



Dear Parents and Carers

Its been a wonderfully busy start to the year, with lots of learning happening and new friendships being made.

Year 7 have made a fantastic start working well in lessons and joining in with lots of extra curricular activities. As I write they are making their way back from an exhilarating outward bound experience in the Lake District.

This half term we have had open evenings for year 6 students and also for year 11's looking for sixth form places so we are already looking forward to September 2026.

All former students of our school are automatically 'Old Girls of SSSO' and it was lovely to welcome back the OGA for their annual AGM in September. It was also wonderful to meet parents and accept your plentiful contributions to the MacMillan coffee morning. Together we raised almost £400 for this great cause, and as many of you said that came along, next year we can make it bigger and better!

Your support and encouragement is always appreciated and if you think you could have capacity for giving any more time to our school please do consider standing to be a parent governor.

I hope you enjoy seeing all that we've been up to in the pages of this newsletter and I wish you all a restful half term break.

Best wishes  
Catherine May



## Parent Governor Vacancy

We have an exciting opportunity for a parent or carer to join the governing body here as a Parent Governor.

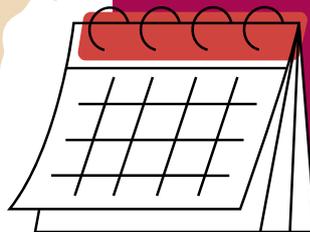
Parent Governors serve a four-year term and attend one meeting per term (usually on a Tuesday from 4–6pm).

The overall time commitment is around six hours per term

### Key Details:

- 📝 **How to apply:** Complete a nomination form (available from the school office or website)
- 🗨️ **Include a 100-word personal statement and two supporting parents/carers (Nominator & Second)**
- ✉️ **Deadline:** Noon on Friday 7 November 2025
- **Return to Miss Talitha Warren, PA to the Headteacher**
- **Email:** [twarren@ssso.southwarks.sch.uk](mailto:twarren@ssso.southwarks.sch.uk)

**PARENT  
GOVERNOR  
VACANCY**



## Important Dates for Parents and Carers

**Year 13 Mock Exams**  
3<sup>rd</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup> November

**Year 7 Social Evening**  
6<sup>th</sup> November

**Year 11 Mock Exams**  
10<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup> November

**Awards Evening**  
20<sup>th</sup> November

**Commuted Inset Day**  
21<sup>st</sup> November

**Sixth Form Taster Day**  
25<sup>th</sup> November

**'Illium' Drama Production**  
3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> December

**Christmas Carol Service**  
9<sup>th</sup> December

**Christmas Lunch**  
18<sup>th</sup> December

## School Instagram



Scan the QR code to check out our Instagram page



Don't miss out on what is happening at St Saviours and St Olave's!

Follow @ssso.sch for the latest updates, event highlights, and a peek into daily school life!



## **Celebrating Our Harvest Festival – A Joyful Act of Giving and Gratitude**

On Thursday 2nd October, our entire school community came together for our much-loved Harvest Festival – a joyful occasion filled with singing, gratitude, and compassion.

The hall rang with the sound of hymns as every student and member of staff joined in celebration. It is always moving to see our whole school united in song and thanksgiving – something that few secondary schools are able to do, and something we are very proud of.



Our Harvest Festival is more than just a tradition; it is a reflection of our strong Christian ethos – to be compassionate, supportive, and transformative. Through our collective efforts, we are reminded that small acts of kindness can make a big difference to those around us.

This year, our donations were once again shared with those supported by St Saviour's & St Olave's community outreach with Manna House and Southwark Foodbank, whose work provides vital help to some of the most disadvantaged members of our society.

The food and gifts collected will be used throughout the coming year to offer hot meals, clothing, washing facilities, health care, and welfare advice to people experiencing homelessness or hardship.



The Manna House charity wrote a lovely thank you letter and reported that on an average day they support around 120 people, offering not just physical nourishment but also a place of warmth, dignity, and hope. Many who visit receive their only hot meal of the day there, along with clean clothing, medical care, and compassionate support.

We are humbled and proud that our Harvest gifts will play a small part in sustaining this vital work. Our thanks go to every student, family, and member of staff who contributed so generously – your kindness will continue to make a difference long after the celebration has ended.

