

**St Saviour's
& St Olave's
School**

APRIL 2025

NEWSLETTER

For Parents, Students, Governors and Staff

Important Dates for Parents, Carers & Students

Summer 1 Start -
22nd April

Whole School Holy
Communion -
29th April

Year 7 Parents Evening -
8th May

GCSE Exams Start -
Monday 5th May

A- Level Exams Start -
Monday 12th May



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our Easter newsletter. It's been another busy half term at St Saviour's with lots of learning and activity going on in lessons, and so much more besides.

Current year 6 students found out their secondary school places this half term and they are included in this mail out, so a very warm welcome to our latest cohort of St Saviour's students. We are busy working out your form groups and houses, and making sure we are ready to welcome you in September. In the meantime we will stay in touch and we wish you well with the last term of year 6.

Our sixth form students have all now had their offers from universities and apprenticeships. They are holding an incredible range of offers from top universities and employers for a range of courses including Medicine, Law, Business and a whole range of Arts. Along with year 11 who are working hard preparing for GCSE exams, we know you will be studying throughout this Easter break, but do remember to take some time to rest and recharge, in preparation for the term ahead. We hold you in our thoughts and prayers as you go through this challenging yet rewarding time.

From the Business Fayre to Culture Evening, and including our wonderful Commemoration Service, there has been a great deal of community activity this half term. We love to celebrate our diverse community, its rich history and its forward looking focus. I hope the pages of this newsletter will give you a flavour of all that is St Saviour's.

Wishing Eid Mubarak to those celebrating, and a blessed Easter to all,

Best wishes
Catherine May



Year 7 Trip to the Ballet

Year 7 had an unforgettable trip to the Royal Opera House, where they watched the Royal Ballet's breathtaking performance of Romeo and Juliet. From the stunning set design to the emotional storytelling through dance, the students were captivated from start to finish.

Their impeccable behaviour and enthusiasm made the experience even more special, and it was wonderful to see them so engaged in the magic of live performance.



How to Support Your Child



How to Support Your Child

Designed to provide valuable insights and practical advice on key areas that impact young people today.

Key Topics Covered:

- Academic Success - Encouraging a positive attitude towards learning and academic success.
- Faith and Personal Growth - Nurturing spiritual development and a strong moral foundation.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing - Recognising signs of stress and anxiety and how to support emotional resilience.
- Mobile Phone Use & Social Media - Managing screen time, online safety, and fostering healthy digital habits.

This event is an excellent opportunity to connect with other parents, hear from experienced speakers, and gain practical strategies to support your child in today's world.

Thursday 1st May
17:00 - 18:30

Food and refreshments will be provided

Secure Your Place – Scan to Confirm your attendance.



Business Partnership Fayre

The Business Partnership Fayre was the first of event of this kind we have organised since 2019. This event was organised by Mr Young, Ms Urwin, Ms Tubb and Ms McKenzie-Thompson, and a thank you to Ms Pagliero for organising the EPQ stand.



Every business that we invited has an established relationship with our school which made this event special.

The vision is to have the event imbedded into the academic calendar so that when new partnerships have been formed, they will get the opportunity to showcase themselves.

We would like to have the event longer next year so we can have more students attend to include Year 7 and Year 8. This year we invited Year 9 and students from KS4 and KS5.

We wanted to show within the community what we do as a school, how we operate, who we work with and the opportunities that are opened to our students through each academic year. We wanted to showcase and celebrate our Business Partnerships and other opportunities that are open to our students.

Most of our businesses offer additional support through work experience for students in our 6th form, and CV and Interview Skills workshops. Students who are applying for Apprenticeships will be offered mock assessment interviews and insight visits by our partners.



Our aim for the Business Partnership Fayre was to gain an insight into the interests and aspirations of our students across different year groups. We wanted to deepen our student's interest in post 16-pathways, including university, apprenticeships, and degree apprenticeships.

We want to bridge the gap between education and the world of work, allowing parents/carers to learn about the opportunities available to their children.

We achieved all our aims for our first event, and would like to say a big thank you for the businesses that supported us and will be looking forward to be working again with them next year for our second event.

Business Partnership Fayre

Our ex student Shanai Taylor who is doing a degree apprenticeship at Hill Group Uk



It was great to see students recognise us from previous workshops at the school and enthusiasm for Engineering and Technology through the high level of engagement from attendees.

Overall, it was a very successful event!"

