

## WORLD CHALLENGE 2023

Expedition to Tanzania  
for Years 11, 12 and 13

## YEAR 12 TRIP TO OXFORD/LONDON

Tower of London, Natural  
History Museum, The Lion  
King on stage + more!

## SPORTING SUCCESSES

U16s Netball team and Ruby's  
swimming challenge

## DELPHINUS CHARITY DAY

Students set new benchmark  
in fundraising efforts



A message from the

# Headteacher

*Dr. Barbara Minards*

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for the 2023-24 academic year! Congratulations to Year 7 and our new Year 12 students who have successfully completed their first half term at Sutton Girls. The hot weather that arrived just as we returned to school is a distant memory as so much has been achieved in the 8 weeks since the beginning of September.

It was fantastic to welcome students back with assemblies for each year group, inspiring them to maximise the opportunities that a new school year brings. Students were encouraged to be aspirational and get fully engaged in learning, personal development and extracurricular activities. Many students took the opportunity to help out at our open evening on 27th September, their enthusiasm for their subjects and the School was complimented by the families who had an enjoyable and informative first visit to Sutton Girls.

It has also been great to see so many parents, carers and family members at the settling in evening for Year 7 and information evenings for Years 8, 9, 10 and 12. We are looking forward to Year 11 students and their families joining us for our Sixth Form Open Evening on 16th November.

In addition to all the lessons, tutor times and assemblies, the extra-curricular programme is up and running with over fifty clubs



and activities taking place every week. After a rigorous audition process at the start of term, the School musical has been cast and the rehearsals for Annie are underway. Already the cast are sounding amazing, I enjoy hearing the singing from my office after school on Mondays and Thursdays and am looking forward to the production in March.

The first House charity event has taken place with Delphinus setting a high bar for engagement, excitement and fund-raising. The pink theme for non-uniform, a variety of stalls in the sports hall and performance by the rock band led to an amazing total of over £2000 being raised for Breast Cancer Now.

Harkiran, the Senior Student Ambassador and the Respect

Prefect Team planned and delivered assemblies to celebrate Black History Month on the theme 'Saluting our Sisters' and held an exhibition sharing information about inspiring Black Women and showcasing art, music, poetry and fashion. Both were very well designed, informative and engaging; there were many entries to the poetry, art fashion and photography competition with the winners being announced after half term.

Please enjoy reading more about what has been happening at Sutton Girls during the first half term of the new school year.

Have a happy and safe half term holiday.

Take care,  
**Dr Minards**

# Increasing our focus on Careers Education through new PD programme

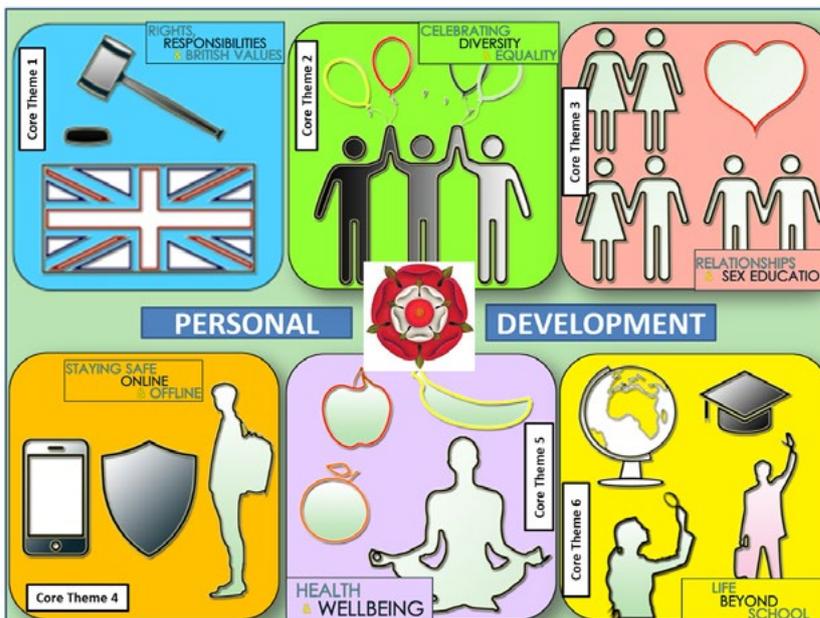
Mrs M. Lucas  
Assistant Headteacher

Careers Education is an integral part of our Personal Development Programme which is planned from Year 7-13. By helping students with decisions at crucial stages of their journey, informing them of their options, we aim to prepare them for their future whichever pathway they choose.

