

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

March 2024

newsletter

FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS, GOVERNORS AND STAFF

Happy Easter Everyone!

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to this half termly newsletter, and a special welcome to students in year 6, the newest cohort of St Saviour's students. It was wonderful to meet you a few weeks ago and we are really looking forward to welcoming you in to our community fully in September.

Year 11 and year 13 have reached a very serious point in the year. Exams are now just a matter of weeks away and they have been working incredibly hard to prepare themselves. We are keeping all students facing examinations in the next term in our thoughts and prayers in the coming weeks, including those in year 6 preparing for SATs.

During this half term we have had both lent and Ramadan and for many in our community these times of fasting have been significant. We were delighted to be able to hold our first in-school confirmation service since 2019 in which ten St Saviour's students were confirmed in our school chapel by the Bishop of Southwark.

It was a pleasure to welcome them and their families to share such a special occasion. At the same time Ralph Fiennes, (aka Lord Voldemort in the Harry Potter films) was in the drama room running a Shakespeare workshop for some of our drama and English students.

There is always something special happening here!

I hope you have noticed the new St Saviour's instagram account: @ssso.sch.

We will be working hard to keep it updated with school events and opportunities, and please look out for communications regarding becoming a parent ambassador for St Saviour's. We are seeking to further improve our connection with parents. Thank you to those of you that responded to the recent survey sent out by Ms. Batley and your child's Director of Learning regarding a parent forum.

We have seen a couple of staffing changes this term as Mrs Elliott-Janvier has now been appointed as our SENDCo, and Ms. Laurie succeeds her as our new Director of Learning for Year 7. They both bring great experience to their new posts so we're very excited about these appointments.

We are also looking forward to welcoming back Ms Ferguson, Deputy Headteacher, as she returns from her secondment as Headteacher at Bishop Justus School in Bromley.

Next term will be very busy with trips, activities, residentials, World of Work week, work experience and so much more, and of course examinations. We have much to look forward to, but first let's remember everything that has happened this term, much of which is recorded in this newsletter.

Wishing you all a peaceful, blessed Easter, and Eid Mubarak.

With very best wishes,

Catherine May
Headteacher

Important Dates for Parents & Students:

Diary Dates

*15th April 2024
School Reopens*

*18th April 2024
Cultural Evening*

*23rd April 2024
Whole School Eucharist*

*24th April 2024
Whole School Photo*

*6th May 2024
Bank Holiday
(School Closed)*

*9th May 2024
Year 7 Parents Evening*

*27th May to 31st May 2024
Half Term*

Sheriff Challenge Trip

Our extraordinary team of four talented year 12 economics students took part in the 'Sheriff Challenge' competition on the 6th March, at the Central Criminal Court of England and Wales, commonly referred to as the Old Bailey.

The students prepared a compelling 8-minute speech answering the question:

'Should the City of London do more to improve learning and career opportunities for those from less privileged backgrounds?'

The speech was organised, eloquent and powerful. The judges were particularly impressed by the team's confident use of stylish language, their strong subject knowledge, their excellent depth and range of material, their constant use of effective body language and the links they were able to build with their audience for impact.

The judges were so impressed by our year 12 students that they have been offered potential work experience at the Old Bailey this summer term.

A huge well done to our year 12 students!



South Bank University Careers Fair

30 students from Year 9 went to the Education Business Alliance Careers fair at South Bank University. Students were able to hear from businesses from JP Morgan, Financial Times Newspaper and Bristows.

The feedback from the students was very positive and gave them a good insight before picking their options for GCSE's.

"After attending the Careers fair we were given a wide range of jobs that offer apprenticeships and internships. It really inspired me because I have a dream of working in law and the different presentations gave me a chance to think about what to do after university."

Adedimpe
9Y

"Attending the careers fair was an incredible enriching experience. Exploring the diverse range of careers paths available, from Apprenticeships to finance and law, it allowed me to gain valuable perspectives into different industries. The representatives were extremely kind and helpful, patiently answering my questions and offering essential advice.

