

SCGSG



APRIL 2021

**The arrival of Spring
and the return to school**



A message from the

Headteacher

Dr. Barbara Minards

What a difference a term makes! When the December newsletter was published we were expecting to be back in school in January for the second 'bubble term' and GCSE and A-level examinations were going ahead. How things have changed! During the Christmas holidays we were informed that all students would be learning remotely for two weeks and we would be providing Lateral Flow Device (LFD) rapid Covid-19 testing for staff and students on their return.

On the first day of term, 4th January, the third national lockdown was announced and all schools were closed for the majority of students. Whilst we remained open for supervision of vulnerable students and the children of key workers, there were only a few people on site each day as all teaching and learning was delivered remotely. Building on the experiences we had with Teams during the autumn term, we were able to deliver online provision that mirrored the school day, with students following their regular timetable. There were a mixture of live lessons, narrated PowerPoints, pre-recorded videos and a variety of resources used to enable students to continue making progress whilst at home. Students received feedback via Teams, OneNote and interacted with teachers and classmates via the chat function.

We also continued with our focus on wellbeing which became even more central as we all adapted to lockdown again and the challenges of not being able to see friends or

do many of our usual activities. We held a remote wellbeing week led by Mrs Lucas, Assistant Headteacher with the Senior Student Ambassador and wellbeing prefect team who put together resources that were shared with students each day. We continued with our five themes 'Give to Others, Have fun, Be Mindful, Get Active and Try something new' with activities that could be done at home and we encouraged students to share what they were doing by sending in photos of themselves and their projects.

We continued with our commitment to charities with the introduction of our 'Join the Dots' charity project led by senior prefects. Students were invited to choose one of seven charities (Carers Trust, The Samaritans, Young Minds, Stonewall, Canine Partners, Womens' Aid, Let's Feed Brum) and to decide on an activity to do in order to raise money for their chosen charity. Students have been completing their activities and getting sponsored by friends and family. So far all of the donations to the Just Giving Pages for the charities has reached £2000 and the varied activities include dog walking, cycling, baking, painting and making crafts.

On the first day after the February half term holiday we found out that all schools in England would fully re-open on 8th March. We planned for a staged return by year group to allow each student to be socially distanced whilst they had an LFD test before they returned to lessons in school. Over a two week

period our 'testing task force' made up of our support staff, supervised students as they carried out three tests before being issued with kits to continue testing twice weekly at home. It was fantastic to have all the students and staff back in school again and we quickly got back into our 'bubble year' arrangements that we had in place last term along with the addition of wearing masks in classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained.

Whilst frustrated by the delays to information about the grading process for GCSE and A-levels, we are really proud of the way our Year 11 and 13 students have continued with their learning. With their hardworking and positive approach our students are determined to be fully prepared for the next stage of their future. We wish all of Year 11 and 13 students well with the remainder of their studies and assessments.

It has been a very unusual term with staff, students and families having to adjust to remote working and then the full return to school. It has been challenging but the Sutton Girls community is as strong as ever; we continue to support and inspire each other. This week it has been lovely to see students outside enjoying the sunshine at break and lunch time. We are all looking forward to brighter times ahead.

I hope you and your families have a happy and safe Easter holiday.

Take care,

Dr Minards



Welcome back to Sutton Girls - 08/03/21

Mr S. Hall

Digital Communications

It feels like a lifetime ago, but when our Year 11 students returned in March, it not only signalled the beginning of the phased return but also the start of regular COVID testing for students. Initially students had three 'Lateral Flow Device' (LFD) tests in school, followed by twice-weekly tests at home with kits we have provided.

In addition to the regular measures in place last term; students have continued to remain within their year group bubbles, wearing face coverings in corridors and communal areas, regular handwashing and sanitising and staggered break times, students are also expected to wear face coverings in lessons when social distancing can't be maintained.

