

## GLOBAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

Students attend Birmingham  
Schools Climate Conference

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Festive concert returns  
for 2023 with array  
of musical talents

## PA CHRISTMAS FAYRE SUCCESS!

School PA raise record  
amount of money...

## MEET OUR NEW CHARITY TRUSTEES

School charity to increase  
fundraising potential...



A message from the

# Headteacher

*Dr. Barbara Minards*

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2023! It has been a very long autumn term and it is unusual to be in School on 22nd December. However, the timing of the end of term has added to the festive feeling along with the seasonal events of the Parents' Association Christmas Fayre, annual Christmas Concert and whole school Christmas assembly. It is always special to gather students and staff together to share on the successes of our school community. We congratulated Year 7s and new Year 12 students on completing their first term at Sutton Girls, Year 11 and 13 for successfully sitting their mock examinations and reflected on how much has been achieved since September.

Earlier this month we were delighted to be named by The Times Parent Power Survey as one of the top 30 secondary schools in the country. Based on the August 2023 GCSE and A-Level results we are 29th nationally and 4th in the West Midlands! I would like to thank and congratulate all our students and their families, staff and governors on this fantastic achievement.

The seven week half term has once again been filled with a variety of extra-curricular activities including music and drama rehearsals, mathematical competitions, inter-house sport competitions, trips to the theatre alongside all of the lessons, tutor times and assemblies.

The Sixth Form open evening on 16th November was very well attended by current Year 11 students and their families along with prospective students from a variety of other schools. It was great to see so many current Sixth Form students helping in departments and sharing their experiences of the

20 different A-level subjects on offer. Information was also provided about the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), super-curricular activities, careers guidance, application advice and leadership opportunities that are all part of the sixth form experience at Sutton Girls.

Ursa held their house charity day in aid of Children in Need and the British Red Cross on Friday 17th November. There was a range of ways to donate money and participate; from the Year 7 Bake-Off, student-run stalls and games in the sports hall at lunchtime to staff karaoke, which proved very popular. In addition to raising a significant amount of money, the atmosphere throughout the day was one of positivity and respect, exemplifying the character strengths of our school.

On 21st November we hosted a meeting of the School Charity to welcome the new trustees and discuss next steps for fundraising. Please read more about our charity in this edition of the newsletter, an update will be included in every edition along with a focus on a Sutton Girls alumni.

During the half term 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 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 very rewarding.

Yesterday we hosted a celebration evening for the Year 13 class of 2023. It was great to welcome back our most recent alumni to recognise their many achievements. We were delighted to be joined by former student Danielle who presented the A-level certificates and subject awards and inspired us with her speech; sharing her experiences of Sutton Girls, her formula for success and the importance of finding your 'why'. You can read more about Danielle in the Charity section of this edition of our newsletter which is filled with some of the varied activities that have been happening at Sutton Girls this half term.

Have a lovely Christmas holiday and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2024!

**Dr Minards**



# The Parents' Association Christmas Fayre returns!



by Chloe in Year 7

On the 8th of December, I saw the outcome of so many weeks of preparing, hard work, and resilience.

This year's Parents' Association 2023 Christmas Fayre, featured incredible stalls from the Year 7 forms. These included: decorate your own gingerbread; a lucky dip; bake sale; and many more

games and stalls.

Towards the end of the night, my stall did a special "catch it, keep it" challenge, which was a favourite with the kids and put their catching skills into action. The highlight of my night was going on the microphone to announce the winner of my form's reindeer raffle but there were so many more moments that also mean a lot to me.

I hope that future Year 7s will throw themselves into this event much like we have and have a wonderful time doing it because it really is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Thank you to the Parents' Association for organising this amazing event, raising a fantastic **£2377** for the school!



# Chamber Choir at The Elwood Centre

by Aimee-Louise in Year 10

On Thursday the 7th of December, Chamber Choir visited the Elwood Centre in Erdington. We went to sing to the residents as part of their Christmas party event, before a festive lunch!

It was a wonderful feeling when the residents joined in with the traditional carols and you could really tell how much they were appreciating it. We did a few pieces that were less well known, but they all seemed to enjoy listening just as much as joining in!