This event not only inspired me but also provided me with clearness in choosing my future path. It really helped me to see what the world has to offer and made me excited about the possibilities that is ahead of me."

Tayeeba
9B



Jack Petchey Achievement Awards

St Saviour's and St Olave's, are part of 'The Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme.' The Achievement, gives students and teachers a chance to vote for someone who is a good role model, someone doing community work, or trying really hard. The winner of the Award receives £300 to spend on their choice for the school. We had 3 winners in January 2024.

Congratulations to Naeema 11G, Kiarna (11Y) and Mariam (13D).



Helpers House Network

On the 22nd March, Blessing Olorundare, St Saviour's & St Olave's Alumnus and founder of Helpers House Network. Helpers House Network is a community interest company that aims to educate and support aspiring midwives.

Through her platform we provide schools and university students with resources, workshops and programs to aid them in their journey to become midwives.

We invited our Year 12's Health and Social Care students and our Year 11's who were keen to hear more.

Blessing, graciously shared her firsthand experiences of learning and practising midwifery. We gained valuable insights into the rigorous path to entering the midwifery field, which requires hard work and dedication.

Blessing shared her journey to her current achievements, highlighting the role her GCSE results and A-Level subjects played, especially psychology and health and social care. She described the connection between BTEC health and social care, emphasizing how it has improved her university experience, through challenging yet rewarding units like Anatomy and Physiology.

During the session, Blessing openly expressed her frustrations with the lack of resources available to students and aspiring midwives. Inspired to make a difference, she acted by founding the Helpers House Network Group.

This initiative provides a supportive platform for young people like Blessing to connect with others on similar journeys, whether it's selecting universities or completing their final year of study.

Blessing also distributed informative leaflets detailing her campaign, providing additional insights into her cause. Additionally, she shared her Instagram account, where she offers a plethora of valuable resources including links to her e-books, revision materials, and engaging quizzes featured on her Instagram stories.

After the talk, some students expressed an interest in learning more about Blessing's initiative.

"I felt that Blessing's talk has truly allowed me to believe that there will be support and guidance available beyond school when I eventually apply for apprenticeships or universities."

Similarly, a Year 11 student said that, "Blessing has encouraged me to rethink my choices for both my A-Level subjects and future undergraduate degree."

Niama 12D



Landsec Trip

On the 5th March 2024, 3 students in Year 12 who are part of the Construction Youth Coaching Programme, were given the opportunity to visit Landsec for International Women's Day. Our students got an insight in working in a large organisation. The students who were given the opportunity were Andrea (12D), Christabel (12S), Shanda (12S).

"We all visited the city together to view MYO, an office rental site. The year 12 students were accompanied by a smaller group of year 12 students from Harris Bermondsey. During a conference-style workshop, the students developed transferable skills by identifying their areas of interest in the workforce and how to use them.

The purpose of the programme was to inspire women to pursue careers in construction during Independence Month.

A tour of the building was also provided to the year 12 class so they could observe the various aspects of the location that lets other companies rent office space.

Once the conference ended, the year 12 students had the opportunity to meet some incredible women from the company who shared their experiences about how they got into construction, inspiring the younger generation to pursue a career in the same field."

They also advised on how to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

Andrea 12D



EPR Architects

Construction Youth are one of our school partners, the programme is aimed at Key Stage 5 students who are interested in exploring their post Sixth Form options. Its focus is on careers in the Built-Environment Sector. Our students can have support with degree-level apprenticeships in a range of industries including architecture, engineering, project management and quantity surveying.

The final part of the programme, students were able to visit ERP Architects who are now our school partners for a mock assessment day working with staff members from EPR.

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



Careers Club

Careers Club was launched during Careers Week which was on the 4th to 8th March. Careers Club is open to students in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, to help support with CV writing, apprenticeships opportunities, finding out about their chosen careers' pathways.