For the first time since the schools were suddenly closed

to the majority of students in January, only a day after they were due to reopen, Monday 8th March was the first opportunity for staff and students to be able to see one another properly outside of online lessons. After some initial anxiety, the atmosphere within school was one of positivity and hope, with smiles and laughter from everyone.

Welcome back everyone, it's good to see you again!





A Day in the Life

Year 12 student Lily May goes through her day with us after remote learning and the increasing sunshine...

Hello! My name is Lily and I am in Year 12. I take Sociology, Maths and History A-Level. After the seemingly endless lockdown in January, I am so glad to be back at school. I missed my friends, teachers and the real life lessons. Since we have been back at school, it has been so good to get back to normal. I even missed the train journeys!

This morning, I got on the train with my friends and travelled to school. It was especially nice in the unexpected March sunshine. When I got to school, I met my friends in the dance studio which is our new social space for the COVID "bubble term."

At 8:55, I went to form where we celebrated the charity work of people in the school and then had time to chat. My friend, Bethan, and I played a fun description game. I really missed seeing her during lockdown and it was great to laugh again during form!

First up was History with Mrs Heeks, we had a really interesting lesson and it was good to be in front of the teacher in real life again. At break time, I sat on the field with my friends as it was so warm. It was so nice to take my mask off and relax before my next lesson. Next I had a supervised study period which was really useful as I had lots of Maths work to do. I then had Maths, it was very challenging lesson so I was glad the teacher was in front of me rather than on a screen as I could



soon understand it. Lunchtime arrived, I again sat with my friends in the sunshine like most people in school today.

Some of us even tried to get a tan! Next I had a Sociology revision lesson as we had just finished the topic. As part of the lesson we did a Kahoot quiz, I came third! I was very proud of myself as the questions were surprisingly difficult! It is nice to have some variation back in lessons rather than the teacher having to just teach us on a Teams lesson.

I had a free period sixth so I could leave early, I headed home to relax in the sun with a book. The weather made a good day even nicer and being able to be with my friends again made it even better!





Sixth Form student named winner of prestigious Museum Tour Competition

by Natalie, Year 12

The classicist, author and journalist Natalie Haynes (pictured below) launched a competition in December for the opportunity to receive a tour of the British Museum. I entered a piece, the "Ad Infinitum Exhibit", with an introduction and catalogue of artefacts. Within, I drew parallels between ancient apotropaic mosaics and Gothic architecture. I also explored Roman *carpe diem* mosaics in relation to the metaphysical poets of the 17th century. Fundamentally, my entry was an exploration of how the world of antiquity affects our cultural present. I was delighted to receive the news that I had won!



The Joys of Lockdown Virtual Music Lessons

Amelie in Year 9

It's hard to believe that a year has now passed since we first went into lockdown! Just like everyone else, music teachers and their pupils were suddenly thrust into a strange new virtual world...Zoom, Microsoft Teams, passwords, links, mute, unmute, camera on, camera off, poor connection! It was definitely a steep learning curve for us all. However, I think we all adapted pretty quickly.

Our class music lessons included listening activities, composing and playing activities. If we played an instrument we could play that during the composing and playing segments of the lesson, but it didn't matter if you didn't because an online piano was available for everyone.

The very first live virtual lesson I had was actually my tenor horn lesson with Mr Taylor, one of the Birmingham SFE brass tutors. That was where we had to learn how to use Microsoft Teams very quickly. Quite a few times in the early days we would be frantically exchanging emails a few minutes before the lesson, asking for the meeting link to be resent as the first one didn't seem to work! I would then have my video lesson in one room whilst my Mum, Dad and sister were in their own online meetings and lessons in other rooms. I don't think I disturbed them too much!

We even ended up doing auditions, grades and group rehearsals online! After auditioning for the Birmingham Schools Brass Band, I started online rehearsals in September. These felt quite strange as for the majority of the hour, we were on



mute! We play through the pieces with the backing track and then keep repeating the tricky parts.

