



SCGSG

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls
OCTOBER 2024

TEDDY TRUST CHARITY DAY

Ursa raise money for
amazing charity

ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

2025 School musical announced!
Black History Month exhibition
Year 12 London/Oxford Residential



A message from the

Headteacher

Dr. Barbara Minards

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for the 2024-25 academic year! Congratulations to Year 7 and our new Year 12 students who have successfully completed their first half term at Sutton Girls. It has been an 8-week half term, the 5th September was the first day that we welcomed back all students and it seems so long ago because we have achieved so much since.

The start of term assemblies featured the successes of female British athletes from the Paris Olympics and Para-Olympics. Their inspiring performances and the dedication, effort and determination that led to them were a source of inspiration as we set our own goals for this academic year.

Now we have completed the first half term, it is a good time to reflect on the progress made with learning, personal development and engagement in extra-curricular activities. After having a good rest and re-set over the holiday, we can re-focus for Autumn 2 by continuing with strategies that were successful in the first half term and try new ones in aspects we would like to make further progress, whilst maintaining an aspirational outlook.

This newsletter showcases the variety of events and activities that happen alongside the lessons, tutor times and assemblies. It is fantastic to see how many students participate in the breadth of opportunities that are on offer here at Sutton Girls. Many students from across Years 8 to 13 volunteered to help at our open evening on



25th September either as a tour guide or department helper (Year 7 get their turn to help at the June event). Students' enthusiasm for their subjects and the School was a delight to see, and provided prospective students and their families an informative, enjoyable introduction to Sutton Girls.

We are looking forward to Year 11 students and their families joining us for our Sixth Form Open Evening on 21st November. This event is for students who are currently at Sutton Girls and those who are new to the school. There will be taster activities for each of the 20 different A-level subjects on offer and opportunities to learn more about the many different aspects of sixth form life. Booking for tickets opens at midday on 4th November, we are looking forward to a fantastic evening.

The Sixth Form House Captains for Usra led a fantastic first charity day of the year. The green theme for non-uniform, a variety of stalls in

the sports hall and staff handball games led to an amazing total of over £1900 being raised for the Teddy Trust, with lots of teddies also being donated. This event generated lots of house and school spirit and has set a high standard for engagement, enjoyment and fund-raising for the rest of the year.

After an amazing amount of interest from students across the whole school and a long audition process, the School musical has been cast! The rehearsals for Frozen Jr. are underway, we are already enjoying the singing after school on Mondays and Thursdays. We are looking forward to what will be another amazing production in March.

Please enjoy reading more about what has been happening at Sutton Girls during the Autumn 1 half term. Have a happy and safe half term holiday.

Take care,
Dr Minards

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2024

by Mr S. Hall
Marketing Assistant

It is fairly common knowledge that at Sutton Girls, we love a cake sale. The annual Macmillan Coffee Morning is the perfect excuse!

I am thrilled to say that we surpassed the total raised last year, and have collected an amazing **£329.36** for the charity.

A big thank you to everyone who donated and ate plenty of cake, and also our fabulous bakers (Mrs Toft, Mrs McMullen, Mrs Parker, Mr Lonsdale, Mrs Pockson, Mrs Lambert and Mrs Holden) for supplying the most delicious treats.



Oxford Scientist Essay Competition

by Jessica in Year 13

In June 2024, biology students in year twelve were offered the opportunity to submit an entry to the Oxford Scientist Schools Competition 2024. This involved submitting a 700-word essay on the topic of either: "Evolution: anything and everything from Survival to Free Will" or "Data and humans in the digital age", with candidates being able to focus on any area within these broader topics.

This task was paired with the biology oracy assignment happening within school, meaning that candidates also gave a five-minute speech on their chosen topic in their biology classes, and produced a bibliography for the piece. The school has now been informed by the organisers of the competition that three students: Lexi, Samahir and Jessica were



on the shortlist of entries for the competition, making SCGSG the highest performing school to enter.