Together, we have shown what it means to live out our faith in action – sharing God's love through compassion, service, and community.



Miss Lancaster's KS3 Science classes have been focusing on creativity within Science. Home learning projects have been set every week to engage students in a creative way with Science and develop curiosity.

Weekly projects have been to immerse themselves in the nature around them, scrap books of Burgees park and local playgrounds being made, to make models of flowers which can be seen in the photograph, to collect leaves and think about why they are changing colour and make bread.

Take a look at Sophie's fantastic dough experiment, along with her written homework account!



In the first picture, I'm leaving the second dough to rise in the bowl, this will allow the yeast to carry out anaerobic respiration in the form of fermentation, so it can rise .



In the next you can see the left dough is the risen one and the right has not risen. You can see that one looks different. Now, I have added the wet to the dry forming a dough.

This shows the cross-section of the breads again the one on the right has not risen and the one on the left has.

In the background of this next picture you see the 1st bread going into the oven and the 2nd one beginning to rise.

Now last but not least the most important step is the yeast which helps with the fermentation. One thing I discovered was that the risen one was easier to cut and was softer than the other.



## Old Girls' Association

Each year, on the last Saturday in September, ex-pupils and staff meet up at school for our AGM and lunch. Arguably the best part of the day is the lunch and a chance to catch up with friends!.

We are helped by prefects from the current 6th Form who welcome visitors, give guided tours of the school and join us for lunch.



It's an opportunity for the older OGA members to hear about what is happening at school since they left, and for all of us to compare notes and swap stories of our time at St. Saviour's. Everyone who ever attended St Saviour's, or worked there, is a member.

Some pictures from our last meeting on 27th September.



## 'What I enjoy about Year 8 so far'

I began Year 8 this September, and so far I enjoy many of my subjects, including Drama. I like how I get to interact with people in those lessons in way that you don't in other subjects, and I enjoy discussing with my classmates about the work, like when we put on performances in class.

Another subject I'm enjoying so far is Food Tech, for many of the same reasons. I love cooking, and the food we make together tastes good.

In those lessons I can express myself in other ways, and I feel more free. I look forward to learning more in Drama and Food Tech, and getting more involved in all of my other subjects too!

Aisha 8 Yellow



# YEAR 8

## Student Leadership at SSSO

The trip to Dulwich Picture Gallery was a truly eye-opening experience, transforming the way I view leadership and aiding my understanding of how to be a better leader and Head Girl for SSSO.



Accompanied by my Deputy Head Girls, the workshop 'How to Become an Emotionally Intelligent Leader', led my team and I to explore key leadership values such as self-awareness, empathy, motivation, and social skills.

I learned that effective leadership isn't just about giving direction – it's about understanding people, recognising strengths, and creating unity through emotional insight.

These lessons have already shaped how I approach my role as Head Girl. I now feel more equipped to lead with empathy, build strong relationships across the school, and motivate others towards shared goals.

This experience has strengthened my commitment to being a thoughtful, inclusive, and emotionally intelligent leader for SSSO.



## Year 11 Prefects

Being a Prefect, this past term has been really interesting and fun. We have already been given our duties and assigned our divisions. So far, I have been patrolling the playground at break and lunch as well as greeting people at the door in the morning. The latter has been my favourite so far because I get to surprise my friends when I'm on duty and it's nice to see their faces.

I personally can't wait to keep my pledge of improving extracurricular for all year groups as a prefect of Curriculum and Enrichment. And I am intrigued to see how we will implement it permanently for future generations.

I would be so proud to know that I can leave the school knowing it made a long-lasting impact.



Overall being a prefect has been amazing especially with getting our blazers on Friday the 17th. It was such a memorable and inspiring experience that made me proud for how far I have come in this school. It made me quite happy knowing that all my hard work had paid off.

With that said, all the new opportunities that have come through being a prefect have been fruitful, and I can't wait to see what else the future will hold.

## Diversity and Inclusion Conference

On the 18th September, the EDI prefects Brenda, Georgina and Lottie, attended a conference hosted by the SSLP.

This was held at Dulwich College for Diversity and Inclusion prefects across schools in the SSLP network. Some schools included were St Michael's Catholic School and JAGs.

