

# SCGSG



OCTOBER 2021

Sixth Form  
Netball Success!

Matilda: the  
Musical cast

Extra Curricular  
Clubs Fair

**A welcome return to  
some normality...**



A message from the

# Headteacher

*Dr. Barbara Minards*

It has been a busy and productive half term which has seen the return of many of our normal routines and procedures. It has been fantastic to provide numerous multi-year group activities and have lessons taking place in their subject specific classroom areas.

The start of the academic seems a long time ago as so much has been achieved in the seven weeks since. We welcomed our new Year 7 students for their first day at Sutton Girls on Friday 3rd September, as their transition day had been a remote event in the summer term. It was lovely to see them in person and although they had the unusual start of taking a lateral flow test whilst sat socially distanced in the sports hall, they soon settled in. We are proud of how well they have adapted to secondary school life and are already contributing to the Sutton Girls community.

It took students and staff a while to get used to their new timetables and routines which are a combination of our previous practices and those put in place to manage the spread of Covid-19. Some uncertainty remained as we wondered how the return to

school would go and whether we would be affected by rising case numbers.

We have chosen to keep some of the 'bubble year' arrangements in place as they are working well; the one-way system eases corridor congestion during lesson changeover time, split breaks mean less crowding and better access to the catering facilities, designated spaces before school and at lunchtime provide students with more space and opportunity to socialise within their year group.

Not having the restrictions of year group bubbles has meant we have been able to re-open the library as a resource base for all students at lunchtime. It is great to see the enthusiasm students have for reading, to hear them discussing their book selections and using the space for social, work and recreational purposes.

Our Senior Student Ambassador Team have once again been able to work across the different year groups, supporting Year 7 students with their transition to Sutton Girls, leading house competitions and creating an exhibition for Black

History Month. They are fantastic role models and an asset to our school.

The return of all our extra-curricular activities has been rewarding for students and staff alike. After 18 months of restrictions there has been a huge interest in students taking the opportunity to join in with a wide variety of activities such as badminton, coding, dance, debate club, film club, feminist society, gardening, jazz band, sinfonia, textiles and young reporter amongst others. There really is something for everyone in addition to their lessons, assemblies and tutor time programme.

The rehearsals for the annual school musical are underway, the cast of Matilda are working hard and it is a joy to hear the sounds of their after-school rehearsal on Mondays. Another highlight of the week is hearing the gospel choir rehearse on Thursday mornings, they provide an inspiring and uplifting start to the day.

These events remind us of the value of our school community, with students in different year groups coming together to work with different staff to develop their skills, share their enthusiasm and build friendships. As we come to the end of the half term, it is a good opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved before having a well-deserved break.

I hope you and your families have a lovely half term holiday.

Take care,  
*Dr Minards*







# Matilda the Musical: cast announced

Hello! I am Ruby in Year 8 and I'm very excited to tell you that I will be playing the role of Matilda in the SCGSG "Matilda" school production.

After many nerve racking auditions and weekends hoping for the best but preparing for the worst, it was finally time... My sister got to school earlier that day so she saw the cast list before me. Knowing her, I am probably shocked the most that she didn't

ruin the surprise for me!!!

When I arrived at school I wasn't expecting much really, not until I hear people whispering "Who is Ruby?" When I saw my name at the top of the list I was over the moon! I just ran straight up to my form room not knowing what to think of it. Before I even managed to sit down I was being congratulated by my amazing friends who were probably even more excited than I was (if that

could be possible).

I am probably the most excited about getting to play Matilda and singing the song "Miracle" with the rest of cast and other solo songs. I can't wait to start spending time with the most funny, kind and caring people I've ever met.

I can tell that this is going to be one of the best experiences of my life!





# Welcoming students back into the Library

Mrs L. Jowett  
Head Librarian

This term we were delighted to reopen our library to all students again!

Whilst our 'Library Prime' book delivery service was successful throughout bubble year, it could never compare to being able to invite students in for themselves. The opportunity just to browse through the books, to borrow board games and use the area



for reading or study is one our students have definitely missed, and there has been a wonderful buzz of excitement at lunchtime

as they come to visit.

Now, for the first time since the pandemic began, our Year 8 students have also been able to experience the library alongside our new Year 7 students and explore all that the library has to offer.

We are so lucky to have so many enthusiastic readers amongst our students, and it has been a joy to welcome them back into the library.

## Extra Curricular Clubs Fair 2021

Mrs S. Zaman  
Enrichment Coordinator

We welcomed our students back this term by holding an Extra Curricular Clubs Fair. There was a real sense of excitement and buzz in the air as students came together for the first time since Covid-19 measures were introduced. There was a huge range of morning, lunchtime and afterschool clubs to select.

It's been fantastic to see students getting involved in different clubs, mixing with other year groups, and even better to see some of our Sixth Form Sports Leaders and Ambassadors leading them. This term has also been extremely busy, but seeing lots of happy students doing fun things has been rewarding!

Most of the clubs are open to all year groups with specific clubs targeted at set groups. There is something for every student and new clubs starting all the time.