Of the three winners, one entrant wrote their essay on the evolution topic, with an essay titled: "Modern evolutionary examples of protective colouration" and the other two wrote their essays on the data topic, with essays titled:

"The Dawn of AI in Oncology: Transforming Cancer Prediction, Diagnosis, and Prognosis" and "Decoding the brain: the developments of AI in Alzheimer's disease research".

This is an impressive result for the school, and we hope that this result will inspire students to get involved in other competitions like this in future.



Year 12 London/Oxford Residential

by Ruby & Mia in Year 12

This term Year 12 had the opportunity to visit London and Oxford, over two days, the group explored London's most iconic spots, got to see an amazing theatre show, and wandered through the historic streets of Oxford.

The trip began with an early morning departure, as students and teachers made their way to London, Year 12 got to visit the Science Museum, as well as the Natural History Museum with exhibits that ranged from

dinosaurs, historic figures, crystals, and an actual skeleton of a young blue whale, a 128-year-old skeleton nicknamed "Hope".

We got the opportunity to visit the Tower of London too and explore the history of the people that lived there, the crown jewels and the prison where criminals used to be held. After this, we had the opportunity to experience a vibrant blend of entertainment and culture and visit Covent Garden, the lively atmosphere was enhanced by captivating street performers. In addition, students

explored a range of designer shops, offering a unique shopping experience. Some students even saw some celebrities! The group had a meal out and then got to see the Lion King in theatre.

The next morning, we made our way to Oxford where we were able to have plenty of free time to shop around, enjoy the street foods and take in the historic city. The town was full of cozy bookstores and cafes as well as indoor markets and stalls.





Ursa House Charity Fundraiser

by Mr A. Maguire
Head of Ursa

Following their theme of Bears, Ursa chose to accept donations and raise money for the Teddy Trust. Stalls selling samosas, cakes, pre-loved books

and homemade crafts were accompanied by "pin the ears on the bear", name the bear, quizzes and a very popular chocolate fountain.

Staff also participated in some games of Benchball, with the Heads of Houses and Mr

Nott competing against other members of Ursa house and a second staff team. Overall, the day itself has raised **£1935.30** (and over 80 teddies!).

Thank you to everyone that helped us to reach such an amazing total!





A Day in the Life

For our first edition of the 2024/25 academic year, we hear from two Year 12 students that stayed with us from Year 11 last year...

I've been a student at SCGSG since Year 7 and stayed for Sixth Form. The most obvious changes are wearing our own clothes and the timetable! In previous Years our timetable would be filled with all the different subject lessons we do but in Sixth Form with 3 or 4 subjects the timetable starts to look a bit emptier with free periods and supervised study (where you have dedicated time to get your work done).

Although there is a big jump from the content in GCSE to A-level I've enjoyed learning so many new concepts, that seem more

in detail, in the subjects that I've taken. I definitely think that by picking subjects that I liked in Year 11 I'm able to enjoy the lessons more. Another change since Year 11 is that more freedom is given in lessons and in the school. For example, I've been using my iPad in lessons for taking notes and looking at PowerPoints and in free periods we are finally allowed to go up to the mezzanine to work. In Sixth Form there are also so many more opportunities.

Since joining in September, I've joined 2 webinars about universities, chosen to do an EPQ

and explored my creative side in our enrichment period. Enrichment and PD (personal development) are timetabled periods we have that are dedicated to improving ourselves and take a break from our normal lessons. In enrichment we had the opportunity to do crafts, sports leader, get active or to learn Latin.

Although Sixth Form is a lot different than Year 11 it has been very fun so far with the new opportunities, content and responsibilities.

by Kareen

I am currently in Year 12, but started at Sutton Girls in Year 7. I have definitely found the step up from Year 11 to Sixth Form challenging, however I've felt very supported in starting my A-Levels here!

