

## A DAY IN THE LIFE: YEAR 10

Neva is new to SCGSG, we asked her about a day in her life here at school

## SPORTING SUCCESS

Students excel in Cross Country, Netball and Inter-House competitions

## OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS YEARS

Coding, computing, debating, embroidery and more.

**It's certainly been  
a busy half term!**





A message from the

# Headteacher

*Dr. Barbara Minards*

We have finally made it to the end of term! Whilst we have spent most of the time since September operating in more usual ways than we did throughout the 'bubble' conditions of last year, it seems that Covid-19 has begun to impact us once again.

November saw the re-introduction of mask wearing in corridors and communal spaces, more recently the increasing concerns over the spread of the omicron variant led to the difficult decision to cancel the Christmas concert. Students' performances were filmed in the school hall throughout the day on Thursday, so that parents and families could enjoy the result of all the hours of rehearsal and practise time. There were amazing performances throughout the day which started with the sinfonia and concluded with a clarinet solo from Jasmine in Year 13 and three items from the wonderful Gospel choir. Thank you to all the student performers, the peripatetic music teachers, Ms Stamoulis and Mr Collet for such a memorable day of music.

As we look back on this term it is important to acknowledge how much has been achieved since September. Congratulations to Year 7 and new Year 12 students who have completed their first term at Sutton Girls. They have settled in well and are already contributing to our school community through their participation in house competitions, clubs and charity events.

Lessons have returned to their regular timetabled classrooms, although the one-way system is still in place movement around the



buildings has helped the school day feel more normal. The majority of assemblies have continued to be virtual, with in-person gatherings limited for specific messages such as Sixth Form information for Year 11s. Similarly progress evenings have remained online, these received positive feedback from parents and carers last year, although we are hoping to return to some in-person events soon in order to maintain the vital connection between home and school. With the change in self-isolation rules, there have been far fewer students having to stay at home and access their learning remotely. We still use Microsoft Teams to set homework, share resources and communicate with students, but it has been great to return to face to face teaching.

I would like to congratulate Year 11 and Year 13 students on successfully completing their mock examinations. They can now enjoy a well-deserved break over Christmas. Both year groups took the possible contingency plans of Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) in their stride and

focussed on practising working under examination conditions. This experience will be great preparation for the GCSEs and A-levels in the Summer and provides students and their teachers with important feedback on current understanding and the next steps needed to make further progress.

We also celebrate the return of our full extra-curricular programme with a wide variety of clubs taking place before school, during lunchtimes and after school each week. These include badminton, book club, chamber choir, feminism society, netball, robotics and Yoga. Many clubs are student led and it is great to see mixing between year groups, with older students demonstrating their leadership skills by mentoring and inspiring those in younger years.

Please enjoy reading about what has been happening at Sutton Girls during this half term. I hope you and your families have a lovely Christmas holiday and a happy and healthy New Year!

Take care, Dr Minards





# Christmas Concert 2021

Mr C. Collet  
Head of Music

The Christmas Concert had been scheduled for the evening of Wednesday 15th December, but unfortunately the Covid situation meant that the difficult decision had to be taken to cancel the event. We replaced the 'live' concert with a day of filmed recordings in the school hall on Thursday 16th December in front of an audience of students and staff, in effect five separate Christmas Concerts! (Anybody

know if this could qualify for the Guinness Book of Records? Most Christmas Concerts in a day?) As ever Sutton students rose to the occasion. More than two hundred students were involved in the day which started with Sinfonia (sixty musicians) and ended with Gospel Choir (ninety singers).

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the charity raffle. We have passed these on to a food bank.

A big thank you to the students who have worked so hard this

term. I have been so impressed by their reliability in attending rehearsals and their musicianship. Thank you to everyone involved in preparing for the day, especially to the site team and Mr Hall for filming. Thank you to our instrumental teachers from Services for Education and to Ms Stamoulis. And finally thank you to parents / carers for supporting your children in their musical education.

A very Merry Christmas to you all from the Music Department!





# Year 9 prepare for the UK Robotics 2022 competition

by Victoria in Year 9

For the past several weeks, I have been attending Robotics club, run by Mr Opong, as well as some of the Sixth Form students who are currently taking A-Level Computing.

