

ELLA EXCELLS ON THE PITCH

Year 11 student wins Match
Official of The Month

CHRISTMAS AT SUTTON GIRLS

Our annual Christmas
Concert and PA Christmas
Fayre bring festive cheer!

RITANGLE AND SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

Students push themselves
with multiple mathematical
competitions



A message from the

Headteacher

Dr. Barbara Minards

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2022! It has been another busy half term packed with inter-house sport, a variety of extra-curricular clubs including music and drama rehearsals, mathematical competitions, trips to the theatre alongside all the lessons, tutor times and assemblies.

We were delighted to once again hold an in-person Sixth Form open evening on 17th November and welcome Year 11 students and families from Sutton Girls and a variety of other schools to learn more about our sixth form. It was great to see so many current Year 12 and 13 students helping out in departments, sharing their experiences of the 19 different A-level subjects on offer. Students also acted as tour guides and provided information about the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), super-curricular activities, careers guidance, application advice and leadership opportunities which are all part of our sixth form experience.

Ursa held their house charity day in aid of Children in Need on Friday 18th November. A fiercely competitive game of staff musical chairs which took place in the hall at lunchtime, proved to be very popular! This alongside traditional fair games, cake sales and non-uniform raised over £1800. A commitment to a range of local, national and international charities continues to be a proud part of the Sutton Girls' ethos.

On 23rd November we welcomed back last year's Year 11 for a



presentation evening to celebrate their successes. Students and their families were invited to collect their GCSE certificates, enjoy some tasty refreshments provided by our catering partner AIP and catch up with friends. Hearing how well students were settling in to the next phase of their education along with sharing their positive memories of Years 7 to 11 was really rewarding.

Year 11 and 13 have recently completed their mock examinations. This valuable experience is a key part of the long-term preparation for their actual GCSEs and A-levels in the summer and will provide them with vital feedback for the next stage of their learning.

This half term has also seen the return of in-person festive events. On Friday 2nd December the Parents' Association held a very successful Christmas fair. This well-attended event saw an impressive range of stalls, many of which were run by students, performances

from the gospel choir and even saw a visit from Father Christmas himself (thank you Mr Clark)!

This Wednesday was the first live Christmas concert since 2019, with festive items from a variety of groups including; clarinet, string, sitars and table ensembles, chamber and Gospel choirs, 'The Rosettes' swing band and sinfonia. The audience entered into the Christmas spirit, singing carols and joining the Rosettes' rendition of Feliz Navidad. It was a wonderful evening with over 200 students sharing the result of all their hours of practice and rehearsals with friends, family, staff and governors. The evening also raised over £1000 for the charity Shelter.

I hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening at Sutton Girls this half term. Have a lovely Christmas holiday and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

Dr Minards



The Sutton Girls community comes together for Parents' Association Christmas Fayre

Mr S. Hall
Digital Communications

On Friday 2nd December, we had the best night for our Parents' Association Christmas Fayre and what turned out to be an incredibly well-attended event!

This year, each of our Year 7 form groups managed their own stalls

with games, gifts and snacks, as well as being supported by stalls from local independent businesses. Through the course of the evening, attendees were also treated to performances of classic Christmas carols from our Gospel Choir.

Thank you to all those who joined us and supported the evening.

Whether you shopped, ate, drank or caught up with one another, everyone got into the Christmas spirit, made our first fayre since 2019 so memorable and raised an incredible £1700!

Special thanks to the PA for organising a wonderful event and to Mr Collet and JJ from S4E Music Service.



The Library gets festive with Christmas “Scenes from a Snowglobe” competition

Mrs L. Jowett
Senior Librarian

This year our Library Christmas Competition theme was “Scenes from a Snowglobe.”

Students were able to use any materials that they wished, from paper and cardboard to jars, baubles and glitter.

Members of staff voted for their favourites so that we could

select the winners, as there were so many incredible entries to choose from.

Throughout this term students have also enjoyed taking part in our winter reading challenges and selecting cosy festive reads from our winter trolley.

