



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the latest newsletter. Public examinations are now well underway and the Year 11 and Year 13 students are managing the pressure very well. Breakfast clubs and extra revision sessions are helping to keep students calm and feeling prepared, and the hard work they have put in over several years is now paying off.

Everyone is working towards examinations at the moment with whole school exam week coming up after half term, but as always there has been so much else going on. Visits to universities, careers fairs, authors in school, and the Duke of Edinburgh award students have done their first practice expedition. Much of the activity is captured here in these pages which I hope you will enjoy.

We are currently in the process of electing our new student leaders for the forthcoming year. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Jochebed Osei Ampem, Head Girl, and her prefect team in Year 13 as well as the Year 11 prefects, for their contribution to the leadership of our school. It's been a pleasure to work with them throughout the year. Saying farewell as our Year 13's move on to the next stage of their educational journey in university or apprenticeship is bittersweet. It is a privilege to have been a part of their journey and we know they will go on to achieve great things.

It was also a pleasure to see many parents at our 'How to support your child' event in school this half term, and then to meet year 6 parents again at the 'Head Start' event. Thank you all for your engagement and support for our school and your child. It makes a difference and is appreciated.

Wishing you all a restful and restorative half term break.

Best wishes
Catherine May



Oliver! – Final Preparations in Full Swing

With just a few weeks to go, preparations for our production of **Oliver!** on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th July are really ramping up.

Now that the show has been fully blocked, students are busy with run-throughs, polishing scenes, and bringing the performance to life.



Behind the scenes, set-building, prop-making, and costume design are also well underway, with everyone working hard to create a truly immersive experience. It's all coming together brilliantly!

Tickets will be available from the start of July—we're looking forward to sharing two fantastic evenings of theatre with you all.

Important Dates for Parents and Carers

Summer 2 Start -
2nd June

6th Form Transition Day -
19th June

Year 11 Celebration -
20th June

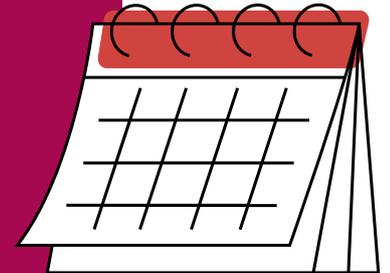
Year 13 Prom -
27th June

Activities Week -
30th June - 4th July

Year 6 Transition Day -
2nd July

Arts Week -
7st July - 11th July

Sports Day
11th July



The Eucharist 2025



It was a wonderful occasion of fellowship, with six clergy members from local parishes in the Southwark Diocese joining us to administer communion.

Chaplin Roxanne, who led the procession, spoke on the importance of being a good steward, emphasising that at the heart of this is servant leadership.

A beautiful time of reflection and thanksgiving took place on the 29th April, as the school community gathered to participate in the annual Easter Eucharist whole-school assembly.



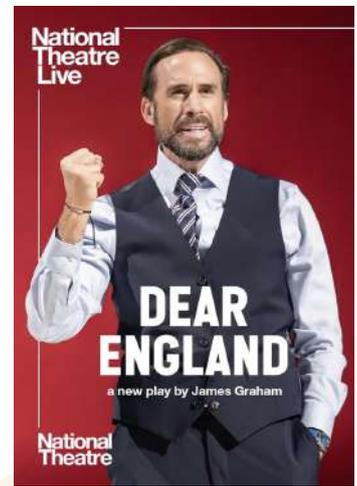
Several pupils shared how faith impacts their lives in practical ways, and we were also treated to a stunning live musical performance by a student as communion was received, creating the perfect atmosphere for reflection and gratitude for the love shown to us through Jesus Christ.



Year 10 Trip to the National Theatre – Dear England

Our Year 10 Drama students recently enjoyed an inspiring trip to the National Theatre to see Dear England.

The powerful and creative production not only entertained but also gave students plenty of ideas and insights for their upcoming devised performance exam.



From staging and character work to the use of movement and ensemble, there was lots to take away and discuss back in class.

It was a fantastic opportunity to see professional theatre in action, and the experience has really sparked fresh thinking and creativity in their own work. A big thank you to all who helped make the trip possible!

Year 10 Devised Performance Exam

On Friday 23rd May our Year 10 Drama students completed their Devised Performance exam, which makes up 10% of their final GCSE grade. Working in groups, they created powerful original pieces from scratch, drawing on a range of styles including naturalism, epic theatre, documentary theatre, and physical theatre.



