



SCGSG

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls
MAY 2026



CELEBRATING CULTURE DAY

Ursa takes the lead for 2026
Culture Day celebrations

ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

Student-led Eco Week
Spring Concert
Sporting Successes!



A message from the

Headteacher

Dr. Barbara Minards

Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter, the first half of the summer term has flown by and the examination season is now well underway. We celebrated with Year 13 as they had their leavers' assembly on Thursday 7th May; we acknowledged all the contributions they had made to our school throughout their time at Sutton Girls, wished them all the best for their A-level exams and encouraged them to keep in touch with us as they become our latest alumni. Year 11 had their last lessons on Friday 8th May and then transitioned to supervised study as their GCSEs began. Students in both year groups have made a successful start to their external examinations, we hope they have a productive half term, enjoying plenty of rest and relaxation along with their revision.

The last week of the half term has seen students in Years 7-10 completing their school exams and Year 12 have been out of school on a variety of work experience placements. Throughout the half term we have provided students with a wide variety of learning experiences in their lessons, numerous extra and

super curricular activities and daily opportunities to develop their character strengths. This newsletter showcases a selection of the events that have taken place during the last six weeks at Sutton Girls.

Highlights from the half term include the Culture Day charity event, hosted by Ursa on Friday 1st May. Teachers, support staff and students from across the different year groups came together to celebrate our positive and respectful school community, enjoying the cultural celebration event at lunchtime and raising a significant amount for the chosen charities of FoodCycle and Forgotten Women. The Spring music concert was held on the 30th April and showcased the talents and dedication of so many students from Year 7 to Year 13. There were fantastic performances from the Rosettes swing band, chamber choir and sinfonia within an engaging programme celebrating different instruments, vocalists and music styles.

I was privileged to be involved in the selection process for the new Senior Student Leadership Team. The outgoing Year 13s have done

a fantastic job in their roles this year, making a positive impact across the whole school and being great role models for younger students. It was rewarding to see their work being continued by the Year 12s wanting to follow in their footsteps. After a many strong applications, the field was narrowed to 11 candidates who delivered speeches to Year 7 about their experiences of school so far and how these helped them develop their character. Each speech was inspiring and provided insightful reflections of their individual learning journeys. The staff present were very proud of each student and final selection process was very challenging. The full team has now been appointed and we are looking forward to what the new Ambassadors, Senior Prefects, House Captains and Prefects will bring to the School and wish them well with their new roles.

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

Take care,

Dr Minards



A warm welcome to the 2026/27 Student Ambassadors



Mr S. Hall *Marketing Assistant*

The new Student Leadership Team have now been appointed. The applications were excellent and really reflected how the school's character strengths can be applied to everyday life. Congratulations to Tasnim (Student Ambassador for Respect), Tamsin (Student

Ambassador for Positivity and Resilience), Eva (Student Ambassador for Making Good Decisions), Olivia (Student Ambassador for Integrity) and Rebecca (Student Ambassador for Love of Learning).

We would like to thank our outgoing team; Ambika, Georgina, Libby, Nikki and Mary, for the dedication and enthusiasm they

have poured into their roles over the last 12 months.

It has been fantastic to see our students so enthusiastic in wanting to contribute to the whole school community in leadership roles. We are looking forward to working with the new Student Leadership Team from next half term and wish them every success in their new roles.

News about the SCGSG Charity

For many years our school has benefited from the generous support of the independent Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Charity, which has raised over £400,000 for the school since 2008. These funds have supported facilities, enrichment activities, sport, and the arts.

Following a review, the trustees have decided to close the Charity, which has ceased accepting donations from mid May 2026.

For our students it is essential that we continue to receive donations that help create opportunities that enrich and enhance the experience of every student. We are launching the **School Fund**, managed directly by the school and would greatly value receiving your donation.

This can be done via the Charity Aid Foundation: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/29864>



Spring Concert 2026

A stunning series of performances from our talented students



Sutton Girls' Eco Week 2026

by Jessica in Year 11

Eco Week ran from 20th April to the 24th of April 2026. It was organised by the Environmental Committee to raise awareness about the environment in a creative way. The activities that went on through the week were:

- The Stone Scavenger Hunt: Find all 10 stones containing letters, unscramble the anagram and send in the word (for anyone still wondering, it was 'mitigation') to be entered into a random draw to win some character points! The winner was **Girija in 7KDO**.
- Assemblies on the environmental impact of food miles, and how our thoughts on simple food choices really do have a big impact.
- A tote bag competition – the winner will get a copy of their own design on a bag! Congratulation to **Mahreen in 10DBI**. (pictured below)



- An eco exhibition in the hall, which included an environmental themed 1% club quiz, a 'guess the food miles' game, Eco crafts and a chance to vote on the tote bag winner.
- An all-vegetarian main meal

provided by the canteen, as well as food miles of those veggie meals!

- A school-wide Kahoot on Eco Facts

Thoughts on Eco Week...

Chloe in 7JPK:

Interviewer: What did you think of eco week?

Chloe: I thought it was good because the Scavenger Hunt and Exhibition were fun.

