



SCGSG

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls

APRIL 2025



LET IT GO: FROZEN JR

Students wow audiences
with incredible performances

ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

Canadian team sport "Kin-Ball"
Football and Badminton successes
Eid Celebrations



A message from the

Headteacher

Dr. Barbara Minards

Welcome to the April edition of our newsletter, the second half of the spring term has been an epic seven weeks long and it seems very late to be breaking up for the Easter holidays! Much has been achieved since we returned back from February half term and it feels as though spring has finally arrived with the lighter mornings, longer days and bright sunshine. As always the half term has been packed with many fantastic extra and super curricular activities alongside all the lessons, tutor times and assemblies. The newsletter is a great platform to celebrate the variety of opportunities on offer to our students at Sutton Girls.

On 25th February the Year 9 options evening took place, with students and their families invited into school to learn more about the GCSE option subjects. It was a very successful event supported by many of our current Year 10 and 11 students who volunteered their time, it was great to hear them share their love of learning and enthusiasm for their chosen subjects.

The annual school show was again a tremendous success with four fantastic performances of Frozen Jr. the Disney musical. 'Show week' is a really special time in our school calendar, with the excitement and positivity from the cast and crew radiating throughout our whole school community. There were evening shows on Thursday 13th March, Friday 14th and Saturday 15th and for the third year, a matinee performance on Saturday afternoon. The matinee was attended by a large number of younger audience members, many of whom had dressed as their

favourite character. They were delighted to have their pictures taken with our cast members, meeting their very own Princesses Anna and Elsa! The show was absolutely amazing; every year the number of students involved grows and the performances become even better. It was wonderful to watch so many students from each of the different year groups working together create such memorable performances. The reactions from the audiences were brilliant and the Saturday night performance ended with a well-deserved standing ovation (with lots of tears from the cast and crew as they showed how much being part of Frozen Jr. meant to them). I am sure that being part of Frozen Jr. will be an unforgettable experience for everyone involved and it was great to be able to recognise and celebrate their achievements when the cast, crew and staff wore their 'show t-shirts' to school on Monday 17th March.

To mark World Book Day on 6th March, our librarian Mrs Jowett launched the Whole School Read with the chosen book 'A Kind of Spark' by Elle McNicoll. It is an insightful, enjoyable and engaging book; I am proud to be one of the increasing number of people wearing a badge to celebrate reading it. This project will continue through to our literacy festival in July when we will continue to celebrate our love of reading with lots of exciting activities for the whole Sutton Girls community.

Year 11 and 13 students are nearing the end of their GCSE and A-level studies. Lots of content has been covered, students are now focussing on retrieval practice

and examination strategies. We wish them all the best with their revision and planning a productive Easter holiday; balancing study with rest and relaxation. We look forward to welcoming them back for the final few days of lessons before they move into supervision and study leave. Staff are on hand throughout the examination period to continue to provide support and guidance.

We finished the term today with Delphinus House charity day celebrating Culture. Many students and staff chose to wear clothing that represented their heritage, and the school was full of vibrant and colourful outfits. The day raised awareness and funds for Legacy West Midlands, a Birmingham based charity founded in 2010 to celebrate our local heritage and diverse communities. At lunchtime there was a showcase of cultural performances with groups of students sharing their talents with fantastic singing, music and dancing in a variety of different styles. This was accompanied by a stalls selling different foods and craft items. As always, there were high levels of student engagement within a respectful, kind and understanding atmosphere, raising an excellent total of **£1469.81**.

I hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening recently at Sutton Girls. Have a lovely Easter holiday.

Take care,

Dr Minards



Aquila bring school community together with fun Karaoke sets

by Francesca & Anna
in Year 13

It was an absolute pleasure to organise the charity day alongside Mr Gilbert, from going around the form rooms in the weeks leading up to the day, to presenting the main event 'Teacher Karaoke' there was so much excitement and enthusiasm shown across the whole school. It was fantastic to see the effort that students had put into crocheting, making

hampers, baking, gingerbread decorating and more.