We are looking forward to more competitions next year and showcasing the creativity of our students!



For photographs of all the other wonderful entries, head over to [our website](#)

Sixth Form students take on the UKMT Senior Maths Kangaroo

by Praha & Hannah
in Year 12

The UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge is a national, annual competition, which provides a great opportunity for sixth formers to branch out to different aspects of maths and engage their problem-solving skills.

The challenge consists of 25 multiple choice questions, and students attempt to solve as many as possible in 1.5 hours. There is a negative marking system for incorrect answers to discourage guessing. At sixth

form the challenge is optional, so we'd recommend it to anyone who enjoys maths, wants to do more of it outside of school and is up for a challenge! The last few questions in particular were very hard but when I saw the solutions, I realised that you just need to think in different ways, and I improved when I tried another paper.

The Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo is a follow-on round for those who qualify from the Senior Maths Challenge. It's slightly different since it's an hour long and there's no negative marking, however, the

answers are all 3-digit numbers instead of multiple choice, so you need to think about the questions more carefully. I liked the Senior Kangaroo better because it's more satisfying when you get the right answer. You are under time pressure during both challenges but completing as many questions as you can is better than random guessing.

Overall, we found the challenges to be interesting and rewarding experiences which allowed us to apply our knowledge, think outside the box and most importantly, have fun!

Children in Need

The SCGSG charity spirit was high in November as Ursa raises an extraordinary total for Children in Need...

Miss E. Perry
Head of Ursa

On Friday 18th November, Ursa House held their lunchtime charity event in aid of Children in Need. With a plethora of activities including Splat-the-Rat and Hook a Pudsey but the standout activity was most definitely "Teacher Musical Chairs"!

In all, including the whole school non-uniform day, Ursa raised an incredible **£1826.51**! Well done to Ursa for an awesome effort and to everyone who donated.





Ritangle Maths Challenge

A brain twisting challenge full of problems to solve but most importantly- fun!

Ritangle is an immersive maths competition where people complete challenges and solve thought inducing questions, all while collaborating to join their strengths together.

by Sadaf, Lottie and Lola in Year 12

The Ritangle competition night: *A night full of laughter and collaboration*

When the day came, I was unsure what to expect, however, after the night was over, I found that it had completely exceeded my expectations.

It is a common belief that most people would think of doing maths after school is a nightmare, but do not be fooled, it is something that I am sure that anyone who undergoes it, would never regret. The night began with a considerable number of eager and tense mathematicians (Year 12 and 13 students), and we all moved our tables together to work as a team, assigning different questions to different

pairs of students within our team. I remember the adrenaline rush I got as we counted down to 4pm- when the questions were unlocked! Firstly, we got off to a brilliant start with everyone rushing to do their part and we were ticking off questions at a great speed.

Whilst our team were infused in completing the questions, the door opened and in came... the PIZZA! We carried on solving problems at an exponential speed, determined to finish Stage 2; I even managed to solve a question myself! Then, came the puzzle pieces (when we solved

the Stage 2 questions) although, it was an absolute brain twister to put together and connect it with our Stage 1 answers. Now that we solved all the questions, we had an hour to find the code to unlock Stage 3 (the final question) ... The atmosphere of teamwork and passion around me really inspired me to embrace working together more as everyone got along incredibly well.

The biggest thing I got from the night was the delight of trying to push my limits in both my Maths skills but also in communicating with others.

Things that we learnt on the way:

From learning to work as a team to gaining confidence

Ritangle for us was a perfect opportunity for teamwork as it allowed us to work together to come to an answer and assist each other. This strengthened our knowledge for maths and our confidence!

It also helped us persevere through challenges (which felt extremely rewarding after completing each one) and it gave us an unbeatable sense of

accomplishment. Contributing in Ritangle was also extremely enjoyable because it allowed everyone to participate and pitch in different ideas and it helped us display resilience and positivity.

My favourite aspect of the challenge was that I made an abundance of new friends along the way, and it was nice to meet people who think differently to

me in approaching problems which helped to broaden my mind to different angles of viewing a question.

