

SCGSG



OCTOBER 2019



Celebrating 90 Years

A whole school photograph
and visits from former
students to celebrate

**Welcome to
Sutton Girls!**

Year 7 student Avneet
tells us about her first
day as a Sutton Girl



A message from the

Headteacher

Dr. Barbara Minards

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2019-20 as we celebrate 90 years of Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls. This academic year got off to a great start as we celebrated the success of our outgoing Year 13s and Year 11s with their fantastic A-level and GCSE results.

We welcomed the highest number of new students into Year 12 and are delighted that they have joined our sixth form. I would like to congratulate all students for the positive start they have made to the new academic year, particularly the Year 7s who have successfully made the transition to secondary school and are already contributing to life at Sutton Girls.

During our whole school assembly on the first day of term we reflected on the history of the school with a presentation of photographs and memorabilia from our archives. Sutton Girls High School opened for lessons on the 18th September 1929 and was initially designed for 300 pupils. It has been fascinating to find out more about the beginnings of the school and reflect on the experiences of those who have been part of Sutton Girls throughout the last 90 years.

154 girls attended on the first day, which is fewer than the number of our Year 7s now. Initially there were seven teaching staff and the subjects taught were: English, Maths, Science, Art, Geography, History, French, Latin, Scripture, Gymnastics and Games. This

compares to the 70 teachers and 61 support staff that we have today.

In recognition of the School's 90th year, we had a whole school photograph taken after the first assembly.



This took considerable time, organisation, attention to detail (and patience!) as over 1100 students and staff were placed on the tiered scaffolding. The final image was worth the time, as we now have a record of our school community in 2019 to add to its history. Many students and their families have ordered a copy of the photo and we are having a large framed print displayed in the main corridor leading from the entrance to the hall.

Whilst we are all a part of Sutton Girls as we know it today, we are also part of a much larger community and we continue to add to the history of the school. In the afternoon prior to their AGM we were very pleased to welcome back some of our 'Old Girls'. It was lovely to hear former students share their memories of their school days with our current students. Both groups learned

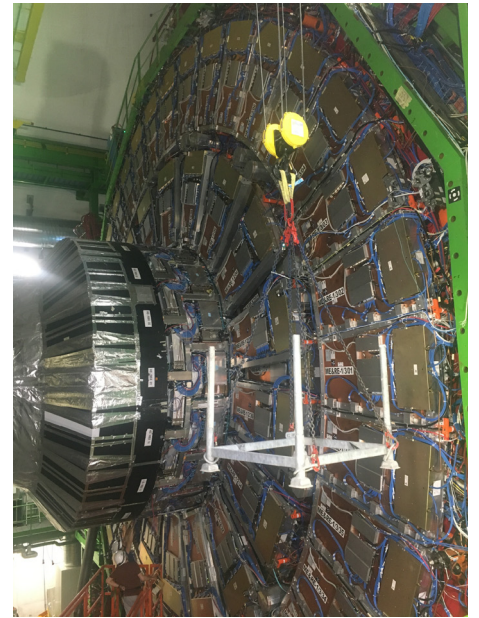
from each other, and Jessica writes about this in her article on page 6.

Highlights from this half term include our open evening in September when we welcomed lots of potential future Year 7s and their families. It was fantastic to see so many students from different year groups being tour guides and sharing their experiences of being part of our school. We are looking forward to our Sixth Form Open Evening on 7th November.

In the busy 8 week half term we have seen a packed extra-curricular schedule, with a wide variety of clubs and societies, many of which are student led. This year our annual musical is 'Sister Act'; auditions and casting took place in September and rehearsals have started for the show in March. Preparations are also well underway for the Christmas Concert, which is always a spectacular event.

Our focus on charity continues, with very successful cake sales in support of the Macmillan Coffee morning and the Cygnus house charity event for Water Aid. Our non-uniform day at the end of half term will be raising money for the Ronald McDonald House at Birmingham Children's Hospital and the buddy bag project (more about this in our next edition).

I hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening at school during this half term and I wish you and your families a happy half term holiday!



Year 13 Physics students inspiring visit to CERN in Geneva

By Chloe in Year 13

The trip to CERN in July was a visit like no other. After being given an introduction to the facility, we took a quick trip across the border to France where we had the brilliant opportunity to go underground in order to see one of the two large general-purpose particle detectors that make up the Large Hadron Collider- the CMS.

It was amazing seeing it up close as it was huge and looked like something out of a science fiction movie with the number of wires covering it.

When we got back to the surface, we went back over to Switzerland, and ate lunch in the cafeteria among hundreds of other physicists who worked there. Finally we went to a small exhibition that was being held (Microcosm) which spoke about

how the LHC worked and the physics behind it, and then went across the road to The Globe of Science and Innovation where we learnt about matter, antimatter, the beginning of the universe and the discoveries still to be made in it. I would highly recommend the trip if anyone has the opportunity to go as it was fascinating to visit a place that has made so many ground-breaking discoveries and no doubt many more to come.



A Day in the Life

Avneet tells us about her first day as a Year 7 at Sutton Girls...



On my first day here at Sutton Girls, I made my way to the school entrance feeling 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 form 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 went up to the library. After a really good induction with Mrs Jowett, I wanted to go back and see just how many books and different genres they have there.

The first day at school is always special for everyone, I was fortunate enough to



have joined when Sutton Girls celebrated its 90th school year, to commemorate this we all took part in a whole school photograph.

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.

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!

Autumn adventures with Year 7

As part of their study of poetry, Mrs Rawlings' class (7MDC) have been learning about the Japanese poetic form – Haiku. A traditional Japanese haiku is a three-line poem with seventeen syllables, written in a 5/7/5 syllable count.

Focusing on images from nature, haiku emphasise simplicity, intensity and directness of expression – elements the students have tried to capture in their own efforts. Students participated in a woodland

walk and made notes on special sounds and images of nature, as well as collecting examples of leaves, berries, acorns and a range of other items from nature to inspire their creativity.





Old Girls' Association welcomed back to SCGSG to celebrate 90 years

By Jessica in Year 13

On the afternoon of 27th September, myself and a few peers met the Old Girls Association, a group of former students from the school.

They were welcomed back to Sutton Girls to experience a normal working afternoon, with a guided tour around the site, visiting their old classrooms

and exploring the new buildings created since they completed their studies here before finishing their tour by joining in on a Year 7 French lesson which they thoroughly enjoyed.

We showed them many photos from previous events such as the annual Year 9 Fashion Show and the Year 12 Geography fieldwork trip along with the new school photo which sparked

discussion into memories of their headteachers whose names still feature on the wooden plaques at the back of the main hall.

They were amazed at the warm, welcoming feel the school still possesses and how enthusiastic everyone is about making a difference to the community through charity fundraising and volunteering and are looking forward to their next visit soon!





Creative Biology Week Competition

Mr D. Pockson
Head of Biology

Thank you to all students who entered the Biology House Competition with their creative takes on cell representation and bacteria, the standard was very high.

We awarded points based on team entries and individual entries. The results for the team competition were: in 1st place was Sienna and Raquel from Ursa, 2nd place went to Chloe, Rayhaana and Amelia from Phoenix and 3rd place was a joint Ursa/Cygnus entry by Mathilde, Eryn, Tabitha.

The results for the individual competition were: in 1st place was Ahrum in Pegasus while second place went to Willow in Ursa.

Tomorrow's Engineers Robotics Challenge

Mr J. Perks
STEM Coordinator

The robots have landed in school! There was much anticipation in school surrounding the imminent arrival of the Tomorrows Engineers Robotics Challenge packs. Once the kits were here they were hastily opened and the first tentative assembly began.