The staff who participated in the teacher karaoke were very impressive and entertained the crowd of people who came to watch with stunning performances of Disney songs. Moreover the standout success of the day, was the amazing total of £1454.79 raised for Breast Cancer Now, a very important charity improving the care and treatment of those who are battling cancer and supporting

those who have been affected by it.

This charity we thought was a fantastic charity to raise money for and helped us as a school support women across the country facing breast cancer. Our theme of 'Wear it pink' allowed the whole school community to come together to show our support and therefore we felt very fortunate to be able to run a successful charity event for such a good cause.



Frozen Jr - the 2025 SCGSG Musical!





We would like to thank Mrs Downie, Miss Stanford and Mrs Reid from the Drama Department, Mr Collet and Ms Stamoulis from the Music Department, our amazing students working tirelessly backstage, the incredible light and sound crew, aided by former student Jess.

SCGSG Charity Update

by Mr D. Thorp
Charity Trustee

We wanted to share a quick update on our plans. The school is still examining options for a new build, but this comes with several challenges. Whilst these challenges are being addressed, the Charity is going to focus on other initiatives to support the school in the short term. We have been working on other exciting opportunities to support our purpose and ideas that will have a positive impact.

Please look out for our May

edition of the Charity newsletter where we will be sharing our vision for the future, including our key objectives and ambitions. We'll outline how we plan to make a meaningful impact, the goals we're working towards, and how you can support us on this journey.

You'll also find details on ways to get involved, from donations to other forms of support, helping us bring our plans to life.

For more information or to donate **please visit our website.**



A-Level Art & French students in Paris



Eid Celebrations at Sutton Girls - 02.04.25

by Mr S. Hall

Marketing Assistant

With Eid taking place on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th March, students in the Respect Team and Diversity Dialogues club got together to plan their own Eid celebrations that everyone in school could join in with!

As well as delicious samosas (very kindly donated by Senior Ambassador Sancia's dad), students were also able to sample traditional sweets and dates, our students ran lots of crafting stations with activities, the novel "take a greeting, leave a greeting" stall where attendees were invited to pick up a greetings card with a kind, anonymous note and replace it with one written themselves.

Another excellent station run by Diversity Dialogues club leader, Neva, displayed a prayer mat, misbaha (prayer beads) and she shared information educating others about the Eid festival and its traditions.



Year 12 students take on the Parliamentary Debating Competition for Sutton Schools

by Mrs L. Woodhall

History Department

Jia and Ruqqayah represented the school on Thursday 3rd April at the Parliamentary Debating Competition for Sutton Coldfield Schools with impressive arguments to the following:

- Proposing the motion that prison should focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment.
- Opposing the motion that books are more valuable than experience.

Ruqqaya introduced the debate on Rehabilitation is better than punishment. She spoke very eloquently about the benefits of types of rehabilitation, such as



education and socialisation, for offenders to be able to get jobs, and supported this with examples of countries, like Norway, that use these measures in their prisons.

Jia listened patiently to the response of BVGS to ensure that she individually addressed each of their rebuttals with another counter argument. While other

candidates had fully prepared speeches which they read from, Jia was able to use her research to do this unscripted, for example using America as an example of a country where reoffending rates are 60%+ compared to countries that rehabilitate, and she was the only student to do this - very impressive!

For their second debate, Ruqqaya and Jia debated how lived experiences are better than books for learning. This was an unseen motion, meaning they did not know what they were debating and had only 10 minutes to prepare without the use of the internet.

Both were a credit to the school!