The most difficult thing we had to do during lockdown was record our parts for group performances. This was definitely my least favourite thing! It's surprising how many mistakes you miss when playing but they are all too evident when listening back to the recording. The most frustrating thing is when you play 95% of the piece perfectly and then mess up the last bar and have to start again!

These individual videos would then be edited together to form a virtual band performance which was broadcast over the internet. I can only imagine how difficult and time consuming this job must be! It was good to be able to watch these virtual concerts from the comfort of your own home (along with relatives who could be watching from anywhere in the world!). However, personally I can't wait to get back to 'proper' live rehearsals and concerts again. Hopefully it won't be long now!

Update on new Catering Partnership

Mr D. Thorp
Finance and Operations Director

Our new Catering Partnership has now been in place for the last few weeks, and as a School we are pleased with how this has started in these challenging times.

After the Easter holidays we will be surveying students to seek their feedback on the service.

If you would like to view

the menu, it is available on the School website [here](#).



A-Level Music recitals

Mr C. Collet and Ms E. Stamoulis
Music Department

On Monday 29th March, our Year 12 and 13 Music A Level students took part in a short recital, performing at their highest level as a culmination of all of their hard work and commitment to practice this year. For Year 13, this was their final solo recital in school, and allowed them to perform the pieces which they would have otherwise included in an A-Level coursework recital, which of course has not happened this year.

All pupils rose to the challenge and were highly professional in their stage manner, with very high standards of performance across the board.

We would like to congratulate Jodie, Aderin, Jessica and Sienna for their poise in the face of what has been an unusual year for live performance, and for their dedication to constantly improving their personal instrumental skills.

Bravo!



World Book Day '21



Mrs L. Jowett
Senior Librarian

For World Book Day this year we celebrated with a full day focused on wellbeing, literacy, and a general love of reading.

We were lucky enough to have bestselling author of the 'Murder Most Unladylike' series, Robin Stevens join us for a virtual visit too! Robin chatted to us about her writing inspiration, the publishing process and

plans for future books, and she answered numerous questions from our keen students.

A big thank you to Robin, and to all the staff and students who attended for your wonderful questions!

A big well done to Alveena (7CMC), Nikki (8MDC), Nicole (7MMA) and Hannah (10DBI) who won our 'Amazing Authors' World Book Day Competition with incredible presentations and artwork!

*During the recent national lockdown, Year 9 students studying stories by Agatha Christie and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in their English lessons were tasked with producing their own piece of crime fiction. These short stories by **Olivia A (below)** and **Megan L (overleaf)** were picked by Mrs Hardy as being excellent spoofs of the genre.*

The Art of Deception

What an utterly miserable day to get murdered. Thought Detective Inspector Mournday as he sat watching the rain through the window of the hansom. Too bad Adelaide had persuaded him to take her along. This time her friend's cousin's aunt had known the victim. However - he thought with a sigh - she was rather good at this detective thing.

The victim was a Lady Euphemia or Aunt Effie to most. She was not what one would call a "typical lady" and Adelaide looked questioningly at her seldom worn whalebone corset. Moreover, the copious layers of clothing seemed more protection than fashion. Euphemia had been shot in the chest narrowly missing the heart. Of course, you could only be sure cause of death after the post-mortem however the state of the body seemed decidedly conclusive.

Though Adelaide was not allowed to listen in to the interviews, she managed to gather that Euphemia had been celebrating a seemingly disreputable business deal with some friends. For Lady Euphemia was a wealthy and crude businesswoman with questionable incomes-not what one would identify as a picture of high-class civilisation. It seemed that rather a few men would gladly attend her funeral for swindling them out of money. Everything seemed to be going admirably well; one of the afore mentioned men had threatened Euphemia days before her death. A nice open shut case...