Each morning my day starts in form with Mr Gilbert, and today's activity was PD Weekly. For the past few weeks, we have been working in groups to produce a debate on a question of our choice, and we will present these to the form at the end of half-term. My friends and I are debating the question 'Should there be a universal language?', and have been coming up with many points both for and against. I've been really enjoying this form activity and feel it will develop my public speaking and debating skills.

Then, I started the day off with a free period, in which I went to the library. Today, I completed my French homework and had time to also review my English notes from last lesson. Unlike in Year 11, we have at least one free or

supervised study period every day, and I find these really useful to help manage my workload, especially in reviewing the material we have covered in class, which is important to do more often at A-Level.

After this, I had English Literature, and currently we are studying the texts for our tragedy paper. With Mrs McIntosh, we are reading 'Richard II', and today we watched and read the next scene, where King Richard begins to lose hope, and we analysed the famous 'Let us sit upon the ground' speech. I am really enjoying English Literature at A-Level, as there is a large aspect of discussion and debate, and the smaller class size makes this much more engaging. (Looking forward to tomorrow's 'Cake Friday' lesson!)

My period three lesson was History, and with Mrs Heeks we study US Civil Rights 1865-1992. Currently, we are focusing on the rights of Native Americans and more specifically the Dawes Act of 1887. We didn't study American

History at GCSE, so for me, it's been particularly interesting.

During my one hour lunch break, my friends and I went out of school to get lunch, one of the new perks of being a Sixth Former!

After eating and chatting with my friends, my period five lesson was French with Miss Franklin, and we are studying the families and relationships topic. I really love A-Level French, as there is definitely more of a focus on French culture, and we study many examples that link to real-life France.

Finally, for my last lesson of the day I returned to the E-Block! With Mrs Manning we are studying 'Othello', and so far I'm really enjoying it. Recently, we have been working on our essay technique and responses to exam-style questions.

After school, I did some more research for my EPQ ready for my supervisor's meeting next week.

by Matilda

Autumn Open Evening

by Tilly & Eva in Year 8

On Wednesday 25th of September, Sutton Girls held its autumn open evening. We really enjoyed taking the Year 5s and 6s around school. It was a very wet and gloomy evening, but inside, everyone was buzzing with excitement - there were many families eager to hear about the school and our lives here at Sutton Girls!

The tours went quite well and it was very interesting getting to know the prospective students



and having the opportunity to show off the school! However, everyone struggled with getting back to the hall on time for the talks - this involved a very cold and rainy shortcut...but overall, the "tourees" seemed very

impressed with the school and its departments - it was a great evening! Top tips for touring - keep smiling, be confident, be positive and don't be scared to answer any questions!

Extra Curricular clubs at Sutton Girls

by Maryam in Year 8

We have a wide range of clubs here at Sutton Girls. From textiles, drama, K-Pop, Diversity Dialogues and so much more, you can find the right one just for you. Clubs are a stress-free and enjoyable way to spend time with friends and take a break from the classroom.

If you have a certain interest or

hobby that you like, clubs are a great way to pursue your passion whilst spending time with friends and classmates. If you're like me and have trouble trying to balance homework and revision with self-care and well-being, then you have come to the right place. Whether you're crafty, sporty, or just willing to try something new, clubs are for everyone to enjoy, so don't be afraid to come along

and showcase your talents!

As a Year 8 student, the transition from Year 7 has been a life changing experience to say the least. However, it has been a bit stressful. In Year 7, I got overwhelmed sometimes due to the amount of revision and homework I had to do, meaning I spent less time with friends and became a little less social. But one of the ways I've strived to change that in Year 8 is by taking part in clubs. I do a few clubs, including Drama club and of course, the school newspaper, but even just two a week have helped me so much, I've been able to destress, socialise and spend time with friends, as well as making new ones!

Clubs give me something to look forward to after a long morning of lessons, and they allow me to take part in things that I love to do, and overall, are a great way to take care of my mental and physical wellbeing.



