

Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Staff and Friends,

*In these uncertain times, the only thing I can tell you with certainty is that the first day of next term will be
Monday 4th January 2021.*

*As I understand the government's most recent announcement,
the only students coming back to school on that day
will be those in Year 11 and Year 13.*

All other students will be engaged in remote learning at home.

*If there are any further changes to this situation,
I will of course keep you informed.*

In the meantime, may I wish

**A Merry Christmas
and a Happier
New Year to All!**



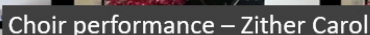
Catherine May, Headteacher





Chaplain's Corner

Our Carol Service this year celebrated joy. Our theme was Rejoice: God is with us and we focused on the various ways our school community has tapped into joy throughout these uncertain times. It was our first ever 'virtual' Carol Service with live readings in each form group. Our head girl encouraged us adopt an attitude of joy which requires us to make a choice to be present and living in the moment for ourselves and for each other. All the artworks showcased throughout the service were created by students across the school. The different pieces reflect our collective understanding of joy and offer us an opportunity to embody this mindset. Nehemiah chapter 8 verse 10 reminds us that, 'The joy of the Lord is our strength'. This expresses the existence of God's goodness in our lives as God sustains us, giving us the strength to face all the challenges we may come across. This feeling of joy instils in us a sense of confidence, stability, and reassurance, allowing us to feel that God's presence in our lives is moving us from situations of turmoil to harmony, even when we don't realise it.



All the artworks showcased throughout the service were created by students across the school

Although we were sadly unable to have our annual Carol Service at Southwark Cathedral this year, we were able to create a virtual version which was watched by all students and staff in a special form time on 10th Dec. Given that the Carol Service is one of the highlights of the year for many at SSSO and an important expression of our Christian ethos, re-creating this on screen felt like quite a daunting task! However, this enabled us all to experience the warmth usually shared at our Carol Service.



Our theme this year was ‘Rejoice! God is with us!’ After such a difficult year, we wanted to reflect on the fact that in times of challenge, God longs to draw close to us and remind us that we are loved. We remembered that the story surrounding Jesus birth was full of challenge for all involved, but also shows how much God is with us in our struggles of life. This can give us the strength to persevere and even to find a deep sense of joy in difficult times.

We were delighted that the Dean of Southwark, the Very Rev Andrew Nunn, was able to record a video message for us, filmed inside the cathedral where he introduced our theme. We then had live Bible readings from students in each form room, retelling the Christmas story throughout the service. On screen, our choir sang beautiful renditions of 'In Dulce Jubilo' and 'The Zither Carol.' Each singer was recorded individually and then all the sounds and pictures mixed together, which was no mean feat! The end result was just as impressive as it is each year at the cathedral. We watched fantastic dances to fun Christmas music, performed by Year 8 students, and we also heard a spoken word piece which was written aWritten by Denise Ekugwum performed by Bonita Nganga. Students from different year groups were filmed singing the communal Christmas carols, and we heard thought provoking reflections from our Head Girl, Ife Banjo, and Ms May, who was also filmed in the cathedral. Throughout the service, we saw wonderful art work created by our students, which culminated in a final slideshow of 'Messages of Joy' which had been created by each form for the rest of the school. This was a lovely way to end, reminding us all of the possibility of finding the joy of God in our school community and in all circumstances.



Our Carol Service can be seen on our website: www.sso.southwark.sch.uk





Children of The Presents deliver delight to local care home



As an embodiment of one of our Ethos words, students and staff across the school have been showing the huge depths of their compassion for vulnerable members of our local community by making up Christmas Boxes full of gifts for residents in Tower Bridge Care Home. The care packages are full of thoughtful gifts including items such as blankets, slippers and chocolatey treats as well as creative items such as quizzes, origami, and beautiful artwork. The residents will no doubt be absolutely delighted with their gift boxes and it is a great reminder for us that even in these difficult times it is far greater to give than receive.



Compassion in action: the student body became Santa's little helpers as they enthusiastically took part in the Christmas Box project



Vaccine Makers of the Future?

Chemistry Prefect Oyinkansola Fagbuyi expresses the students' appreciation of the school's efforts:

In the SSSO Science Department, we are fortunate enough to have access to our labs during the global pandemic.

We are truly thankful to have our own lab coats and we are constantly socially distanced to ensure we are able to carry out our experiments as safely as possible.





Kerri Ann wins Judges' Prize in Sovereign Art Competition



The Sovereign Art Foundation Students Prize seeks to inspire and reward young artists in the community. It aims to encourage cultural development and celebrate the importance of art in the education system by recognising the quality of artwork that can be produced by talented, young students.

Two students from SSSO, Kerri-Ann Annan in Year 13 and Fathia Adeniran in Year 11, were shortlisted. Kerri Ann's self portrait (left) was awarded the Judge's Prize, winning not only £800 for herself, but an amazing £2000 for the school!

Fathia's painting, entitled 'How A Policeman Killed George Floyd' (right) was also in the mix amongst some tremendous images, all of which can be seen on the Sovereign Art Foundation's website - <https://www.sovereignartfoundation.com/art-prizes/student-art-prize/london>

Well done to both girls and special congratulations to Kerri Ann on a great achievement!



