

CYBERFIRST GIRLS' AWARDS

Students travel to Belfast
for awards dinner!

LEGALLY BLONDE: THE MUSICAL

They've been rehearsing
since September and
students once again excel!

CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Year 11 student Ahrum
wows at CBSO concert
programme during half term

YEAR 10 ON THE SLOPES

Students head to Italy for
the first ski trip since 2019





A message from the

Headteacher

Dr. Barbara Minards

Welcome to the March edition of our newsletter, the second half of the spring term has only been five weeks long and it has flown by! As we approach the Easter holidays, it is a good time to reflect on all that has been achieved in the first two terms of the academic year.

On 28th February the Year 9 curriculum evening took place, with students and parents invited into school to learn more about the GCSE option subjects. It was a very well attended event supported by many of our current Year 10 and 11 students who volunteered their time to share their experience of studying GCSEs. It was great to hear them share their enjoyment and enthusiasm for learning!

Since February half term we have experienced several disruptions to our usual school routines. Despite the snow on Thursday 9th March we remained open although many students and staff experienced challenging journeys. Whilst we initially planned to open, rapidly changing weather and worsening road conditions meant school was closed on Friday 10th March. There were also two National Education Union strike days on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th March, which meant that we were only open to supervise vulnerable students, the children of key workers and for Year 11 and 13 students who wished to study at school.

In between the disruption was the amazing school show, 'Legally Blonde: the musical'. The primary school performance took place on Monday 13th with students from Court Farm and Maney Hill as the



first audience. There were then four shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings with an additional matinee performance on Saturday afternoon. The show was fantastic, it was wonderful to finally see the result of all the months of rehearsals and the hours of practice. With the biggest ever cast, it was brilliant to watch so many students from each of the different year groups working together create such high-quality performances. I am sure it is an experience that all members of the cast and crew will remember from their time at Sutton Girls.

The longstanding tradition of Sutton Girls' charity fundraising continued this half term. On Friday 17th March, Aquila held their charity event which raised funds for Comic Relief. In addition to the traditional cake sales, there was an impressive beauty hamper raffle and a very entertaining teacher version of 'Taskmaster'! As always,

there were high levels of student engagement and a significant amount of money raised.

With some of our students fasting during Ramadan, the Inter Faith group put together slides for the weekly theme presentation shared in tutor times in the week of 20th March. The informative presentation considered fasting during Ramadan and Lent, following their discussions about the common ground that exists between different religions. Students have also worked hard to put together the third edition of the school newspaper 'The Sutton Scribbler' which includes a variety of different articles researched and written by individuals in Year 8 upwards.

I hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening recently at Sutton Girls. Have a lovely Easter holiday.

Dr Minards



Legally Blonde: the Musical!

by Elise in Year 13
- Elle Woods

Playing Elle Woods has been the highlight of my Sutton Girls experience and it's even more special getting to share your favourite show with your favourite people. For me, Legally Blonde marks the end of an era here at Sutton Girls and being able to play my dream role to end my time at school has most definitely been at the height of my achievements.

There're so many parallels between the character of Elle

Woods and myself that playing her almost became second nature, I think it's because we're both so stubborn! Balancing the show with school work and other responsibilities can be a big task and I often get asked why I would even want to put myself through the stress but it's the impeccable teachers who make the show so enjoyable that your begging to rejoin the following year as you loved it so much.

I honestly couldn't thank all of the teachers enough, especially Director Downie for all of her hard work and efforts that go

into transferring the vision from page to stage and creating an environment to enhance student creativity.

For me Legally Blonde was just a dream come true - it was so pink, vibrant and energetic, it's most definitely a memory that will stay with me for life and for anybody debating whether to join the school show, DO IT!

Take on the challenge as the beloved blondie once said "Harvard law? What, like it's hard?"





Getting to play Brooke was a perfect end to my school show experience and I loved every second with the cast. I'm very grateful for this experience, it was amazing :)

- Grace in Year 13



Legally Blonde has been the greatest experience for me at Sutton Girls; It has opened up friendships with students I never thought I would have and the opportunities are nothing short of exciting and surreal!

