

Headteacher Catherine May writes: I wish you all a very happy half term, and I'm delighted to hand over this editorial space to one of our year 11 prefects to introduce this newsletter.....

Students both inspired and inspirational

Another productive half term here at SSSO! We've had many educational opportunities such as our inspirational 6th form students receiving incredible offers to various top universities, to Year 9 and 10 students being inspired on a more emotional level with the production concerning the dangers of drugs and a successful PSICHE day.

Our 6th formers also received their mock results with support from their teachers on how to improve, some students took an educational trip down to Cambridge, whilst our A Level RS students travelled to Auschwitz in Poland to visit concentration camps from WW2.

We also held our Eucharist and Taizé services as an opportunity for the school community to come together and reflect as we "do this in remembrance" of our Christian faith. And as we prepare for the half term break, we wish our GCSE drama students all the best of luck with their GCSE performance exams - and we wish all Year 11 students good luck as they prepare for their next mock exams.

Looking ahead, we are excited about celebrating the school's birthday at the Commemoration Service, Southwark Cathedral on 12 March. I wish you all a safe and restful half term. Ife Banjo, Guest Editorial Writer



Miracle at the Mayor's Carol Service!

Johnson that is! Pto to read about her experiences participating in what was a memorable occasion.

Diary Dates

Half Term
Mon 18th Feb – Fri 22nd Feb

First Day back
Mon 25th Feb
Normal time

Year 7 Parents Evening
Thurs 28th Feb 5.00pm

Mon 4th - Fri 8th March
2nd Mock Exam Week

Ash Wednesday Eucharist
Weds 6th March
1.00pm

Year 9 Parents Evening
Thurs 7th March 5.00pm

Commemoration Service
Southwark Cathedral
12th March 2.00pm

Year 9 Option Interviews
Tues 19th March
4.30pm

PSHCE Day 4
Thurs 21st March

End of Term
Fri 5th April

Easter Holidays
Mon 8th April – Mon 22nd April

Start of Term
Tues 23rd April Normal Time

Chaplain's Corner

This half term it has been great to see lots of students taking up opportunities to explore and express their faith. We had a lovely Communion Service in January in which our Faith Prefect, Trinitee spoke about the importance of God in her life. We also heard from Mr Quartey who spoke powerfully about his relationship with God.

Twenty-one students from across the school have started the Youth Alpha course after school on Mondays.

This is a course which looks at basic questions about life and the Christian Faith. We start with a snack, and then watch a video on a different topic each week, with lots of space for discussion. We have looked at questions like, "Life: is this it?", "Jesus – who is he?" and "The cross – why did Jesus die?"

The topics are presented in a fun way and the videos are thought provoking for everyone, whatever their experience of Church and faith. We are looking forward to our Confirmation Service on 2nd April in the chapel, where some of the students attending the Alpha Course will be confirmed by Bishop Karowei. It should be a very joyful occasion!

On 5th February, two of our Yr 12's, Esther Igali and Olamide Ayeni, spoke at a service at Southwark Cathedral. It was a Civic Service organised by the Mayors of Lambeth and Southwark on the theme of unity. Esther and Olamide spoke beautifully about their Christian faith and what this tells them about the importance of living in unity in our communities. It was wonderful to have two of our students representing the views of young people of faith in South London.

On 12th February we had our termly Taizé service in the chapel. It was a lovely moment of calm and peace in the middle of a busy day where we could remember the presence of God with us. In the summer term we are hoping to take a group of older students to visit the Taizé community in France for a week, where they will be able to experience a different way of worshipping, and meet young people from all over the world.

It has been a busy half term, but amongst other things, these activities are a gentle reminder of God's presence in our school.



Mayor's Christmas Miracle

Miracle Johnson writes: On Monday 17th December 2018 I was blessed to be able to do a reading at the Mayor of London's Christmas Carol Service. I was gifted the opportunity after Reverend Imogen heard me read a prayer at the weekly hymn practice and referred me to Ms May when the question of who was going to do the reading at the service came up.



