



Newsletter

For Parents, Students, Governors and Staff

Springtime is Nearly Here

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has flown by and it's been as busy as ever here at St Saviour's.

Year 11 students are now finishing their second set of mock exams and have worked really hard to demonstrate their progress since the November mocks and they deserve some rest in this half term break.

We are proud of their commitment and their resilience as they meet the challenges of this year. The careers programme at St Saviour's runs through every year group in the school, and many of the activities and visits are coordinated by Mr Young. Some of the events are included in these pages, which I hope will give you a flavour of the career opportunities open to St Saviour's students.

The sixth form editorial team are taking a break from the newsletter this half term as they prepare for their exams after half term, so this edition has been produced by our new Reprographics and Marketing Officer, Ms McKenzie-Thompson - thank you!

We have much to look forward to next half term. In addition to the great learning that will go on in lessons and all of the usual trips and visits, I'm excited that we are now able to begin to offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme again, and we have some new events such as the forthcoming Business Fair.

I wish you all a restful and restorative half term break, and look forward to seeing our community safely back on Monday 24th February 2025.

Best wishes,
Catherine May

Important Dates for Parents, Carers & Students

Spring 2 Start:
24th February

6th Form Mocks:
24th-28th February

Year 9 Parents Evening:
27th February

Year 9 Options Interviews:
6th March

Year 6 Interviews/Stepping Up:
10th March

Commemoration Service :
13th March

PSHCE Day + Business Fayre:
19th March

Year 8 Parents Evening:
27th March

Cultural Evening:
3rd April

The Little Foxes Trip

On 30th January our GCSE and 6th form Drama students had the fantastic opportunity to attend a performance of The Little Foxes at the renowned Young Vic Theatre.

The gripping production, filled with suspense and powerful performances, captivated everyone in the audience. Our students were fully immersed in the experience, engaging with the story and reflecting on its themes long after the curtain fell.



Audience members spoke to Ms Laurie and Ms Murphy to praise our students for their respectful and considerate attitude. They were delighted to see young people so engaged and entranced by live theatre!



EPQ Rendez-Vous



EPQ Rendez-vous

Y12 & Y13 EPQ students
Share experiences and nibbles



Where: S15
When: Tuesday 28 January
What time: 1.15pm



This EPQ rendez-vous was a chance for Year 12 students to pick the brains of the Year 13 students who passed with flying colours last year. Each Year 13 student sat with 2 or 3 Year 12 students and talked them through the process, what it was like to feel daunted at the prospect of writing 5,000 words, and to reassure them that everything will come together in good time. We are grateful for their wisdom and experience!

The EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) is an established part of the sixth form curriculum and leads to a qualification that is equivalent to 50% of an A level and is viewed incredibly positively by universities. Students in Year 12 pick their own topic of study and write an essay of about 5000 words, document the research process and how they approached the project, and a final presentation where students talk through this essay and the project.



Politics Trip to Home Office

In late January, Sixth Form politics students had the opportunity to visit the Home Office. Upon arrival they were met by Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary, and Lord Hanson, Minister of State for the Home Office. Students then engaged in a roundtable debate, discussing topics including policing, asylum, education, and youth empowerment. The senior politicians were impressed by the insight and passion our students demonstrated, taking on the feedback our future leaders offered them.



As the day continued, our students were greeted by several other groups from the Home Office, including private secretaries of MPs and senior civil servants. Through these meetings, students were guided through the career options the civil service and political life can offer, the pathways and courses students can complete to succeed in the public sector, and top tips to support them along the way.

We are very proud of our politics students and the impact they made upon the Home Office, and look forward to seeing the cohort grow through their studies at SSSO.



Duke of Edinburgh

This half term we are thrilled to have re-established the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at SSSO. We look forward to seeing how the successful Year 9 applicants learn and grow to meet the challenges of the award. Taking part in weekly sport, volunteering and skills sessions, students will build their leadership and teamwork skills, culminating in a residential expedition this Summer Term. Applications to the award closed today and we will inform students the outcome of their application the first week after half term. If there are any spaces, late submissions will still be considered. Please email dofe@ssso.southwark.sch.uk for any further information.

Duke of Edinburgh also offers Silver and Gold awards which we also look forward to launching in successive academic years.



Studying Engineering at University

On Tuesday 14th January, students in Year 9 and Year 10 were able to hear from Tabitha O'Callaghan who is a former student from our school from 2017-2024. Tabitha gave our students an insight into her journey from her results at GCSE to how she picked her A-Levels.