Overall, it was an amazing experience that I think everybody in the choir enjoyed as we brought that extra little bit of Christmas cheer to the centre's celebrations. I'm sure we'd all love to do it again next year.



## Year 7 Turning Points in History competition

Mrs F. Heeks  
*Head of History*

After some very careful and difficult decision making, we are proud to announce the winners of the Year 7 Turning Points in History competition:

1st prize: Charlotte, Eva and Aayat (the Suffragettes and Emily Davison), 2nd prize: Juwairiyah (the Black Death), Joint 3rd prize: Jennifer (Apollo 11) and Aanya (invention of the X-Ray)

Highly Commended: Bryoni (Bayeux Tapestry banner), Jessica (button Suffragette), Anjali and Saanvi (breaking news of World War Two) and Khushneet (Wind power)





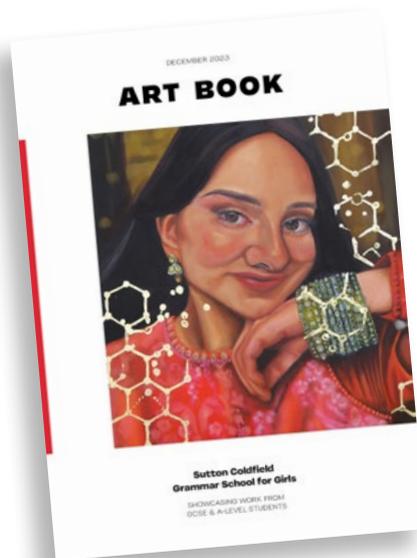
# Art Book Vol.4 celebrates the incredible talent of students

Mr M. Davis  
*Head of Art*

This digital book is an amazing record of the achievements of our Art and Textile students.

In the media, the currency of creativity is constantly questioned, most recently the imposing development of AI, which challenges the value of the Arts. As a teacher of a creative language, I simply respond with; what is the value of self-expression?

You simply cannot put a cost on the human condition. For thousands of years humans have felt the need to express themselves in a visual form. Our history is documented through a visual language. Try to think of a subject that is not demonstrated and enhanced through the visual? Why go to a music concert when you can get better quality on Spotify? Simply because we need the physical connection. Why now would we give the intrinsic right to be creative a computer?



Check out our website in the new year when Volume 4 will be available to browse through!

I am often asked what job will Art GCSE get you? If you want to see the value of the creative economy, take Glastonbury as an example; where tens of thousands seek the physical connection with the arts and reward the creators greatly. Why seek a career in the creative economy...because it is real, and it is booming. I see myself fortunate to be in an education setting that celebrates the arts.

Students have invested themselves in what is evidenced in the pages of this digital book through engaging in the physical act of creativity. Their personal, emotional, and professional development is empowering and awe inspiring. I am hugely fortunate to see their achievements every day and witness their personal growth; a privilege I never have taken lightly.



# A Day in the Life

This half term, Year 9 student Katherine has been telling us about the Cloud 9 Volunteering afternoon...

I decided to choose volunteering as one of my options for Cloud 9 because it struck me as the perfect opportunity to give back to my community and act for the benefit of others. This experience has allowed me to achieve - not only our goal to organise a day for the elderly and disabled to visit us - but also a lot of self-confidence by getting to know new people and I really appreciate this opportunity.

When preparing for our event, everyone showed great enthusiasm towards giving creative suggestions and in the end, we settled on a few exciting and engaging events that everyone could help with.

On the day, we warmly welcomed our guests with the scene of many festive handmade decorations.



Throughout the entire event, many musicians performed which gave the visitors a relaxing and comfortable environment to spend their afternoon in. We were all stunned by the incredible talent in the room!

Our main event was bingo, which

we all agreed would be a simple but engaging activity that all our guests could participate in. All the bingo grids had original designs that had been created by students!

Along with this, we served delicious, home-baked cookies and cakes. Lots of students contributed towards the mountain of mouth-watering treats. As well as this, the cooks in the kitchen kindly allowed us to use their teacups in order to provide warm refreshments.

Before they left, we gave our visitors each a goody bag which contained a gingerbread man and a card thanking them for coming. Since there were some leftovers, we decided to give them the remainder to hand out at their care home.