When I was told that I was the only person in the school to be picked to do this, I was so grateful and ecstatic for what was to come because there was a chance that I would actually get to meet the mayor - Sadiq Khan – and would be able to show my confidence in front of a large crowd. When I first got to Southwark Cathedral, it was quite nerve-racking as I was the only student there that was doing a reading. The other readers taking part were very welcoming though and talked to me, asking lots of questions and trying to make me feel comfortable. These readers were people who had such incredible achievements such as Vanessa Wallace, who is a Paralympics GB athlete (she let me hold her medal and it's a lot heavier than it looks) and Dame Joycelyn Barrow, who was the first black woman to be a BBC governor. After the service, I was actually able to meet Sadiq Khan, he was extremely friendly and told me how much he enjoyed my reading (we took a lot of pictures afterwards!)

I am so happy and grateful that I was given this opportunity – it was so fun and I would do it again in a heartbeat. I think this shows that you should take every chance that is open to you, for example, if I did not join hymn practice, I would not have been heard reading and I possibly would not have been able to experience this incredible moment in my life. So join a club, do something extra-curricular whether in or out of school because you never know who will see your talent and help you achieve better things.

Upcoming... Second week of Year 11 Mock Exams - Mon 4th - Fri 8th March

Director of Learning Year 11 Miss Kennedy writes:

During our second week back after the Half Term break (4th-8th March), Year 11 will be sitting their second set of Mock exams. These will be in all of the EBacc qualification subjects (Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, French, Spanish and Computer Science). Real exams have begun for many of our subjects with practical elements such as Drama and Business Studies.

Over Half Term please support your daughter by trying to create a calm and quiet revision space and ensure you are checking in with her offering support and encouragement where possible.

Practice papers are easily accessible on the exam board websites as well as specifications for the courses she is sitting. We look forward to them doing their absolute best and seeing the fruits of their hard work.



Where are they now?

We catch up with one of our former students, Bea Pearson, who is currently in her third year at Manchester University.

What did you study at St Saviour's and St Olave's?

I did A-levels in Spanish, History and English.

What did you do after leaving school?

In 2016 I started my degree in History and Spanish at the University of Manchester. At first I wanted to study just History at university but then I realised you could do a joint degree and spend your third year abroad.

What are you doing now?

I am currently on my year abroad in Mexico. I am teaching English in the University of Quintana Roo as part of the British Council Language Assistant Programme, which is a 10-month paid placement.

That sounds amazing! What exactly do you do?

I work at the university doing classes with Mexicans who are studying English. I only work 14 hours a week which gives me get plenty of time to travel.

Have you met some interesting people?

I really feel part of my local university and community, as Mexicans are so hospitable and welcoming. At weekends I love spending time with my Mexican friends and their families, making traditional food like tamales or tortillas, and visiting new places.

Where have you visited so far in Mexico?

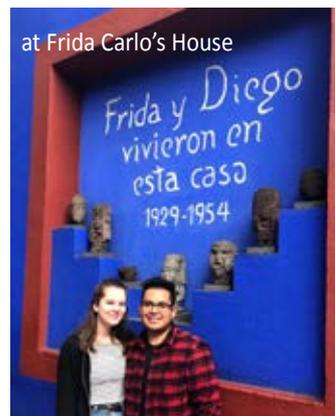
So far I've travelled in the Yucatán peninsula to beaches, Spanish colonial cities and Mayan ruins, and been further afield to visit Chiapas and Mexico City.

What will you do next?

When I finish this placement I'll be doing my final year at Manchester – beyond that I'm not sure what I want to do, but I'm definitely not done travelling yet!



Making Tamales



at Frida Carlo's House



At Mahauhal beach clearing up Sargaso seaweed (caused by climate change)

IMAGINING FUTURES
A WELLBEING & ARTS PROJECT FOR YOUNG WOMEN
age 14-18

DO YOU KNOW YOUNG WOMEN WHO NEED HELP TO MANAGE INTENSE EMOTIONS?
STRUGGLING TO COPE ON THEIR OWN?
We're building a collective of young women who want to manage their emotions without acting out, harming themselves or others.
For 10 months, every week participants will work with professional artists and therapists using drama, spoken word, film, photography and music to learn new self management skills and be empowered - learning psychology tools for life.