- Beatrice in Year 10





I'm so grateful to have worked and performed with such a talented and loving cast! There's nothing quite as pink and positive as legally blonde!

- Rose in Year 11





Masked Reader returns to Sutton Girls for World Book Day 2023!

Mrs L. Jowett
Senior Librarian

Back due to popular demand and in honour of World Book Day, some of our staff members once again donned a disguise for our Masked Reader event, reading a selection of poems and extracts from popular books.

The students had the task of guessing all 15 readers behind the masks to earn character points and certificates. Identities were kept top secret, so even the staff joined in the fun. It wasn't as easy as you might think!

This year, our fabulous readers (pictured above, left to right, top to bottom) were...

1. **Mrs Kauser** The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
2. **Mr Marriner** Where the Crawdad Sings

by Delia Owens

3. **Mr Collett** A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson
4. **Mrs Chiverton** The Three Little Pigs – Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes
5. **Mrs A Hart** A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson
6. **Mrs McIntosh** The Penelopiad by Margaret Atwood
7. **Mrs Bubb** The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time by Mark Haddon
8. **Mrs Harradence** Chameleon- A Poem by Jaspreet Kaur
9. **Mr Hughes** The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R Tolkien
10. **Mrs Zaman** Harry Potter

and The Prisoner of Azkaban by J.k Rowling

11. **Miss Patel** Good Vibes, Good Life by Vex King
12. **Mrs Appleton** Spare by Prince Harry
13. **Mrs Tunstall** Spare by Prince Harry
14. **Mr Maguire** All My Great Excuses - A poem by Ken Nesbitt
15. **Mrs Stamoulis** Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

We hope that our students enjoyed this challenge as a taster for our upcoming Literacy festival in June. An exciting week that celebrates the wonderful world of literature. More details coming soon!



A Day in the Life

This half term, we've been finding out about Year 11 student Coliena-Mai's typical school day...

Hello, I am a Year 11 student and I am very close to doing my GCSEs, so this time of the year can be quite stressful, and might also be worrying to someone who is about to do their end of year exams, but we are all going through the same things and help each other out!

Today, my day started with one of my favourite lessons- Spanish. We learnt about finding jobs and talking about what we would like to work as in the future, and also discussed which topic we are choosing to do our speaking exam, which is the second week back after the Easter holidays. I am a little scared, but I really enjoy languages (hence why I chose both, which still baffles all of my friends).

After break, I had Biology...not my favourite subject but it's definitely my favourite Science by far. We did revision sheets for the



final topic of the course, and B6 is tough but it is quite interesting. We also played a Kahoot quiz, which is always fun!

For third period, I had Maths. I adore Maths; I have an amazing seating plan and my teacher is lovely. I think I'm going to

take Maths, Further Maths and Spanish for my A-Levels because they are the subjects that I find most enjoyable.

After lunch, I had Religious Studies, which I find very interesting because I get to look at different arguments from lots of different perspectives, and it's useful to know more facts about the real world.

Finally, I had English, where we revised Jekyll and Hyde, which was nice because we had the option to work in groups or individually, and I felt like I had more freedom to revise how I thought was most effective for me.

When I get home, I do homework until I have to leave for training. I train Jiu Jitsu for 45 minutes, and then I go home and revise or finish any homework that I need to.



We're always looking for students to share a day in their life. Are you interested in writing for the school newsletter? Email [Mr Hall](#) for more information.

Year 11 student participation in the CBSO Youth Orchestra

by Ahrum in Year 11

Over the February half term holiday, I had the pleasure in playing in the City of Birmingham Youth Symphony Orchestra. During this course (my second of three this school year) I had the opportunity of working with conductors Mike Seal in rehearsals, Ilan Volkov in the concert and soloist Lawrence Power, an amazing violinist.

The pieces we played were Berlioz's 'Roman Carnival Overture' as well as his 'Symphonie Fantastique', Grazyna Bacewicz's 'concerto for Viola and Orchestra' and a new commission for the orchestra.

The commissioned piece was



written by Icelandic composer Bergun Snæbjörnsdóttir and was called 'Striations'. Like

striations in rock, this piece explored layers of sound and used all the instruments in unique ways. For me especially, this allowed me to hear new sounds for orchestras and new possibilities for music that may not be explored in traditional classical music such as the 'Roman Carnival Overture'.

