



St Saviour's
& St Olave's
School

February 2024

newsletter

FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS, GOVERNORS AND STAFF

Springtime Is Nearly Here

Dear Parents and Carers

This half term has flown by, and we've been extremely busy here at St Saviour's. The expansion of our Universal Credit Free School Meal provision means that we are now serving lunch to year 7 in a different space. This means more students than ever are eating a proper meal at lunchtime, the year 7's have a dedicated area, and other year groups can enjoy the dining hall with a little more time to enjoy their lunch.

(If you are in receipt of Universal Credit and have not yet applied, please contact us at office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk for more information).

We are grateful to the Mayor of London and Southwark Public Health for directing funding this way.

Spring term is always busy with parents' evenings and it is always a pleasure to meet so many of you at these events. We value these opportunities to speak with you about your child's progress and appreciate the time you make to come in.

One of the reasons that our exam results show such great progress is because of the support you offer to your children and our school.

After half term we look forward to seeing year 8 and then year 9 parents as students begin to select their courses at Key Stage 4.

It was an absolute joy to attend the Livery Company Awards Final at the Mansion House last week where, along with staff and parents, we were hosted by the Lord Mayor himself. Having won the heats earlier in the year we were there to represent the Merchant Taylors Livery Company who have been great supporters of our school in recent years.

Our students were extraordinarily good, and won, seeing off the challenge from The Grocers, The Drapers and The Haberdashers Schools.

You can read more of that in these pages.

Years 11 and 13 are finalising their preparations for their examinations in the summer. They are working hard in lessons and making the most of additional sessions before school and after school and even lunchtimes with their teachers.

They will of course be revising through this half term break, but let us all take some time off to rest, recuperate, and prepare ourselves to be the best we can be in the next half term.

Catherine May

Headteacher

Important Dates for Parents & Students:

Diary Dates

19th February 2024
School Reopens

22nd February 2024
Year 8 Parents Evening

29th February 2024
Year 9 Parents Evening

7th March 2024
Year 9 Options Interview

12th March 2024
Year 6 Interviews

14th March 2024
Commemoration Service

28th March 2024
End of Term

1st to 12th April 2024
Easter Holidays

Youth Alpha & Confirmation

A group of students from several different year groups have been meeting after school on Tuesdays to do the Youth Alpha Course. The course provides space to ask questions and think about life and the Christian faith.

We are covering topics such as: Life: is this it? Who is Jesus? Why did he die? Why, and how do I pray? How can I make the most of the rest of my life?...

It is not necessarily about providing answers, but more about creating an environment where we can wonder and discuss the big questions together. We are starting to have some very thought-provoking discussions, and it is a privilege to share in them!

Some of the students will be going on to be confirmed in our school Confirmation service on the 19th March 2024, which is sure to be a lovely occasion.

Reverend I Vibert
Chaplaincy



Bible Club

Our Year 8 students, have been enjoying a fantastic student-led Bible Club on Tuesday lunchtimes, led by Brume and Zeruiah from 8B.

They have led Bible discussions, Bible games, and activities such as making the prayer cards shown in the photos.

A lot of effort has gone into making up interesting activities for their classmates, who have been supportive and enthusiastic. It has been lovely to have this fun space where students can get to know each other better and learn more about the Christian faith.

Well done
Brume, Zeruiah and Year 8!



'El Teatro Cervantes' Trip

On the 24th of January 2024, our A level Spanish students walked to the Cervantes theatre, a small Spanish speaking theatre on Union Street, to watch the famous play by Lorca called 'La Casa de Bernarda Alba.'

As we waited in the foyer of the theatre the ambient sounds of flamenco music prepared for what we were about to see. The small and almost homely theatre allows you to feel as though you are in Bernarda's "very white" living room.

We are studying the play as part of our A level and watching the experience up close and live has enabled us to understand the themes on a deeper level.



Extended Project Qualification

This is the 4th year that Year 12 students at St Saviour's & St Olave's have undertaken the EPQ – the Extended Project Qualification. The project can be a design, performance, report, dissertation or artefact but it is the process that is assessed rather than the outcome itself.