Samina Rahman
Northrop Grumman



Lots of interesting and thoughtful enquiries made to the Careers Stand. So good to see such excitement and interest in the Fayre with students making such positive use of the opportunity to talk with a diverse range of employers. Well done everyone!

Careers Approaches



"EIP were delighted to attend St Saviour's and St Olave's Business Fayre. We had some great conversations with the students about the work we do and the routes to different careers. We hope you will have us back next year"

Sharon St. Louis



It was a pleasure to be part of the careers event and promote the architecture industry to young women and give them an idea of the range of professions available to them that they may have never considered or been aware of.

Sanaa - Native Studios

Gardening Club

The Gardening Club engages our students during lunch break outdoors in the Mayflower Garden.

The Gardening club takes place on **Tuesdays during lunch break**. The main participants so far are students from KS3 - 8 Yellow and KS4 - 11 Red.



Since the beginning of the Spring term, we did seed sowing, bulb planting, litter picking, observing, and identifying the different and various plants and trees in our school garden.

Our aim is to promote environmental awareness and hands-on learning. For the future, the Gardening club would like to raise money to purchase a green house and gardening equipment.

Big shout out goes to:

Salma, Lila, Abigail, Esther, Eda, Zara and Janelle from 8 Yellow

Wuraola, Lily, Wren and Scarlet 8 Green

Each week activities are tailored so the students learn about soil health, the growth process, and how to care for different types of plants. The Gardening Club fosters teamwork, responsibility, and a deeper connection to nature while providing students with valuable skills for gardening and environmental stewardship. We welcome participants regardless of their gardening experience.

Have a great half term break everyone !
Happy Easter!





Duke of Edinburgh

This half term our Year 9s have begun their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh preparation. This has firstly involved finding which opportunities they would like to pursue for their skill, physical and volunteering sections.

We are very excited to hear back from students who are engaging a huge variety of extra-curricular activities including ice skating, debating, instrumental lessons, martial arts and synchronised swimming. As for volunteering, we are very proud of our cohort who will be supporting the wider community through roles at churches, libraries, community centres and sports clubs.

On top of these activities, participants have been beginning their preparation for the expedition. First step - learning to put up a tent!



Commonwealth Service

On Monday, 10th March 2025, we had the exciting opportunity to attend the Commonwealth Service 2025 at Westminster Abbey, which was also attended by the King and Royal Family.

We got to embrace different cultures through musical performances and an array of literature readings. It was a delightful service, accompanied with a tour and brunch at the Merchant Taylors' Hall, where we got to connect with other schools.

Our favourite part was witnessing how different cultures were able to fuse into one. A massive thank you to SSSO and the Merchant Taylors for inviting us to the event!

- Michal (13B) and Jochebed (13D)



Commemoration Service at Southwark Cathedral

“Women transforming the world with resilience and compassion” was the theme of this year’s commemoration service at Southwark Cathedral. The service spoke directly to the students, placing the spotlight on the contributions of women in various fields -artists, activists, writers, musicians, and physicians like Sojourner Truth, Jane Austen, and Violetta Parra, to name just a few.

We also reflected on the women in the Gospel, those called to challenge the norms of their time, exhibiting profound faith and courage as they followed Christ's calling on their lives.

The students delivered songs written and composed by women, with one of the most powerful moments being when the gospel choir led the congregation in “Imela, Imela Okaka, Onyekeruwa,” a song that translates to “Thank you, thank you, great and Mighty creator of the world.”

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This service celebrated the contributions of women from various backgrounds and ethnicities. It resonated with both our young women and the wiser women in our community. Representation, after all, shapes how we see ourselves, and this service emphasised the intrinsic worth and value of women.

It encouraged the students to be bold, to step out and use their gifts and talents, and to answer the unique call on their lives. It also inspired the staff to continue nurturing the gifts within our students.

The service was a joyous celebration, a heartfelt remembrance of the contributions made and the contributions yet to be made.

6th Form Art Trips

In March Sixth Form Art students had the opportunity to go to two galleries: The South London Gallery and The Saatchi Gallery.

These were fantastic opportunities for students to have guided tours around both galleries and participate in two very different workshops that were led by practicing artists.



At the Saatchi gallery students were taken on a tour of the new exhibitions on flowers, and learned a lot about ways of seeing and interacting with art. Students were all fascinated by kinetic and interactive art. For the workshop students were given the opportunity to make paper roses that will eventually be on display at The Saatchi Gallery.