PLACES LIMITED
If you know a young woman who might need help with the form or further information young women can drop in on 9th January 2019 4.30 - 6.30pm at Ovalhouse
To nominate a young woman email Vikki.Moorhouse@ovalhouse.com to request an application form
ovalhouse.com

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Logos: OVALHOUSE, NPS South London and Maudsley, DUFFY & THOMAS CHARITY



Akhnaten a grand experience

Nabila Daboh, 9 Red, writes: On Friday the 8th of February, I had the privilege to go see the dress rehearsal of Philip Glass's opera 'Akhnaten' at the Coliseum. A group of KS3 and KS4 students travelled with Mr. Gilder and a group of other teachers to go and see this production.

What I distinctly remember is the grandness of the theatre we were in. Add that to the echoing voices of the talented singers, brilliant staging as well as costumes it was truly amazing.

In theory, it is a very long opera, with 3 acts that are an hour each. However, once you have started watching it feels much, much less. That was the power of the story, I guess! Everything about it fascinated me and I hope I get another opportunity like this.

Southwark Music Service orchestral day

On 11th February 35 girls from SSSO attended an orchestral playing day at the Royal Festival Hall.

Students did a workshop looking at three pieces of music - Boschiana by Villa-Lobos, Mambo by Bernstein, and Finlandia by Sibelius - led by conductor Scott Stroman.

After a day of rehearsals we were treated to a performance featuring our students, plus 250 others from a mixture of Southwark secondary and primary schools.

It was really interesting for students to spend so much time playing by ear, developing important aural skills.



This term 48 of our Year 9 students attended a matinee performance of Twelfth Night at The Southwark Playhouse. Performed in-the-round, with lots of multi-rolling and characters using British Sign Language, the production was an enjoyable and educational experience for the students who were selected to attend due to their excellent work in Drama this year so far.



Dance!

Next term will see an opportunity for our Year 7 and 8 students to take part in a series of dance workshops with Ben Love, Artistic Director of Ballet Soul.

The sessions will cover techniques from ballet and contemporary dance influenced by African rhythms and styles.

Sixth form students were fortunate to work with the Construction Youth Board last term as part of their "Budding Brunels" project which encourages young people and especially girls to look at careers in the construction industry."



Lessons from Auschwitz – A Trip to Remember



When you return from a place like Auschwitz-Birkenau and people ask you “How was it?” “Was it nice?” it can be quite difficult to give an answer. Harrowing as the experience was, it was a real eye-opener and an experience that will stay with me forever! I had the honour to meet a Holocaust survivor and after my generation, there’ll be no more to tell their stories, therefore those of us who can be witnesses to their testimonies must!

The trip made me reflect on the fact that the millions who faced mass murder were more than just large statistics but people who lived and could never dream of such atrocities coming to pass-people who had hopes and dreams just as every human. At Auschwitz, we saw living memories of the massacre that took place such as the gas chamber(s), the room of hair (consisting of masses of real Jewish females’ hair), heaps of the actual shoes worn by Jews, piles of glasses, cooking items which suggested that many thought they were just coming to live a different life and many more disturbing realities.



The most poignant part of the visit to Auschwitz was seeing the materialization of things we hear about in history lessons such as the actual stained striped pyjamas worn by Jews, images of children who had been mutilated for experiments’ sake and the book containing thousands of pages with the names of recorded Jews taken into the camp. These only made the Shoah (Hebrew for Holocaust) seem so much more real! Seeing these things really struck emotion in me- yet you couldn’t cry or change anything about what had happened- only wish that people in the world would learn from history and prevent further genocides.