Overall, I feel that Youth CBSO was a wonderful environment for any young musician as not only did the music push and advance you but the conductors, especially, gave us all an insight into professional orchestras.

This is why I strongly recommend auditioning for anyone looking for a 'Fantastique' time.



Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde for Year 10

by Chielotam in Year 10

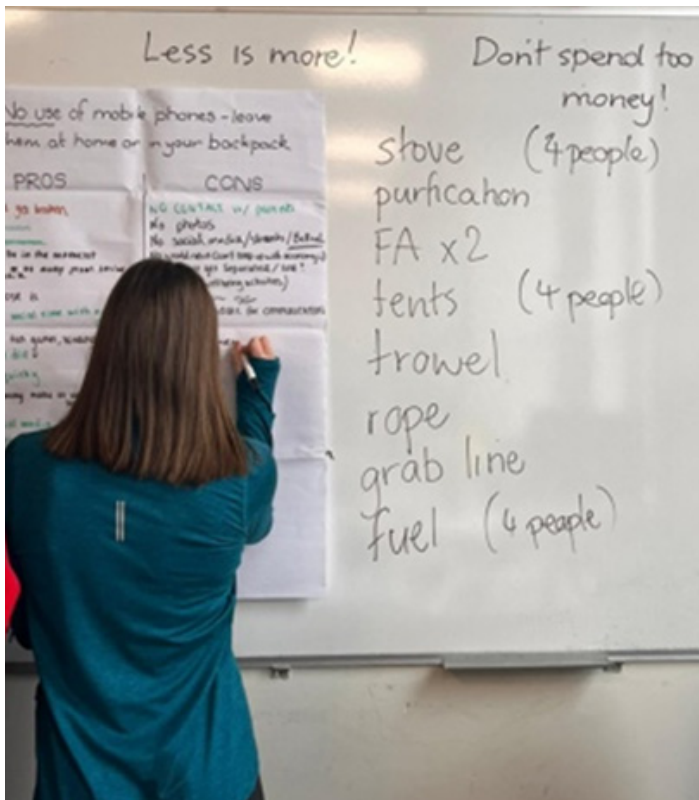
My experience of watching Rupert from Redheart Theatre perform was amazing. The performance overall was truly excellent; I was mesmerised. I did not know what to expect when I heard it was a one-man show but I must say it was spectacular. From the smooth, yet distinct,

transitions between characters to the subtle lighting changes, I struggle to find only one thing to call my favourite. However, hearing Jekyll's perspective through the letters left by him was insightful.

The way Rupert displayed Jekyll's facial expressions was perfect and made the experience feel not only entertaining,

but enlightening. I also find it astounding how Rupert managed to make each character their own with such ease. Rupert had the audience, I included, captivated by his performance; nobody could take their eyes off him!

I absolutely loved having Rupert perform for us and I genuinely do not think it could have been better!



World Challenge orientation day... the journey has begun!

by Lola in Year 12

In July of this year, 2 teams of Year 11s, 12s and 13s will be taking part in a three-week expedition to Tanzania, where they will volunteer with a community initiative in a local town and spend many days trekking and camping along the Living stone and Udzungwa mountain ranges. This opportunity has been provided by The World Challenge charity, and from the high energy and busy schedules of everybody involved, it is clear, that after nearly 2 years of hard work, fundraising and weekly meetings, our departure is very nearly here.

I am lucky enough to be a member of Team 1 who will be the first group to embark upon this journey, a week ahead of the second team. This weekend, the fifteen of us spent our Saturday at school as part of a training day in

order to finalise the preparations for the trip. Our World Challenge Leader Elizabeth Renshaw flew in from her home in Berlin to meet the team for the first time.

We took part in discussions surrounding how will ensure everything we do can benefit the local communities we visit as much as possible. We began by learning more about the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development goals and how we can help work towards them during our time away. This included research about the environmental efforts that World Challenge have factored into our trip, including carbon neutral flights as well as the smaller things we will focus on whilst we're in country to ensure that every landscape we visit is left as it was upon our arrival. Another important lesson surrounded the many benefits of volunteering our time but equally

the responsibility we each have, to ensure the work we do reaches the right people.