Students have a mentor and are taught a variety of skills including project and time management, referencing, plagiarism avoidance, action plans and how to research topics.

The Extended Project is the only course where every decision is made by the student; from choosing a topic to evaluating their presentation and everything in between.

Our students have done extensive research and are now starting to write their 5,000 word dissertation.

Some of the topics are:

- To what extent does the exploitation of diamond mining in Angola by foreign companies affect the country's environment?
- How toxic is the management in the K-pop industry?
- How are those with dental phobias treated?
- Is it good for businesses to support mental health?

The qualification is excellent preparation for further study and a student who completed the Extended PQ said:

"I have submitted my first university essay and I would not have been able to do it if I did not have such valuable knowledge from my EPQ, particularly the referencing."

Our students are doing really well... but will they match the excellent grades of last year's students? That remains to be seen, but we wish them luck!

National Theatre Trip

On Monday 29th January our Year 13 Drama and Theatre Students, attended a live theatre review conference at The National Theatre. The conference was attended by over 800 Drama students from across the country and was designed to help to prepare students for the live review section of their final written exam.

The conference began with a session by Lyn Gardner, theatre critic, who shared her top tips for reviewing performances.

She told us about the importance of having confidence in your own opinions as well as making sure to pay attention to all of the elements of the performance - the lighting, sound, acting, costumes and set - not just the text itself.

After that we had a workshop session with members of the theatre company who were going to be performing the show we will review: Kin by Gecko.

In this session we learnt about their unique style, the role breath and muttering play in their performances and how they go about devising work.

The final session was a panel discussion about different theatre-based careers and how to embark upon them. It was interesting to hear from Gecko's stage manager, set designer and lighting operator to hear about their roles and career paths.

Finally, in the evening we watched Kin. A moving devised performance about migration.

The lighting and sound in the performance were emotionally intense - we can't wait to tackle this exam question!



LAMDA Results

In our last newsletter we featured the news that before Christmas our Year 13 Drama and Theatre students took their Grade 8 (Gold Medal) acting exam.

Each student had to perform three monologues from three different time periods and discuss the way they developed each character in rehearsal and the role their characters fulfil in the plays themselves.

We have now received their results and we would like to congratulate all three students; Mary, Lilyana and Amy, on achieving the highest possible grade: Distinction!

These results are a testament to their hard work and talent.

We are very proud of them!



The Sad Club School Production

This March will feature this year's whole school production; *The Sad Club*. Students have been rehearsing up to five times a week since September and their hard work is really playing off. Tickets will be available after half term - we hope to see you there!

Here, Abigail (9B), who plays Chloe in the show, outlines what makes the play so special:

The Sad Club is a new and unique play that is different from the average school show. It is a musical that explores the struggles and challenges that young people face in their day-to-day lives. The play is unique in that it does not shy away from the painful truths of these struggles, but at the same time, it is filled with lots of laughs and moments of lightness.

Throughout the entirety of the play, we access the thoughts and feelings of everyone involved, and the play is a raw and honest portrayal of the struggles that many people face but are often too afraid or ashamed to talk about. Some characters may be relaxed but struggle to find the silver lining between work and play, whilst others may be way more overwhelmed about everything, they do but come to find out that not everything has to be 'ok'.

The Sad Club is a perfect example of how theatre can be both entertaining and thought-provoking.

The music is catchy, the lyrics are poignant, and the performances are top-notch. The show explores themes of loneliness, mental health, and the importance of human connection in a world where we are increasingly isolated. The characters are relatable, and their struggles are portrayed with sensitivity and nuance. The play leaves you with a lingering sense of empathy and a greater appreciation for the power of community. If you're looking for a play that will make you laugh, cry, and think all at the same time, then *The Sad Club* is the perfect choice for you.

Overall, *The Sad Club* is a must-see production that will leave a lasting impact on anyone who watches it. *The Sad Club* is a new and unique play that is different from the average school show. It is a musical that explores the struggles and challenges that young people face in their day-to-day lives.



Drama and Theatre Exam Performance

On the 9th February our A-Level Drama and Theatre class complete their scripted performance exam. The exam consisted of each student performing a monologue from a different play before working together to perform an extract from *Girls* by Theresa Ikoko, a contemporary British playwright of Nigerian descent.