Our Careers Programme aims to encourage students to consider a broad range of options and opportunities which fit with their needs, skills, ambitions, interests and character.

Along with myself, Mrs McTear, Heads of Year, we are also joined by Mrs Georgie McMath, our new Careers Advisor.

Georgie is also in the Dining Hub



every Monday lunchtime on her station. Here you can ask her quick questions or about general information about Careers.

If you need a full Careers Interview to discuss things in more detail, she can also book you one.



## Staff raise money for Macmillan

Mr S. Hall  
Marketing Assistant

On Friday 29th September, the staff here at Sutton Girls took part in the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. We decided not to price cakes and biscuits, instead offering out the baked delights and suggesting a donation of their choice.

I am absolutely thrilled to say that we raised a total of £300 (and 1 Euro). Thank you to Mrs Lambert, Mrs Holden, Miss Sidebotham and Miss Male for supplying some truly delicious bakes!

# Breast Cancer Now: Delphinus Charity Event



by Maryam in Year 9

The Delphinus house charity day was on Friday 20th October, and while it might have been a wet and miserable day outside, at school we were a sea of pink, raising money for charity **Breast Cancer Now**.

During our lunch break, students from all years came together to lead stalls selling candyfloss, charm bracelets, cupcakes and muffins, a dolphin-themed raffle, quizzes, Mario Kart on the Wii, student-verses-staff Netball shootouts and an epic performance from the Rock Band! It was a jam-packed afternoon

and we are so pleased about the number of people that came.

We would like to thank all the students that had a table during the lunchtime, everyone that donated in some way, and to Mr Hughes for organising the event.

All in all, Delphinus raised an INCREDIBLE total of **£2,006.50!**





# World Challenge - Tanzania

Reflecting on their World Challenge Expedition, our students said they had gained a greater appreciation of what we have, and learned about the importance of being present in the moment, having a go and discovering skills (bricklaying, plastering, cooking, swimming instructor), having greater empathy, looking for the beauty when the going is tough and not wasting food or water.



It was the most unique experience of my life and I don't think I will ever go on a trip of a similar scale again.

The highs of the trip were electrifying and though the lows were not as good, regardless they definitely made me assess my durability and that it was the coolest three weeks ever; I'll forever be proud of what I achieved on the trip.