Suddenly the telephone rang and D.I Mournday's face turned from confident to confused in a matter of seconds." What!" he bellowed "how can it be gone? A body cannot just get up and walk out of the mortuary can it? At least was the body examined first? NO? NO! So now I have a murderer and a missing body to find! He exclaimed in anguish and despair.

Mournday stormed into the mortuary his face fiery and aglow and his eyes flickered and sparked like the flames of a fire. Although part of this anger was facade for his uncertainty, he did a first-rate job scaring the coroner who bewilderedly fell back into Adelaide. Adelaide who had been silently surveying the room turned to look at him.

"S s s sorry" he stuttered apologetically.

"Don't worry I didn't feel it corsets are an incredible source of protection..."

She stopped lost in a train of thought before murmuring "how fortuitous" and then as though speaking in a sort of discombobulated but intelligent trance "Someone get a gun and shoot me!" Her father stared at her in disbelief.

"Don't you see? That's how she did it" exclaimed Adelaide ecstatically "you see Euphemia you didn't die when she was shot, all those clothes and whalebone corset must have provided adequate protection. Moreover, there was an unusual lack of blood. In fact, I believe she planned to death as way of escaping all those people she tricked" she paused before continuing matter of factly "now Father I expect you should watch the ports and stations if you want to find her. You have a corrupt lady to catch" and with that she slumped into a chair with a satisfied sigh. What great fun murder was.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

"By Jove, Simon."

"It's Samuel."

"Bless you," Muted the detective, absent-mindedly, "Don't you ever wish that there was another case to solve? A crime to crack? It has been some time, now."

"Well, I suppose-"

But he was silenced by the sound of a deafening screech resonating in the Press Office behind them. Miles lit up with rather concerning excitement, and the pair, without a second thought, clutched their waistcoats and dashed into the building.

It was a peculiar sight indeed. A Mr James Lawrence, owner of the Weekly Mail, face down on the floor of his office. Over him was Delilah, the secretary, in a state of pure shock, and in rushed Gordon and Charlotte Campbell, respectively.

Miles, fuelled with adrenaline, knew this was his chance to prove himself.

"Consulting Detective Miles A. Head. Nobody move a muscle. Don't talk. Don't even breathe. Okay, breathe a little, but don't talk. Don't think. I need to think."

"Is he dead?!" Delilah barely fumbles the words together.

"OF COURSE HE'S DEAD!"

She starts to move towards the body.

"NO. NO. NO. STAY. THERE. Stay right there."

Samuel runs in, profusely sweating, "What's happened?"

"SHHHHHH." They all silence him, the three employees more with a sense of urgency, the detective with a scowl of distaste.

Miles clears his throat. There wasn't a moment to waste. Time to crack this.

"You," pointing to Gordon, "The wrinkles.

Work stress? You know you're soon to be fired and the unkempt appearance supports this. The coffee stain of your shirt. The nearest coffee shop is 10 minutes away. This death was recent, perhaps instantaneous, so I don't think you could have grabbed one and got back to kill him in time."

"Sir! A coffee cup."

"Thank you, Steven. Hm. Cold. Yours?"

He pointed at Gordon, who did not respond.

"You can talk now."

"Yes, that's mine."

"Ah. So you've been at work for a while. I can't rule you out just yet."

He threw the cup back at Samuel, and started pacing the room.

"Wait.... By God, I've got it. Oh yes, I do! You!" he points to Delilah, still half shaking in fear. Of course, you knew all the secrets of the man, all of his private affairs. Speaking of affairs, you've been having one. With no other than Gordon himself. The tell? The earrings, matching to his wives'. Gold. No doubt someone of your class would not be able to afford them. No offence."

"That is quite enough. A man is DEAD." Gordon commanded.

"SILENCE."

At this point, Delilah has burst into tears, Gordon is enraged and Charlotte wears only a solemn expression on her face. The overwhelming emotion in the room only encourages him.