We are extremely proud of how open-minded the sixth form art students are, and their willingness to explore and try new things. The feedback from the artists leading the workshops commented on how wonderful and delightful the Art cohort is.



At the South London Gallery students learnt about the importance of fun, and joy in art and mark making. The students were able to spend time exploring different methods of creating tools for drawing. They had a lot of fun, and got to see a different side to the art world.



Year 6 Stepping Up

In September 2025, we will be delighted to welcome our new cohort of Year 7 students.

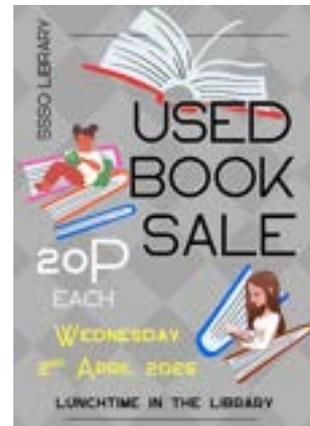
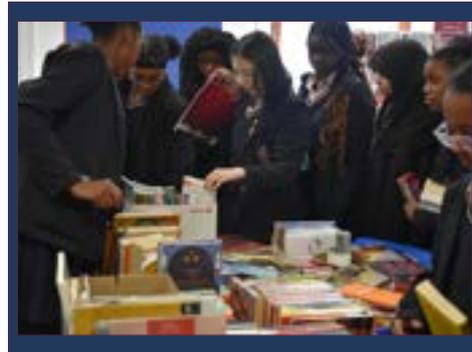
To support a smooth transition, we recently hosted our 'Stepping Up' event, where future Year 7s and their parents had the opportunity to register, take part in engaging mini workshops across various subjects, and explore life at secondary school.

There was a real buzz in the air as students eagerly asked questions, met staff, and got a taste of the exciting journey ahead. We can't wait to welcome them in September!



Used Book Sale

On 2nd April 2025, our Annual Used Book Sale took place in the library during lunchtime. With a fantastic selection of pre-loved books on offer, eager readers and dedicated staff members explored the wide variety available, finding new reads to enjoy.



The event was a great success, with over 230 books finding new homes through purchases and swaps, raising £25.20 which will be donated to charity. Not only did it give books a second life, but it also promoted reading and community spirit. A huge thank you to everyone who donated, bought, and swapped books! We look forward to doing it all again next year.

Keep an eye out for the 2025-26 academic year's Book Sales!

Native Studios Career Talk

On Thursday 27th February, students in Year 10 and Year 9 who have a keen interest in DT, were invited to an Architect insight talk. The talk was led by Sanna who is the owner of Native Studios, Native studios are involved in the redesign of the Bricklayers Arms which is close to our school community.

Native have worked with our students before, so we were happy when they wanted to offer this talk to our students. Sanna brought Mike Martin who is a landscape architect who gave another side of architecture which our students found interesting as Mike as worked on some landmarks that the students know and live near.



Lawyers in School - Travers smith

On March 4th we took 25 students who expressed an interest in Law to Travers Smith in the City.

Our students were given the opportunity to take part in a workshop looking at different aspects of the law. Students had to work in groups with a lawyer supporting each group.

This was a good opportunity for our students to work with a lawyer during the workshop and they were able to find out their route into law with Travers Smith.

The workshops gave our students skills such as listening skills and working in groups - all these skills they will have to use when in the world of work. Students were also treated to lunch and got to sample what it would be like having lunch in a major law firm.





Cultural Evening

Cultural Evening was a vibrant showcase of food, music, and performance, bringing our community together in celebration of diversity.



Guests enjoyed a tasting station featuring global flavours, from Jamaican curry goat to sweet Romanian treats.

The stage lit up with dance performances, blending traditional and modern styles, while singing and poetry readings added heartfelt expressions of culture and identity.

More than just entertainment, the evening highlighted the richness of our school's diverse backgrounds. A big thank you to all who made this event unforgettable—we can't wait for next year!



Safe Sister Health & Well-Being Programme

On Friday 7th March, 15 students in Year 8 were given a taster workshop session by Diamond-Beauty Ofori who attended our 6th form from 2012-2014. Diamond has written a programme especially for young women.

The workshops cover topics such as "Who am I" "My ambition" and "Public Speaking" The workshop was different for our students as it gave them the skills to work in groups they don't normally work in and being out of their comfort zone.

We are hoping to invite Diamond back to deliver a full programme which is 7 weeks. The feedback from the students was very good and they hope that Diamond can deliver more sessions.



