



SCGSG

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls
JULY 2025

ATHLETICS CLUB



SPORTS DAY RETURNS!

Gorgeous weather welcomes
the return of Sports Day

ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

Literacy Festival 2025

Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions

Innaugural SCGSG Netball Little League



A message from the

Headteacher

Dr. Barbara Minards

Welcome to the final 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 year at Sutton Girls. The end of the summer term is a good time to reflect on how much we have achieved as a school community since September.

This final term has been as busy as ever with Year 11 and 13 successfully completing their GCSE and A-Level examinations, celebrating at their proms and currently enjoying their extended summer holiday. Year 9 enjoyed their trip to France, Year 7 to Whitemoor Lakes, record numbers of students in Years 9 and 10 completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

We had another fantastic literacy festival with author visits, book signings, book bake off and open doors competitions. I hope that students were inspired to keep reading and they take the opportunity to enjoy a variety of books over the summer holidays.

Sports day returned in spectacular style on 9th July, after being rained



off last year. The whole school walking to and from Wyndley is an impressive sight with students dressed in their sports kit and house colours. There was great competition in the athletic events, with spectators showing their house spirit with their face paint, mascots, flags and banners as they cheered on their fellow students.

We have also welcomed our newest group of students to Sutton Girls with New Intake Day on 2nd July, our Year 7 transition team have done a fantastic job and we are looking forward to our new Year 7 and 12 students joining in

September.

We finish the academic year with house activities, assemblies and finding out which house will be the overall winners and be awarded the constellation cup.

Please enjoy reading more about what has been happening at Sutton Girls during the summer term. As we reflect on another busy and productive academic year it is now time to wish all staff, students and their families a happy and safe summer holiday!

Dr Minards

Staffing News

We say goodbye and good luck to our staff who are leaving this year:

Miss Ravat and Mrs Dhillon from the Maths Department, Miss Taylor our Sports Coach and Cover Supervisor, Ms Stamoulis from Music, Miss Day from MFL and Dr Ahmad from Biology.

We thank them for all they have

contributed throughout their time at Sutton Girls and wish them all the best for their next steps.

In September we look forward to welcoming our new staff:

Mr Swanston, Assistant Headteacher: Head of Sixth Form and English Teacher, Mrs Todd, Assistant Head of Sixth Form and English Teacher, Miss

Slack, PE Teacher and Head of Year 9, Mrs Marshall, Music Teacher, Ms Farmer, Art Teacher, Mr Belikau, Maths Teacher, Miss Sanz-Esteban, Spanish Teacher, Mrs Aguirre Alderete, Spanish Language Assistant, Miss Palmer, Sports Coach and Cover Supervisor, Mrs Kausar and Mrs Hussain, Lunchtime Supervisors.



Celebrating Year 11 and 13 students

by Mr S. Hall
Marketing Assistant

With the last GCSE on Wednesday 18th June and the final A-Level on Friday 20th June, another external examination season has been completed.

We have been very impressed with how our Year 11s and 13s have negotiated the challenges

of preparing for and sitting their exams, including having to contend with the hot weather. We hope they take some time to reflect on their achievements as they reach this milestone in their educational journey. We wish them all the best for a long, happy, and restful summer holiday.

Students in both year groups had their Proms in the first week of July at Aston Wood Golf Club,

showing up in their best outfits for a fabulous summery evening.

We are so immensely proud of everything they have achieved over the last 5 and 7 years respectively, and we look forward to seeing the outcome of all their hard work on A-Level results day (Thursday 14th August) and GCSE results day (Thursday 21st August).



The annual Literacy Festival returns to share a love of reading

by Mrs L. Jowett
Senior Librarian

This year, our Literacy Festival took place from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th June. It's one of our most highly anticipated weeks of the year in which our whole school community comes together to celebrate the wonderful world of books.

We began with our famous Book Bake Off. Sophie Dale in Year 7 won the Star Baker Badge for this year with her fabulous Mazerunner inspired cake, in which she constructed a maze on top of a layer of cake. In second place Maryam Jabbar wowed us with a beautiful Lorax themed cake, and Amelia Fleet and Sophie Gallagher took third place with their brilliant 'Mr Twit' cake. We raised an incredible £222 for the charity 'Read for Good.'