"No doubt he had confided in you the fact that he would be fired, and you couldn't bear to lose the glitz and glamour. You killed Mr Lawrence, and-"

He had no time to finish his sentence, for at the very moment Mr Lawrence rose from the floor, dazed and dizzy, but very much alive.

"Golly, I must have hit my head hard. Whatever is the matter with you all?"

...

"It appears I've done it again, Scott."

UK Maths Challenge 2021

Mr D. Biggin
Maths Department

In the first week of February 137 students from Years 9-11 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge online. Thousands of students take part in the challenge each year from across the UK, and it aims to encourage mathematical reasoning and problem solving. Questions are often asked in unfamiliar ways requiring participants to think creatively about possible solutions.



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

Once the paper has been marked, the top performers nationally are awarded a certificate. Congratulations to our students who achieved 38 bronze, 28 silver and 7 gold, with 9 students qualifying for the next round of the competition. A

particular well done to Shanelle in Year 9 who achieved the best result in the school and qualified for the Cayley Olympiad, as well as Eleanor and Elaine who were the top scorers in Years 10 and 11.

Year 12 Sports Leadership benchball tournament

Naomi and Olivia in Year 12

On Friday 26th March, seven Sports Leaders in Year 12 hosted a Benchball tournament as part of their sports leadership qualification. The event had a great turnout with over 40 students taking part during their enrichment period, making up 8 teams in total. All the players gave it their all, trying to get to the

grand final and win the coveted Easter egg prizes.

A huge congratulations to our winners, the Orange Team, as well as umpire's player of the tournament, Beryl Angenu-Agoe, and Harveen Garewal for winning the Funniest Moment Award for somehow managing to score an own goal! All players were really enthusiastic which helped the event to run smoothly, and it was

great to be able to come together as a year group and play sports again after a long few months of remote learning.

On behalf of the Sports Leaders team, we would like to thank everyone who took part, Miss Hughes and Miss Flannery, and we look forward to being able to run more sports activities as exciting as this one in the future!





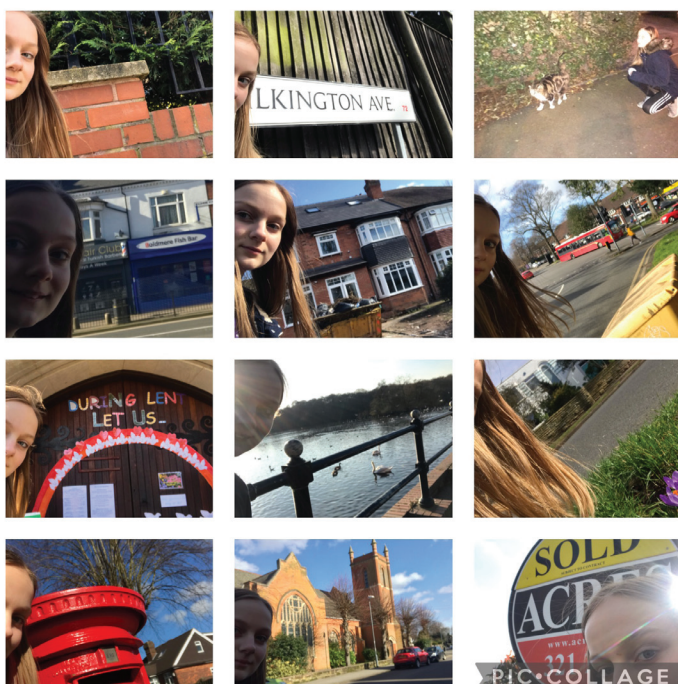
Lockdown bingo keeps students active during remote learning

Miss R. Hughes
Head of P.E.

During lockdown, students were set a series of challenges to participate in to keep them active while learning remotely. The aim was to encourage students to

get out and about, either for a walk, jog, cycle etc and try and complete a task as they did so. Each challenge required students to take photos and share them with the PE department to earn a virtual medal and character points. The challenges included

a BINGO game where students had specific items to find, such as a post box, a place of worship and a rainbow. There was also an A-Z picture challenge and a challenge to take photographs of 'things that make you smile' while outdoors.