These sessions have been a great opportunity to extend on my coding skills, but also put them into practise, in an enjoyable, hands-on way. During the sessions, we have been taken through how to build a basic robot, how to code it successfully, but also how to upgrade them, allowing us to take on more advanced tasks and challenges. One of the main things which I found very beneficial is how the teams were fully in charge of their robots and codes, yet



there was always someone there to help, allowing us to progress quickly and develop our robotics skills from practically nothing, to now going to compete with other schools.

There are four teams currently preparing for the UK Robotics 2022 competition, taking on a couple of tasks per group,

honing in on key skills learnt in the past sessions, such as motion and colour sensors, as well as problem-solving and critical thinking to tackle much more in-depth, multi-step problems. Anyone who comes into the computer room during the club will find the students deeply focused on their projects, adding PAT code to their robots, or working on programming, perfecting each twist and turn.

I have also found robotics club to be a brilliant practise for my logical thinking. With every task we are faced with, we had to logically think it through, finding the most efficient solution. From what I've seen all the teams are working hard on their robots and will definitely do incredibly well at the competition!

## Global Healthcare Exchange VP speaks to Year 12 students

Mr S. Hall  
Media & Communications

During the morning of Tuesday 23rd November, our Year 12 students were visited by Karen Conway, the Vice President of US company GHX (Global Healthcare Exchange).

Karen helped grow the firm from a technology start-up into a global business platform that has transformed the healthcare supply chain. She advises the board and executive, product and marketing leaders on strategic organic and inorganic

growth opportunities and risk mitigation.

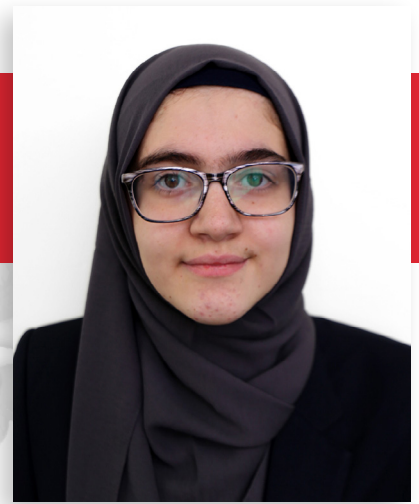
She shared insights about global leadership, the skills necessary to develop and adapt in a very uncertain world, lessons learned during the pandemic, issues related to health and the environment (a subject which Karen is incredibly passionate about), as well as how her extensive, and varied, background helped shape the role she plays in GHX today.

We are incredibly grateful that she gave up her time to come in and speak to our students!



# A Day in the Life

Year 10 student Neva may have joined us mid-term, but she's fitted in quickly! Here, she tells us her day...



After a very unexpected call in the middle of the half term holidays, Sutton Girls welcomed me with the warmest of welcomes on a chilly autumn morning. My school days have been an absolute joy since then.

For my GCSEs at Sutton Girls, I chose Art, History and French in addition to Mathematics, three sciences and English Language and Literature that all of us are doing.

My morning starts in the social space, revising or chatting with my friends as I wait for school to start with registration. After a short form time usually filled with a lovely assembly on Character Strengths or sometimes filled with a fun game of "Splat!"



Today's lessons started with an hour of supervised study where I revised for my upcoming maths assessment on trigonometry.

During the twenty minute morning break that followed my productive study time, I met with my friends in the cafeteria. We talked about the day ahead of us while having a small snack of bananas and delicious waffles. The next lesson was Chemistry. I really enjoy our current topic of electrolysis and all the experiments we do. After Chemistry and Biology (in which we solved some six-mark exam style questions about the eye the nervous system and the adrenaline hormone) the lunch hour appeared bringing much joy, relaxation and tasty food.

The hour of free time I spent with my friends went by very quickly. After lunch I went to Art, which is my favourite GCSE subject. In Art I worked on my still life artist page. I chose Paul Cezanne to work on because his paintings look very interesting! I printed images of some of his paintings and learned how I should write about them. In our Physics lesson, which came just after Art, we learned about the dangers of radioactivity. With the final bell we all made our way home.

In the last month and a half I've been here Sutton Girls have been nothing but uplifting, having teachers that are all so supportive is truly wonderful. I am looking forward to the rest of the days I'll spend here.



It helped me understand the range of questions that could be asked and I think it was helpful that we were in pairs as it gave me another viewpoint to how someone else would've answered the questions.

**Beryl**

The roleplay station was great. I think the Year 11s were excellent in their roles and it gave me a good idea of what a potential roleplay situation entails and what skills it is testing.