Visitors From Belgium

Written by Binta, Karita and Eva in 9G:

On Thursday 3rd April a large group of teacher trainees from Belgium visited SSSO to learn more about the profession. They began their day by watching Year 9 Assembly, after which the Year 9 Ambassadors gave them a tour. In pairs, the Ambassadors took the visitors on a tour of our school.

As we took them around, we gave them a summary of some of the events taking place in school, such as Culture Evening and lessons, as well as the school production rehearsals. We also shared our interests, and they gave us an insight into what schools are like in Belgium, for example, how their curriculum works and their day-to-day work lives.

Afterwards, some of the other things we discussed were their language and culture which was very interesting for us to learn about. Overall, it was a great experience to gain a better understanding of what education is like in another country and give them a taste of what school life is like for students at SSSO.



Elevated Minds: Empower X Programme at SSSO.

Some Year 9 students have been participating in the Elevated Minds programme called Empower X this academic year. As a tribute to celebrating our completion of the course Doreen Sinclair-McCollin (Founder and CEO) and Kate Fahy took us for lunch at the O2 Arena after receiving our certificates and delivered speeches.

We are all proud to have completed this milestone in our personal and academic development and we were able to learn things about the world and ourselves we wouldn't have otherwise, such as communication and public speaking skills and self-identity.

Prior to the lunch, we gave speeches about our journey in Elevated Minds to some of our teachers and peers who wanted to show support. Afterwards, we received certificates for our achievement in the programme. We thank all the teachers who organised this for us and Doreen and Kate for hosting each session.

Sheriff's Challenge

Our Sheriff's Challenge team – Hannah, Raima, Julia, Ivy, Helen, Queenie, and Zoey – concluded their impressive journey by competing in the grand final of the competition, held at none other than the historic Old Bailey, the iconic centre of Britain's justice system.

After passing through security, the students were given a rare tour of this iconic courthouse, including Courtroom Number 1, where some of Britain's most notorious trials have taken place. They then stepped into one of the grand courtrooms to present their case on how the City of London could better support young people in accessing careers and opportunities.



Their proposals included innovative strategies to expand work experience access, increase outreach through digital platforms, and build stronger mentoring networks across the city.

Delivering their presentation in front of two High Court judges and the Sheriffs of the City of London, the team faced a round of intense, high-level questioning. They handled the pressure with poise and clarity, confidently defending their proposals and demonstrating deep knowledge and preparation.

Although another school took home the winning cup, the SSSO team secured a top three national finish – an incredible achievement. The judges praised their meticulous planning and even recommended other schools watch their performance as a model for future years. One judge personally congratulated the team on their powerful advocacy for equality in education and employment, commenting that each of them had a bright future ahead.

Huge thanks to Merchant Taylors' for their support and to the two fantastic coaches who guided the team. We are immensely proud of the students and look forward to returning even stronger next year.

Oxbridge Programme

The SSSO Oxbridge Programme continues to flourish, offering selected Year 11 and Year 12 students a taste of university-style learning. Designed to stretch academic curiosity and develop high-level thinking, the programme runs fortnightly in seminar-style sessions that push students well beyond the standard curriculum.

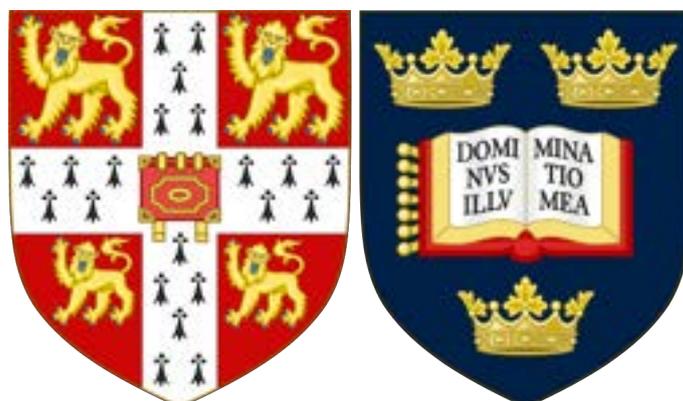
This half-term, students engaged in a fresh set of intellectually rich elective sessions across both the Humanities and Sciences. In the Humanities stream, seminars explored Representations of Women in Literature (English), the importance of nuance in historical interpretation in Why is Nuance Important in Understanding People of the Past? (History), and a thought-provoking discussion in Music on The 'Authenticity' Debate: Do the Intentions of a Composer or Writer Matter When We Perform Their Work?