Throughout the week every form group worked on their 'Open Doors' entry, in which they were tasked



with transforming their form room door into a celebration of a neurodivergent literary hero. Our doors featured books including Sherlock Holmes, Geek Girl, Matilda, Lessons in Chemistry, and A Kind of Spark. Our winning forms were 7SBA, 8CWE, 9DBI, 10CRU and 12RTR, with 8AVI receiving the Open Evening champion award.

One of the central elements of the festival is being able to meet some incredible authors. Years 7-10 had a virtual visit with Kiran Millwood Hargrave, author of 'Girl of Ink and Stars,' and author and screenwriter of 'A Kind of Spark' Elle McNicoll joined us in person for a joyful talk

about the inspiration behind her books and why representation of neurodiversity in literature is vital. Elle signed books for us in the library afterwards and stopped to chat with our students.

Alongside these events, we also had a scavenger hunt across the school to see if students could find and solve Mrs Jowett's book themed riddles, a screening of A Haunting in Venice, book themed craft sessions, and the scholastic book fair. We concluded our week with a non-uniform / book character dress up day for donations to the charity 'Read for Good'.



1st Sophie D
The Mazerunner



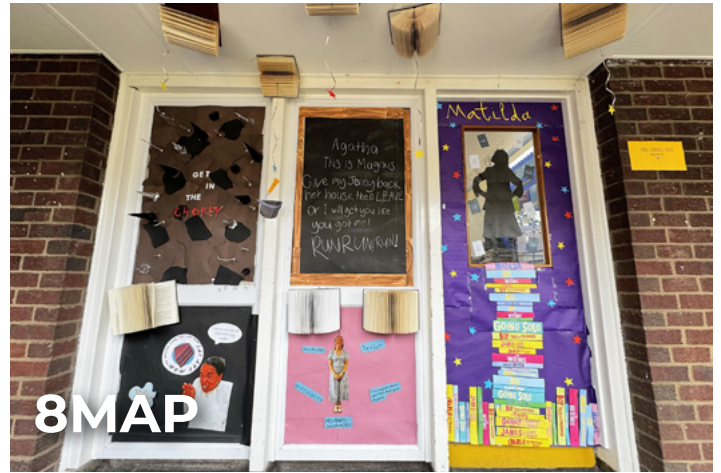
2nd Maryam J
The Lorax



3rd Sophie G & Amelia F
Mr Twit



10CCH



8MAP

Open Doors Challenge '25



12PHU



8CWE



12RTR



9DBI

Award-winning author, *Elle McNicoll*, visits Sutton Girls for Literacy Festival

by Keira in Year 10

On Thursday 26th July, our school was lucky enough to have author Elle McNicoll come visit us for our Literacy Festival. Elle's first book, *A Kind of Spark*, is about a young autistic girl called Addie trying to make her voice heard in a small Scottish town who dismiss and ignore her. It was also this year's Whole School Read and the inspiration for our Open Doors competition theme, "Neurodivergent Heroes", resulting in bright and brilliant designs celebrating books like *Goldfish Boy*, *Percy Jackson* and *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Nighttime*.

Elle came and talked to some year groups about school, friendship, neurodiversity, writing and producing. I was pleasantly surprised when I realised she had made an aisle between the students so she could walk down and connect with everyone from the front row to the back, encouraging us to engage and react, not afraid to let us express our surprise at some of the anecdotes she told! Elle captivated the audience with witty and, frankly, relatable tales of her own school fiascos in her home in Scotland. Though perhaps not quite the same as most people's as her Year 11 was hindered by exams, teenage drama...and a pair of filmmakers turning it all into a documentary! She went on to talk about writing *A Kind Of Spark* and her inspiration for her Young Adult novels, *Some Like It Cold* and *Wish You Were Her*. And she talked to us about producing her own



TV adaptation of *A Kind Of Spark*, explaining the responsibility of making sure everything is running smoothly and how much she cared about the wellbeing of her young all-neurodivergent cast.