During the conference we discussed how we can make schools inclusive for all. We achieved this by splitting up into separate groups and answering questions such as, "How is diversity displayed in your school?"

After this discussion we began to look at several aspects of diversity and inclusion such as different ethnic groups, celebrations, sexual orientation, and neurodiversity and how we, as leaders, in our various schools can implement new ways of ensuring inclusivity is present amongst students and staff.



We enjoyed putting our minds to work and planning events such as presentations and speeches for Black History Month.

We look forward to future trips and building our school community here at SSSO, ensuring everyone's voice is heard!



## 🎄 Christmas Fayre – A Festive Celebration for All! 🧑🏻

Get ready to embrace the holiday spirit at our annual Christmas Fayre! It's set to be a wonderful day filled with festive fun, laughter, and community cheer.

There will be a fantastic range of stalls offering handmade crafts, gifts, and delicious seasonal treats.

Don't miss the games, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the warm festive atmosphere.

Come along with family and friends to celebrate the season, support local causes, and share in the joy of Christmas.

We can't wait to see you there!



## PSCHE Day

Our recent PSHCE Day was a fantastic celebration of mental health and wellbeing across the school, with each year group getting involved in exciting, hands-on activities designed to support emotional resilience, self-care, and positive mental health.

Year 7 got creative (and a little messy!) making their own stress balls – a fun and practical way to learn about managing anxiety and staying calm under pressure. Year 8 enjoyed a dynamic and interactive online wellbeing workshop, exploring techniques for maintaining good mental health in the digital age.

Over in the drama studio, Year 10 explored emotional wellbeing through a powerful drama workshop, using performance to open up conversations about mental health. Meanwhile, Year 11 tapped into their goals and aspirations by making personal vision boards – a visual and inspiring way to focus on the future and promote positive thinking.

Sixth formers also took part in enriching activities: Year 12 explored the important topic of gender and mental health in a university-led workshop with experts from UCL and King's College, tackling the mental health gap between boys and girls.

And to round off the day, Year 13 got stuck into a wellbeing-themed cooking session – because nourishing your body is just as important as nourishing your mind!

It was an inspiring day full of energy, creativity, and meaningful conversations, reminding us all that looking after our mental health is not just important – it can be fun, too!



## WOW Trip

A group of SSSO girls got the opportunity to experience a mentoring session at the London Eye on Friday 10 October, 2025.

WOW, Women of the World – a UN initiative that recognises girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world, arranged for 'civic' debates in the County Hall Debating Chamber and a chance to pose questions to the London Deputy mayor. Our girls particularly enjoyed meeting inspiring people during a WOW Speed Mentoring event on the London Eye.

'The experience was very useful and I think necessary, because it helped me understand my strengths a little bit more, it helped me to understand how I can sort my skills out and work out 'if I want to get here in life, this is what I have to do to get there.

'The mentors were very inspiring and gave very good advice about the problems I brought up'

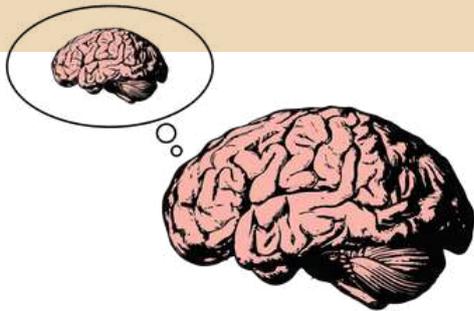


## What is Metacognition?

'How does metacognition useful during lessons?' by Skylar-Rae 8R.

Metacognition can be useful in simple every day things such as at school. It could be useful in History to annotate historical sources: for example, What do you see/read in the source, what is the source suggesting, and why was the source made and where did it come from.

This links to metacognition because of our thinking about how you're going to answer a question about how the past has been presented to us by people who were alive at the time of significant events. Another instance of metacognition is in English.



What does Metacognition mean?' by Mary in 8G.

What does it mean, you may ask; metacognition is the power of you being able to think about your own thinking. In order to do that you practice being aware of your own thought process when learning.

This includes things like planning for tasks and monitoring your own progress. In essence, its about understanding and managing your own cognitive activities to improve your performance.

Two examples of this are in comprehension when you reflect on: what might happen next; do I understand that word phrase? It also improves writing skills since you have to plan out your work: what is my purpose? (To describe, to persuade, or to inform.

