



St Saviour's
& St Olave's
School

November 2023

newsletter

FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS, GOVERNORS AND STAFF

A Busy Term from The Start

Dear Parents and Carers

It's been another very busy half term here at St Saviour's and we're very much looking forward to the break.

Year 7 have made an excellent start to their journey with us and have ended this half term with a residential week in the beautiful Lake District.

We've welcomed lots of students from primary schools into our open sessions, and we've had an open evening for next year's sixth form. Languages week was a great success, and Black History Month was a wonderful celebration of the heritage of our diverse community.

Many more events are highlighted in these pages which I hope you will enjoy reading. In closing I am excited to share that the provisional DfE progress scores have now been published.

Our Progress 8 score for last years GCSE's was 0.75, well above the national average of -0.03 and the Southwark average of 0.37.

This is the highest in the **Southwark Diocesan family of secondary schools**, and fourth highest in Southwark local authority.

My congratulations again to those students (now in year 12) and to all the staff who worked so well together to achieve this great progress.

Best wishes

Catherine May
Headteacher

A gentle reminder that students are expected to be in school by 8:30am. Doors are open from 08:00am.

Registration starts at 08:40am in form groups.

It is vital to report absences daily before 09:00am and medical appointments with proof if you have it, first instance please email us as it's not always possible to answer your call at our busiest time.

Email us to: attendance@ssso.southwark.sch.uk
Attendance is vital to keeping children safe in Education.

Important Dates for Parents & Students:

Diary Dates

30th October 2023
School Reopens

6th November 2023
Year 11 Mocks

23rd November 2023
Awards Evening

24th November 2023
INSET Day (School Closed)

12th December 2023
Carol Service

21st December 2023
End of Term

2nd January 2024
INSET Day (School Closed)

Harvest Festival

On 5th October we celebrated our Harvest Festival. It was a very joyful occasion where every member of the school community brought up items of food to be donated to local charities.

As students and staff came forward, we sang our way through 14 different hymns and songs, which got louder each time!

It was a wonderful way to thank God for all that we have. A huge amount of food was collected which will go to help the following local charities: The Manna Society, who work with the homeless and our local foodbank which is run by the Trussell Trust.

The charities were extremely grateful. It is heartening to think of all the people who will be helped through the generosity of students and staff at St Saviour's & St Olave's, and these acts of giving enable us to live out our Christian ethos.

We felt the occasion was summed up by this Bible verse:

"Each of you must give what you have decided in your heart to give, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7.

A huge thank you to everyone for your generosity.

Reverend I Vibert
Chaplaincy



Languages Week

As part of Languages Week at St Saviour's & St Olave's, which commenced on the week of the 25th to 29th September, students were invited at lunchtime to learn a variety of languages from across the globe, including Bengali, Twi, Italian, Russian, Mandarin, Yoruba and BSL (British Sign Language).

This unique experience allowed students to better understand the languages spoken both in our school and around the world, as well as their cultures, conveying the inclusivity and determination of the Modern Foreign Languages Department in upholding St Saviour's & St Olave's Anti-Racism Policy.

All clubs proved to be very popular. One of the clubs was led by Alina and Cindy in 9 Green – thank you to both students for their special contribution to the week!

Special thanks to Amel, Adja and Amy in Y13 for their commitment in ensuring the week went as well as it did. The week was effective in showing students just how multicultural both our world and our school community are, and how taking the time to learn other languages can make us more culturally aware, break harmful stigma, and ameliorate our lives (and the lives of others around us) as a whole.

"Signing the students up for Languages week was a great opportunity for me. I loved seeing all of them so motivated and interested in other cultures and countries and was even happier to see the demand for British Sign Language, as not so many people understand the language.

As a keen linguist, seeing the attendance and having a look at what was going on was very exciting. I am hoping that St Saviour's & St Olave's carries on aspiring students to learn more languages and broaden their horizons."

Amel *Languages Prefect Y13*



Drama Trips

On the 5th October our Year 13 Drama and Theatre A-Level class were lucky enough to be given free tickets to see 'untitled f**k m*ss s**gon play' at the Young Vic Theatre, Waterloo.

We were told to expect a performance that 'wriggles inside of and then explodes lifetimes of repeating Asian stereotypes, wrestling history for the right to control one's own narrative in a world that thinks it can tell you who you are.'

We found the show incredibly interesting, especially in the ways it reflected our devised performance in year 12 which focused on the stereotypes faced by women of colour.

The comedic elements and intimate atmosphere created by the narrator were a fascinating and original tool which enabled us to reflect on Asian stereotypes.

Mary, Lilyana and Amy
Year 13

This year's whole school production will be 'The Sad Club' by Luke Barnes with music by Adam Pleeth. The show is musical about depression and anxiety. It's a collection of monologues, songs and duologues from all over time and space exploring what about living in this world stops us from being happy and how we might go about tackling those problems.