Anti-Racism Conference November 2020

On Wednesday 25th November St Saviour's and St Olave's hosted over 100 staff and students from thirteen SSLP schools who came together on Zoom for an Anti-Racism Conference.

We began with an inspirational address from Ndubuisi Uchea, co-founder and Head of Partnerships of Word on the Curb and himself an alumni of Dulwich College. Ndu spoke about the power of youth voice and the use of video/film for highlighting the need for change. His first video to go viral was the excellent What I Wasn't Taught in School. Before breaking out into smaller groups staff listened to a panel discussion where Professor 'Lez' Henry, Carol Murraine and Ankhara Lloyd gave their answers to What is racism and why do we need to act now? What are the barriers to achieving racial equality and racial justice? How do we remove these barriers?

The students followed a separate programme facilitated by Nicola Ponsford from the GEC. Their programme explored what racism is and how it can be addressed, as well as how race is represented in mainstream media. It was part funded by #Iwill Team London Young Ambassadors, the Mayor of London's volunteering programme for primary and secondary schools.

This conference aims to be the start of our conversation about race and we have set a media project for all participating schools. Working in multi-school clusters, students with the support of their teachers, will make a film about race. The film will be aimed at Year 8 students and will be accompanied by a PSHE lesson plan. The films will be produced across the Spring term with the support of experienced broadcaster Laurence Lee and we will showcase them in early summer.

"Thank you so much for hosting a truly inspirational and influential conference. It was a pleasure and privilege to finally address and tackle racism in schools!" Student attendee

"The break out discussion groups were very interesting and being able to hear from the panel guests was invaluable as well as sharing ideas and hearing them from other schools." Staff attendee

"I enjoyed the opportunity to talk to others on such a delicate matter." Student attendee



Southwark Schools
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP





Year 8 share creative ideas in special assembly

Last week, the whole of Year 8 took part in an assembly which covers the week's theme, **Creativity**. Creativity is using your imagination in the real world and trying to make the world better.

In this assembly, each form had the opportunity to create something that is related to being creative. In each form, at least 2 people had something to share which shows how creativity can come in many different forms. Things that were shown included: A picture for black beauty, Black Lives Matter poems and more. Also, this assembly gave the School Council a chance to participate in some duties that they are not able to do with other year groups.



In the assembly, I introduced it and talked about what creativity meant to me. In my opinion, creativity means having the mind to think out of the box and do things your own way. This assembly gave students the chance to express what they think creativity means. *Written by: Zoey Bammodu 8G*

Year 8 School Council working lunch with Ms Minnott

On Monday 7 December, all the year 8 school council members had lunch together and discussed how the school is going to take part in this year's Christmas lunch. Christmas lunch will be on Thursday 16th. Each form will have lunch together to celebrate during the festive season.

It has been decided that we should not wear Christmas jumpers this year as they are not always produced ethically. Instead, students are allowed to make something to wear or have during the lunch so that everyone is still in the Christmas spirit. We also talked about lunchtime games. We are aware that the weather will get colder and students will not be able to go outside during lunch break. Therefore, we have asked everyone in year 8 if they would like any particular games to play. We would have a game monitor to make sure that the games are put away safely and ready to use the next day.

Written by: Shakthi Ganesh 8G



A selection of work created for our Carol Service which is available to watch on the school's website:
www.sss0.southwark.sch.uk





Advertisement

Hot food available on 24 December

During the first lockdown period, a number of mutual aid groups were established in Southwark to support local residents during the Covid-19 crisis.

This led to the formation of Funnel, a voluntary organisation which is working to address food insecurity in the borough and beyond..

Since March, Funnel has collected more than £21,000 worth of food for local food banks such as Pecan and the Albrighton Centrer. Funnel has received financial support from Southwark Council to undertake this task.

On **24 December**, Funnel, and a project called "No child hungry" will be offering over 500 hot meals to local residents, including families of any students of St Saviour's and St Olave's who are in need of the support.

These meals will be delivered to your door and will comprise of pasta with sauce and mozzarella cheese.

If you would like to request meals for your family, please complete the google form you can find by **clicking on the link below by Dec 21:**

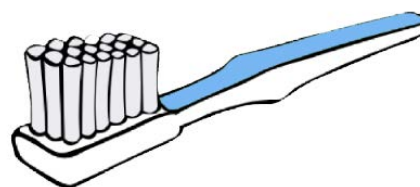
<https://forms.gle/rhkPrmobQxMGvbNr5>

or

email: funnelfoodnetwork@gmail.com



Funnel





Sofia so good!!

Sofia Solanao-Rodrigues 8 Blue, is the UK WINNER in the Worldwide Rolls-Royce Young Designer Competition. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Young Designer Competition, invited children around the world to design their dream Rolls-Royce of the future.