Meanwhile, the Science stream tackled key ethical and analytical topics including Rat Park: Does Environment Affect Addiction?, as well as a deep dive into Medical Ethics and preparation for the UCAT Medical Entry Test – vital for those considering careers in medicine or health sciences.

These sessions continue to challenge students to think critically, debate rigorously, and engage deeply with ideas across disciplines.

We're also excited to share that participating students have been invited to attend an Oxbridge Immersion Day at Streatham & Clapham High School during the Easter break. The day will cover everything from understanding what makes an excellent Oxbridge applicant to mastering application components, interview skills, and developing strong supra-curricular engagement. While tailored to Oxbridge, the skills gained will benefit any university application and SSSO is proud to be offering this opportunity to those students committed to the programme!

We look forward to more exciting academic conversations next term as the programme continues to grow and inspire



Debate at SSSO

Debating has truly thrived at SSSO this term. From Year 7 to Year 12, students have engaged in lively arguments, developed their public speaking skills, and embraced the power of argumentative persuasion. A major highlight was our participation in the prestigious Harrow Nehru Cup, marking our entry into national-level competition.

Alongside this, Year 10s and Year 12s joined a fast-paced exchange at St. Michael's College, and our Year 9s delivered a spirited in-house debate. Debating is alive and well at SSSO, and we look forward to seeing it continue to grow.

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The Harrow Nehru Cup

Four students (Hannah and Raima, Year 12, and Keiko and Adebimpe, Year 10) represented SSSO at Harrow School, taking part in four rounds of high-level debate in a formal, competitive setting – a first for all of them.

Throughout the day, they received expert feedback, observed experienced debaters, and rose to the challenge with increasing confidence – with Keiko and Adebimpe even winning the final debate of the day! Year 10 student Adebimpe reflected: “The Nehru Cup gave me the chance to really develop my debating skills and meet students from different backgrounds. I’ve now got the goal of coming back stronger and winning next year!”



Year 9 Debate Finale

Our end-of-term debate showcased the rising stars of Year 9, as four students took to the floor in front of a large audience to enthusiastically and expertly argue for and against the motion: *“This House would offer more sports on the curriculum.”*

Representing Orange House and arguing *for* the motion, Abigail and Leonna focused on the significant **social, physical, and academic benefits** of increased sport.

They highlighted how regular physical activity supports mental wellbeing, reduces stress, and boosts classroom focus. They made a strong case for **inclusivity**, arguing that a wider variety of sports would allow more students to find an activity they enjoy – making PE a more accessible and positive experience for all. They also emphasised the career pathways, life skills, and improved attendance that could result from a more sport-rich school environment.

Opposing the motion were Maia and Mabel from Red House, who delivered a sharp and well-structured rebuttal. They raised concerns about the potential **strain on the NHS** from sports-related injuries, the **emotional discomfort** some students face in PE, and the **trade-off with academic time**.

They also pointed out that **forced participation** could reduce enjoyment and that **school budgets** might be better spent on academic enrichment or career support. It was a passionate and well-argued debate from both sides, and the large audience turnout showed just how popular and exciting debating has become at SSSO.

Exchange Debates at St. Michael's

We were also delighted to take eight students – four from Year 10 and four from Year 12 – to St. Michael's College for an exciting exchange debate. With only 15 minutes to prepare, students tackled complex motions covering education, economics, and the future of the world.

It was a fantastic chance to sharpen quick-thinking skills and public speaking. We thank St. Michael's for hosting us and offering such a rich intellectual experience.

20/20 Investment Workshop- Year 9

On 18th March, students in Year 9 were given an introduction to the Finance industry. 20/20 Investment spoke to our students about life working in Finance and brought one of their apprentices to give her insight of being an apprentice at 20/20 Investment. This was another good experience for our students in Year 9 as thinking about their options was fresh in their minds.

Our students asked lots of questions about what skills you need, and also wanted to know what the lunch is like. 20/20 Investment were really impressed with our students and their knowledge they had.

They have offered us an insight visit to 20/20 Investment so our student can see firsthand what it would be like to be in that industry.



Year 7 Easter Egg Hunt

Excitement filled the air as our Year 7 students took part in a thrilling Easter Egg Hunt! . Laughter and friendly competition made the event even more enjoyable.

A big thank you to our staff and volunteers for organizing such a fun-filled activity. It was a fantastic way to celebrate Easter and bring students together. Well done to all our egg hunters!