Careers Club is on Every Thursday lunch time between 1300hrs 1330hrs.



PSHCE Workshop

Year 13 participated in important research on the 21st March. Led by Dr. Gemma Knowles, Lecturer at King's College London and Research Fellow at the KCL Centre for Society and Mental Health.

Students responded to data sets and answered the following critical questions:

Why do lifelong sex, gender inequalities in mental health emerge at the age they do (late childhood)?

What are the causes/mechanisms, from the biological to the social and their dynamic interplay?

Are they preventable? If so, how?

Gemma said that our students have provided invaluable primary research that will help to shape the focus of the Bridging Divides research project.

Well done, Year 13! You should feel empowered to stand up for and speak out about this hugely important topic.

Thank you to Gemma, Esther, Giulia and Adja!

For background info, this sex, gender disparity in mental health has been known about for the past seven decades, since the 1950's and no improvements have been brought about.

Hopefully, this multidisciplinary project will change that!



Lego Masters Competition

"The Lego competition was very fun and competitive! I loved mine-crafting with Lego, because it's a great way of expressing your feelings, especially when we build something as a group, as we get to know each other!"

Celline
9R

Thank you to our Year 10 SSLP Ambassadors for organising this event - one of many they have put on this week to celebrate neurodivergence.

The winning team: Celline 9R, Sofia 8Y and Sofia 8Y including the winning entry, the runner-up, designed by Eniola and Betty (10R).

Thank you to Mr Sihuipicar, Ms K and Mrs Webb for supporting.



LGBT History Month

Pride month around the world is in June whereas in schools, LGBT history month is marked in February.

Our awareness week was the last week in February and our Year 12 students showed student leadership by volunteering at the Rainbow Stand. Pupils had the chance to ask questions anonymously, read up on rights and responsibilities, and post a message of support.

The week included screenings of popular programmes such as 'Heartstopper' and 'Modern Family,' and there was also a chance to see hard-hitting documentaries such as 'The Queer Revolution in the Middle East' and 'KITO: Blackmailing LGBT Nigeria.'

The most useful part of the week was when visitors led focus groups where they talked about their own personal experiences of growing up as part of the LGBT community. They talked about the challenges they faced at school and at home and where they had been able to find support.

It gave us all a chance to reflect on how times are changing and how lucky we are to be in a school that is supportive of all its students.



Winnie's World

Winnie continues to support students if they are feeling upset or distressed in any way and has a hugely positive impact on so many members of our school community. Winnie has been meeting a small group of Year 7 and Year 8 students on Thursday and Friday mornings since the Autumn term. It is now the turn of Year 9 and a small group of students have started coming to see Winnie on a Wednesday during form time.

It is a chance to have some quality time with Winnie and be calmed by her presence. She loves spending time with students.

10th March was Winnie's 3rd birthday and we celebrated in style with a lunchtime birthday party. Lynne the cleaner brought her a lovely grey toy dog, and Danny from our Premises team brought in a doggy cake and some 'wine' (natural herb water).

We played Pass the Paw-cel and enjoyed it so much we didn't have time to play Pin the Tail on the Winnie (a cardboard-cut-out Winnie, not the real one).

One of Winnie's favourite things is joining the whole school as we walk together as a community to Southwark Cathedral for our Commemoration Service which marks the school's birthday. Hodge the Cathedral Cat was safely housed in the vestry to make sure there were no accidental dog and cat meetups.

Winnie behaved beautifully throughout the service and posed for some lovely photos after the students had left.

Happy Birthday Winnie, and Happy Birthday St Saviour's and St Olave's!



Winnie Wednesdays Y9

With: LSI

When: Wednesdays at 8.50

Where: MFL office (next to S7)

Student: _____



Judaism Cultural Presentation

On the 29th February all year 7 forms met with Mr Preston to discuss his faith as a Cultural Jew. This means that whilst he follows Jewish traditions and has a Jewish identity, he does not believe in God.