Year 10 Ski Trip 2025

by Keira in Year 10

This year, 40 Year 10s embarked on an exhilarating ski trip to Marmot Basin in Jasper, Canada. Known for its stunning landscapes and world-class skiing conditions, Jasper offered the students an unforgettable winter experience. After 10 hours of airports and planes, we arrived in Toronto, where we would spend the night before heading to Jasper. We visited the CN tower and were enamoured by the incredible view, before having our first Canadian

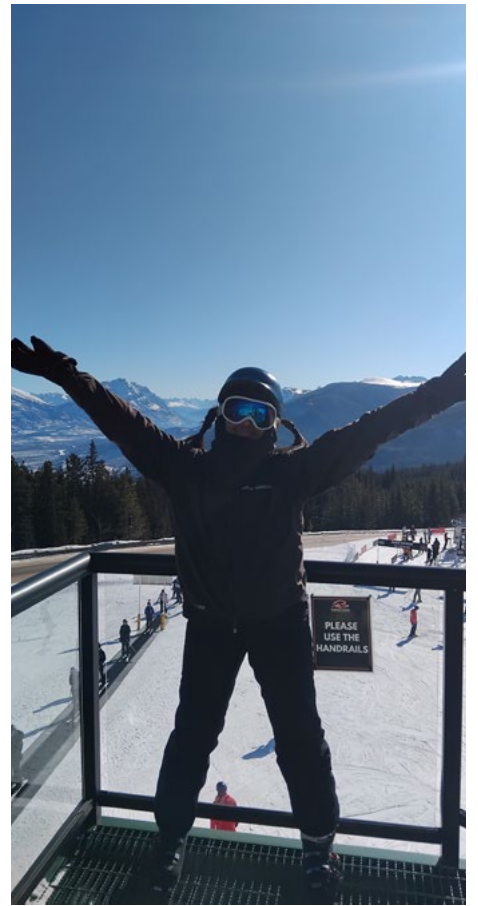
meal at The Old Spaghetti Factory — at 9pm.

The next day was Niagara Falls, and the sheer sound of the half-frozen water cascading down the falls was breathtaking, let alone the sight. We were able to walk under the falls through tunnels and view them from behind the scenes, before our next flight that afternoon.

After a four-hour flight across Canada and a very, very long coach journey (where everyone fell asleep), we arrived in Jasper. It was

half seven by the time we stepped through the hotel doors, since leaving at 5pm the night before. But there was no time to waste as our first ski session started at 12:30 and we had to unpack, change, and put on our ski gear. On our first drive to Marmot Basin, we were greeted by the picturesque scenery of the Canadian Rockies, with colossal snow-capped peaks setting the perfect backdrop. The first day began with lessons from experienced ski instructors, who ensured that everyone, from beginners to seasoned skiers, was





well-prepared to tackle the slopes. Safety was a top priority, and we received comprehensive training on how to navigate the terrain safely. As the days progressed, everyone gained confidence and improved their skiing skills, exploring various trails ranging from gentle beginner slopes to more challenging runs for the adventurous. The camaraderie among the students also grew each day as we encouraged each other, shared tips, and celebrated each other's progress. And on the final day, a ski race was organised

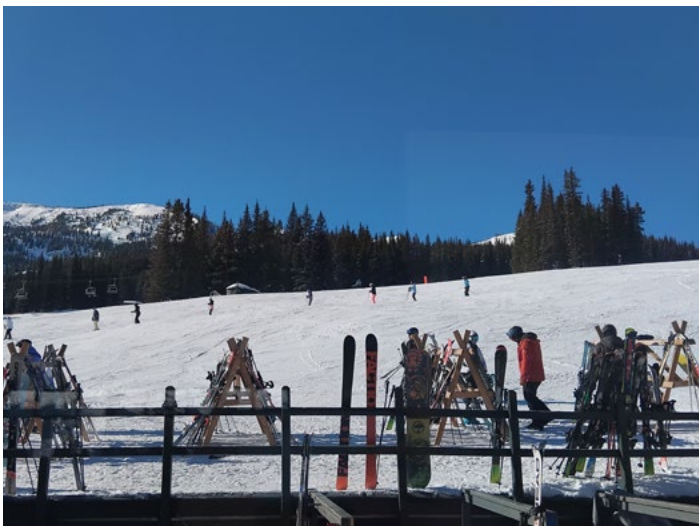
between groups, adding a competitive yet fun element to the trip. Cheers and laughter echoed through the mountains we raced down the slopes.