Girls is based on the Chibok Girls who were kidnapped by Boko Haram.

It's a challenging and provocative text about the relationship between three of the kidnapped girls. Our Year 13's did themselves proud with their performance, which was assessed by a visiting examiner.



Stratford Trip

In January, our three-year 11 Geography classes undertook field trips to Stratford to study urban regeneration. On a cold, but sunny, day they undertook a variety of activities, including a survey of pedestrians around Stratford station and an environmental quality survey of the Olympic park.

They also compared East Village an area that has experienced development and regeneration, with Carpenter's Estate, an area that has not.

Students completed their tasks with enthusiasm and commitment and, in doing so, strengthened their knowledge of urban change and geographical skills, which are a key part of their GCSE course.

Mr A Bruce
HoD Geography



Livery Academy Awards Final

Six of our wonderful Year 12 students embarked on an inspiring journey that led them to victory at The Livery Academy Awards Grand Final hosted at the prestigious Mansion House. The Livery Academy Awards is an innovative program designed for City Livery Companies to engage with state schools to help stimulate business and entrepreneurial skills among their sixth-form pupils. The school teams are given a brief to develop a business idea and present it to an industry standard to a distinguished panel of judges and an audience of company members.

Teams are guided through the process with mentors from the Merchant Taylor's.

Their dedication, teamwork, and passion shone brightly throughout the competition, showcasing their exceptional talents and skills. The joy and pride felt by the students upon winning the grand prize were immeasurable, marking a significant milestone in their academic journey.

This achievement not only celebrated their hard work but also served as a testament to the incredible outcomes that can be achieved through collaboration and perseverance.

The memory of this triumph will undoubtedly remain a cherished and motivating part of their academic experience.

"Winning the Livery Academy Awards Grand Final at the Mansion House was a fantastic experience. Our team's hard work, dedication, and strong teamwork led us to victory. The moment of being announced as winners felt like a dream come true, and the shared excitement among us made it even more special.

Beyond the win, it was about the strong bond we built and the valuable lessons learned along the way. The memories of that day will always remind me of the power of collaboration and hard work."

Zoe

"Working with the BubbleME team over the past 5 months has been an incredible experience that really brought us all closer together, the teamwork and collaboration we displayed to get things done was incredible!

Presenting our pitch in front of the Lord Mayor, Tim Campbell and other esteemed guests was truly unforgettable.

This event not only offered me an extraordinary experience but also significantly boosted my confidence, for which I am genuinely thankful.

Remember, When in Trouble, Tap the Bubble!"

Jochebed

In preparation for the heats and the final, we worked closely with Jenny Stewart – Cosgrove from the Speakers Trust in a number of workshops.

These sessions were a delight, we worked on public speaking skills and the students came out of these sessions with a new-found confidence.

Jenny had the following to say:

"Working with the sixth form students at St Saviour's and St Olave's has been a highlight of my training year for the past three years.

The teacher and the students show a comradery and teamwork that is really inspiring.

This permeates the rest of the student body and you can feel the ethos of collaboration and support as you move around the building.

I always look forward to my time here and look forward to working with them again."

Jenny Stewart (Cosgrove)



Winnie's World

Winnie has once again extended her range of responsibilities by meeting up with a group of Year 8 students every other Thursday morning during form time.

Each form tutor has chosen a student who would benefit from some Winnie time and Miss Kazandjieva accompanies the group.

Later in the year we will change over the group list so more students can be involved.

Winnie continues her lunchtime walks with 6th form students and staff who have volunteered to do this. One of her favourites is Mariam who has got to know Winnie really well.

Mariam says "Winnie is a delight to be with and the walks allow me to forget about the stresses of University application for a while."

Winnie's morning routine involves passing through the premises office where she sometimes gets sausages from the team. It always makes her enter the building with a spring in her step.

Winnie leaves on a happy note too as she often stops in at Ms May's office to see if there are any treats for her – and there often are.

When Ms May is busy, Winnie likes to stand outside her office just in case she comes back. We love Winnie's optimism and positivity!