They may not look like much at the moment but they will eventually move, interact with each other and their surroundings and even talk!

They will carry out challenges within school and then take part in inter-school competitive events both regionally and nationally. Watch this space for developments!



Interhouse Geography quiz

Miss H. Pettit
Head of Geography

On Tuesday 22nd October students from across every year group came together to test their knowledge in the inter-house Geography Quiz! With rounds on population, climate change and fire, water & ice the participants' geographical knowledge was challenged.

A huge well done to **Cygnus** who took first place!

Thank you to Molly and Tilly for organising event, and our 6th Form helpers.



Year 12 London/Oxford residential

By Esme in Year 12

The Year 12 residential to London was an amazing experience for all. I loved that we were able to visit a range of fascinating venues the city has to offer such as The Tower of London, The Globe Theatre and a range of museums in South Kensington followed by a walk to the Lyceum Theatre to take our seats and watch 'The Lion King' and we were definitely not disappointed!

The free time in Oxford on Friday gave me the chance to explore the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford University and its grounds as well as being able to spend time building greater friendships with fellow Year 12 students.



Year 11 student reflects on the STAAR Programme

By Samantha in Year 11

During the summer break, five students from Sutton girls were selected to attend the Summer time Advanced Aerospace Residency (a programme run by the RAF for students who are interested in STEM careers).

On the first day we met the other recruits and did some teambuilding exercises. We then learned about the CREST project and industrial cadet award, which were both awards that we had earned by the end of the week.

The following days were a mixture of activities and workshops which introduced us to different areas in engineering and the RAF. For example, a cyber security workshop, drone flying exercises, talks from engineering professionals, and lessons about



the mechanics of aircraft. My favourite activity was visiting the mechanical training squadron where we learned some practical applications of the work from earlier in the week. We also got the opportunity to speak to some STEM professionals in a networking evening. This was

very useful and meant we could get good information about different jobs in the field.

Overall, the week was very fun and useful to anyone who is interested in engineering or joining the RAF. It has really made me consider my options and what career I may have in the future.



Year 8 students take on the Shell “Bright Ideas” Challenge

by Eleanor in Year 8

Myself and a group of fellow Year 8 students recently completed the Shell Bright Ideas STEM Challenge. The competition was aimed at school children to encourage them to be more energy efficient and to use sustainable energy sources.

Our idea was to use pedal power for transport. In addition, we would add solar panels to the roof of the cars. These ideas would both reduce the use of fossil fuels.

We found the experience of the competition very exciting and we worked well as a team to share develop and



improve all our STEM skills. We would definitely recommend entering this competition to other students as it is a great

experience and the skills you learn are transferable across all the STEM subjects.

Year 8 visit to Space Centre

By Ariana in Year 8

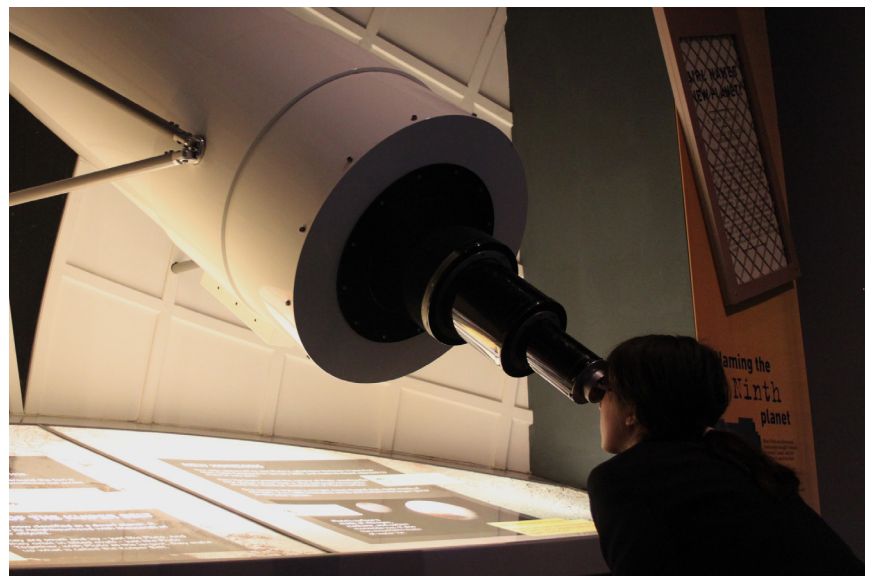
3, 2, 1, blast off! During our trip to the Space Centre, I had a brilliant time discovering new and interesting facts about our universe along with huge