I can wholeheartedly say that Ritangle 2022 was an amazing experience full of challenges and difficulties which we had to overcome- it was extremely rewarding and something I would love to participate in again next year!



The best parts and the more demanding parts:

The hurdles we faced on the way and the best parts

A notable part of the Ritangle Challenge journey for me, was when we finally cracked how to find the code to unlock Stage 3 and then everyone was jumping and cheering in unison with beaming smiles of excitement!

I think the main lesson that the Ritangle experience gave to us all, was that one person's biggest struggle is an awaiting success for someone else. This is the main reason I found for why the team aspect of the competition works so well; absolutely

everyone brings their own individual assets to the team. As someone who does not know the first thing about coding, I could do nothing more than laugh at any questions requiring this skill, before watching in awe at my fellow competitors writing out an entire script with ease.

My popcorn quickly had to be put down however, as there was always another problem to solve, requiring an entirely different type of expertise. However, our collective positive attitude and

passion-filled grit was visible throughout. Moreover, if we are mentioning best bits, the pizza (generously provided by the PTA) can't go without applaud. I mean what better combination is there than a delicious take-a-way and maths?!

I'm sure this won't be its first mention, so I won't go on but to conclude I found the competition to be a brilliantly rewarding experience for which I am very grateful to have been a part of!

Christmas Concert

A fantastic celebration of festive music, it was also great to see so many parents and families supporting the school and getting into the Christmas spirit!







A Day in the Life

This half term, we've been finding out about Year 8 student Amirah's typical school day...



A typical school day includes many different opportunities and challenges that I could never sum up in writing; regardless, school is always enjoyable. Let me tell you a glimpse of how my day usually goes!

My day begins when I step into form at 8:40 to put my coat in my locker, and is a great way to chat to my peers. During this, we always have things to do, like discussing a topic on VotesForSchools, the weekly theme, or playing games like Pictionary.

After form time, everyone goes to their respective classes, or to other form rooms to get their friend to walk to class. It's busy in the corridors and is a chance to chat traveling to class. My first lesson was French where I had an end of unit test, which I studied hard for. Despite that, I found the test hard however it did give me the motivation to study more next time. Then it was Spanish! I also had an end of unit test in Spanish, as most subjects are reaching the end of units before the holidays, which is great, as I don't have to worry about tests. The Spanish test was slightly difficult but my studying paid off as I found most questions



relatively simple. At the end of the test, we marked it in class and I discovered I did quite well!

After that, it was break time. This is a chance to get a snack from the canteen and socialize. During break, I chatted to my friends before walking to class together as they were close.

Saying bye to my friend, I went to my favourite lesson; Art. We are currently making a paper mache mask of our own design based on any culture we want; I chose Bangladesh. As I moulded a nose and chin on my mask with

clay tools, my art teacher went around the room helping my classmates with their masks. At the end of the lesson, I placed it in a drying rack and tidied up the paper mache before taking away the plastic protector from my table.

After Art, it was lunchtime. This gives me the opportunity to eat lunch with my friends, go to the library or to the computing room. I sat with my friends and we had lunch in my form room as we talked about the most random things.

After lunch, I and my friends headed to our lessons. In English, we are currently doing 'A Christmas Carol' and are reading the book in class. Today, we did reading and questions about the three ghosts and had a class discussion on our thoughts. Lastly, I had Maths where we are finishing our algebra topic before our test. We did some complex equations and reviewed our latest revision homework. As I step out, my day ends and I head home. And that is a glimpse of a typical day in my life at school!

GCSE Drama students feedback on their visit to the REP for hit “Nativity!”

On Wednesday the 23rd November, Mrs Downie and Mrs Reid took their GCSE Drama students to the Birmingham Repertory Theatre for a special showing of the festive hit “Nativity!” as part of their coursework assignment...