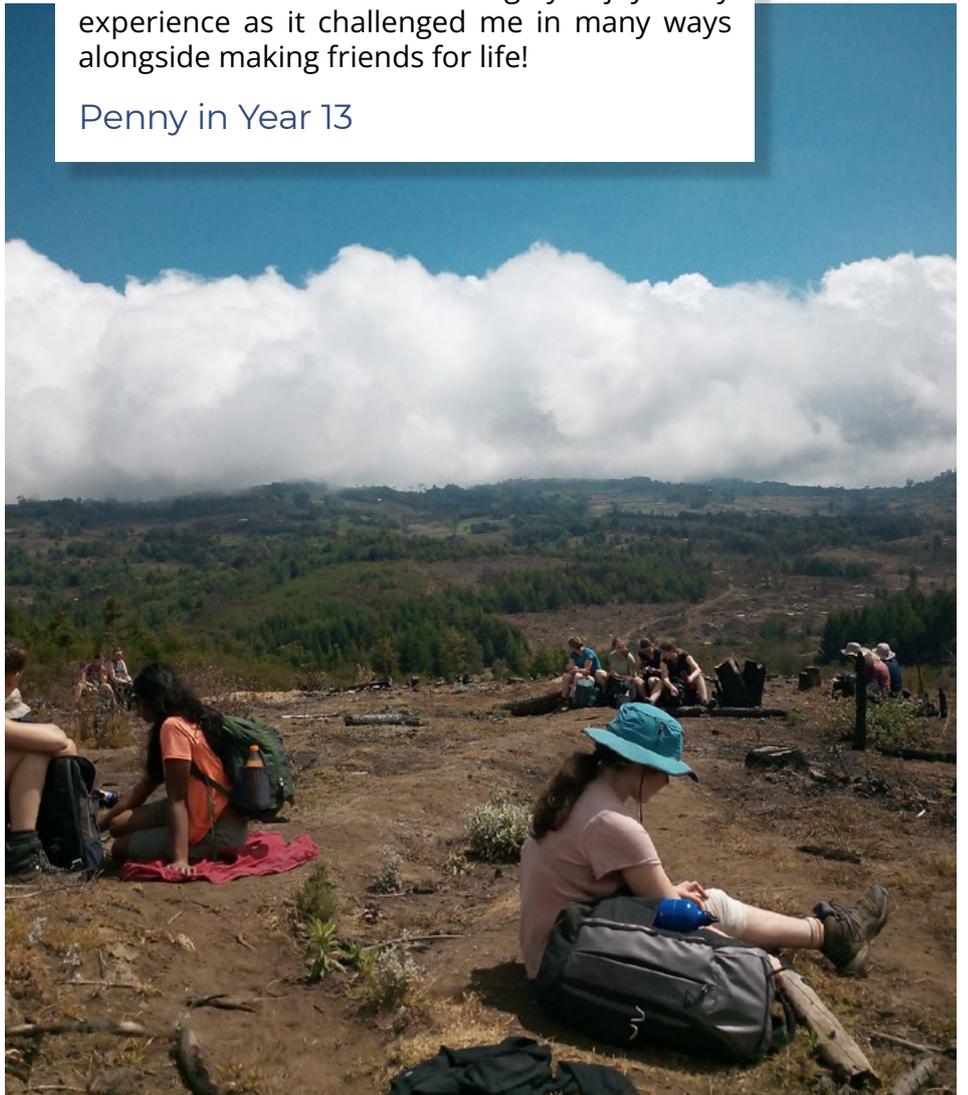
Sharanya in Year 12





World challenge was a great experience to see explore places I wouldn't usually go with family and has allowed me to develop new skills which will last me a lifetime. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience as it challenged me in many ways alongside making friends for life!

Penny in Year 13





# A Day in the Life

This half term, we've been finding out about Year 7 student Farydah and their first day at school...

Coming from Primary to Secondary has been a big step and there has been a lot to take on board, some days have been exhausting and a little hectic, but nevertheless everyday has been exciting and enriched with brand new experiences. I am ecstatic that our teachers make the lessons so interesting, explaining in detail and in a way which helps me remember! They are also very friendly, approachable, and willing to help at any time which I find very reassuring, especially as this is only the very beginning of Year 7!

On my first day here at Sutton Girls, I made my way to the school entrance feel an equal mix of nerves and excitement. We were met with warm, smiling faces and directed to the main school hall where we attended an assembly with Mrs Mahoney – our head of year. She briefed us on what we were going to do on that day. Afterwards, we were told to head to our form rooms where our forms tutors explained certain points in more detail. From here we went on to our first task, a treasure hunt! In our pairs, we set off to explore the school while following clues to get to know the school a bit better. We were also given a map to help us out, some of us still managed to get a little lost!

After a very delicious lunch in the canteen (I had the katsu curry!), I went up to the library and had a really great induction with Mrs Jowett. I wanted to go back and see just how many books and different genres they have there.

My first lesson at Sutton Girls was Science where we learned about lab safety and had to point out what we could do to be cautious. My next was Computing where we received our school email address and created our passwords, we were then able to access all of the digital services

that students across the school get! All the introductory lessons have helped me to get to know my teachers better. I've been enjoying my lessons so far and love participating in my flute lessons. In Religious Studies we've been talking about our identity and what makes us who we are. In English, we've been learning about autobiographies and interviews.

I am looking forward to the rest of my time at Sutton Girls, and to see what happens next!



We're always looking for students to share a day in their life. Are you interested in writing for the school newsletter? Email [Mr Hall](#) for more information.



# Year 12 London/Oxford Trip

by Amelia in Year 12

I joined Sutton Girls in September, knowing only a few faces from my previous school. This trip allowed me and my classmates to build on the relationships with one another we had begun to form over the last few weeks.

