Later in the year we will change over the group list so more students can be involved.

Winnie went to her fourth service in Southwark Cathedral and accompanied 9 Red on the walk there.

She loved the music and after the service she caught up with William Shakespeare on the bench outside. Both Winnie and William are treasured Southwark residents.

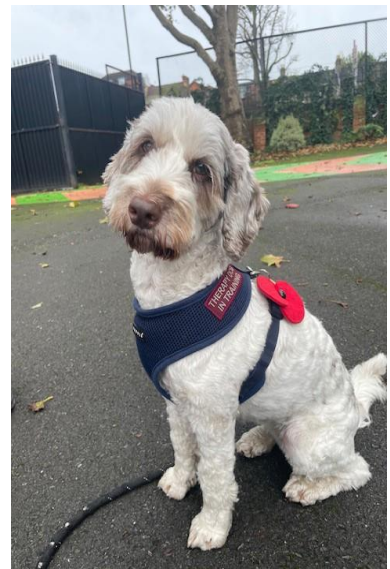
During break time Winnie wore her poppy with pride in the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday and encouraged students to do the same. She continues to enjoy her regular walks either off the school site at lunchtime or on-site during break time.

When she comes back to the languages office after her walk she is rewarded with a treat and when it is particularly cold students like to snuggle her up. However, her favourite thing is when the chef saves her sausages from the canteen and she always checks the bottom of the pot carefully to see that she hasn't left any behind.

## Where to meet Winnie

Every break time, Winnie is out and about on break duty either in Mayflower Gardens or the playground. She will be with a teacher or student and you can ask if you can help to walk her around.

Every morning, Winnie is in the library every day between 8.10 and 8.30. She loves her library time and would love to see you there.



## Music News

Mr Gilder would like to say Congratulations to;

Hannah in 10R for securing a place playing viola in the  
National Youth Orchestra!

Sophie in 10G for winning a place in the  
London Youth Wind Band!



# LAMDA

LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) is the oldest specialist drama school in the British Isles. It has trained actors as notable as Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Ruth Wilson and it also runs world-wide acting exams.

A LAMDA exam is the drama equivalent of a music grade.

As part of our commitment to being an arts-rich school, after Christmas we will be running a two-term trial of LAMDA lessons in school. The lessons will be taught by professional acting coach Gillian Horgan and will be free of charge to the students.

All students interested were initially asked to write a letter of application to Ms Murphy, Head of Drama. They then had to learn and perform a monologue at an audition.

The twelve lucky students have been selected and they are: Anne (10Y), Tiarnnah (10G), Samara (10B), Alison (10Y), Sali (10B), Bolu (9Y), Ngozi (9B), Lola (9G), Emilia (8G), Maidie (7G), Isabelle (7O), and Nimata (7B).

Each of these talented students will now receive one half-hour LAMDA tuition per week for the remainder of the academic year and they will all be entered for a LAMDA exam in the summer term. We are hoping that this provision will be extended and opening to more students next academic year.



## The Homecoming

On the 14th December Drama students from Years 10-13 were treated to a performance of Harold Pinter's *The Homecoming* at the Young Vic Theatre.

The play tells the story of a family of men in the 1960s and explores what happens when one of them returns from time abroad with his new wife.

The production showcased Pinter's menacing realism. The misogyny and violence at the heart of the play was challenging to watch but it was such a valuable experience for our students to witness impeccable acting and the creation of tension onstage.





# Gold Medal Acting Exam

On the 16th December our wonderful Year 13 Drama and Theatre A-Level students travelled to LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) with Ms Murphy in order to take their Grade 8 (Gold Medal) acting exam.

Each student had to perform three monologues from three different time periods. Their choices ranged from the Ancient Greek Medea, through the 1920s American Machinal to the twenty first century texts People, Places and Things, Tusk Tusk and The Pillowman.

As well as performing the three monologues they also had to discuss the way they developed each character in rehearsal, the role their characters fulfil in the plays themselves AND they had to present in-depth knowledge about the British theatre company *Kneehigh*.