Students were fascinated to see this side of Judaism, as it is often not covered in textbooks.

Students were able to ask questions about Mr Preston's religion, his family's history, the Jewish traditions and even his Bar Mitzvah!

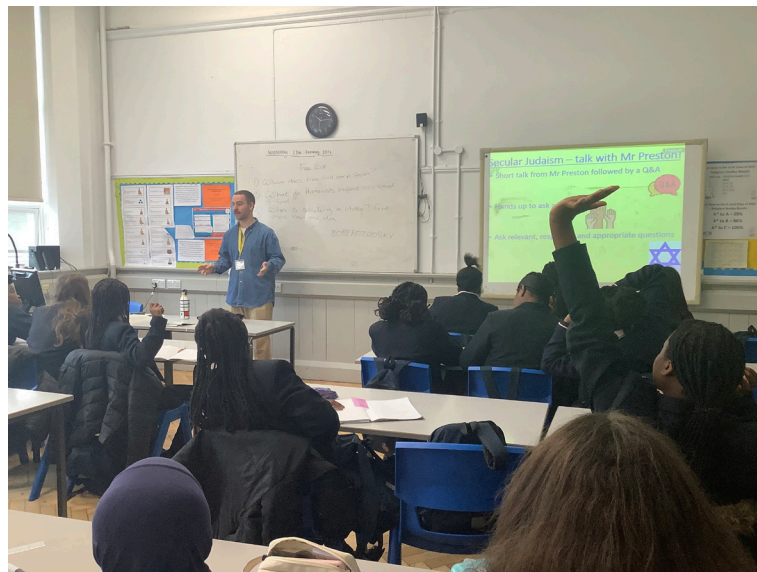
Students went away feeling that they had learnt a lot about Judaism, and met someone with different beliefs and culture to their own.

Thank you to Mr Preston for making the time to speak with our wonderful year 7s.

"I learnt a lot of things about cultural Jews. Before the speaker came, I wrote a set of questions that I had about his beliefs and how he worships.

It was a good experience because I have never met a cultural Jew before, and was a bit confused about it at first. Having him speak with us gave me a better understanding about his life as a cultural Jew."

Emma
70



The Sad Club

Our annual whole school production was held on the 20th and 21st March in our activity studio. The Sad Club by Adam Barnes, with music by Adam Pleeth, was performed as part of NT Connections.

The show was a huge success, performing to sell-out audiences on both nights AND 100 primary school students in a special matinee on the Wednesday. Audience members were welcomed to the party atmosphere of The Sad Club where they were treated to scenes, songs and dances by our cast of 35 from Years 7-10, along with an entirely student-led band.

We will be performing the show again at Southwark Playhouse on Wednesday 24th April - tickets can be purchased here:

<https://southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/productions/national-theatre-connections/>



Nachtland

On the 6th March our A-Level Drama and Theatre and BTEC Performing Arts students were treated to a performance of Nachtland at The Young Vic Theatre.

The performance was an English translation of a contemporary German satire and was highly entertaining in its exploration of art history.



Red Pitch

On the 27th March our GCSE Drama, A-Level Drama, Theatre and BTEC Performing Arts cohorts went on a trip to see Red Pitch at Soho Place.

Students absolutely loved this production about *'brotherhood, ambition, girls, community, and what it really means to belong.'*

Bible Gift

On 25th March we were very pleased to welcome the Archdeacon of Southwark, Ven. Jonathan Sedgwick who came to speak at our whole school assembly, and then to give the gift of a Bible to each Year 7 student, generously provided by our Governors.

It was lovely to have Archdeacon Jonathan back in school as he is the former Rector of our next-door parish, St George the Martyr, at Borough, and has previously served on our Governors.

As we were entering Holy Week, in our assembly Archdeacon Jonathan took us through the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday, through to the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, then Jesus' arrest, trial and death on Good Friday.