amounts of fun. My favourite part was the 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 action-packed day!



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh success

Mrs K. Tunstall
D of E Coordinator

Over the weekend of the 21st-22nd of September, 7 of our Year 11 students officially completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition in Leicestershire. Chloe, Harley, Jessica, Lillie-Mai, Isobel, Lucy

and Hannah now join the 85 other students that have completed their Bronze Award and can now look forward to participating in their expeditions for the Gold Award once they have reached 16 years of age.

Good luck everyone, we look forward to hearing about your continued success!



Year 8 student successes in Schools Cross Country Cup

Miss B. Hughes
Head of PE

On the 11th October, 6 of our students participated in the first round of the English Schools Cross Country Cup in Coventry, and won the event. Well done to Francesca (2nd), Olivia (3rd), Samantha (7th), Lucy (9th), Amelie (14th) and Aliya (15th).

They will now go through to the next round of the cup, the regional competition on Saturday 9th November!



World Challenge Expedition to Costa Rica 2020

By Emma in Year 13

As part of our training for the World Challenge Expedition to Costa Rica in July 2020, we attended a training expedition at Cannock Chase on 21st and 22nd of September to help prepare us for our expedition.

When we arrived at Beaudesert campsite, we began by assigning suitable roles within our group, including a group leader and logistics team. Following this,



we learnt how to assemble our tents and use Trangia's for cooking our dinner that night and breakfast in the morning. We went on a mini trek through Cannock Chase, which was very

useful as we learnt how to use all the group equipment by practising scenarios we expect to encounter in Costa Rica, such as crossing rivers. Throughout the weekend, we had the opportunity to ask as many questions as desired about our expedition and Costa Rica itself to our amazing guide Rob. The weekend was thoroughly enjoyable; it highlighted areas that we need to work on as a team as well as giving us a taster of the exciting journey ahead!

Cloud 9 visit to Sutton Park

By Louisa in Year 9

Year 9 students visited Sutton Park as part of their Cloud 9 programme of study - practising their orienteering skills,

completing a treasure hunt and devising a park themed rap!

Student Aisha said "I'm not from Sutton and I've never been to Sutton Park before but it was really lovely to see because it's so close to school. I want to spend more time here!"

Cloud 9 takes place every second

Wednesday afternoon and gives our students the opportunity to participate in a wide range of enrichment opportunities. Enriching activities that break away from the regular curriculum while providing them with a plethora of essential skills, such as staying fit, healthy and safe, volunteering and team work.



Swimming success for Connie

Mrs K. Tunstall
P.E. Department

At the end of the summer term Year 8 student, Connie, attended the Swim Wales Summer Open swimming gala in Cardiff which resulted in her qualifying for the Welsh Nationals.

Here, Connie received a gold medal for the 50 meters Freestyle, silver for the 100 meters freestyle, and bronze for the 50 meters Fly.



British Riding Club National Championships

Mrs K. Tunstall
P.E. Department

Lily qualified for the British Riding Club National Championships earlier in 2019 for the Junior Style Jumping and the competition was Sunday 1st September in Grantham at the Lincolnshire show ground.

The Solihull Junior Team (Lily's team) actually came 2nd in the overall competition and Lily won an individual placing of 7th.

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