Holly & Amelia in 7KDO:

Interviewer: What did you think of eco week?

Amelia: There were fun activities and it taught us about the planet

Interviewer: What was your favourite part of eco week?

Holly: I most enjoyed the scavenger hunt because you enjoyed going outside and it was fun. **Amelia:** I enjoyed the tote bag competition, it was exciting to see our design on the shortlist board and vote for our friends.

Year 9 student participates in the Cayley Maths Olympiad

by Jennifer in Year 9

This is my second time participating in a Mathematical Olympiad and I am really grateful to have the opportunity to do so!

It was genuinely a great yet difficult experience because in the first round (Challenge), the questions are multiple choice, which means there is a chance to guess the correct answer when you don't know it. However, in an Olympiad-style exam, full working and explanation is required. It combines logical thinking and explanation at the same time, which makes it more challenging and interesting.

It was extremely satisfying to manage to work out a question completely, especially when an initial idea came out as a correct solution.

However, even if I didn't know the answer to a question, I still challenged myself to attempt all the questions. Under exam conditions, it was quite difficult to remain calm when facing very hard questions. Therefore, being positive and resilient throughout the whole competition was essential.

It was a pleasure to enter the competition, and I am really proud to have won an award.



Year 10 students complete field study at **Carding Mill Valley** in perfect conditions



Literacy Festival 2026

Our annual Literacy Festival is just around the corner, and we are delighted to announce an exciting lineup of guest authors visiting the school this year.

Mrs L. Jowett
Senior Librarian

Our annual Literacy Festival is just around the corner, and we are delighted to announce an exciting lineup of guest authors visiting the school this year.

We are thrilled to welcome **Hallie Rubenhold** — bestselling author, social historian, broadcaster, and historical consultant for television and film. Hallie is the award-winning author of *The Five* and will be joining Year 12 students for a special Q&A session and book signing.

We are also delighted to host **Frances Hardinge**, the bestselling and award-winning author of

eleven novels. Renowned for her imaginative storytelling, Frances expertly blends historical settings with fantasy and mystery. Her critically acclaimed work has received numerous accolades, including the Costa Book Award, the British Science Fiction Award for Best Book for Younger Readers, the UKLA Book Awards (12–16 category), and the Branford Boase Award.

Our third visiting author is **Sophie Cleverly**, bestselling author of the *Scarlet and Ivy* and *Violet Veil* Mysteries series. Sophie's visit is highly anticipated by our students, whose enthusiasm for her books has made them some of the library's most popular titles. Sophie will be speaking with Years

7 and 8 about the inspiration behind her writing and the craft of creating her wonderfully spine-tingling stories.

Books will be available to purchase from our Waterstones pop-up bookshop, with prices starting from £7.99. Students who already own copies of the authors' books are very welcome to bring them in to be signed.

If any students in Years 7–10 would like a book signed by Hallie Rubenhold, please see Mrs Jowett so arrangements can be made.

We look forward to another inspiring celebration of reading and literature!



The Festival arrives on Monday 22nd June

This year's festival promises a fantastic range of activities and events for students to enjoy, including competitions, a scavenger hunt, book-themed crafts, and a lunchtime screening of *The Fantastic Four*.

Our annual charity **Book Bake Off** continues to grow in popularity

each year (taking place on Monday 22nd), and we are delighted to once again invite our talented student bakers to take part by creating their own book-themed cakes and bakes.

Our **Scholastic Book Fair** will once again be visiting the school, offering students a wonderful

selection of books to browse and purchase, with prices starting from just £3.99.

Closing the week will be the Phoenix charity day, with the non-uniform theme being "dress as a book character" raising money for the charity **Read for Good**.



Ursa hosts the 2026 **Culture Day** celebrations for charity event

by **Ellie and Serena**
Ursa Prefects

With some unfavourable weather reports looking to bring some rain to our charity day, we were surprised when it turned out to be a spectacular day! The sun was shining, there was a gloriously positive atmosphere,

and the whole school community turned out today in the most fabulous outfits, representing the incredible diversity of the school community.

The celebrations began with a series of cultural dance performances, stalls with homemade sweet treats and samosas, mehndi, books, games

and more.

Thank you to everyone who took part during the lunchtime event, and for everything behind the scenes. You have helped Ursa raise an amazing **£1,914.72** for their chosen charities: FoodCycle and Forgotten Women.





A Day in the Life

Hi! My name is Abi and I'm currently in Year 8. Having been here for over a year now, I've really found my feet and love being part of the school community. Year 8 is great because you know your way around, have your firm friend groups, and get to dive deeper into your favourite subjects.

8:00am

I usually enter school around 8 am as I catch the bus to school, so I tend to get there a bit earlier. I go to the main hall, which is the allocated spot Year 7 & 8 wait at before school starts. Here we have a chance to relax and socialise with friends before the school day begins.

8:50am

After 8:40, I go to my form room where we have registration. We get involved in a range of activities including personal development, VotesForSchool and hearing announcements from our student leaders which I help present as a representative for the Respect Student Leadership Team and having time to catch up with classmates.