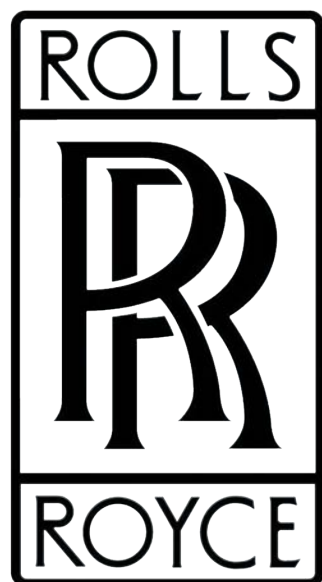
Sofia's design has been transformed into a beautiful digitally-rendered illustration by the Rolls-Royce Bespoke Design Team. She will also enjoy a chauffeur-driven journey with her best friend in a Rolls-Royce to school. In addition Rolls-Royce is donating a complete Greenpower electric car kit to Sofia's school, enabling its participation in future Greenpower motorsport events.



Here is what Sofia wrote about her amazing success:

This year has been challenging for many of us. New routines in place, new ways of doing things and we have been expected to adjust to all this new world. Here, it is when creativity and imagination come to take over. We must exploit them and sort of redo positively ourselves and our surroundings. We must learn to use every obstacle as a new opportunity and find the 'silver lining' in this pandemic.

In May, in the middle of lockdown, Ms Kelly Hall, our DT teacher sent a link for the Rolls Royce Young Designer Competition, we needed to draw not just "the nicest car": we were challenged "to create amazing experiences that showed the freedom of our imagination, not hindered by physical, real-world constraints" in the words of Mr Müller-Ötvös, their Chief Executive Officer. More than 5,000 entries were submitted online by children in 80 countries during Covid-19 lockdown. I was 11 years old at the time, went for it and did my best. I designed the Bumblebee 5000 inspired by my gardening years in primary school and my community. A few weeks ago, I was delighted to know that I became the UK WINNER in Worldwide Rolls-Royce Young Designer Competition.



Rolls-Royce Motor cars is donating a complete Greenpower electric car kit to the school, enabling the SSSO students to participate in the future Greenpower motorsport events. Hopefully, this will inspire many of us in kick-starting careers in Science, Technology and Maths.

Mr Müller-Ötvös also said "The most important thing I've learned from this competition is that whatever our circumstances, we have the power to create amazing things, because our imagination is always free to fly". I hope this will be a big lesson for all of us, that from any problem or difficulty we face, there is always something positive we can take or create.



Thanks to all who made our miraculous Christmas Dinner possible!!



Awards Evening 2020

Another highlight of our school calendar is our Annual Awards Evening and this year's edition was particularly significant, as of course it had to be staged 'virtually'. Great credit must go to all those who helped make it happen. Congratulations to all the award winners, who will be receiving their real prizes by post.

Our Guest of Honour was Alexandra Wilson, whom we were delighted to welcome albeit via technology! Here is what appeared about her in our souvenir programme:



Alexandra Wilson, who grew up on the borders of East London and Essex, was a teenager when a close family friend was stabbed to death on his way home from football. His death compelled her to enter the legal profession to search for answers and make a difference. She is the eldest of four children with a White British mother and Black British father. Her paternal grandparents were born in Jamaica and came to England as part of the Windrush generation.

At the University of Oxford, she studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics and was awarded two prestigious scholarships, enabling her to research the impact of police shootings in the US on young people's attitudes to the police.

A strong advocate of community action, she is the founder of Black Women In Law, an organisation with over 500 members and also co-founded One Case At A Time; an organisation set up to assist disenfranchised minorities in the legal process.

Alexandra's best-selling debut book 'In Black and White', tells the story of her early legal career, recreating tense courtroom scenes, heart-breaking meetings with teenage clients and moments of frustration and triumph that make up a young barrister's life.

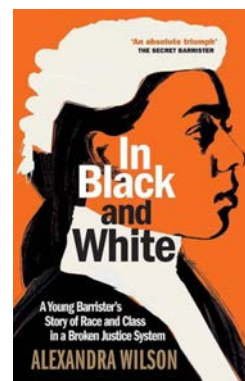
At the Awards Evening, Alexandra stressed the importance of knowing who you are and being proud of your heritage. As someone of mixed-race heritage who sees herself as Black, Alexandra shared her love of Jamaican culture. She asked girls to remember to thank all of those

around them who contributed to their success.

She acknowledged the source of her success as being due to those in her community who encouraged her and helped her to fulfil her dreams. For Alexandra, community, a key theme for the evening, is everything. Success is not a solo endeavour. Success happens when we pull together, she explained, to achieve specific goals.

Alexandra reflected on the brutal murder of George Floyd and shared her experience – now widely publicised – of being mistaken for a defendant three times in one day. Black people are often the recipients of unfair treatment and are typically over-criminalised. She encouraged the girls as makers of the future, to develop the resilience to challenge injustice in every form. Resilience was what enabled Alexandra to keep going and to ignore those who said that she was being unrealistic to want to go to Oxford University.

Alexandra closed by warmly congratulating the girls on their magnificent achievements, thanked the family members, friends and teachers who contributed to that success and wished them the greatest of success in the future.



7 Red and 7 Yellow end up with a score door!

This year's Christmas Door Competition ended with joint winners after extra time - 7R (below left) and 7Y ...Well done!!

