

# The OLAVIAN Lecture Series V



2017-18

## St Olave's Grammar School

A very warm welcome to The Olavian Lecture Series V and what an exciting range of speakers we have in store again! With topics ranging from advances in combatting superbugs, cutting edge medicine and cryptography to the Civil Service, political thrillers and adventure treks around the world, the series promises to entertain and inform in a natural extension of our focus on scholarship. It is my pleasure to welcome these illustrious speakers and artists, all of whom have achieved eminence in their various fields.

The lectures will start at 7.00pm and will take place in either The Great Hall or The Chapel. After the formal talk there will be an opportunity for questions and some light refreshments, with the event concluding around 9.00pm.

All of our students are invited to attend as well as any interested parents and Old Olavians. As before I shall also be extending an invitation to students, colleagues from other nearby Secondary schools and members of the local community.

Please contact **Reception** for details about tickets.  
I hope to see many of you at these fascinating presentations.

Aydın Önaç  
Headmaster

Please see the following page to view our forthcoming programme of lectures:

Wednesday 1 November 2017

### Jonathan Nancekivell-Smith



[Working with Prime Ministers: an up close view](#)

Former Principal Private Secretary to the Rt Hon Theresa May MP and senior civil servant, Mr Nancekivell-Smith will give a personal insight into the role of a modern civil servant.

Having worked with four Prime Ministers in four Departments, he will pose the question 'Is working in Whitehall the best job in the world?' suggesting answers through the lens of his amazing experiences and opportunities serving ministers.

With the recent turbulence in British politics, this should be a fascinating foray into the corridors of power, as entertaining and enlightening as anything from the popular TV series, 'Yes Minister.'

Thursday 23 November 2017

### David Albert



[Chameleon](#)

Local author, Mr Albert, published Chameleon in 2012. A political thriller centred on the London Olympic Games, the novel's plot to overthrow corrupt global leaders involves the SAS and a fast chase around the world!

Born a Cockney but brought up in rural Essex, Mr Albert's enterprising career started when he founded Britain's first free newspaper at 14. After working as a clothes designer in Brick Lane, Carnaby Street and Saville Row, he moved into Stockbroking and International Banking before becoming a Manager and Head of a City Trading Floor. He has acted with Helen Bonham Carter and his Great Uncle, Sir Jack Cohen, founded Tesco.

Wednesday 31 January 2018

### Leon McCarron



[Walking The Masar: 1000 miles through the Heart of the Middle East](#)

Explorer and author, Leon McCarron, will describe his walk through Palestine, Israel, Jordan and Sinai.

His expeditions have taken him around the world on a bicycle and 3000 miles across China on foot. He has walked the largest desert on earth, followed Iran's longest river from source to sea and ridden a horse across Argentina.

With a TV series for National Geographic, three independent films and a Top 10 Bestselling book on Amazon, Leon's talk promises to inspire us to persevere through difficulty, to aim high, to take risks and seize every opportunity.

Wednesday 21 February 2018

### Jonathan O'Halloran



[Drug Resistance: Diagnosing and tracking the Superbugs](#)

With the outbreak of Ebola and the global battle against drug resistance, the need for rapid and actionable diagnostics is ever more important. Jonathan O'Halloran's lecture will cover the growing threat of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance, and how a new generation of diagnostics will provide a solution. His low-cost molecular diagnostic device, Q-POC™, received praise from Bill Gates and could be used to test patients in the field. Data collected by Q-POC™ will be geotagged and sent to the cloud, building a real-time global pathogen monitoring system called the Internet of Life™. Jonathan was recognised for his achievements in 2015 when he was awarded European CTO of the Year.

Wednesday 21 March 2018

### Professor Andrew Flewitt



[How Electrical Engineers can be Good for your Health](#)

As part of our Science Festival this talk will explore a revolutionary way in which technology is going to change the face of 21<sup>st</sup> Century medicine.

Microfabrication techniques that are normally employed for making electronic microprocessors and memories can also be used to make mechanical structures on similarly small length scales, typically between 100 nm and 100 μm, on silicon wafers. These length scales are a similar order to biological matter, such as viruses, DNA, bacteria and cells. This is making possible a new generation of sensing technologies which can be deployed outside of hospital labs. The resulting point-of-care diagnostic tools have the potential to transform medicine in the coming years.

Thursday 19 April 2018

### Zubin Siganporia



[Artificial Intelligence](#)

A return visit by this ever-popular Old Olavian will be eagerly anticipated, particularly by our mathematical fraternity. Innovations in artificial intelligence have generated much attention in boardrooms, government and the media and Zubin will explore the mathematics behind such systems.

Running a consultancy in mathematical modelling and machine learning, Zubin's work has included cryptography, financial algorithms and strategy/training systems for world-leading sports teams and Olympic squads. He is a Visiting Professor, Fellow and Lecturer in pure mathematics at St Catherine's College, Oxford. He recently won the Oxford Student Union Teaching Award for most outstanding tutor in Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences.