IKEA Education Centre visit for Year 11 students

by Mr S. Hall
Marketing Assistant

To support students in completing their GCSE NEA project, Mr Perks and the Year 11 Design & Technology students visited the IKEA Education Centre on Wednesday 10th October.

They worked with IKEA employees and learnt about sustainable design, sympathetic to the needs and wants of customers.



Diversity Dialogues group discuss culture and communities over a cup of tea!

by Mrs M. Lucas
Assistant Headteacher

Diversity Dialogues is a Sixth Form-run club who meet every Wednesday lunchtime to share

different cultural practices and religious beliefs.

At lunchtime on the 9th of October, our students were discussing the importance of community and how lots of communities meet up

over a cup of tea.

As well as tasting different teas from across the world, they also shared their experiences of the communities they belong to and how tea plays a role in their own.



Participating in the BioCraft competition allowed me to pursue my creative side all whilst learning more about the Biology that exists around us. The process of creating my project allowed me to learn a lot about the structure and folding of proteins, all whilst giving me a fun activity to do alongside my studies.

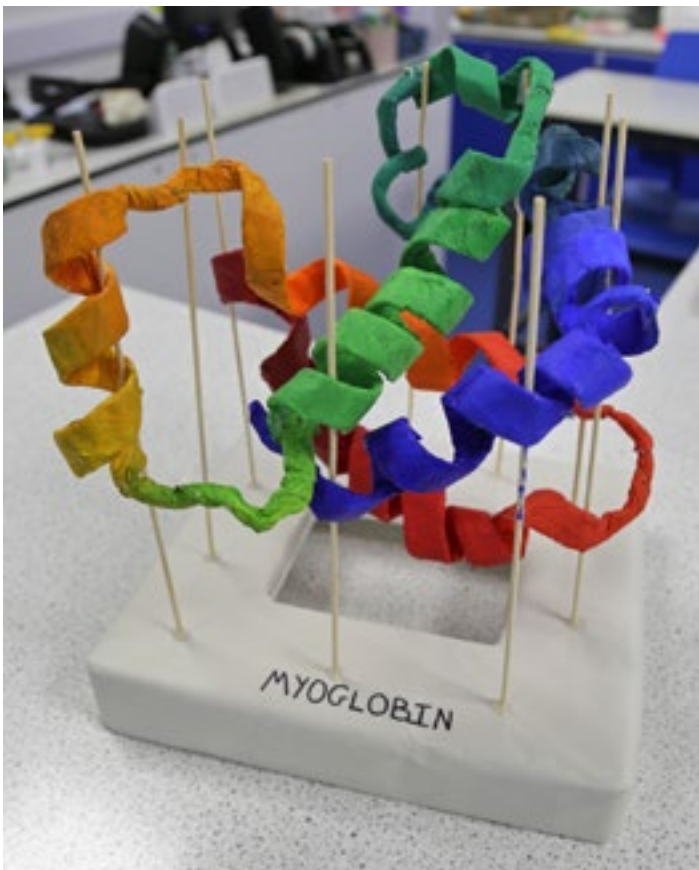
Initially I was unsure of pursuing biology as a career due to being unaware of the job opportunities there were. The Biology talk

enabled me to hear from numerous professionals with varying career pathways, from molecular modelling to tracking wildlife from space.

This week has given me the opportunity to realise that Biology is broader than one might think and can easily connect with various other subjects such as Computer Science and Art!

Royal Society of Biology Week

by Prabjot in Year 12



Year 8 students take trip to the National Space Centre

by Yerin in Year 8

3, 2, 1, blast off! During our trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester, I had a brilliant time discovering new and interesting facts about our universe along with huge amounts of fun.

My favourite part was the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium as there were lots of exciting effects - it really felt as though you were floating through the universe, gliding past all of the stars.

The thrilling simulator was also great fun and was based on a real astronaut's mission!