The production is in conjunction with the National Theatre Connections; an annual nationwide celebration of new plays for young people. This means that across the UK multiple schools and youth companies will also be producing 'The Sad Club,' and professional directors will come to watch our performance before we transfer for one night at The Southwark Playhouse!

Auditions were held at the end of September. Nearly 100 students across years 7, 8, 9 and 10 auditioned and almost half were lucky to be cast.

The standard at the auditions (where students had to dance, sing and act) was high and everyone who auditioned should be proud of themselves.

Rehearsals have now begun and the show will take place in March!



Year 7 Social Evening

Exactly one month after our new Year 7 students officially started their secondary school journey at St Saviour's and St Olave's, on Thursday 5th October it was the turn of their parents and carers to join us for an event.

Following on from a presentation about how to support your child, we were able to enjoy refreshments together and mingle.

This was a great opportunity to meet the form tutors, co-tutors, and the rest of the Y7 team. We covered a lot in 90 minutes, including our curriculum, our culture and key calendar dates.

It was lovely to see so many of you there and we are really pleased that you were able to attend. Below are a few photos as a souvenir!



Year 7 Outward Bound Residential Trip

Our annual Year 7 residential trip to the Outward Bound centre, either in Ullswater (this year) or Aberdovey in previous years, commenced on the 16th to 20th October.

This is always a special experience: at one with nature in a beautiful setting, trying new and sometimes demanding activities, learning to navigate team work, communication and resilience.

The current Y7 are no exception and had a great time in the Lake District.

Year 7 Induction

It's hard to believe that our new Year 7's have already been with us for an entire half term, since the 5th September!

As well as these form photos, they have also had individual photos taken.

All the routines are now well-established: new friendships made, new subjects to enjoy, and no more getting lost around the building!

Many things have happened already: our joyous Harvest festival and the residential trip to the Outward Bound centre in the Lake District.

Lots of things to look forward to in the second half of the autumn term: our second PSHCE drop down day, Carol Service at Southwark Cathedral, Christmas Door competition, Christmas lunch and jumper day and their first end-of-term assembly!

Black History Month

This half term saw the celebration of Black History Month! This year's theme is 'Saluting our Sisters' and could not be more fitting for our school community.

A range of assemblies, activities, trips and special tutor discussions took place to acknowledge the countless black women and girls (past and present) who have inspired and continue to make remarkable contributions.

These individuals included Civil Rights activist Elizabeth Eckford, first black female entrepreneur and millionaire Mary Ellen, gold winning medallist athlete Dina Asher-Smith, well acclaimed author Afua Hirsh and many more.

Students were also given opportunities to discuss the importance of acknowledging and celebrating the everyday achievements of black women and girls.

One of the Black History Month activities involved the afterschool viewing of Dido Elizabeth Belle, Dido became a member of English upper-class and lived in Kenwood House in North London in the 18th century, this was attended by 30 students including Janelle in Year 7.

"I loved the film, because I had no idea that women like Dido was part of English society at the time and would love to know more about her. I also loved the diversity in the film. I really admired the care between Dido and her sister even though they were of different races, I can't wait to find out more about her."

Janelle *Year 7*

All students have also been set a special Black History Month competition to salute a sister of their choice in the form of a poster, poem or something creative.

We can't wait to see what they come up with!

We hope students have enjoyed the range of opportunities to learn, inform, celebrate and discuss.



A Black Gaze Art Painting

Following on from the idea of returning the gaze, our Year 10 students have produced beautiful self-portrait prints staring confidently at the viewer.

To celebrate the start of Black History Month, Zarah (10B) has offered an insightful understanding of A Black Gaze:

The concept of 'A Black Gaze' is interpreted in many different ways. Some say it is the perspective, representation or portrayal of black individuals in the art world. However, others base it on the cultural significance of black identity in Art.

Despite the many ways it can be interpreted, I think it is the acknowledgement and celebration of our cultural heritage and personal experiences expressed in works of Art. In other words, what Black people have brought into the Art world.

I think this term is extremely important as it considers a more inclusive and accurate representation of the experiences of Black individuals by challenging stereotypes against them and helping others get a deeper understanding and meaning of Black culture, history and art.

However, the real question is how can this idea be shared when Black artists are constantly underrepresented? They have historically been neglected and undervalued as their work receives little recognition from art institutions, galleries and exhibitions. How long will it take the art world to realize how much prodigious works of Art they are giving up?