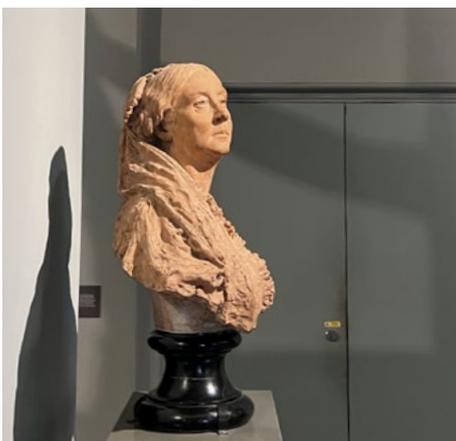
Upon arriving in London on Thursday morning, we split up into small groups with a member of staff and then headed off to various

destinations, including the Tower of London!

We were also allowed some free time, which meant we could explore the city ourselves and go to places where we had our own interests, like the Natural History Museum, which was remarkable! Part of this independent time meant that we all had to regroup at a certain time, which put all our time management skills to the test, ensuring we all got to our meeting point in time to head

to the West End for the final activity of the day... The Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre!!

Even though we were all pretty exhausted after a long day, the show was incredible. There was so much to enjoy; the music was exactly like the original animated Disney film, and the puppetry and costumes were stunning. If you get the chance to see it, either in London or the UK tour, do it. You will not be disappointed!





# Annie: the Musical for 2024

by Jessica in Year 9

The audition process for our school shows are quite long but they end up with something spectacular! (after a long stretch of rehearsals).

If you're wondering what the audition process is like or you've never seen a school show before, and would like to know what is involved, then this article is you are looking for!

Whether you're aiming to be the star or sing with your friends in the chorus - there are NO SMALL PARTS!!! Everyone is important and everyone's efforts contribute to the

amazing experience on show night.

As can be seen on the Drama Studio doors, the cast list is immense. From chorus to dancers, leads to backstage, there are so many ways to be involved. Everyone auditions [in small groups, you don't have to sing in front of the whole school if you don't want to] at the same time then the main cast are filled through the call back auditions.

However, not everything is about singing. If you're thinking 'I can't sing' then you can audition to be a dancer. Dancers fill the stage and help tell the story. In group scenes, they will come on and dance while

the cast are singing.

## ***This year's lead roles!***

- Annie - Emily B
- Grace - Lexi B
- Miss Hannigan - Lara B
- Oliver Warbucks - Aysha Y
- Rooster - Aimee-Louise W
- Lily - Molly L

## ***Understudies:***

- Annie - Molly L
- Miss Hannigan - Bea B
- Oliver Warbucks - Becky H
- Grace - Annie B

# The SCGSG Autumn Open Evening

by Maza in Year 9

This first open evening of this academic year has been successfully completed! When we came back into school, we returned to magically transformed classrooms, from plasma balls in the in Physics labs, dissection demonstrations in Biology, finding your house on a map of Birmingham in Geography, and organising dates in History.

This time, we had a big influx of

students volunteering for the evening, from guides showing parents and prospective students around the school, and subject-specific guides who helped engage and show round the activities each department had.

We had great compliments from parents, particularly about how helpful we were when answering questions any adults or children had.



# The SCGSG U16 Netball Team secures a place at Regional Schools!

by Ava in Year 11

On Thursday 12th October, the U16 Netball team headed to EHS to play in the Birmingham Schools' Netball Tournament, hoping to qualify for regionals. After a few first game

nerve, we suffered a close loss to our local rivals, Arthur Terry, but we still had hopes of qualifying. After a quick team talk from Miss Hewitt, we were ready to go again.

We got back on court and fought hard with some amazing team

performances and went on to win all 5 of our other matches. Amazingly, we secured 2nd place, and will now be heading to regionals in January!



# Swim England National Meet 2023

by Ruby in Year 11

Over the summer holidays, I attended the Swim England National Summer Meet. I had previously qualified for 3 of the 15 Yrs breaststroke races: 200 meters, 100 meters and 50 meters. I then made it through to two finals on the 50m and 100m breaststroke!

I ended up coming 6th in the 100m breaststroke with a time of 1:17.54 putting me 35th fastest in the Britain, and I came 4th in the 50m breaststroke at 34.91 putting me at 22nd fastest in Britain.

Racing at English Summer Nationals was an absolutely life changing experience and although competing at this level was pretty scary, it made



me love swimming even more. I'm just so grateful that I've had such a

great support network to help me get this far!

You can look forward to our next newsletter at the end of the Autumn 2 half term in December. In the meantime, keep up to date by following us on:

[facebook.com/suttcold](https://www.facebook.com/suttcold) or [twitter.com/suttcold](https://twitter.com/suttcold)



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