“Seeing “Nativity!” was a really enjoyable experience, and one that I most definitely won’t forget! The atmosphere was lovely and the actors were so energetic. Many thanks to Mrs Downie and Mrs Reid for organising it!” - Jiya

“The Nativity show was the first trip I’ve been on in two years and I must say, I wasn’t disappointed! The show itself was absolutely amazing and I think I speak for most of Year 10 when I say it was thoroughly enjoyable.” - Niveydit



“Nativity was a brilliant experience- the performance was amazing and we learned so much, as well as having a lot of

fun. Thanks so much to Mrs Reid and Mrs Downie!” - Lyra



Year 7 “Turning Points in History” competition

Mrs F. Heeks
Head of History

During the autumn term, Year 7 have been learning about several key turning points in History. We asked them to put this new knowledge and understanding to the test... by producing a picture, model,

poster or similar of a key turning point in history!

The outcomes have been stunning, with some excellent uses of mixed media and materials, like Poppy who created a large poster about the Battle of Hasting through social media posts and Issy who created a stunning model and

accompanying video.

Our judges decided that Priya's Moon Landing came in 3rd, Ava-Lily's Suffragette Hat and poster came 2nd, while Marie's birth of Television was awarded 1st prize! Well done to everyone who entered.

Year 8 have been developing their creative writing skills, considering how to organise their ideas to interest and hook readers, as well as practising imaginatively crafted language use. Here's one example, inspired by a photograph of a lighthouse in a storm:

VICIOUS

Vicious. That was the best way to describe the ocean.

The way it splashed and crashed, rocked and rose, a ferocious beast intent on destroying anything in its path. How the water would beat against the rock, eroding, destroying. It was like an evil spirit, how it whistled and howled; its sounds echoing through the emptiness so all you could hear was the noise of its attacks. But, it must be lonely, in all the emptiness, just the ocean on its own. Did the sea really make a sound if no one was there to hear it?

However, the sea wasn't alone. Not entirely. It had the sky. The endless stretch of space, always there until you see it disappear into the horizon. The sky that matched the energy of the ocean, rumbling and shuddering, flashing and shocking. Storms. Storms were vicious.

Though, hidden in the depths of the ocean, where there is nothing around for miles, barren land, there was a lighthouse. Tall and dark, it stood proud like a beacon, its body like an anchor all dark except for its top. A glimpse of hope in an otherwise lifeless land. The contrast of the red. A pop of colour: it starkly stood out against the colourless background. But the sea didn't like. The ocean liked to be alone, so it tried to get rid of the lighthouse.

Everyday, its waves would pound against the still statue of the lighthouse. Willing it, pleading it to fall. But the lighthouse stood strong. It would not be scared by the vicious ocean.

Sometimes, the sea would give up against the walls and instead, focus on the windows. Tiny, delicate glass panes running along the wall of the lighthouse. How it must be peaceful inside, alone, except for the sounds of the ocean begging to get inside. But, there was nobody around, so did the sea really make a sound if there was nobody there to hear it?

Nobody knows the answer, but they do know one thing, it was vicious.

by Jessica S in Year 8



Priya wins Trampolining medal in school competition

by Priya in Year 8

On Sunday 4th December, I competed in a trampolining competition representing the school. At this kind of competition, you have two routines; the first one is called "the set" which tends to be easier, and the second is called "the vol". Each routine consists of 10 moves. I had been working very hard in the lead

up to the competition, training 3 days a week, which definitely paid off when I put the school in first place!

This means that my routine was the neatest and had the highest tariff (that is the level of difficulty). We are through to the next round of the competition now and I hope I can do just as well!

Ella named as Staffordshire FA's Match Official of the Month for October

Mrs K. Tunstall
P.E. Department

Ella has received some glowing reports recently, most notably mentioning her general control and management of the game. Her decisions are always explained to the players and, where possible, she tried to let the game flow with advantage before calling an infringement.

Ella's approach actively encourages positive feedback in the moment and sets a great tone in a positive environment.

As a GCSE PE student, Ella is very passionate about playing and officiating in sport. It's always great to hear about her refereeing experiences. Ella is a great role model to younger students, always helping out at extra curricular PE and sharing her passion for sport with others. Well done Ella, you are an inspiration!



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

facebook.com/suttcold or twitter.com/suttcold



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