It makes you think about whether your writing flow and read well, have I used good vocabulary and punctuation? Overall, Metacognition could be useful in lessons because it could help you to understand your own learning and improve your skills all round.

## Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson

In September, year 13 politics students had the privilege of hearing Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first black woman appointed to the United States (US) Supreme Court, speak at the Royal Festival Hall.

Justice Brown Jackson spoke movingly about her life, telling the story of her family's rise out of segregation to her confirmation as a Supreme Court Justice within the span of one generation.



Her message had a profound impact on the students. Finding her "calm and relatable to the younger generation," Jolene was impressed to see "the more human side of a person who is so involved with interpreting the US constitution."

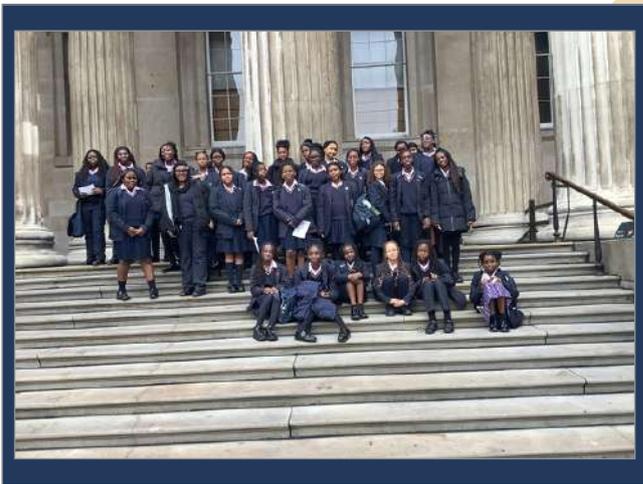
Sensing her humility, despite her important role in shaping the destiny of the US, as a person from a similar background, Julia saw her as "an example of virtue and perseverance" who offered her "an optimistic view of democracy and accountability."

Overall, a wonderful experience that the students will remember for the rest of their lives.

## Black History Month at SSSO

This October, we celebrated Black History Month with the official theme "Standing firm in Power and Pride." a powerful call to acknowledge and honour the stories of individuals and events that have profoundly shaped history, both past and present. Throughout the month, students engaged in a variety of activities and competitions designed to explore this theme.

Our Black History Month Competition encouraged participants to delve deep into their creativity, inviting them to craft a poem, short story, or art piece that highlights a person or event that students believe has really embodied this theme and we can't wait to see and share what they produce!



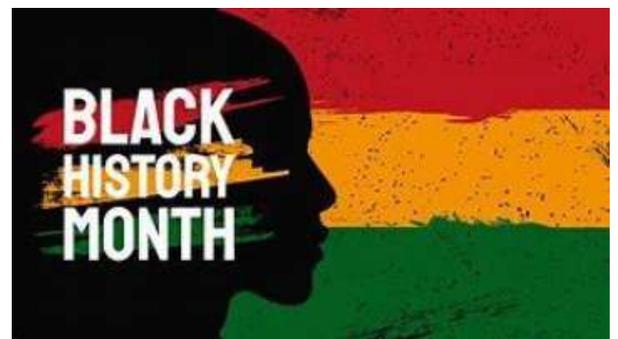
Last week we had a fantastic opportunity to take our exploration of Black History outside the classroom and 50 students across Year 7, 8 and 9 visited the British Museum to explore the Benin Bronzes. The bronzes are special because they show the history, culture, and pride of the Benin people (Modern day Nigeria).

They are a reminder us to stand firm in power and pride as well as the strength and dignity of Black communities and their rich history. Students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to see the Bronzes in all their glory analyse it's rich symbolism and engage in very relevant debate about where they belong.

In addition various other opportunities have been taking place across the school and departments, the Drama department hosted a thought-provoking workshop focused on Black British playwrights, providing insights into the theatrical works that highlight the experiences of Black individuals in Britain.

The celebration continued with a delightful food tasting event in two Black History Month clubs that showcased diverse culinary traditions and Year 8 took on a unique project of badge marking making and selling, with all proceeds going to a Black History Month related charity chosen by Year 8 students.

We have been so impressed with the participation, leadership and enthusiasm shown by students and look forwarding to continuing this important journey throughout the remainder of the academic year.