She then answered questions about writing, producing, masking and neurodiversity both during the talk and during her book-signings that lunchtime. She connected with everyone she talked to, putting everyone at ease and creating an environment no one wanted to leave.

I found Elle's visit eye-opening and incredibly exciting as she is proof that neurodivergence is not an obstacle or a barrier to anything in life if you want it enough, no matter what anyone says, and her books show that too, inspiring new generations of Neurodivergent Heroes in all different ways.

Elle is a brilliant author, producer, creator, and, as we saw on Thursday 26th June, a wonderful person to spend time with. Though our time with her was brief, I know that it meant the world to so many of us,

including myself, so huge thanks to Elle McNicoll for visiting our school and our wonderful librarian Miss Jowett for putting the experience together.

"While you are neurotypical and I am autistic, I promise we are more alike than we are different."
— Elle McNicoll, *A Kind of Spark*

I was beyond excited that we had the opportunity to meet Elle! I was hoping she would be able to visit us, ever since I read 'A Kind of Spark' and absolutely loved it.

We have many neurodivergent students and staff in our school community. I believed that meeting a proudly neurodivergent, bestselling author and discovering the vital representation within her books would not only be inspirational for them, but insightful to our neurotypical members too. She was an absolute joy to listen to. I think she inspired us all during her visit.

- Mrs Jowett



Cygnus wraps up Literacy Festival with book-themed costumes and students vs teachers gameshow

by Zara in Year 12
Cygnus House Captain

On Friday 27th June it was Cygnus' charity day for Read for Good. The charity day was a fantastic way to close off the amazing Literacy week we've had this year. The aim of Read for Good is to enable all young people in the UK to read, they do this by

delivering programs which help incite a love of reading in children and provide books to schools and hospitals.

Despite the absence of Year 11 and 13, the school hall was filled with students who were excited to participate in Ms Stamoulis' House of Games against staff members. The ice cream and second hand book stalls were

incredibly popular, as were the tombola, raffle, quiz and handmade craft stalls. It was great to see so many Cygnus students chipping in to make the day a success.

Thank you to everyone who took part- helping to raise **£1428.86!**



Students attend annual Careers Fair

by Niloufar in Year 12
Careers Prefect

The Careers Fair was an excellent opportunity for students to meet a variety of representatives from different careers and universities, including the RAF, Solihull College, and the University of Warwick, among the many that attended.

There was a wealth of knowledge available for everyone, making it a fantastic way for students to start exploring which universities appealed to them and which courses seemed interesting and worth considering.

As a whole, the Careers Fair was a great success, with students receiving tote bags, notebooks, and stationery after engaging in conversations



with the representatives. The people who attended were all passionate about their respective organizations, which meant students could have meaningful discussions and receive clear guidance, much of which they found very helpful.

Therefore, overall, it was a wonderful way to inspire students about their future and helped them discover courses or subjects they might not have been aware of before, which could have piqued their interest!

Jamie Oliver World Record Attempt

by Zara, Maria and Abarna
in Year 9

On Tuesday 1st July, 18 Year 9 students (including us!) participated in a Guinness World Record attempt aimed at holding the largest cookery lesson in multiple venues. We were one of over 100 other schools to take part, there were also people in France and the Netherlands!

In order to break the record, we made a no-cook tomato sauce, and two types of pasta from scratch; picci, which is a thick hand-rolled pasta similar to spaghetti, and gnocchetti, which is a traditional pasta from Sardinia, shaped like small gnocchi with an open side to capture the sauce.

It happened to encourage children and families to cook healthy, simple meals.

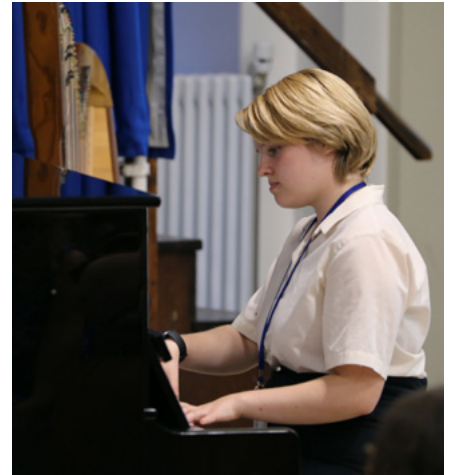


UPDATE!