Tabitha is now studying at the University of Sheffield where she is now in her 1st year studying Computer Systems Engineering. It was good for our students to hear about University life, not just the studying but also the different clubs and social events you can take part in. Tabitha explained some of the projects she is doing at University which include a student-led project developing 2D mobile games for charitable causes.

We hope to invite Tabitha back to speak to the other year groups as this was a good insight from one of our former students whose achievements we are very proud of.

Attendance and Appointments - Important Reminder!



To keep our records accurate and ensure student safety, we kindly ask all parents and carers to report **any absences or appointments** via email at attendance@ssso.southwark.sch.uk.

✔ **What to include:**

- **Child's Full Name**
- **Year Group**
- **Reason for absence**

Your cooperation helps us to support our students and keep communication clear. Thank you for your continued support!

Winnie's World

Like many staff and students at SSSO, Winnie spends some of her free time being compassionate to members of our wider community. For the third Christmas in a row, Winnie volunteered for the homeless charity Crisis at Christmas in their South London Day centre. Winnie is a real hit with the guests who love her company and enjoy the cuddles she gives so readily.

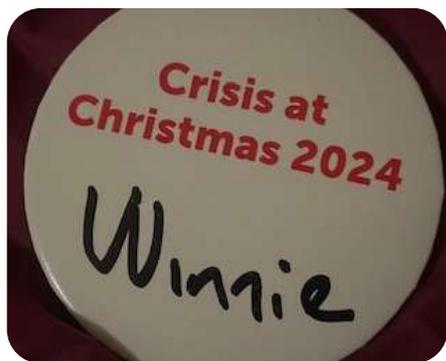
She really does live out the schools' values of Compassion, Reflection, Inclusion, Support and Transformation. She also did this during LGBT week at school in February. Winnie loves everybody no matter who they are. And if they have treats on them, she'll love them even more!



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 8.00 and 8.30. She loves her library time and would love to see you there.



Creativity in the workplace workshop



On Thursday 30th January, some students from Year 10 and Year 9 were invited to a workshop organised by Working Options. Working Options deliver career skills workshops. The workshop we organised was titled "Being Creative in the Workplace" so we invited students who were studying a creative subject or were thinking of taking one for GCSE in Year 10. The workshop covered how to think outside of the box, and to be creative in anything we do professionally or socially.

The workshop helped our students to think differently and to stand out in whatever they do. We hope to invite Working Options back to deliver more careers skills workshop very soon.

LGBT Week

Once again we were proud to see how many students engaged so positively in the discussions that the week raised.



The activities included:

- Debate club showing student skills when discussing the representation of LGBT+ characters in the media;
- Quizzes testing our knowledge of LGBT rights around the world;
- Art club and baking club with a rainbow theme;
- Screenings of documentaries and BBC Newsround clips;
- Hearing visitors talk about their experiences;
- Wearing rainbow ribbons to show support.

The week is a clear expression of how we all live out our school ethos through compassion, inclusion and respect.



Merchant Taylors' Company Workshop

This half term, some of our Year 11 history students had the opportunity to visit the Merchant Taylors' Company for a workshop, dinner, and guided tour.

The event provided a fascinating insight into the rich history of the company, allowing students to engage with both the historical significance and practical aspects of its legacy.

The workshop also offered a hands-on experience with historical documents, giving students a rare opportunity to analyse materials from the past.



Eva from 11Y shared her thoughts: "The Merchant Taylors' History Evening was an exciting look back at the Company's history. We learned about crucial moments, such as its rebuilding after the Great Fire of London and during the Blitz.

One of my favourite parts was making our own certificates by melting wax from a candle and creating our own seal. Overall, it was a fantastic experience that will definitely support my future studies in History."

Construction Youth - Mock Assessment

On Wednesday 13th February, 6 students in Year 12 who are part of the Construction Youth Programme were invited to a Mock Assessment day. The Mock Assessment day was held at Opera in the Shard. Opera is a large project management company which has worked on some of London's biggest projects including Battersea Power Station and Nine Elms Park to name just two of their projects. Our students were able to speak to employers about their journey working at Opera.



Our students were given the opportunity to experience what it would be like to be in a Mock Assessment to secure an apprenticeship offer. The day was a good insight into being in a professional environment and seeing where our student could be if they choose that career pathway.



A-Level Spanish Trip to The British Film Institute



On 9th January, Spanish A-level students from Years 12 and 13 were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to go to a Pedro Almodóvar film study day at the BFI (British Film Institute). Almodóvar is an internationally celebrated Spanish film director who is known for the unique techniques in his films. During the trip students learned about the film frames used, camera angles selected and the significant use of the colour red (which is a reoccurring colour in many of his films).