## Student Article

Throughout October, St Saviour's and St Olave's celebrated Black History Month with the theme "Standing Firm in Power and Pride." Students took part in a variety of creative and educational activities – from lessons and lunchtime projects to trips and competitions.

### In Lessons

Across subjects, especially History, students explored the stories of inspiring Black figures through time – from the Tudor period to modern-day campaigns for equality. Year 9 students also learned about the Forgotten Suffragettes, including Black and Indian women who fought for the right to vote.

### Pin-Making and Selling

Year 8 students showed great creativity and teamwork by designing and selling pins in support of a charity chosen by their year group – a proud symbol of unity and celebration.

### Benin Bronzes Trip

Fifty Key Stage 3 students visited the British Museum to see the Benin Bronzes and learn about the Kingdom of Benin's rich culture and history. The trip encouraged reflection on pride, leadership, and cultural heritage.

### Homework Competition

Students across Years 7–9 created projects celebrating Black History through art, poetry, posters, and storytelling – showcasing talent, creativity, and cultural appreciation.

### Standing Firm in Power and Pride

This month's celebrations have highlighted the strength, creativity, and pride within our school community as we continue to learn from the past and shape a positive future together.

## Chess Club

This half-term saw the successful launch of Chess Club at SSSO and it is already proving to be a hit! With over 30 students and staff taking part every week, the club has brought together a mix of keen beginners and experienced players, all eager to learn, compete, and improve.

Sessions have been full of energy and strategic thinking, with players sharpening their skills through friendly matches and coaching.

With such a strong start, we are excited to see where the club goes next: we look forward to entering competitions in due course and would encourage anyone interested to come and join us on a Monday lunchtime, regardless of level and experience!



## Linguistics Club

This term, we launched Linguistics Club, a fun and fast-paced space for language lovers across Years 7 to 13. Each week, students compete in teams playing League of Lexicon, a trivia game packed with fascinating questions about language. From the number of Italian dialects to the surprising origin of the Ice Cream Sundae, no two sessions are the same!

With weekly prizes on offer, the club has quickly become a hit: not just for the challenge, but for the great atmosphere and cross-year bonding it encourages. It's a brilliant way to learn something new, share curiosity, and enjoy a bit of friendly competition.

If you enjoy trivia, wordplay, or simply want to discover the weird and wonderful side of language, come along and get involved!



## Languages Week

Languages Week is always a highlight of the school year at SSSO, and this half-term was no exception. Across five days, students and staff came together to share and celebrate the many languages and cultures that make up our school community. With two interactive sessions each day, the programme gave students the opportunity to learn something new: not just about different languages, but about the histories, stories, and cultures they represent.

Sessions included a wide range of languages including Twi, Chinese, Sign Language, Yoruba, Japanese, Pitjantjatjara, Japanese, Quechua, German, Italian, Bulgarian, Yoruba and Ukrainian.



Some were led by staff, others by students themselves. From learning new phrases and exploring linguistic roots to discovering traditions and cultural practices from around the world, each session reminded us how language is a powerful connector and a window into other ways of life.

This week was more than just about learning new words. It was about celebrating identity, encouraging empathy, and building unity. As reflected in our Languages Week assembly, learning another language helps us grow in compassion, see the world through new eyes, and understand the importance of every voice in our community. It was a wonderful celebration of what makes SSSO such a vibrant, inclusive, and global school.

## Debate Club

This half-term, the Debating Club has focused on building strong foundations, helping students from across the school develop the essential skills needed to speak confidently, think critically, and argue persuasively.

Through a series of weekly sessions, students have explored how to construct compelling arguments, respond effectively to opposing views, and structure their contributions with clarity and purpose.

From learning how to define a motion to identifying stakeholders, building logical hierarchies, and delivering impactful conclusions, students have begun to master the core components of successful debating. Each week, their confidence has grown, as has their ability to think on their feet, analyse complex issues, and engage in thoughtful, respectful discussion.

With a number of competitions lined up in the coming weeks and months, we're excited to see these skills put into action. Whether in Year 7 or Year 13, all students at SSSO will have the chance to take part in a growing range of debating opportunities, and we look forward to seeing them rise to the challenge.