**Aarya**

## Year 13 students feed back after successful MMI session

Ms L. Hobson

Early Entry Supervisor

On 15th November, we ran a session for MDV (Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary) students so that they could practise for the MMI interviews which they will be experiencing over the next month or so. MMI stands for Multi Mini Interviews and this is the way many medical schools run their interview process (although other related courses also follow this system).

Students experience a series of 'stations' where they can be presented with a variety of scenarios, questions and problems. We had a large number of staff who volunteered their time and the session was busy



and purposeful.

We had a couple of Year 11s who were brilliant in the role play stations and really put our

students through their paces. I am hoping that, after the session, our students feel better prepared for the challenges ahead.

Amazing experience to get used to talking in real life interviews. There were a range of questions and scenarios which was very helpful. It was nice that it was timed, which gave me a very realistic insight into how to formulate answers under timed conditions.

**Hayqa**

I feel teachers gave valuable feedback and the time limits mirrored the real thing very well. The role play aspect is quite different and it was useful being exposed to it today.

**Kaneefa**

# Aneeka attends the virtual Cambridge Model United Nations conference

by Aneeka in Year 10

On Friday 3rd December, I was lucky to have the opportunity to participate in Cambridge Model United Nations, a debating conference that simulates the real United Nations conferences that take place every year.

I learnt important lessons in teamwork as I had to partner up with other countries (I was the delegate for Egypt) to write a resolution to the issue I was given- Providing healthcare for Refugees. This topic sparked many debates, and many



stories were shared about the harrowing experiences in refugee camps. This experience was very enriching and I am grateful I had this opportunity.

I would highly encourage anyone able to to participate in a Model UN, or to get involved with the Debate Club at our own school.

## Year 8s embroidered tote bags based on the life of artist Gaudi



by Antonia in Year 8

In Year 8 textiles, we have been making bags inspired by Antoni Gaudi's architecture. Gaudi was an architect and created beautiful, unique designs for chimneys, walls and stained glass

windows. He also designed grand cathedrals.

We used his architecture to create hand sown designs to go on to the front of our bag and on the back of our bag we used the sewing machines to create a



crazy patchwork.

It was an amazing experience and I really enjoyed making them!

**Click here** to view the gallery on our school website.





## Year 10 prepare mouth-watering mussels

by Olivia & Anaisha  
in Year 10

On Wednesday 17th November, the GCSE Food and Nutrition students cooked, prepared and served Mussels.

We received live mussels from Fish Hero's and were delighted to not only have the chance to cook with them but also safe in the knowledge that they were sustainably sourced. In groups of 5, we were assigned individual tasks: checking the mussels, cutting the garlic and ginger, cutting the chillies and coriander and measuring the Thai green curry paste. Every group managed to serve their dishes and even enjoy the taste of mussels - the first time for a

few of us. The variety of aromas in the room was definitely a treat.

Personally, we've never tried mussels before but it was amazing to make such a simple but mouth-watering dish. Mussels can sometimes taste a

bit bland but these ones were full of flavour, the coconut and curry paste were both prominent flavours and the coriander really enhanced the taste. Thank you to Fish Hero's for providing us with such a wonderful opportunity.



*'Fish in School Hero' aims to ensure that every child gets a chance to prepare, cook and eat fish before they leave school. The programme aims to train over 400 secondary food teachers to be confident in preparing and cooking fish with students in their classrooms. Teachers will be supported by local Heroes: fishmongers, fish-loving chefs and fish suppliers, as well as other Heroes who will be coming into schools to talk first-hand about their role in bringing seafood from the sea to the plate, highlighting careers and opportunities in the fish industry.*

*Supported by the Fishmongers' Company's Fisheries Charitable Trust, Fish in School Hero is managed by the Food Teachers Centre and their volunteer team throughout the UK. Launching in East Coast schools, in 2020 and 2021 the programme will be extending throughout the UK, reaching over 60,000 pupils in 3 years.*



# Inter-house Competition

Mrs K. Tunstall  
P.E. Department

The PE department have been running the sporting Inter-house competitions during lessons over the last few weeks.

With everyone involved these have been very competitive with a brilliant team spirit being shown by all involved.

The activities included a scavenger hunt with a Christmas

theme, a rowing challenge and completing an ultra-marathon!

Look out for the Inter-house netball starting after Christmas!