He finished by reminding us that this is not the end of the story...that Jesus' life doesn't end in disappointment, but in the possibility of new life and a new start. It was important to be reminded of the positivity of this story and how we can apply these themes to our own lives.

As the Year 7's received their Bibles, Archdeacon Jonathan asked them to find Psalm 139:14 which said, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

He spoke about how this verse can always remind us of our value and worth.

We hope that the Bibles will be a keepsake of the student's time at St Saviour's & St Olave's, whether it is a resource for personal faith and life, or for their academic study of Religious Studies.

We are very grateful to the Governor's for providing this and for supporting our Christian ethos at St Saviour's & St Olave's.



Speak Out Challenge

The journey began back in November 2023 where 56 Year 10 students took part in a whole day public speaking workshop. The assembly final followed this where Tiarnah and Isabella were chosen to represent St Saviour's & St Olave's at the regional final, hosted at Harris Academy, Bermondsey. Both delivered fantastic speeches and were a credit to the school. Tiarnah writes below:

"I was given an amazing opportunity to attend a Jack Petchey Speak Out workshop where me alongside many other students in year 10 took part in a workshop to further advance our speaking skills and how we write speeches.

During this workshop we had many different activities we had to do that made us understand how to further articulate our wording and movements while we speak.

At the end of this workshop selected students were chosen from speeches we had to make and perform. We then performed in an assembly final in front of our year group and judges.

Two people were selected to move onto the regionals.

The regionals were an amazing event where Isabella and I had the chance to compete against different schools at Harris Bermondsey and perform our speeches and work with many different staff who prepared us for it and meet loads of different people.

It was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I encourage anyone who takes part in its next year and years to come to try hard in and have fun."



Globe Trip

On the 15th March, the whole of Year 11 was able to watch an updated Romeo and Juliet at The Globe Theatre.

The students had a fantastic time and where they were entertained but also able to do some vital revision before the summer exams.

Ralph Fiennes Visit

On the 19th March, famous Hollywood and Shakespearean actor, Ralph Fiennes, came to St Saviour's & St Olave's to deliver a workshop to some very lucky students.

The students from Year 10 to 13 either performed in the Little Shop of Horrors, whole school production last year, or performed in this year's Sad Club production.

This was a fantastic opportunity to receive acting tips from an award winning actor.

It was truly an unforgettable experience for students, and staff! Below are some experiences from the students who took part:

"As a drama student and someone who also participated in Sad Club I got the opportunity, along with others, to participate in a workshop with Ralph Fiennes who played Voldemort in Harry Potter, Heathcliff in Wuthering Heights and many more roles along with awards.

He taught us how to interpret the play 'Macbeth' and how to perform certain lines; he not only gave us an idea of how powerful these lines are when performing them but a deeper meaning of what Shakespeare writes about.

This workshop was an amazing experience to work with someone so known in the industry."

Tiarnah

"This workshop was truly a privilege. Working with such a renowned actor Ralph Fiennes and his team gave me the ability to explore deeper in drama and acting and the power of literature.

The workshop exposed me to the power of words, how to be confident and passionate in speaking in front of a crowd, but also how to have creativity within yourself to bring insight and concepts to ideas. It was very enjoyable and inspiring."

Nasrin

"The workshop helped me to view Macbeth from the perspective I was familiar with. Analysing a Shakespearean play outside of just simply reading the script in an English lesson and instead having his conflict and turmoil, expressed through his soliloquy, verbalised allowed me to understand Macbeth as the complex character that Shakespeare intended him to be.

Being separated from how Shakespeare used literary techniques to shape meaning and shifted into how characters communicate emotions to the audience through their voice and body language, humanised Macbeth to me and allowed me to almost feel some sort of sympathy for him despite him trying to justify murder."

Kourany

"Meeting Ralph Fiennes was an incredible experience. Hearing him perform a part of Macbeth's soliloquy was amazing and a unique opportunity that may never happen again. The way he spoke and delivered the soliloquy was empowering; particularly as a GCSE Drama student.