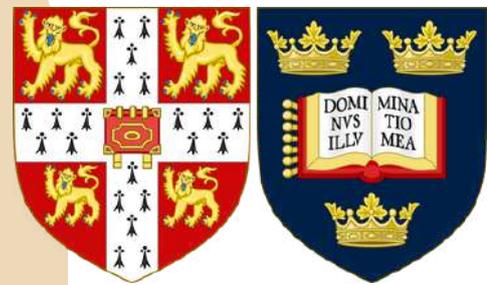
## Oxbridge Programme

This half-term marked the relaunch of the Oxbridge Elective Programme for Year 11 and Year 12 students, a series of university-style seminars designed to encourage critical thinking and push students to think independently beyond the confines of the school curriculum. These sessions aim to expose students to the kind of academic exploration and discussion expected at top universities.

In the Humanities stream, students engaged with topics such as Brazilian and Chilean independence, examined Plato's perceptions of reality, and explored challenging questions around ethics and responsibility in punishment. Each session encouraged students to question assumptions, explore unfamiliar perspectives, and articulate their ideas with clarity.

The Science stream included hands-on and analytical sessions, ranging from estimating physical quantities and practising medical suturing to mastering quick maths techniques for the UCAT, essential preparation for students considering careers in medicine or science.

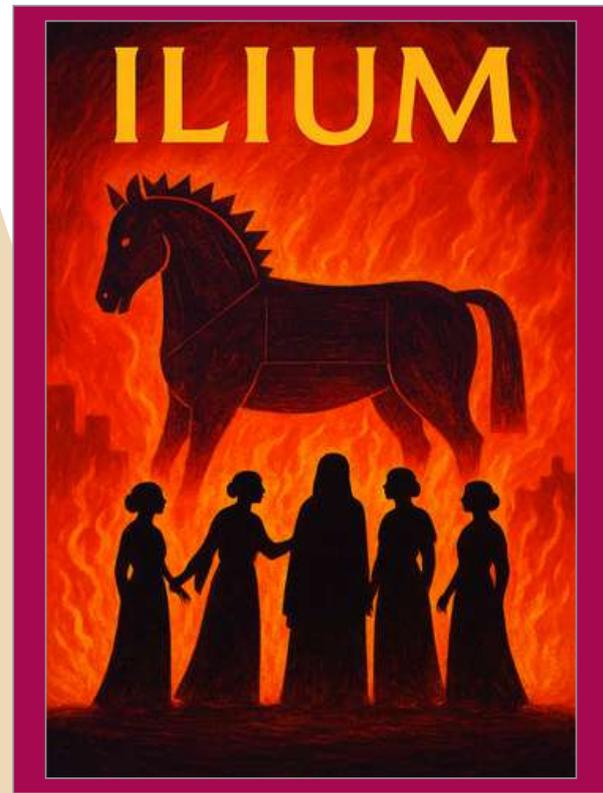
As our new cohort begins their Oxbridge journey, Year 13 students, who completed the programme last year, have received personalised support with their university applications, particularly with refining their personal statements. This tailored guidance has helped them present themselves with confidence and clarity as they take the next step toward higher education.



## **Ilium: Voices from Troy – The School Show Returns**

From 3rd–5th December, the Activity Studio at St Saviour's and St Olave's will be transformed into the fallen city of Troy for this year's school production: *Ilium*, a new play by Zoë Thomas-Webb. Drawing inspiration from *The Iliad* and *The Trojan Women*, *Ilium* gives voice to the survivors of war – the women left behind – as they reclaim and re-tell their story.

Following the huge success of *Oliver!* in July, which filled the hall with music, laughter and community spirit, this production marks another bold step forward for the school's performing arts. Where *Oliver!* celebrated joy and resilience through song, *Ilium* explores endurance, hope, and the human cost of conflict through immersive storytelling – proving once again that the creativity and commitment of SSSO students know no bounds.



With a cast of over fifty students, *Ilium* is a remarkable ensemble piece. Every performer remains on stage throughout, shaping the atmosphere, rhythm and emotion of the world around them. The audience is drawn into a living, breathing Troy, with battles and love stories, gods and mortals, heartbreak and moments of humour. The women of Troy guide the story, sharing their experiences and perspectives, ensuring their voices are central to this retelling of history.