Their performances tackled complex and sensitive topics such as the cyclical nature of mother/daughter body-shaming, grooming into drug dealing, the long-term impact of parental abuse, and overcoming domestic abuse.

It's a challenging exam that demands creativity, collaboration, and emotional maturity—and our students rose to the challenge brilliantly. We're incredibly proud of their work.



Year 8 Merchant Taylor Quiz



The Merchant Taylor quiz, it was one of the best general knowledge quizzes I have ever done.

It made us use our listening skills by picking through the speech that was given, our teamwork skills by demonstrating the ability to work together to solve each question, and also our knowledge of general yet diverse facts.



One of the questions was 'what American president has a name that begins and ends with the same letter?' The answer was Theodore Roosevelt.

Me and the others really enjoyed it, it was really fun.

Hattie 8Y

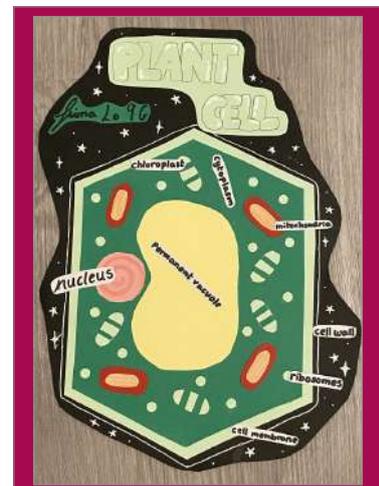


Year 9 Model Cells

This term, our Year 9 students have been bringing biology to life by creating detailed model cells as part of their science curriculum.

Their projects demonstrate a strong understanding of cell structure and function, with some truly impressive and imaginative results.

Please come to the Science department to have a look!



Winnie's World

This summer half-term is particularly important for students in Years 11 and 13 as their public exams are the chance to show what they have learned.

This can, however, lead to stress so it is good to know that Winnie is on hand to help if things get a bit overwhelming.



She has seen how much our students have been using our new outdoor gym and has greeted them with a cheery wag of her tail as they sit and relax with friends between lessons.

Without doubt her favourite experience this term was meeting the Year 6 students who will be joining us in September. They were so enthusiastic about seeing Winnie and she is really looking forward to getting to know them properly in September, as are we all.



Spending time with therapy animals helps us to be present in the moment and shut out negative thoughts and this can be exactly what students need to prepare themselves and to gain a bit of perspective.

This half-term we have also enjoyed some wonderful weather and Winnie has loved getting out and about at breaktime.



★ ★ ★

Afternoon Tea with the Headteacher

This term, several outstanding students were invited to afternoon tea with the Headteacher, celebrated for embodying our core values: compassion, reflection, inclusivity, transformation, and support.



These students have consistently shown kindness, a commitment to self-improvement, and a dedication to helping others.

Their actions have made a positive impact on our school community, setting a wonderful example for their peers. Congratulations to these exceptional students for their inspiring contributions!

Head Start Success

We were thrilled to welcome a hall full of enthusiastic parents, carers and prospective Year 7 students to our recent Head Start event.

The atmosphere was buzzing with energy and excitement as families engaged in interactive activities and informative sessions designed to ease the transition to secondary school life.



From discussions about emotional wellbeing and homework management to an overview of our CRIST ethos and inclusive support systems, the event provided a comprehensive introduction to life at St Saviour's & St Olave's.

A big thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making the evening such a great success – we look forward to welcoming our new students in September!

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award Update

This year a team of Year 9 students have been working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Part of this award is completing an expedition over two days including a night of camping. To prepare for this we spent several D of E sessions after school on Thursdays learning the skills of campcraft.

Since the practice expedition, we have developed our skills in emergency preparedness, including first aid skills, orienteering and navigating using only physical maps. We are really excited about the real Bronze expedition in early June.

Written by Yabonett in 9R and Binta in 9G.



During our practice expedition we were able to put these skills into action, putting up tents and cooking on an outdoor stove. Despite being initially nervous, by the end we felt very confident ahead of the assessed expedition on 7th - 8th June.

We used team work to ensure that we were organised and meeting the requirements for some of the assessed criteria. We made memories which will never be forgotten.