The students also compared the film's poster to one of Sara Montiel, an actress whose work Almodóvar greatly admired. These points demonstrated the students' in-depth knowledge of the director and showed off how confident they have become when speaking Spanish ¡Qué impresionante!

Oxbridge Programme

The SSSO Oxbridge Programme is in full swing this term, offering select Year 11 and Year 12 students a taste of university-style learning.

Held fortnightly, these seminar-style sessions provide students with the opportunity to engage in thought-provoking discussions and develop analytical skills beyond the standard curriculum. The programme is split into Humanities and Science streams, covering a diverse range of topics. Humanities students have explored a blend of research in Modern Languages, Philosophy and Politics, considering our understanding of reality through Plato's philosophy, examining the concept of nationhood through the formation of Latin American countries, and analysing the factors driving civil violence in the post-Cold War era.

Students in the Science stream have engaged with thought-provoking topics designed to develop their analytical and problem-solving skills. They explored the art of making scientific estimations whilst also delving into the fundamentals of statistical testing, learning how to determine whether results are due to chance. Additionally, students were introduced to UCAT Quantitative Reasoning, equipping them with essential skills for medical and scientific university admissions.



These sessions have been engaging and intellectually challenging, providing students with the tools to think critically, articulate arguments, and engage in scholarly debate. We look forward to even more stimulating discussions next half term as we continue to push academic boundaries!

Year 11 Scripted Performance exam

On Thursday 13th and Friday 14th February our Year 11 Drama class had their final performance assessment of the course. Working in groups, students had to learn and perform two extracts from plays.

Their hard work and dedication shone through. We're sure the examiner was suitably impressed! Here are some pictures of them in action on their tech rehearsal day:



Sheriff's Challenge



This term, our Sheriff's Challenge team – Hannah, Raima, Julia, Ivy, Helen, and Queenie and Zoey – has made impressive strides, demonstrating outstanding public speaking and persuasive skills. The term began with expert training at Merchant Taylors' Hall, where students received valuable coaching from a public speaking expert in argument construction and presentation.

Following their preparation, our team competed at the Anglia Ruskin University London Heats and emerged victorious against tough opposition. Their argument centred on how the City of London could improve accessibility and career opportunities for young people, proposing solutions such as enhanced work experience programs, better outreach through social media, and stronger mentorship initiatives. Their well-researched and compelling case led them to victory in the Heats, securing them a place in the final at the Old Bailey, where they will present in front of the Sheriff of the City of London and two High Court Judges in March.

We are incredibly proud of their achievement and look forward to supporting them in the final round!

Debate Club

This term has been an exciting one for debating at SSSO, with students across Key Stages 3, 4, and 5 participating in stimulating discussions. Our debating sessions have fostered critical thinking and confidence, preparing students for external competitions.

A highlight of this term was the participation of two Year 10 students, Keiko and Adebimpe, in The Great Debate, a prestigious public speaking competition held at St. Michael's College. This year's question, How can your local history tell a global story?, inspired compelling speeches from both students. Keiko's speech shared a personal and powerful perspective on immigration, reflecting on the recent riots in Southwark and the broader contributions of immigrants to society.



She was praised for her inspiring and heartfelt storytelling. Meanwhile, Adebimpe's speech explored how Southwark's transformation over the decades reflects wider global struggles for racial equality and integration. She eloquently connected local history to the impact of the Windrush Generation and the fight against racial discrimination, securing a top three finish in the competition.

With such success, we eagerly anticipate upcoming debates and encourage more students to get involved.

Careers Talk - Engineering F1

On Thursday 16th January, we invited Hugo Parry of Formula 1 back to our school. Hugo has previously spoken to our 6th form Physics students, and on this occasion we arranged for Hugo to speak to Dr Price's Year 10 Physics class. The careers talk covered Hugo's journey to working at F1, and his insight into life at Cambridge University where he studied.

We have several students interested in F1 motor racing so this was an excellent opportunity to hear what it is like to be involved in the build up to the big race day. Hugo is in the process of setting up a visit to a major racing venue so our students can experience what it is like to be involved in F1.



QBE Women In Technology Trip

On Thursday February 13th, a group of Year 9 students attended an Insight Day for Women in Technology hosted by QBE insurance. The trip gave the student a unique experience learning about the range of technology careers available. It was specifically targeted at Year 9 to give the students an introduction into possible careers as they begin the process of choosing options for their study at GCSE and A-Level.