After visiting Auschwitz, all 200 of us who came on the trip visited Birkenau where the reality was hard-hitting as it was so vast and very barren. The fact that it was freezing made the visit more emotional as the penetrating cold caused many of us to complain, however upon reflection, the complaints stopped as we remembered the Jews who faced the cold in thin pyjamas and clogs- no gloves and boots! Overall, I met some great people, had the best group leader and cherished the experience. The experience taught me that the as much

as we can hate and judge those such as Hitler, he wasn’t some devil- he was a mere human who chose to stir up hatred and rally the world against innocent people. The reality is so much more than what History textbooks teach and showed me that the evidence of dehumanisation shown through the visit was the result of people’s abhorrence for one people who weren’t like them (apparently). Lastly, bystanders are very responsible when they see injustice and choose to stay silent. Had more people gone against the Nazi’s and Anti-Semites, perhaps more lives could’ve been saved. Anti-Semitism still exists and everything must be done to help end it! by Ketsia-Patience Kassongo 12S

I’m extremely grateful to Ms Bere and Mr Breslin for allowing me to take part in the Lessons from Auschwitz program. It was a very humbling experience, teaching me more about the Holocaust, giving me the opportunity to be able to see where everything happened. I had the chance to listen to a Holocaust survivor’s testimony which was very inspiring. She talked about her life during the Holocaust, what she saw and how she was able to start a new life in America. She taught me how strong human beings can be and made me reflect on so many things I take for granted in life such as being able to attend church freely and having a bed to sleep on at night.



Before going to Poland I attended a session where we were split into groups. In each of our groups we had to discuss what we expected to see at the concentration camps. I thought the place would be rundown, isolated and quiet but when we got there I was actually proven wrong. The site was a museum, which was quite busy and had lots of belongings of the Jews such as glasses, shoes and even hair! I also saw drawings children had made whilst in ghettos and trains in which Jews were imported in. Seeing all of this made the Holocaust come to life for me. It’s one thing to read about history but when you see everything for yourself it takes your knowledge to another level. I also had the chance to walk in rooms where people slept, walk in gas chambers where innocent people never knew they were about to die and also see the appalling conditions the Jews were kept in along with other victims.

One thing that stuck with me from my trip to Poland was seeing pictures of Jews living normal lives before the Holocaust began and also seeing a book of 4 million names. This totally changed my view on how I saw all the victims. The victims were not just 6 million Jews to me anymore. Every individual who perished was a brother, a sister, an auntie, a father. They were all people who were part of communities and it made me understand that when we speak of loss we also mean loss of culture, customs and ideas as well as people.

Elsie.K 12N



'Rethinking Resilience'

by Dominique Vincent 12 S

On Thursday 7th February, several Year 12 and 13 students had the privilege of attending the Church of England National Conference on 'Rethinking Resilience'.

The theme of the event was explored through several talks and workshops which took place over the course of the day.

First, we had the privilege of listening to speeches by the Rt Revd Sarah Mullaney Bishop of London, Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the first woman Chaplain to the House of Commons and HM The Queen and the Secretary of State for Education, Damian Hinds. Each speaker explored their interpretations of resilience and provided valuable insight into how personal experience contributes towards their perceptions.



Key messages that resonated with me the most are:

- Resilience matters at the darkest moments. It requires you to delve deep and continue pushing despite the obstacles that stand against you.
- Believe in the fact that you can achieve, even if you don't receive instant gratification.
- School is about more than just getting an education. It is about the development of your character, values and virtues.

How to cope and deal with resilience in everyday life, was the central focus of the first workshop. This involved learning how to break down seemingly monumental goals into smaller, more manageable tasks. Learning how to prioritise and staying focused are also important factors of this.

Next was a workshop about mental health and how it intertwines with resilience. We were exposed to shocking statistics. An example is that 1/4 of 11-16 year olds suffer from a mental illness. In addition to this, 3/4 of people will suffer from a mental illness before the age of 18. Despite the growing conversation society is having about mental health, teenagers are still struggling with it. At such a vital age for biological development, education and self identity; it is common to feel alone and carry the belief that nothing will ever get better. This is definitely not the case. Develop strategies for coping that work for you:

- Connect with family or friends
- Acknowledge when there is problem
- Understand why you may be feeling this way and give yourself the time, space and care you need to come back stronger.

You are a priority, treat yourself like one.