How To Support Your Child

Thank you to everyone who attended our event, "How to Support Your Child." For those who missed it, here are the highlights:



Academic Success: Tips for encouraging a positive attitude towards learning and supporting your child's educational journey.

Faith & Personal Growth: Nurturing spiritual development and building strong moral foundations.

Mental Health and Wellbeing: Recognising signs of stress and anxiety, and strategies to support emotional resilience.

Mobile Phone Use & Social Media: Managing screen time, ensuring online safety, and promoting healthy digital habits.

92% of attendees said the event topics were relevant and valuable to them as a parent/carer! For questions or the event booklet, contact us at office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk



Parents and Friends' Association (PFA)

We are excited to announce the relaunch of the Parents and Friends' Association (PFA) at St Saviour's and St Olave's School.

The PFA is a vital part of our school community, reflecting our shared vision and values of learning, leadership, relationships, faith, and aspiration.

If you are interested in getting involved, please complete the survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/OPZR8f43vr>

The Jack Petchey Achievement Award

The Achievement Award gives students and teachers the chance to vote for someone who is a good role model, someone doing community work, or making the extra effort.

The award is not just academic achievement but someone who faced a challenge and overcome a barrier they have faced. Each winner will receive £300 grant to spend within the school.

The Jack Petchey Achievement
Winners :

February 2025 - Hannan 110

March 2025 - Victoria 10R

April 2025 - Queeneth 13S



Author visit: A Day with Jo Cotterill!

We were delighted to have award-winning children's author Jo Cotterill visit our school on Wednesday 7th May 2025 for a day full of creative writing exercises and motivational speeches for our Year 7 students.

Jo, who is the author of more than 50 children's and young adult books, infused every aspect of the day with her warmth, humour, and love of storytelling.



She started with an engaging whole-year presentation, where she spoke about her childhood, her first story which was written at the age of 6 titled "Christmas", and her love of drawing unicorns.

She shared how she once dreamed of becoming an illustrator and how her creative path also included careers as an actor, English teacher, and even a firework technician before she became a full-time author.

Jo led two sessions of creative writing workshops throughout the day, expertly guiding students through the process of shaping compelling narratives, from core plot ideas to the extended character development.

Pupils engaged with enthusiasm, exploring themes, crafting characters, and developing imaginative plot twists and resolutions. They were incredibly creative and energetic, and it was great to see so many of them fully immersed in the writing process.

The day was a great success, with many compliments from both staff and students. It's sure to leave lasting memories.

We are incredibly grateful for Jo's creativity, and the motivation she brought to our school. We look forward to seeing her return in the future!



Debate at SSSO

Debating Club-

While summer term often signals a shift in focus toward exams, SSSO's Debating Club has bucked the trend – thriving with more energy, enthusiasm, and success than ever before.

Attendance has soared, the competitive spirit is strong, and our students continue to demonstrate remarkable growth in confidence and skill.



SSLP Debating Success

Both teams performed exceptionally, winning all but one of their debates – an outstanding achievement that secured them places in the in-person finals next half term.

In preparation, students are now working with an external coach coming weekly to sharpen their skills even further.

We are incredibly proud of their results and resilience, especially in their first experience with competitive online debating.

Two SSSO teams – one from Year 9 and one from Year 10 – competed in the Southwark Schools Learning Partnership Debating Competition. The Year 10 team (Adebimpe, Keiko, Shae, Ellie, Mia, and May) and the Year 9 team (Maia, Mabel, Leonna, Sofia, Abigail, and Sofia) faced off against other Southwark schools in a series of online debates.

Motions included provocative questions such as whether politicians should have personal social media accounts and whether being a billionaire should be allowed.

A Day at the ESU Mace Final

We were also thrilled to take 15 students – from Year 7 to Year 12 – to Dartmouth House, home of the English-Speaking Union, for the national final of the ESU Mace Debating Competition. The final motion, “This House Believes that AI-generated content weakens critical thinking and creativity,” sparked a high-level debate won by the Opposition.

Though not competing, our students engaged as audience participants, asking thoughtful questions on topics such as the digital and financial divide in AI access and its impact on education. The day was an inspiring opportunity to witness elite debating in action and gave our students a clear vision of what to strive for next year.



Economic Experts School Trip

On 6th May 2025, 24 students in Year 12 were given an opportunity to attend a workshop at one of our business partners. Travers Smith law firm has been working with our school for a number of years.