The students have been working tirelessly, rehearsing with focus, imagination, and energy to bring this ambitious production to life. Each performer contributes to the larger whole while also shining in moments of individual storytelling – creating a performance that is as collaborative as it is deeply personal.

Performances run from Tuesday 3rd to Thursday 5th December in the Activity Studio. Information about ticket bookings will be released soon – please keep an eye on school communications for details.

*Ilium* represents St Saviour's and St Olave's at its very best: a celebration of imagination, collaboration, and excellence that reflects the school's ongoing commitment to the arts and to providing transformative experiences for our students. It promises to be intense, moving, immersive, and unforgettable – an evening of theatre not to be missed.

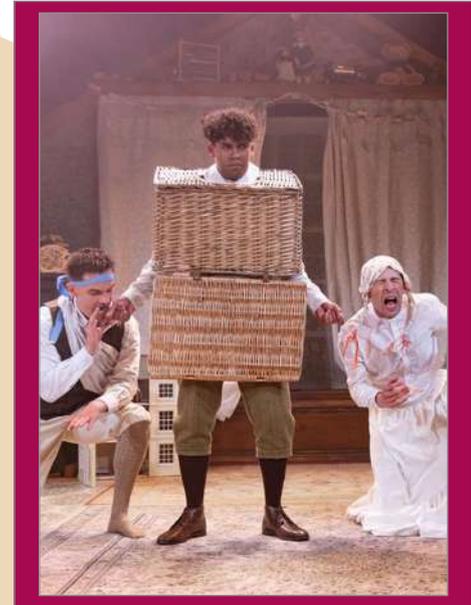


## Year 8 Enjoy A Midsummer Night's Dream at Southwark Playhouse

On 24th September, all of Year 8 had the exciting opportunity to attend a performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Southwark Playhouse. We are very grateful to the theatre for providing free tickets, making it possible for every student to experience this vibrant production.

The trip was also a celebration of the start of Year 8's drama lessons, giving students a chance to see live theatre in action and find inspiration for their own creative work.

From the magical forest to the antics of Puck and the fairies, the production was full of energy, humour, and dazzling stagecraft. The cast brought Shakespeare's enchanting story of love, mischief, and imagination vividly to life, capturing the attention and delight of all our students.



As always, our Year 8 students were a credit to the school, showing respect for the performers, the theatre space, and each other. They left the theatre buzzing with ideas and enthusiasm, ready to bring that same creativity and energy into their own drama lessons.

A huge thank you again to Southwark Playhouse for making this memorable experience possible – it was a perfect start to a year of learning, acting, and exploring the magic of theatre.

## Drama students Experience The Bacchae at the National

On 8th October, our GCSE Drama and BTEC Performing Arts students had the incredible opportunity to attend The Bacchae at the National Theatre. This bold and dynamic production was a true celebration of theatre itself, centering on Dionysus, the god of theatre, and immersing the audience in the power, chaos, and magic of performance.

The students were captivated from start to finish. The show combined intense performances with breathtaking technical artistry, particularly the lighting, which created atmosphere, tension, and drama in every scene. From the ritualistic ceremonies to the moments of raw emotion, every element of the production highlighted the transformative power of theatre.



This trip offered students a unique chance to see how professional performers bring classical texts to life with creativity, imagination, and technical precision. Many left inspired, buzzing with ideas, and eager to bring that same energy into their own performances back at SSSO.

A huge thank you to the National Theatre for hosting us – this unforgettable experience was a perfect example of why live theatre continues to inspire and excite.

## Year 7 Ullswater Outward Bound Adventure

Earlier this term, Year 7 spent five incredible days at Ullswater in the Lake District with the Outward Bound Trust. In groups named after famous explorers – Darke, Attenborough, Chandi, Tenzing and Fields – students pushed themselves beyond their limits through jog and dips, wild swimming, gorge climbing, mountain hikes, and canoeing.

They worked brilliantly as teams, enjoyed evenings around the campfire, and even lay back in boats to marvel at the Milky Way shining above the lake. It was an unforgettable week of challenge, friendship, and adventure – one that truly showed what our students can achieve when they give their all.

Relive the adventure through our photo gallery – and celebrate the courage and connection that defined the trip.