We found out on Monday 7th July that we were successful in breaking the record for **the largest cookery lesson (in multiple venues)** alongside 10,515 cooks, across 6 continents and 42 countries

Soloists' Concert 2025

The annual concert took place on Monday 30th June, celebrating the incredible talents of our students, and the dedication of our music department. At the end of the evening, we awarded the annual Stephanie Cave Extra Mile Award to Year 13 student Emrys, for their devotion to all things music over their 7 years with us!



Celebrating Young Chemists: Chemistry Club Awards 2025

by Mrs H. Chatterton
Chemistry Department

This year's Chemistry Club participants have proudly received their chemistry badges and certificates, recognising their enthusiasm and commitment to learning. Run by the Salters' Institute, Chemistry Club is an innovative online platform for 11-14 year olds that sparks curiosity and nurtures a love for chemistry through fun, independent learning. Chemistry Club aims to demystify chemistry, showcase the breadth and depth of the subject, and the wide range of careers chemistry can lead to. Learners explore chemistry in our everyday lives and see that being a chemist isn't all about wearing a white coat in a lab.

Interested? Sign up now at: salterschemistryclub.co.uk and take part this summer or listen out for more from your chemistry teachers this coming September!



The Salters' Chemistry Club was very interesting and challenging. It helped me learn things I didn't know before like how the nervous system works.

I recommend this because it gives you extra knowledge about topics you learn at school and it really boosts your skills!

by Amelia in Year 7



Year 9 students enjoy culture & sunshine on their residential in Paris!



Year 12 Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad

by Mrs R. Trotter
Chemistry Department

The Chemistry Olympiad is a leading Chemistry competition which is designed to challenge and inspire students, giving them a unique opportunity to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field. Budding chemists develop critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations.

This year we had an incredible 25 students across Years 12 and 13 who participated in this super-curricular event. Following a number of familiarisation sessions,



students took the Chemistry Olympiad test - a challenging set of questions to be completed in a 2-hour test paper. The students who took part demonstrated amazing positivity and resilience as well as a love of learning and they

achieved a Sutton Girls record-breaking number of awards with nine bronze awards and six silver awards! Well done to all those who took part - I hope you are ready for the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge next!

Sutton Coldfield MP visits Sixth Form students

by Mrs F. Heeks
Teacher of Politics

On Friday 9th May Andrew Mitchell MP for Sutton Coldfield visited school to speak to Year 12.

The Politics A-Level students had already received a visit from our local councillor Alex Yip earlier in the year. Alex spent time explaining his role as a councillor and how he got involved in politics. He was also able to offer an insight about what his job actually involves.

The visit from Andrew Mitchell gave all our Year 12 students the opportunity to meet our local MP and there were some brilliant questions asked about the future of the Conservative party, whether First Past The Post is the right system for the UK. As well as this he was asked how he thought politicians today could appeal to younger voters and what the government was going to do to properly address the pollution



in our waterways. Mr Mitchell showed himself to be rather less conservative than many of us thought he would be and he himself suggested that we might expect to see a move away from a two party to a four-party system in the years to come. He certainly gave us something to think about.



Year 7 Rounders tournament win!

by Etta in Year 7

After school on Wednesday 11th June, the Year 7 Rounders team confidently played in our first Sutton Schools Tournament.

At the end of the competition, we came top, after winning all four of our matches!

Well done to my fellow team mates in the Year 7 Rounders team; Ira, Magda, Darcey, Manasvi, Deniz, Annabel, Penelope, Matilda and Martha!



Year 9 Bronze

Record number of students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award

by Mrs K. Tunstall
DofE Coordinator

A huge congratulations go out to all of the students that have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award this year, facing consistently warm and sunny weather for their qualifying expeditions!

For the first time, we have offered the Bronze Award to our Year 9 students, with a successful uptake of 139 students. This year we also had our largest cohort of Year 10 students participating, with a total of 157 students completing their qualifying expedition at Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire.

For our Year 12 Gold Award students Serena, Ellie, Anya, Kit, Libby, Pauline, Pei-Yao, Saffiya, Nivey, Laija, Georgina and Mia successfully completed their



qualifying expedition in the Yorkshire Dales.