The last workshop was about how each one of us can participate in social movements and strive for a more *inclusive* society. Every single one of us, whether student or staff, have been gifted with assets that we should use to tell the story of those who are usually overlooked. Use your voice and fight for a vision that brings the injustices of the world to the forefront. Everyone deserves to feel like they belong to a community and we have the responsibility of making that happen. Don't allow adversity to win because you feel like your opinion is inconsequential. Make any difference you can, big or small. *We are the makers of the future that hold the potential for change in our hands, we just have to find that desire within ourselves.*

PSHCE Day 3 – 6/2/19

Head of PSHCE Mrs Elliott-Janvier writes: We often measure our ‘happiness’ in reference to the relationships that we have – be that with our parents, our family, our friends and our partners. As humans, we are intensely social beings. That makes it all the more important to develop the ability to understand and to manage those relationships in our daily lives, on a personal and a professional level. For that reason, the third of our annual drop-down PSHCE Days always focuses on relationships, and on sex education. The latter is significant because as adolescents/teenagers/young adults, your bodies and emotions undergo huge changes and you need the space and the time in which to discuss how those changes affect your lives.

We try very hard to make sure that the topics covered are relevant, engaging and age-appropriate. Part of that approach includes finding and bringing in external partners to help us deliver these aspects of the PSHCE curriculum. What you think about the different sessions really matters and if you would like to give some feedback, you are most welcome to do so! You can either pop a note under the door of my office (all the way up on the 3rd floor, near MRO – take the staircase at the far end of the maths corridor, near the Learning Mentor’s office) or drop me an email: celliott@ssso.southwark.sch.uk.

Dan’s tragic promise a warning to all

On Friday 8th February, the StopWatch Theatre Company visited SSSO to perform their powerful and poignant play, written by Mark Wheeler. Entitled “I love you, Mum – I



DANIEL
SPARGO
-MABBS
foundation

promise I won’t die”, the story narrates the true events that led to the tragic death of Dan, from a fatal drugs overdose at a rave party. All of Y9 and Y10 were lucky enough to watch the play, which was followed by a workshop. Fiona Spargo Mabbs, Dan’s mum, kindly accepted our invitation to speak to Y10 students after the performance. Many were deeply moved by listening to Fiona share her experience and we are indebted to her for visiting us.

Dan was just 16 when he died. He was one of the very last people anyone would have expected to come to harm from drugs, but he did. Tim (Dan’s father), Fiona and Jacob (Dan’s younger brother) felt if this could happen to someone like Dan, it could happen to anyone, and they wanted to do all they could to prevent this. Dan’s death is a tragedy that needn’t have happened. The Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation exists to make sure no harm happens to another young person through drugs or alcohol, and that all other young people get to go home safely.

For more information, please visit the DSM Foundation website: <http://dsmfoundation.org.uk/>

We are very grateful to the Shipful Company of Chartered Surveyors, who funded this visit and the theatre tour. Our particular thanks go to Clywd Roberts, the Chairman of the Education Committee, and to Neil Parlett, of Lambert Smith Hampton, both of whom are good friends and supporters of St Saviour’s and St Olave’s.

Candle Conference RS Trip

Peter Vardy’s Candle Conference this year centred around the theme of happiness. Vardy led the conference himself breaking down and explaining multiple topics and subtopics covered in the RS AS specification ranging from the various arguments for the existence of God (including but not limited to the Design Arguments, The Ontological Argument and Hume’s criticism of the Design Argument) to Euthanasia.



The Conference was widely attended by Year 12 students from all over the country with Bloomsbury Baptist Church packed full of young intelligent people as well as their teachers who offered support when students needed assistance with some of the tougher topics to grapple with. The conference also offered a take on topics that are not found in conventional textbooks and revision guides highlighting the strengths and pitfalls of the philosophical arguments studied in the specification as well as introducing new scholars with opposing views such as John Stuart Mill and as such offering us an edge over their peers.

The conference also shed light on ethical issues studied over the course of Year 12, with Mr. Vardy offering insight into the personal lives of the theologians and philosophers behind aforementioned ethical theories and creating links between different ethical theories that provided deeper understanding on the viewpoints and positions of each ethical theory. This knowledge and understanding is invaluable in answering both AO1 and AO2 questions as having an excellent selection of relevant information and an extensive range of scholarly views is necessary for the top band of answers at AS Level.