Duke of Edinburgh round-up

Mrs K. Tunstall
D of E Coordinator

Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 have been busy working on their Physical, Voluntary and Skills section in preparation for their Certificate of Achievement.

In Year 11, 90 students were awarded their Certificate of Achievement this week. Others are still working hard to complete their sections. Students have until December 2021 to complete their volunteering, physical and skills sections.

We have 143 Year 10s working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award and they have made great strides towards completing their sections even through the challenges of lockdown. From litter picking, to baking and cooking and home zoom workouts, our Year 10 students have not let lockdown stop them help others and themselves!

Here are just a few amazing things they have been up to:

Charlotte - 10JUH

Throughout Lent I have been trekking 145km (89 miles) on a cross trainer. This is the distance to my granny's house in Lincolnshire which is where I most want to go once lockdown is over! I have been doing this to raise money for Crohn's and Colitis UK as my best friend Libby has been through such a lot with Crohn's disease and was recently in hospital again and I wanted to do something to help.



So far I have run 115km and have raised £660 for a great cause. This is all counting towards the volunteering section for DofE.

Abbie - 10DBI

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh been a great experience for me so far, as doing the three skills, physical and volunteering sections means you can learn something new or develop your skills in a certain area further.

For my physical, lasting six months, I have been cycling in Sutton park with a friend or family member and have progressed quite a lot, so I went to do the MTB trails at Cannock Chase. These were quite technical and challenging but I found the down-hilling very exhilarating.

For skills I did the online Soakster course

which contains detailed instructions on how to make bath bombs, body scrubs, soaps and more. I had never done this before so it was great to do something new, and it meant most weeks I produced snazzy products, some of which I used for presents. Some weeks it did not go quite to plan and I had bath flakes instead of bath bombs!

I am thoroughly enjoying the DofE and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is looking to get involved and do things they enjoy or have a challenge.



Steps to Success

Miss B. Hughes
Head of P.E.

For many of us our social, emotional and physical health has been impacted during this pandemic. Everyone has felt, at some point frustrated about not seeing friends and family, sad because they cannot enjoy doing the things they want to and being limited to what activities they can do.

During the Spring term the PE department worked together with both King Edwards School Sports Partnership and Central Sports Partnership to get involved in a programme designed to help students improve/maintain all of these aspects of their health. The 'Steps to Success' programme was a six week journey where those who participated chose one activity suggested for their social, emotional and physical health each week, earning points (which led to certificates and in some cases prizes) for the activities that they did.

Well done to the following students for completing their journey: Haadya in Year 7, Eleanor, Georgina, Nidhi, Nikki, Emily, Anamika, Matilda and Mary in Year 8, Haadya in Year 9, Jaya in Year 10 and Dua in Year 11.



Tilly - 10HPE

For my skill section of D of E, I worked on my baking and cooking skills. Over the 3 months, I have gained lots of confidence and skills in the kitchen that I

can use for later life. It has also helped me to gain independence and to persevere when things didn't go to plan!



Clocking up the kilometers with Get Active Challenge

Miss E. Wilcox
Mental Health Lead

During our Wellbeing Week in January, we set our students and staff the challenge to Get Active, which is one of the key areas of our wellbeing as a school.

We reached the end of the four-

week challenge on the 5th March, in which our students and staff have completed a total of **2,277 kilometres** - that's enough to get us well beyond Rome as a relay team!

A huge well done to everyone who participated.

You can look forward to our next newsletter at the end of the Summer in July. In the meantime, keep up to date by following us on:

[facebook.com/suttcold](https://www.facebook.com/suttcold) or twitter.com/suttcold



Phone Number: 0121 354 1479
Email: enquiry@suttcold.bham.sch.uk
Web: www.suttcold.bham.sch.uk

Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B73 5PT