9:10am

Firstly, on a typical Wednesday (week 2), I start the day off with Geography. In Year 8, we look at really interesting topics like coasts and population growth. Currently, we are looking at the structure of the Earth and how things like Earthquakes and Volcanoes are formed. The lessons are very interactive, one day we might be doing research and the next we're working in groups to solve geographical problems.

10:10am

Next, it's off to the tech block for Textiles. This is one of my most creative hours. It's a very independent, relaxed lesson where I get straight to work on my projects. In Year 8, we work on our hand embroidery skills, focusing on the works of a famous Catalan

architect, Antoni Gaudi (you might know him from his most famous building, The Sagrada Familia!). It's a nice change of pace and the time always goes by so quickly!

11:10am

A twenty-minute break gives me time to head to the dining hall for a snack or go out onto the courts for some fresh air. It's the perfect time to socialise with people and recharge for the rest of the morning.

11:30am

After break, I head off to English. We have been looking at a variety of different genres and texts starting with Gothicism, then Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and currently, we are looking at Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Compared to Year 7, we get to go into much more detail, and the teachers are great at helping us develop our own writing style through notetaking and class debates.

12:30pm

Lunch is a full hour, which is the perfect amount of time to refuel and relax. I usually head to the dining hall to eat first, and then I spend the rest of the hour outside on the courts. It's my favourite time to just chill out, chat, and play with my friends. Whether I'm running around or just catching up, being outside gives me a great energy boost for the afternoon.

1:30pm

After lunch, it is time for Spanish. In Year 8, we learn two languages, Spanish and French. It is really enjoyable as we can broaden our perspective and learn about

different cultures. Learning different languages here is fun because we get to interact and practice through independent work and fun vocabulary games, enhancing my learning whilst doing something entertaining, making Spanish a more worthwhile, exciting experience.

2:30pm

I finish the day with Maths. In this hour, we usually focus on learning new topics like algebra or geometry. Even if the pace is fast, the teachers are super supportive; there is no limit to the number of questions you can ask to make sure you fully grasp the topic before moving on.

3:30pm

Once the day ends, I either stay for an after-school club or head home. In terms of extra-curricular activities, I enjoy playing sports a lot. On Mondays, I go to rounders club. I used to go to karate on Mondays before I got my black belt and decided to take a break to explore other sports (outside of school). On Wednesdays, I alternate between Athletics and Football depending on the weather and what sport I feel like playing. Typically, once I return home, I spend some time completing homework or revision for our upcoming Summer Exams. If I have completed my study, I usually spend some time with my younger siblings or I read some books (I love reading books – highly recommended).

I hope you've enjoyed hearing about a day in my life, and I hope it has given you a taste of what it is like to be in Year 8!

Sutton Girls Alumni return to school for Careers Event



U13s football team compete in their first ever District Cup final!

Mrs R. Hughes

Head of PE

On the evening of Wednesday 15th April, the U13 Football Team played in the U13 District Cup final. We played Plantsbrook School in what was a very competitive match. The full-time result was 0-0, it therefore went down to penalties.

We got off to a great start with our keeper saving their first penalty, however the end result was 3-2 to Plantsbrook.

The team have done great finishing in 2nd place in what has been the first ever District Cup for girls this year. Something to build on next season!





Year 8 Student takes part in London Mini Marathon

Miss K. Slack
PE Department

Year 8 student, Matilda, took part in the London Mini Marathon! Matilda qualified for it as the first runner for West Midlands U14 and on Friday 24th April, she travelled down to London and stayed at a hotel with lots of other participants.

The actual race was near to the end of the London marathon course, it was 2.5k and out of 254 participants Matilda finished in 41st place!

Matilda also got to warm up with Joe Wicks!

Students participate in their first Sutton Schools Tag Rugby Tournament

by Bethany in Year 9

Even though we didn't win any of our matches, our attitude towards the game never dropped, and

it was an amazing opportunity to try to improve my tag rugby skills, and work with my peers as a team. We improved after every match, and had loads of fun. I

thoroughly enjoyed the day and would love for the competitions to continue in the future.





U14s football achieve success in Trevor Francis Cup

Miss K. Slack
PE Department

On Thursday 23rd April, the U14 football team travelled to the University of Birmingham as part of an outreach programme linked to the Trevor Francis Cup quarter final. The day began with an introduction to university life, followed by a guided tour of the campus.

After the morning activities, the team faced Handsworth Wood School in their quarter-final fixture. They delivered an excellent performance, securing a convincing victory. The opening goal came from Beth, assisted by Annabel. The second was scored from a corner taken by Tash. Beth added her second goal of the match with an assist from Vicky, who also set up the fourth goal. The fifth and final goal was scored by Matilda, following a well-placed assist from captain Erin.



There were also standout performances across the pitch from Darcey and April in defence, Addison on the wing, and Deniz in goal.

Following the match, the team were congratulated by three

Birmingham City FC Women's first-team players. The squad now progresses to the semi-final, which will take place on Thursday 14th May at the Knighthead Performance Centre!

Look forward to our final newsletter of the academic year at the end of the Summer 2 half-term in July!

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