Overall, I've had a unique experience through Cloud 9 volunteering, and I've grown to respect and treasure the elderly and disabled's company. I'm grateful for everyone who could attend, and I hope it was an enjoyable experience for everyone!



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.

# The Dunfield String Camp

by Anna in Year 9

My name is Anna and I went to Dunfield House this year for the first time. Dunfield is a string camp run by the Birmingham Suzuki Association in a beautiful area of Hertfordshire where all you can see is mountains and forests.

At Dunfield, you wake up fairly early and have different sessions of practising to prepare for the concert at the end: a group piece with quite a few players your level and age, orchestra and a quartet, as well as the chance to learn the steel pans.

You also do a solo on one of the evenings in front of everyone which feels scary but it's a



great experience. I love all the teachers and the atmosphere is all so friendly, especially as three other girls from Sutton Girls also attended. I have only known the

new people I met for 3 days and I don't think I have laughed so much and so hard.

I highly recommend and loved it so much!

Well done to the other students that took part in the residential were Year 7 student Alex, Year 9 student Freya, and Year 11 student Maahi.



# SCGSG Charity



*In this issue we focus on our new trustees and their links to the School with an in depth focus on one trustee, Danielle Jordan-Taft, who spoke at our recent A-Level Celebration Evening. Plus there is a short piece on how the Charity has funded developments of the School Estate, helping all students to enjoy a fantastic modern sports hall, which members of the local community also benefit from.*

*You can look forward to our next edition in February where we will be talking about plans for the future around the school, and an exciting capital project.*

Our three long-standing Trustees; Dr. Minards - Headteacher, Lucy Caddick - Chair of the Charity, and Doug Thorp - the charity secretary, would like to introduce our new trustees.



## Jane Petit

Jane attended Sutton Girls School from 1969-76. After a successful career as a cancer and palliative care nurse in the NHS she moved into the charity sector in 2000, working in senior leadership positions for several national charities before becoming CEO of St Elizabeth Hospice in Suffolk. She is now the CEO of Foothold, The Institution of Engineering and Technology Benevolent Fund supporting engineers and their families across the globe to face life's challenges.

While Jane's daughters were in school she volunteered as both Treasurer of the PTA and as a Parent School Governor and is excited to bring her twenty plus years experience of governance and fundraising to this new Trustee role.

## Jessica Port

Being new to SCGSG Trustee arena, Jessica aims to bring her proud experience at Sutton Girls, where she spent a wonderful 5 years before moving to Bishop Vesey for Sixth Form.

Since leaving education, she has had a stellar career in technology and telecoms, becoming the youngest Director at BT/Openreach, and currently the youngest female Executive Director at FTSE 100 company. Outside of her career, she focuses on immersing herself into great experiences in life, travelling and pursuing adventures. Rescue Scuba qualified as it 'is just great fun', means swimming with sharks, giant turtles and stingrays is a common jaunt for Jessica.



## Brian Davies

Brian is the Fundraising Manager for the national charity, the UK Sepsis Trust. He has previous experience of fundraising in the education sector, setting up a Development Office locally at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and running several events each year to cultivate relationships with parents and alumni as well as raising funds for the school.

His eldest daughter currently attends the school and he is hopeful that his youngest will join SCGSG in September 2025.

## Trustee Focus: *Danielle Jordan-Taft*

Former student, Danielle, is an entrepreneur and successful sportswoman. As the founder of two companies, The Sales Team, which offers strategic solutions and support to businesses striving for success. Danielle's innovative approach, emphasis on adaptability, and customer-centric leadership have propelled The Sales Team into a trusted brand, becoming a catalyst for growth across various industries.

Her second business, Ruff Personalised Dog Accessories, has created a one-stop-shop for canine fashion that has not only captured the hearts of pet enthusiasts but also gained recognition from the retail giant NEXT. The brand has successfully created products that resonate with consumers, emphasising quality, style, and personalised touches.

Beyond her entrepreneurial achievements, Danielle has



made significant strides as a sportswoman. From representing England in netball to currently playing Rugby 7s for Jamaica, she showcases dedication, discipline, and a drive for excellence. Her seamless transition between these demanding worlds reflects resilience, adaptability, and leadership in her determination to excel both in business and sports.