Lawyers in Schools is a programme that has been running for a number of years aimed at our Year 10s.

We were offered Economics Experts In Schools which was aimed at our Year 12s students.



We selected students whose subjects are linked to Economics and also had a keen interest.

This was a good opportunity to work alongside lawyers during the workshop and see what a professional environment would be like to work in.

The theme of the workshop was Economic Cycles, The Government and the Economy and Be Your Councillor. Our students were invited to stay for lunch which was a very nice way to end the day.

Into University Trip

On 2nd May 2025, students who are part of the Into University Programme were given the opportunity to visit UAL London College of Communication. This was a good opportunity to get an insight into a university on our doorstep.

Our students took part in a workshop in school to prepare them for this visit. The workshop was looking at university life and why students choose certain subjects. Our students got to learn about budgeting and different clubs and societies.



The visit to UAL London College of Communication gave our students an insight into all the things they learnt in the workshop.

We were able to take part in a print-making workshop led by a London College of Communication staff member.



Southwark Sustainable Challenge

On Thursday 3rd April, St Saviour's and St Olave's had 2 teams representing our school at the Southwark Sustainable Challenge.

The 2 teams were our 1st and 2nd placed teams in our in-house challenge which took part place early in the month, so it gave them the chance to compete against other winners from other school in- house winners.



The standards were very high from other schools who took part. The Southwark Sustainable Challenge is a programme to equip young people to be problem solvers and green leaders to tackle climate change.

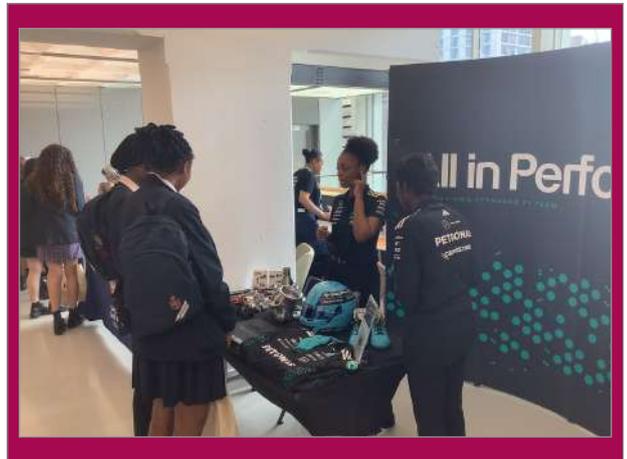
The programme has 2 categories Transport and Fashion; each team has to come up with a way to help climate change.

I am pleased to say that we came 2nd placed in the Transport category and 3rd placed in the Fashion category.

AFBE Careers Fair

On 1st May Mr Young and Dr Price took 33 students in Year 10 to AFBE Careers fair at South Bank University. AFBE are one of our School Business Partners and have worked with our school on many different projects.

The Engineering Careers Fair was an informative and inspiring opportunity for our students to learn more about the world of engineering and the diverse career paths it offers.



Students were able to meet 20+ prominent engineering companies across aviation, motorsports and the medical industry.

This provided valuable insights into their industries, shared career advice and also showcasing their cutting-edge technologies.

The activities our students were able to take part in were Speed Networking , CV writing, Interactive Sessions led by industry experts covering different engineering fields and careers prospects.



Student Quote: Zara 10G

I found the engineering trip extremely useful. Speaking to many young engineers has helped me find out what I want to do in life. The talks were very inspirational; I would rate the trip a 10/10.

AI Conference

On Friday the 6th of May, 6 students in Year 10 were given the opportunity to attend the last Southwark Schools Learning Partnership SSLP Conference.

Before this final event we have attended two other conferences where we have been tirelessly working on our final project.

Our stimulus was AI and wellbeing and with two other school- created an AI chatbot that can detect and prevent bullying in online messaging platforms.



We got to present this project to all the other schools attending and 3 special guests. After this we had a pizza party and a disco to celebrate our hard work and determination.

From the 3 SSLP conferences I feel we have learnt a lot : collaboration, leadership and responsibility and working under a deadline.



Thank you to Ms Whittington who organised the conferences , the zoom meetings and arranging for the special guests to come and talk to us , thank you to Ms Daniels and Mr Young who attended these conferences with us and helped give us additional advice about our project.

The students who took part in the project were Michelle 100, Ngozi h 10B, Shae 10R, Akua 100, Aleena 100