Of course, packing our backpacks was a big part of the day. Would you believe we're each taking just three t-shirts away with us? I can honestly say I have never packed this light! However, I am sure our future selves will appreciate these conservative efforts when the views of rainforests and mountain ranges aren't dampened by aching backs and arms.

Many of us have booked in our vaccines ready to go and this weekend we focused on the key symptoms of different tropical diseases so we can be equipped for any situation. However, above this we truly bonded as a team and discovered each other's fears and hopes for the trip and there was a palpable sense support and friendship in the room.

Computing students' visit to Belfast for awards celebration event

by Bethany, Yasmin and Sara in Year 8

The CyberFirst Girls Competition was a Year 8 computing competition that took place in November. Teams of 4 competed against other teams, from the same school, to solve challenges that tested their computer science knowledge. They had to work as a team to get as many points as possible. When the week ended, one team came on top, with 10,000 points – **404 [Error]**.

The team enjoyed computing and so thought they would give it a try - they were really happy when they found out they had won and said that it was amazing to see all their hard work pay off and were looking forward to the next round!

The next round took place at the start of February – **404 [Error]** turned up to Warwick University armed with plenty of snacks and even more



motivation! The challenges were fun and everyone tried their best to get to the top. There was a buzz of excitement as everyone worked through problem-solving, cryptic, coding and cybersecurity challenges that pushed their brain power to the limit. However, the most rewarding feeling of all was spending ages on a challenge and working together to solve the challenge! Team work massively

helped **404 [Error]** to solve as many challenges as they could. When the results came through, the winners of the 2022 Cyber First Girls Competition were announced...Sutton Coldfield!! The team were overjoyed about what they had done. They won several prizes but, the team members valued their newly built friendships much more.

Mid-March, the team headed out to Belfast, Northern Ireland, for the second part of their prize. It was a day that included a delicious buffet meal at the Titanic Belfast Hotel, a guided tour around the Titanic Belfast Museum and then some fun cybersecurity challenges (such as a cybersecurity escape room) in the same room that the R.M.S. Titanic was drafted. The day finished off with a special awards dinner where there were speeches from the CEO of the NCSC and the lead actor of The Undeclared War, Hannah Khalique-Brown.

The team really enjoyed the whole experience and would do it all again in a heartbeat!





Aquila Charity Event

The fundraising efforts of Aquila draws in crowds of students for the final House charity event of the Spring term...

Mr J. Gilbert
Head of Aquila

On Friday 17th March, Aquila House held their charity fundraiser in aid of raising money for Comic Relief.

During our lunchtime event there was the usual cake sale, a Sutton Girls tradition for any charity event, as well as various other student-led stalls and games.

One surprise was an immense beauty hamper raffle,

COMIC RELIEF

organised by Miss Sidebotham, that amassed a total of £316.85 on its own! We put some of our teaching staff to the test with a Sutton Girls edition of Taskmaster.

Some of the rounds saw Mrs Alderson, Mrs Cole, Mr and Mrs Pockson, Miss Patel and Miss

Perry hoola-hooping for longest and throwing tennis balls into a basket blindfolded, but after a few very successful games, Miss Patel was crowned the overall winner!

Overall, we raised an amazing **£1,857.73!**

Well done and thank you to everyone that participated in the games, bought and ate cake, supported our Staff Taskmaster and donated to a wonderful cause.





Year 10 Ski Trip - Italy 2023

For the first time since 2019, we were thrilled to be able to get our Year 10 students back on the slopes, this time in the gorgeous Artesina, Italy!

“The ski trip was amazing, I loved it!

Learning a skill like this, something that I'd never done before sounded quite daunting at first, but it was so much fun!

I'd recommend it to anyone for next year!

Millie



“The skiing lessons were great fun; pushing ourselves to our limits and potentially falling over constantly.

The ski conditions were excellent and there was plenty of snow and sunshine!

Aanya



“The ski trip was an amazing experience - I learned so much about something I'd never done before and I had so much fun with my friends! Getting to travel to another country with my friends made us even closer and we have so many memories we will treasure forever!

Amy





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

facebook.com/suttcold or **twitter.com/suttcold**



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