Aside from skiing, the trip included exciting evening activities. We visited the planetarium where we learnt about stars, meteorites and the Northern Lights, and even got to hold some chunks of meteorite, the Moon and Mars! We also watched an ice hockey match — the atmosphere was electric, and the game was brilliant.

Overall, the Year 10 ski trip to Jasper was a resounding success. Not only did it provide an opportunity for us to develop our skiing abilities, but it also fostered team spirit and created lasting friendships — definitely worth the long journey!

I know that the memories made on the slopes of Jasper will surely be cherished by me and all the students for years to come.

Thank you to the staff for organising the trip and providing us with this unforgettable experience!



Year 9 Business Challenge Day with Willmott Dixon

by Mr S. Hall
Marketing Assistant

As a Sutton Girls first, on Tuesday 4th March, our Year 9 students took part in a Business Challenge Day, hosted by construction specialists, Willmott Dixon. Throughout the day, students worked together in small groups on a green construction project, focusing on budgeting, renewable energy solutions, housing types and road layouts.

Each team of students acted as a small construction company, and were appointed to build a "Green Village" that comprised of 12 attractive houses that would sell easily. They were then given a budget of £1.5m to the cost the



each property needs to feature two resources that are good for the environment and beneficial to the homeowner. These could be a combination of either photovoltaic cells (solar panels), ground source heat pumps, rainwater harvesting, wind turbines, green walls/roofing, biomass, or kinetic energy panels.

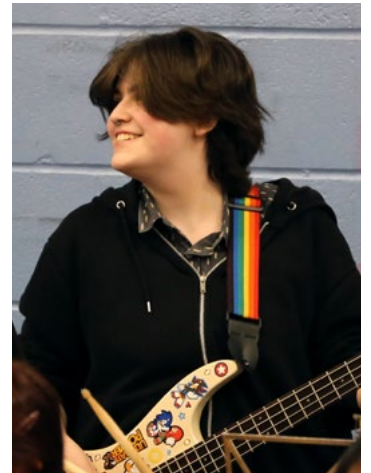
Year 9 came up with some amazing ideas, including group rainwater harvesting for use in the home, a communal wind farm, inventive road layouts and south-facing green walls for maximising heat retention, which showed they had been considerate in the way they implemented their green technologies and lasting legacy in the community.

housing and renewable energy resources with which to power them. The focus on renewable energy in this project is key as



Spring Concert 2025

The sun was shining on the day of the annual Spring Concert, leading to the more summery feeling of a wonderful evening which celebrated the hard work and talents of our musical school community.





Delphinus celebrates culture with special charity day



KS3 Students make it to West Midlands Badminton Regional Finals!



by Mrs R. Hughes
Head of PE

In our last edition, we featured a story about our KS3 Badminton students, Chinmayi, Joshika, Reya and Sharleez, who participated in the county round of the National Schools' Badminton Competition.

On Thursday 6th March, they competed in the West Midlands badminton regional finals. Some outstanding badminton was played which

led to them finishing top of their group, **winning 15 out of 15 games!**

The team now progress to the National Finals later in March, where they will represent the West Midlands for the KS3 age category!



KS3 in the BCFC Trevor Francis Cup

by Camille in Year 7

In February, I and the rest of the football squad headed to Sutton United football ground to take on Hamd House School in the first round of the Trevor Francis Cup. We struck early and had scored 5 goals before a surprise reply from Hamd House which shocked the crowd into a brief silence. However, this brought back our focus and by the end of the first half we had scored 11 goals compared to 1 goal from Hamd House.