It was so amazing, I thoroughly enjoyed this Space Centre trip and would recommend it for everyone wanting an actionpacked day!



The 2025 SCGSG musical is announced...

by Eilayah in Year 7

The auditioning process for our school shows are always a long and difficult process, but they end up with something spectacular and exciting! If you've ever wondered what the audition process looks like...I think this photo says it all.

Over 150 students came to the official launch meeting of the 2025 musical, **FROZEN Jr!**

The cast list is once again, pretty impressive! From leading roles and chorus singers, to dancers, and the incredible backstage

This year, both Mrs Downie and Miss Stanford said it was

incredibly difficult to choose students for main roles as all the auditions were so stellar, but we can share that they are:

Elsa - Bea B

Young Elsa - Amelia T

Middle Elsa - Hannah J

Anna - Molly L

Young Anna - Sophie T

Middle Anna - Amy S

Olaf - Aimee-Louise W

Hans - Charlotte R

Kristoff - Emmy S-H

Sven - Lara B

Bulda - Amelie A

Pabbie - Millie H

Oaken - Cassie C

King Agnarr - Keira L

Queen Iduna - Annie B



Respect Student team produces exhibition for Black History Month



by Mr S. Hall
Marketing Assistant

Throughout October, our Respect student team has been encouraging form groups to create a piece of art, recommend a book or film all about Black History Month.

Their efforts have culminated in today's exhibition, featuring poetry inspired by Benjamin Zephaniah and Maya Angelou, as well as some African snacks!



Students take part in Sutton Schools Cross Country

by Mrs R. Hughes
Head of PE

On Tuesday 15th October, we took 31 of our students from across Years 7 to 11 to take part in the Sutton Schools Cross Country at Bishop Vesey.

We had some brilliant finishing positions across all the age categories!

In Year 7: Matilida B - 1st, Aria B - 4th, Delilah P - 7th, Naomi A - 8th

Year 9: Sarah T - 2nd, Eliana G - 4th

Year 10/11: Misha D - 6th, Ava S - 7th, Imogen B - 8th.



The next step is for some of these students to now run in the English Schools regional competition that

is taking place on Tuesday 5th November at Bromsgrove School!



Sporting clubs at Sutton Girls

by Delilah and Darcey in Year 7

At Sutton Girls, there are many sports teams that students aspire to join. However, the details (who, what, where, when and why) of these clubs still elude some...

What clubs can be joined?

Many club opportunities are available at Sutton Girls, but what clubs are happening now and when do new sporting activities start? Recently netball trials have been happening and you may have received an email if you participated in these. The trials were held on Monday the 30th of September and Monday the 23rd. If you did not make the team, or were not aware that they were going on you can join the netball lunchtime club that goes on every Friday at lunchtime. There are also many other lunchtime clubs available, including: volleyball on a Monday lunchtime; basketball, Tuesday; handball, Wednesday; badminton club/table tennis, Thursday and as previously mentioned development netball, Friday. Of course there are also clubs after school! Some of these clubs are restricted by age but they are still worth investigating,



here is the list: netball club (Year 7 only), handball club (Years 9-13) on Mondays after school; netball club (Year 10-13), rugby club on Tuesday; netball club (Years 8-9), football club; Wednesday after school; hockey club, hockey fixtures Thursday and last but not least badminton club, Friday after school. With badminton, there is a cost of £4.00 each time you go, and you must have been selected to join this club.

Who helps with sports activities?

What would you do if you needed to inquire about something? If you

wanted to ask about other sports, you could get in contact with your PE teachers on Teams or you could ask whoever runs the club and either talk in person or message them.

Why should you join the clubs:

You should join a sports club because it would give you valuable co-ordination, teamwork, social and tactical thinking skills. This could benefit you in the real world by increasing your ability to work together with co-workers, friends and just improving your "people skills".

You can look forward to our next newsletter at the end of the Autumn 2 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



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