In addition, Vardy also took on ethical issues with a specific focus on Euthanasia. He introduced several scholarly, ethical and religious approaches to the issue as well as how this has influenced law and policy both in the United Kingdom and abroad. He also highlighted the strengths and pitfalls of each position and why they maintain their position as well as comparing and contrasting the different stances in regards to the issue of Euthanasia.

The conference gave us the opportunity to learn about certain disciplines that we will study in Year 13. For example, Utilitarianism headed by different theologians and scholars including Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill and Henry Sedgwick; detailing how their own circumstances influenced their beliefs and theories and the impact their ideas had on their contemporary society and today’s modern society.

Vardy also offered a fireproof way to get top marks in AO2 style questions teaching us Charlotte Vardy’s Intro TRADE C (Thesis Reasons Agree Disagree Evaluation Conclusion) writing frame. The conference ended with a debate on the topic of Christians supporting the legalisation of Euthanasia in the UK allowing students to showcase and share their knowledge. We were also provided with a booklet containing a summary of what had been discussed during the day allowing us to go off and review and consolidate our knowledge at home.
by Esther Igali 12S

Old Vic's Carol a real treat

Students working with our Speech and Language Therapist planned a very special event for the beginning of term. Their letter was recognised by the Old Vic Theatre as being outstanding and their work enabled 30 Year 10 and 11 students to take part in an exciting workshop on Thursday 10th January.

The workshop focussed on 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens and is a set text for GCSE English. The workshop was led by the Outreach Team at The Old Vic Theatre and saw students put on a complete version of the text as well as moulding each other into modern visions of Scrooge.

The students then were able to watch the matinee performance at the Old Vic on Saturday 12th January and were awarded free tickets. The performance was magical and a wonderful afternoon was had by all – one of the students said the best bit was definitely the flying Brussel sprouts!

The Learning Support Department would like to thank the Old Vic for this fantastic opportunity and their kind generosity. The students will definitely benefit from seeing the novella brought to life and will use the opportunity in their upcoming GCSEs.

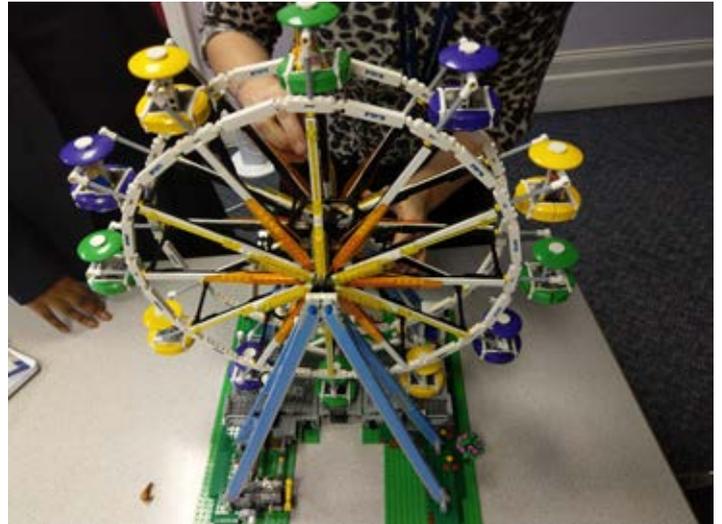


This wheel's on FIRE!

Well done to Ebony, Fatima and Chelsea for completing this amazing Lego Ferris wheel.

They showed great dedication, perseverance and brilliant teamwork by attending weekly sessions for over a year to complete this build. Dr Price will be fitting a motor to the finished work of art, so as it will turn independently.

It now has pride of place in Deputy Headteacher Mr Casey's office.



Great Gatsby great at Gatsby's



On Wednesday 30th January A-level English students went on a trip to watch an immersive performance of 'The Great Gatsby' at Gatsby's Drugstore near Borough Station. The production was amazing, the actors gave thoroughly convincing performances and as audience members we felt completely part of the chaotic storyline. Some of us were lucky enough to be taken to separate rooms for even more personal scenes, sometimes even one-on-one scenes with the actors, which felt quite strange at first but soon became very exciting. As an audience, we were thrown into life in West Egg and were captivated by the dramatic plot that was unfolding before us.