## Scavenger Hunt

by Lauren, Francesca & Amelie in Year 10

In our Year 10 PE lessons, we have had the chance to do a Christmas scavenger hunt as part of orienteering.

We would go around the school in small groups and must unlock a box with a four-digit code. We were given three of the numbers to make it easier as it was quite difficult and there was a Christmas sticker in each box that we needed to take note of.

The group with the most boxes won a prize. It was physically challenging as it involved a lot of running, but it was very fun!



## Ultra-marathon

by Daisy, Hannah, Kiera & Kate in Year 9

During our lesson we took part in the inter-house ultra-marathon challenge. As a house we had to run as far as we could in 30 minutes and each time we completed a lap we collected a card with our house colour on it. Each card was worth 500m.

At the end the house with the most cards won! It was really cold and challenging but we persevered so we could help our house. It was really fun to run with our friends and it lifted our spirits. Towards the we were doubtful if we were going to make it, but we were determined to win it for house.

The four of us managed 12,500 in 30 minutes! In the end it was a very good experience and made us more motivated to continue to help our houses success.

## Rowing Challenge

by Molly & Charlotte in Year 7

This was a real fun, different opportunity in PE! Although it was a bit of fun it got quite competitive. We had to row as many meters as possible in 40 minutes against all the other houses in Year 7. It required a lot of teamwork and quick thinking when we swapped rowers!

We managed to row 39,612 meters overall!





# Sutton Girls netball teams make waves in U14s competition

Lily May in Year 13  
*U19s Vice Captain*

On the afternoon of Tuesday 10th November, our Sutton Girls (A) Netball team progressed through to the regional stages of the U14 National Schools Competition! Sutton A finished 2nd overall, just

losing 5-4 to Bishop Walsh; at the point the whistle went, our attack were in the circle ready to shoot. The beauty of sport!

Sutton Girls(B) also demonstrated their strength as a team (many of whom don't play netball outside of school!) making it through to the semi-final stages

of the Birmingham Schools' competition. This resulted in Sutton A and B playing one another in this round!

It was a narrow victory to Sutton A seeing them through to the finals! We are so proud of everyone involved, both players and supporters.



## English Schools Cross Country Regional competition

Miss R. Hughes  
Head of P.E.

After qualifying in the first round in October, on Saturday 13th November, 11 of our students competed at the English Schools Cross Country Regional competition.

We had a Junior team and an Intermediate team. The Intermediate team won the competition and now progress to The English Schools National Final in Newquay on Saturday 4th December!



Congratulations to the Junior team: Emily B, Florence T-M, Elesha L, Megan S and Eve M,

and the Intermediate team: Francesca A, Olivia A, Bethan G, Eve P, Emily L and Charlotte B.





# English Schools Cross Country National Finals

by Emily in Year 9

On Saturday 4th December, the Intermediate Girls team competed in the English Schools Cross Country Cup National Final in Newquay, Cornwall. The team consisted of Francesca and Olivia in Year 10, and Charlotte, Evelyn, Bethan and Emily in Year 9.

It was an amazing experience, and everyone gave their best, on a challenging course! We were proud to represent the School as national finalists!

The race was very competitive with many a collision in the frantic start. Luckily, even though some of us fell, they were able to get up and keep running. The course planner made sure they squeezed as many hills into the final as possible, even starting us with a hill within a few metres of the start! The total distance



was 3km, battling very cold and windy Cornish weather. The standard of the runners was incredibly high with the first person finishing with a time of 10 minutes 45 seconds! Sutton

Girls' first finisher was Francesca in 46th with an incredible time of 12 minutes 14 seconds. Next came Olivia in 89th followed closely by Bethan in 96th. Emily was 112th followed by Evelyn and Charlotte coming 144th and 150th respectively.

Our journey to Nationals was incredible with us winning the first round and the regional final. The results for the first round were as follows: Olivia (1), Bethan (2), Emily (3), Evelyn (4), Charlotte (6). The results for regionals were: Francesca (6), Olivia (12), Bethan (13), Emily (29), Evelyn (57), Charlotte (58).

Around 6000 plus schools entered to this competition and Sutton Girls came 24th overall!

Thank you to Miss Hughes and Mrs Tunstall for enabling us to have this unique opportunity.

You can look forward to our next newsletter at the end of Spring 1 in February 2022.  
In the meantime, keep up to date by following us on:

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



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