We didn't stop there though as we scored another 5 goals in the second half to win 16 - 1! Annabelle in 7AKL was the top scorer with 4 goals and Bethany and Amelia in Year 8 both scored hat-tricks as well, although pretty much everyone got on the score sheet. It was a great opportunity to take part in the first round of the cup and I really enjoyed it, especially when I scored! Hopefully Sutton Girls can bring it home!



Spring Term Inter-House

Netball

Year 7		Year 8		Year 9	
1st	Cygnus	1st	Aquila	1st	Phoenix
2nd	Pegasus	2nd	Phoenix	2nd	Delphinus
3rd	Delphinus	3rd	Delphinus	3rd	Pegasus
4th	Phoenix	4th	Pegasus	4th	Ursa
5th	Aquila	5th	Ursa	5th	Aquila
6th	Ursa	6th	Cygnus	6th	Cygnus



Cross Country

Year 7		Year 8		Year 9	
1st	Ursa	1st	Pegasus	1st	Cygnus
2nd	Phoenix	2nd	Cygnus	2nd	Pegasus
3rd	Cygnus	3rd	Delphinus	3rd	Ursa
4th	Pegasus	4th	Aquila	4th	Phoenix
5th	Aquila	5th	Phoenix	5th	Aquila
6th	Delphinus	6th	Ursa	6th	Delphinus



Badminton

Year 7		Year 8		Year 9	
1st	Ursa	1st	Aquila	1st	Ursa
2nd	Delphinus	2nd	Cygnus	2nd	Aquila
3rd	Phoenix	3rd	Ursa	3rd	Phoenix
4th	Cygnus	4th	Phoenix	4th	Delphinus
5th	Pegasus	5th	Delphinus	5th	Cygnus
6th	Aquila	6th	Pegasus	6th	Pegasus



Year 12 Inter-House

Netball		Rowing		Badminton	
1st	Delphinus	1st	Phoenix	1st	Cygnus
2nd	Cygnus	2nd	Delphinus	2nd	Ursa
3rd	Pegasus	3rd	Aquila	3rd	Delphinus
4th	Aquila	4th	Cygnus	4th	Aquila
5th	Ursa	5th	Ursa	5th	Pegasus
6th	Phoenix	6th	Pegasus	6th	Phoenix





U15s Handball Schools National Competition

by Mrs K. Tunstall
PE Department

After school on Thursday 6th March, our U15 Handball Team took part in the first round of the Handball Schools National Competition. This was the first time that we have been involved in this competition, and it was a great experience for the team.

We were lucky enough to have the England handball umpire

comment on the potential our team has! Unfortunately, only one team progresses to the next round. We won one and lost one, meaning we didn't progress further this time.

Well done to the students involved: Gabby, Emmina, Hafsa, Yasmin, Tammy, Alisha, Kierah, Charis, Priya, Anjana, and Misha.

We look forward to the next opportunity for our team to shine!

Sutton Schools 5-A-Side Football tournament

by Mrs K. Tunstall
PE Department

Well done to Yvette, Mojetalowa, Amelia, Eliana, Jenny, Symi and Juliet who took part in the Sutton Schools 5-a-side tournament, hosted in our Sports Hall after school on Tuesday 11th March, finishing in a very respectable third place!

We are looking forward to their progression and their next competitive match!



KS3 Badminton team at the West Mids final!

by Mrs R. Hughes
Head of PE

The KS3 Badminton team represented the West Midlands at the English Schools National Championship on Saturday 29th March, the follow up from their previous regional success...

It was a fabulous experience

for the student's, playing badminton at the National Badminton Centre.

Our final finishing position was 5th. This is an amazing achievement to be 5th in the country, and the first time Sutton Girls have been at this competition!

Well done to Chinmayi, Sharleez, Reya and Joshika.

You can look forward to our next newsletter at the end of the Summer 1 term in May. 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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