The students got the chance to speak with people who work in many different roles at QBE including Cloud Engineers, AI specialists, Management, recruitment and many others.

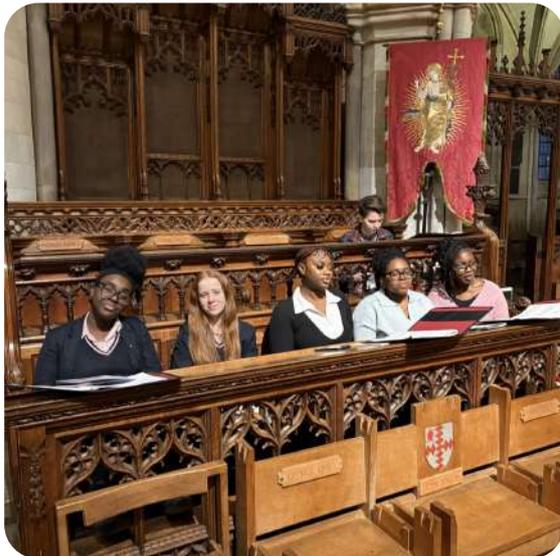


The trip culminated with a hardware and software exercise to build a robot and program it to navigate a maze and collect a piece of "toxic waste" and move it to a safe zone. All teams excelled and customised their robots in different ways with extending levers, light sensors to detect areas and walls, and with sound. Well done to the winning team!

Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral



Choral Evensong is one of the most beautiful and distinctive services in the Anglican tradition. Rooted in centuries of choral music and scripture, it offers a moment of stillness and reflection at the end of the day.



The service follows the structure set out in the Book of Common Prayer, featuring sung responses, psalms, canticles (such as the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis), and anthems performed by a choir. The words of Evensong are largely drawn from scripture, creating a powerful dialogue between music and text.

For those attending, Choral Evensong is a chance to experience the richness of sacred music in a contemplative setting. Whether listening to the soaring harmonies of the choir or joining in prayer and reflection, it is an opportunity to step away from the busyness of the day and be immersed in a tradition that has inspired worshippers for generations.

On 22nd January the school choir were invited to perform the music for a service of Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral by cathedral organist James Gough who came to work with our students for a few rehearsals beforehand. We were joined by the children of the London Youth Choir, and were pleased that the cathedral was so full - including a number of staff and parents from St Saviour's - they ran out of service books!



Gabrieli Roar Workshop

Gabrieli Roar Workshop Brings Southwark Schools Together for a Morning of Choral Excellence

As part of the Southwark Schools' Learning Partnership (SSLP), James Allen's Girls' School (JAGS) recently hosted a dynamic and inspiring choral workshop led by Gabrieli Roar, the youth choral programme founded by Artistic Director Paul McCreesh. The event welcomed students from St Saviour's & St Olave's School, Dulwich College, and Streatham & Clapham High School, providing a unique opportunity for young singers to collaborate and develop their vocal skills.

The morning began with a series of vocal warm-ups designed to build confidence and strengthen technique, setting the tone for a session filled with energy and enthusiasm. Participants explored a diverse repertoire, including lively jazz-inflected melodies, traditional choral pieces, and more challenging works in different languages.

The workshop encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, engage with new musical styles, and refine their ensemble singing.

Beyond the musical training, the event fostered valuable connections between students from different schools. Breaks provided a chance for informal conversations and refreshments, reinforcing the spirit of collaboration and community that underpins the Gabrieli Roar programme.

Workshops like this highlight the power of choral music to bring young people together, building not only musical ability but also confidence and teamwork.

A huge thank you to the JAGS Music Department and the team at Gabrieli Roar for facilitating such an enriching experience.



Orchestral Playing Day: A Celebration of Collaboration and Creativity

Thirty students from St Saviour's & St Olave's School took part in the Southwark Orchestral Playing Day 2025, joining young musicians from across the borough for a day of ensemble music-making and creativity.

The event provided an opportunity for students to develop their orchestral skills, work with professional musicians, and collaborate with peers from other schools.

As part of the day, our students devised two original improvisations, showcasing their creativity and responsiveness in a live setting. They also performed Juba Dance by Florence Price and the Largo from Dvořák's New World Symphony, demonstrating both technical skill and expressive musicality.

The day concluded with a free concert, where participants shared their work with an appreciative audience. It was a fantastic experience for all involved, and we look forward to future opportunities to celebrate the joy of orchestral music.