It inspired me and showed me new ways of reading and showing emotions, passion and understanding through the way I speak and how I use tone to express my thoughts.

It left me in awe and admiration. I think my favourite part of the day was after the workshop, I stayed behind, took out my copy of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and got it signed... by Voldemort himself. Thank you, Mr Harty."

Alex

“Not only as a passionate English student, but also as a person whom loves Drama and is taking it for GCSEs I thought that the opportunity to meet Ralph Fiennes, and Lola, one of the witches in the show was an interesting an eye-opening experience.”

Samara

“I really enjoyed my experience meeting Ralph Fiennes. When reading the soliloquy, I was a bit unsure but we were all motivated.

Eventually the meaning was broken down to us by Ralph. He taught me to be confident when reading and gave me confidence to give my audience eye-contact and engagement. It was an experience I will always remember.”

Grace



Sarah Mussi Visit

Year 8 students were in for a special treat on the 25th March, when multi-award-winning author Sarah Mussi met with them. The visit is part of a literacy project funded by the 'Merchant Taylors' Foundation.'

Sarah enthused students about the joy of reading and stimulated their creative writing as she talked about various sources of inspiration for their own writing. Sarah captivated the students with humorous narratives of the events that served as the spark for her book, *The Snowdonia Chronicles* "Here Be Dragons" and "Here Be Witches," that takes readers on an enchanted adventure across the legendary Snowdonia.

She shared with the students her personal creative inspiration journey, which included climbing Mount Snowdon and being inspired to write about dragons by the Welsh flag. Each student has received a signed copy of "Here Be Dragons".



Confirmation Service

On the 19th March, we were delighted to hold a Confirmation Service in school led by Rt Rev Christopher Chessun, the Bishop of Southwark.

It was a very joyful occasion at which 10 students made a public commitment of their Christian faith:

Sarah (7G), Chioma (8O). Brume (8B), Minahil (8G), Maya (9O), Victoria (9R), Kourtney (10G), Aleena (10B), Angela (11O) and Merin (12N).

We had prepared for the Confirmation by following the Youth Alpha course in school over several weeks, which gave us space to share ideas about the Christian faith and think about what it means to be a Christian in our everyday life.

In the service, each student spoke beautifully about the importance of their faith, and special prayers were said over them. It was wonderful to have families, staff, and friends there to support the confirmation candidates.

Our Head Girl and 6th form prefects were also a very helpful presence. It was lovely to be reminded that we are supported by the Diocese of Southwark and all the wider church families which were represented by the students.

It was an uplifting sign of God's presence with us here at St Saviour's & St Olave's.



Commemoration Service

On the 14th March we celebrated our school's 121st birthday at Southwark Cathedral with a joyful Service of Commemoration. The theme of the service was "We Are Not Alone."

Through the readings, we focused on all of the wonderful outside organisations who enhance our learning here at St Saviour's & St Olave's.

Students shared their experiences of opportunities provided by the following partners: Livery companies such as the Merchant Taylors, Dyers, Chartered Surveyors and Marshalls Foundation; Into University, Outward Bound, The St Saviour's and St Olave's Foundation, the International Coalition of Girl's Schools, Southwark Schools Learning Partnership, The Diocese of Southwark and Board of Education, Woodard Schools, and The Jack Petchey Foundation.

It was very poignant to see the amount of outside support we have and to hear all the ways that students have benefitted. It was also lovely to have representatives from most of the organisations present at the service.

We were delighted to have our service led by Rev. Canon Roxanne Eversley, Canon Librarian and Dean of Cultural Diversity in Southwark Diocese. Through the readings, prayers and wonderful music from our choirs, there was a sense of joy and students being supportive of one another.

The theme was enhanced by the logos of each partner organisation being taken to the front of the cathedral to create a display, surrounding a collage of photographs of our students involved in activities made possible by each partner.

It was a truly uplifting occasion where we were reminded that we are indeed never alone, but surrounded by the love and care of God, always.