I would also like to say a massive thank you to the staff that gave up their time to help make these expeditions come together; Mr

Pockson, Mr Biggin, Mr Davis, Miss Taylor, Ms Grossett, Mr Marriner, Ms Toft, Mrs Moya-Pugh, Miss Whittingham, Miss Stanford, Miss Bailey and Miss Franklin, as well as assistance from Karos Adventure.



Year 10 Bronze



Year 12 Gold

Celebrating Hockey Coach Dave O'Brien

by Mrs R. Hughes
Head of PE

Over the past 18 months, Sutton Girls has been incredibly fortunate to have the support of our volunteer hockey coach, Dave. Every week, Dave comes in after school to run our hockey club, not for recognition, but simply out of his love for the sport and desire to give back.

Dave's passion and enthusiasm for hockey are infectious. Our students look forward to his sessions each week, turning up eager to learn and improve. The progress they are making is a direct result of Dave's knowledge, experience, and his thoughtful approach to coaching. His kind and encouraging manner has created a welcoming environment where students of all abilities feel supported and inspired.

Dave is building a bridge between school sport and the wider hockey community. Thanks to

his influence, 13 of our students have gone on to join local hockey clubs. Dave has gone above and beyond to support them on this journey, even providing free sticks and stick bags to help get them started.

His commitment doesn't stop there. Dave has also worked tirelessly to raise funds to ensure all our students have access to the equipment they need. Most

recently, he completed a three-hour sponsored dribble, raising enough money to purchase new sticks, goalkeeper pads, and neck guards for the school.

We're incredibly grateful for everything Dave is doing. His impact goes far beyond the hockey pitch, he's inspiring a love for the game, building confidence, and helping our students thrive.



Celebrating the Girls of Brum at Alexander Stadium with Sport Birmingham

by Mrs R. Hughes
Head of PE

On Tuesday 24th June, 15 of our Year 7 students had a fantastic day at the Alexander Stadium for the inaugural 'Girls of Brum' event - a flagship celebration of sport and physical activity aimed at inspiring the next generation of young women across Birmingham.

Led by Sport Birmingham, the city-wide initiative brought together Year 6 and 7 girls from over 30 schools for a dynamic day of inclusive sport, empowerment workshops, and motivational talks delivered by local female role models. The event focused



on building confidence, fostering positive relationships, and encouraging lifelong participation in physical activity.

Throughout the day, participants took part in a wide range of fun and inclusive activities facilitated

by local sports and community organisations. Activities included tennis, flag football, pickleball, cycling, archery, tag wrestling and rugby, cricket, boxing and badminton!

Sports Day 2025





SCGSG Netball Little League

by Miss L. Taylor
PE Department

This has been the first year trialling the SCGSG Netball Little League, and the department decided to start it as a follow on from the development netball club which ended just before February half term.

The idea was that students would go to the development netball league (which started in September) to work on their netball skills and then they could opt-in to join the little league for match practice. The little League also allowed students who were in the Netball Squads to participate as well.

Friday 20th June saw the conclusion of the inaugural 'SCGSG Little League' netball competition, with the overall winners of the league were self-named 'All Stars'. Their Year 7 team included: Annabel, Darcey K, Matilda, Theiya, Bella,



Sonam, Lara, Deniz and Hafsa.

A special shout out and thank you, must go to our volunteer umpires: Gabby in Year 10, Serena and Hollie-Mae, both in Year 9, who had completed a "get into netball umpiring" course and gave their time each week umpiring the games.

Students took full responsibility for organising the team positions throughout the league so as well

as having fun and developing their netball match play, they also developed new friendships, communication skills and leadership skills.

There was a lovely atmosphere during the league and seeing 60 students choosing to participate in physical activity during their Friday lunchtime was lovely to see. I would definitely say it was a success!



You can look forward to our next newsletter at the end of the Autumn 1 term in October!

In the meantime, keep up to date by following us on:
[facebook.com/suttcold](https://www.facebook.com/suttcold) or [x.com/suttcold](https://www.x.com/suttcold)



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