Lagos Peckham Trip

On the 11th October, twenty year 11 students attended an art exhibition at South London Gallery, Peckham called 'Lagos, Peckham, Repeat: Pilgrimage to the Lakes.' It was an amazing way to educate ourselves on the topic of being black British. It was the perfect opportunity to further explore Nigerian culture through the lens of modern art, exercising our personal knowledge of links between Lagos and Peckham as a channel through which to address wider issues of migration.

Peckham is home to one of the largest Nigerian communities in the UK. The exhibition brings together thirteen contemporary Nigeria and British-Nigerian artists to explore issues of migration, differences in culture and sense of belonging.

At the centre of the exhibition, is a look at the nuances of changing ideas about identity and home as generations of Nigerians progress that have settled in London. Each piece of artwork originates from various standpoints regarding the artists own relationship with their background.

This exhibition was unforgettable, it was truly an experience everything about this exhibition was curated perfectly to ensure that the people attending really had an experience when visiting, I recommend everyone to attend as it is free, and it is a chance to envelope yourself in art and history.

Here are some opinions on the exhibition from the students who attended:

"It was a fun and an eye-opening experience, it was also really aesthetic which made it better"

Quenelle
11B

"Invaluable experience"

Amariah
110

"Opened people's minds especially people who are not from Nigeria. Even if you were from Nigeria, you learnt new things. My perspective on Nigeria and its culture widened" Sarah 11B

"It had captivating paintings and art that really captured the spirit of Nigerian culture" Chantal 11B

Georgina & Amariah
11Y & 110



Winnie's World

Winnie had a lovely summer spending time in the countryside and by the sea, but she was incredibly excited to be back where she belongs; coming to school every day. She greeted staff with a very waggy tail on their first day back during the INSET day in September.

However, Winnie's loveliest day was when she got to welcome our new Year 7 students to the school and use her skills to calm their nerves on such a big day. She also welcomed even younger students by going to Boutcher Primary School to help Year 6 students decide which secondary school is right for them for September 2024.

She has attended Social Evenings with parents of different year groups and has been proudly showing off her friendly nature on our Open Mornings and Evenings and at Year 11 Parents Evening.

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 sixth former and you can ask if you can help to walk her around.

Every morning, Winnie is in the library every day between 0815hrs and 0830hrs. She loves her library time and would love to see you there.



Book Author Visit & Signing

In celebration of Black History Month, on Tuesday, 10th October, Catherine Johnson was invited to St Saviour's & St Olave's where she spoke with year 7 students.

Catherine Johnson is a screen-writer and best-selling author, born and raised in London. Her dad was Jamaican, and her mum was Welsh.

Catherine presented her latest published novels to the students "Race to the Frozen North" and "Freedom." Despite the fact that her characters are fictional, Catherine assured her audience that they are always based on real historical events.

Catherine talked about historical figures who had influenced her work and delighted the students with the real historical facts she had used for her novels.

Even Alexandre Dumas' father, who held the highest black military position in French history, makes a brief appearance in the "Blade and Bone" novel.

The girls had an opportunity to interact with Catherine after the Q&A session and expressed their gratitude and delight for their visit and getting her autograph.

What students said...

"I really enjoyed learning about the historical occurrences that had influenced Catherine's life as well as the event itself.

Maria
7O

Catherine's history report from secondary school fascinated me because it was deemed "inadequate and disorganised," but her passion for history drove her to work on herself until she became an author, publishing many novels for children.

"Catherine Johnson is a gifted writer; she is warm and has great knowledge of history, and she is well-versed in the historical principles of her books.

I believe she strives to express her enthusiasm and emotions to her audience.

Taina
7B



Confirmation Service

This is an advance notice to say that we are hoping to hold a Confirmation Service in school at the end of the Spring term 2024.

Anyone in the school community with a Christian faith is welcome to be confirmed at this service.

You may be wondering exactly what Confirmation is? Confirmation is a way for Christians to publicly commit themselves to living as a Christian – it is literally about standing up and saying “I have decided to live as a Christian” in front of family and friends.

For many people, this can be a powerful experience. Confirmation in the Anglican Church came about because people are often baptised as babies – this is a way of saying that the baby has become a Christian.

However, as babies can't make that choice for themselves, when they grow up, they may decide that they want to 'confirm' the choice that was made by their parents at their baptism, by saying 'Yes, I do want to live as a Christian.'

Although our Confirmation service will be an Anglican one, people of any Christian denominations are welcome to participate. If people haven't yet been baptised, it is possible to be baptised and confirmed in this service.

We are hoping that the Confirmation will take place after school one evening in the Chapel in late March, and will be attended by the families and friends of those being confirmed. It should be a lovely occasion.

Confirmation preparation sessions will start soon after Christmas, so please let me know if you are interested.

Please either email me, ask your form tutor to let me know, or speak to me at the end of whole school assembly.

Rev I Vibert
Chaplaincy