We wish all three students the best of luck as they await their results!



## Dear England

On the 20th November, Ms Murphy's GCSE Drama class went to watch Dear England at the Prince Edward Theatre. The play was about England football manager Gareth Southgate and how he helped to change the men's England football team.

In the play it shows how the England football team had the worst track record of penalties in the world and England manager Gareth Southgate knows he must open his mind to get the team back on track.

"The play covers a range of current issues like mental health, racism, and equality. I thought the play was incredible. The set design worked so well with the play, and they had an amazing cast!"

### Khadija 10Y



# Oh! What a Lovely War

On the 6th December, Drama A level students were taken to see Oh! What A Lovely War at the Southwark Playhouse.

It was a unique and inspiring retelling of an original musical of the same title by Joan Littlewood. The performance had been shortened due to one of the cast members being ill, but by no means did that impact the powerful message of the show coming across.

To help us with our written exam, we were able to speak with Alice Mayer, one of the performers, about what Brechtian techniques they used to communicate the lives of soldiers and the events of World War One. Overall, I absolutely loved the circus and cabaret theme for the costumes and set.

The performers were spectacular in all aspects including acting, singing and their musicianship. It definitely was one of my favourite performances this term.

**Lilyana**  
**13S**



## Sixth Form Fundraiser

The discussion of prom has been in the air for a long time now, and as a result, the Year 13's have gathered to create a prom committee. Their role is to not only organise the event itself, but to organise in-school fundraisers to pay for as much of the prom as they can.

So, parents and carers, please take note that there will be a few fundraisers taking place in the next academic term of 2024, in which your child's support would be greatly appreciated.

Any other contributions from you outside of the fundraisers would be also greatly appreciated.

As the Year 13's diligently press forward to work on our end-of-year celebration, we ask kindly that you keep us in mind; and thank you in advance for any future support.



# Carol Service

On the 12th December, the whole school community joined together at Southwark Cathedral for our annual Carol Service. Our theme this year was "Light in the Darkness." Through our Bible readings, we focused on all the places that light and hope feature in the Christmas story, finishing in our final reading with the words of Jesus, "You are the light of the world."

A great reminder that we are called to shine our own lights in our daily lives.

We were very pleased to have the Revd Canon Wendy Robins, Canon Chancellor of the cathedral with us to introduce our service and give a blessing at the end. She gave us a poignant image of how it feels to be in darkness, reminding us of the potential power of faith when it is seen as light.

The service was a wonderful, uplifting occasion where we sang carols together, listened to our fantastic choirs singing, listened to readings and prayed.

Students from each year group led the readings, during which lanterns of different colours were brought forward to create a focal point shining out at the front of the Cathedral.

Our gospel choir sang two songs, finishing with "Excess Love" by Mercy Chinwo; the senior choir sang "In Dulci Jubilo" and other classical pieces by Benjamin Britten.

At a time where the world can seem like a dark place, it was inspiring to see that the Christmas story contains so much light and hope; and that we are called to be part of this message of light and hope in the world.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this such a special occasion for our school community.





# River Tillingbourne Trip

In October, our three year 11 Geography classes undertook field trips to the River Tillingbourne in Surrey. Dressed in wellington boots and waterproof clothing, they stepped into the river at five locations to measure changes in depth and speed along its course.

Students completed their tasks with great enthusiasm and commitment and also strengthened their knowledge of river processes, which is a key part of their GCSE course.

“It was very eye-opening. We demonstrated teamwork and helped each other get in and out of the river. Going on this trip helped us fully understand the development of the river, and the routine of the river in terms of rainfall. We understood the length of the river and the different velocities depending on if it was upstream or downstream. We bonded as a group. This is a trip that we all enjoyed and we recommend for people that are going to do geography.”

**Gbemisola 110, Abigail 110, and Adjowa 11G**





# Christmas Lunch Photos







***A blessed Christmas from all our students and Staff at St Saviours & St Olaves School, and a Happy New Year!***