If you are interested, please go along as most clubs are open to new participants and don't need you to book a place in advance.



# A Day in the Life

Arabella tells us about a typical day as a new Year 7 student in school...



I like to get in to school a little bit early as I don't want to be late for anything! When I arrive at school I meet up with some friends in the hall. We sit together and either read our books or talk about lots of different things. Then we go to our Forms.

Form is a good time of the day as I get to catch up with all of my friends. I was nervous about joining Sutton Girls but I really shouldn't of been as everyone is very friendly. The teachers are

really nice and all of the other students are great too. In Form we talk about things that are going on in the world today and do Votes for Schools. We then stay together as a Form but make our way in to our subject classes like one big team.

One of my favourite classes is Science. I'm really loving the work that we are doing in 'Electricity and Magnetism' especially the Circuits work. Science lessons are really interactive and exciting!

I've also been really impressed with the massive choice of clubs and activities that we have running in school. I've decided to learn the Bassoon! In the canteen they make the most amazing Belgian Waffles....they are so tasty.

It can be challenging at Sutton Girls but it is definitely well worth the effort!







# Black History Month Exhibition

by Saffron in Year 12

On the 19th, 20th and 22nd of October we hosted a Black History Exhibition within the school hall. Organised by sixth formers with input from pupils of multiple year groups we created boards filled with information on Black History and contributions from black people towards the progression of society. These boards included facts about black literature, black music, microaggressions, black pride, the Windrush generation and highlighted the skillful artwork of a black student. I produced the display on the Windrush generation as it is a topic that

connects with me particularly and similarly other pupils made boards that surrounded topics that they have specific interests in. As well as the boards, we had students who were able to give their additional knowledge verbally, which I was told helped many of the pupils gain a deeper understanding of these important topics.

We wanted to focus on the positive aspects of Black History rather than the traumatic and negative history that is often portrayed in the media. This was an exhibition to show off the strengths of black people and include people in conversations which are not so commonly

had. As a black student I find it not only important but also necessary to continue to educate on Black History to celebrate our differences. Our exhibition was a celebration. On the 22nd we had a sing along in which we had music from influential black artists sung and acknowledged for their importance.

Overall, I believe it was a sensational event. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive and showed me the importance of educating people on Black History. I hope to see the same excitement and enthusiasm next year as these three days were truly spectacular.





# Climbing the UK's tallest peak for Birmingham Children's Hospital

by Shruti in Year 7

I enjoy walking and climbing with my family and friends and we regularly go climbing in the peak district and other places in the UK. When my dad asked me last month if I wanted to climb Ben Nevis with him and his friends, I said yes in a flash.

As you may know, Ben Nevis is the tallest mountain in the United Kingdom. Once I decided to climb, I wanted to fundraise for the Birmingham Children's Hospital charity for children with epilepsy. We set up a fundraiser and people started to donate. It was a seven-hour long journey from Birmingham to Fort William in Scotland. After resting overnight, we climbed on 18th September, through rocks, clouds, dirt and even a waterfall!

I couldn't see the peak, which is my motivation to climb, and I

felt like giving up a few times. It took us almost 6 hours to get to the peak, and when I reached it, I felt incredibly proud of myself. I could barely move the following day, but have recovered now. We raised **£1131** for children with epilepsy, and I am thankful to all the people who believed in me and contributed to the cause.



## Ellie completes Shine Night Walk for Cancer Research UK

by Ellie in Year 10

On Saturday 25th September my mum and I completed the Shine Night Walk Marathon for Cancer Research.

It was a huge challenge for us and we walked 26.2 miles around the streets of London. we completed the walk in 6 hours 36 minutes which was a lot faster than we expected. This meant we were walking at about 4mph the entire time!

We raised approximately £500

and we are so grateful to everyone who sponsored us so we can help such an important cause.







# Student work celebrated in latest edition of Art Book

Mr M. Davis  
Head of Art

This years' book is a celebration of the resilience and resourcefulness of our GCSE and A level students. Rather than being rueful of the situation, we all find ourselves in; they have again risen to the challenge of

making artwork in new and imaginative ways. We celebrate their determination to achieve and manifest their imagination onto the page and canvas. We are excited to include the work of our textile artists this year as they complete their first year under the Art umbrella. Creativity and artistry can take many forms

and we are pleased as a school to continue to develop our arts provision. We look forward to being able to show you the future work of our students in person but are immensely proud of this book as a testament of our current students' creativity.

**Click [here](#)** to view.







# FUN Healthy Chinese Cuisine Ambassadors

Mrs J. Holden  
Food and Nutrition

We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with the FUN Healthy Chinese Cuisine Ambassadors (HCCA) outreach team as well as Chinese food company Lee Kum Kee to provide our GCSE Food and Nutrition students with special cooking classes through online talks.

Lee Kum Kee very kindly sent us a package which included a wide variety of sauces and spices for our Year 10 students to work with. Richa, one of my students, really enjoyed their first practical lesson:

"In Food and Nutrition, we have been studying Chinese cuisine. We began by having a Teams meeting with Lee Kum Kee who specialise in Chinese sauce

and we learned a lot about the different festivals celebrated in China and the traditional food and popular dishes of the nation, the range of sauces that are used in Chinese food and their different aspects, The '5 steps to Chinese Cooking' and the golden rule to remember: Protein + Vegetable + Sauce = Tasty, healthy dish.

We then tested this golden rule by making Kung Pao chicken whilst using the sauces provided by Lee Kum Kee. It was delicious and packed with flavour! I will definitely be cooking this again at home and maybe try out some other Chinese dishes."

We have made a gallery available on the school website showcasing some of the dishes that our students prepared as part of their first practical lesson. You can [view it here](#).



## Year 9 students engage with Cultural Masks textiles project

Mrs J. Cole  
Art Department

The Year 9 cultural masks project is a great way of getting students to think about the different influences and historical references in their design, such as Venetian masquerade, Kabuki Theatre and Día de los Muertos (or Day of the Dead).

"This term in Textiles, we have been studying cultural masks which has been an exciting, enriching and relaxing project. It has tested our skills using sewing machines, researching and presenting our ideas,

and sewing a variety of hand stitches. The light atmosphere in class means that this project has been very enjoyable and a great creative experience!" – Lissy N.

There has been an incredible array of work from students this year. I am very proud of how creatively and independently they have carried out their research so far, I cannot wait to see the final masks!





## Record breaking year for the Duke of Edinburgh Award

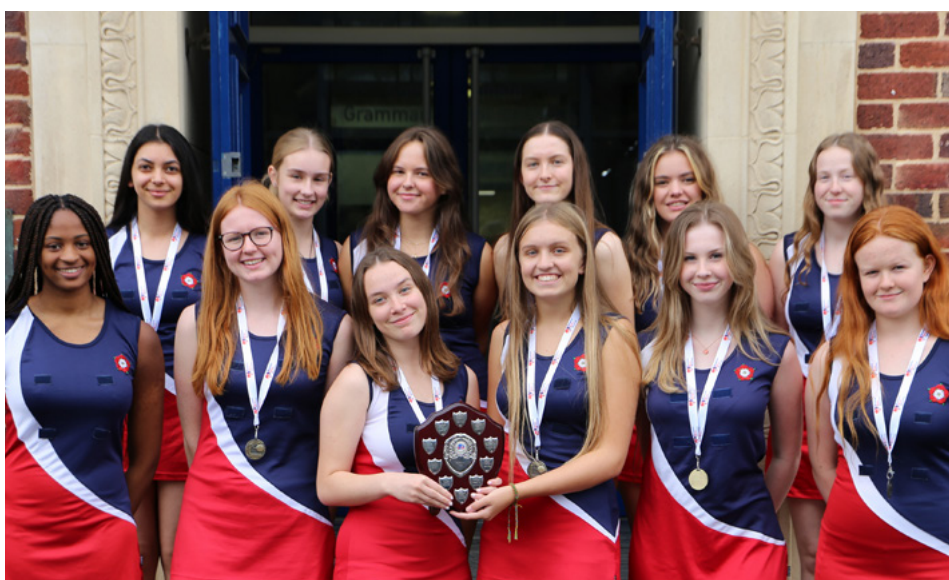
Mrs K. Tunstall  
DofE Coordinator

This year's launch of the Bronze DofE award has seen a huge response with a massive **161** Year 10 students signing up! The benefits of achieving this award are endless, from making a difference to other people's lives and your community, being fitter and healthier and making new friends and new memories to last a lifetime. The Gold award is also well underway with fifteen Year 12 students signing up so far. Both the Bronze and Gold expeditions are due to run during the summer term in 2022.

The DofE staff team are very excited about helping everyone on their journey to achieving this fantastic award.

If anyone is thinking about signing up, then please see Mrs Tunstall for more details.

Good luck to everyone starting their DofE journey!



## Sixth Form netball success at Birmingham Schools competition

by Francesca in Year 13

On Wednesday 13th October, a newly formed Sutton Girls netball team travelled to KEHS to compete in the Under 19 Birmingham County Netball tournament.

We played 3 matches in the group stage, beating Bishop Vesey B, Plantsbrook and EHS convincingly to reach the semi-finals. We then played King Edwards Camp Hill and continued the brilliant form from the previous matches, with a comfortable win, meaning we reached the final, where we played the hosts, KEHS. We got off to an amazing start, leading 9-3 at half time, and held on to take a 14-7 victory, meaning we had become Under 19 Birmingham County champions!

We are now very excited to go on to represent Birmingham

at the West Midlands regional competition in January.

A big thank you to everyone who has come to netball club since it began in September, to Miss Flannery for her excellent coaching and to Mr Millman for driving the minibus!



You can look forward to our Christmas newsletter at the end of Autumn 2 in December 2021. In the meantime, keep up to date by following us on:

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



Phone Number: 0121 354 1479  
Email: [enquiry@suttcold.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@suttcold.bham.sch.uk)  
Web: [www.suttcold.bham.sch.uk](http://www.suttcold.bham.sch.uk)

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