As a new SCGSG Charity Trustee and proud alumna, Danielle's commitment to giving back

is evident. Drawing from her experiences representing England and managing successful businesses, she brings a unique blend of skills in sales, marketing, and strategic business planning to contribute to the trust's endeavours. Danielle is excited to share her post-school journey with current students, aspiring to inspire greatness and foster connections with students, existing charity supporters, and newcomers. Her enthusiasm underscores a commitment to expanding the charity for the betterment of the school she holds dear.

Danielle's life story is one of entrepreneurial triumphs, athletic prowess, and a commitment to making a lasting impact. Her journey serves as an inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs, athletes, and individuals seeking to excel in diverse arenas, showcasing the power of resilience, versatility, and a relentless pursuit of greatness.

## Previous work of the Charity:

Since the Charity was formed in 2008 it has played major role in helping to the shape the fantastic environment the students have today.

In 2013 the School replaced the original gymnasium, changing rooms, and added new classrooms that had been part of the site since the 1930s. This would not have been possible without the generosity of the School Charity in helping to fund what is a fantastic facility for the School and wider Community.

This facility allows PE to take place every day of the year regardless of weather across a huge space that is the size of four badminton courts.



The School is able to deliver a wide range of sports in this area including badminton, trampolining, hockey, handball, football and netball. The wider community of North Birmingham also use this facility in the evening from Rugby Tots, through to netball and badminton plus School holiday clubs.

The Sports Hall also allows us to have whole School assemblies under one roof as the School has grown significantly in the last decade.

It was also the venue for our successful World Record attempt in 2019!

Share business links and fundraising ideas via [finance@suttcold.bham.sch.uk](mailto:finance@suttcold.bham.sch.uk)

**More information:** [www.suttcold.bham.sch.uk/schoolcharity](http://www.suttcold.bham.sch.uk/schoolcharity)

# Birmingham Schools Climate Conference at the Council Chambers

by Nuha in Year 9

At around 8:20 we made our way to Wylde Green Train Station. We took a train to Grand Central, buzzing with excitement and chatting excitedly amongst ourselves; when we finally arrived at Birmingham Council Chambers, we were in awe. The building was magnificent! After admiring both the grand exterior and luxurious interior we headed to the Debate Chambers and seated ourselves in our corresponding sections (for India and the Marshall Islands).

Eventually, all the schools arrived and each team delivered their speeches, both our team and the Marshall Islands did brilliantly; the preparation Mrs Chiverton assisted us with really shining through! Then, it was time for the debate. We debated numerous real issues impacting our world and it really put into perspective the complexity and scale of the threat climate change poses to us. The debate tested our mental agility and quick thinking, questions that we hadn't necessarily considered were thrown at us by other



“nations”.

Next, we negotiated with the other countries, talking to other teams about their progress and goals with climate change and eventually coming up with solutions and plans that benefitted all of us. In the afternoon we were given the opportunity to pose questions to local decision makers and were given ideas on how to make an impact through schools, family, friends. I am confident to say that the day was a success, we developed our teamwork, quick thinking, public speaking and negotiation skills as well as walking

away with new friends and a newfound understanding of the climate crisis and the steps we can take to mitigate it.

Thank you so much to both our teams, for being so dedicated in terms of preparation and for making the whole experience so fun! Of course, thank you to Mrs Chiverton, Mr Doggart and all the other teachers who made it possible for us to have this opportunity and for spending your Wednesday ferrying a large group of children to central Birmingham and back.





## by Eva in Year 10

After getting the train from Wylde Green and arriving in the bustling city centre of Birmingham, we walked through the doors of the Council House charged with nerves and excitement. The building was tall and imposing - history set in stone - and for the first time, the prospect of the day ahead felt exhilarating and real.

We were led up the stairs, through several large hallways, into the courtroom - circular, ornate, with a ceiling painted golden. Our two teams, India and the Marshall Islands, separated to sit at our allocated spaces: Nuha, Chiara, Asin, Freya, Raneem and I were on the right, behind the Indian flag. And after gathering our mountain of notes and exchanging words of encouragement, we were ready to go, and Freya and I stood up to give our team's opening statement. I was so nervous, yet simultaneously

I was buzzing with excitement - we had prepared so much for this, and all we needed to do was deliver. Even though it felt like my heart was going to explode, I think it went well, and we managed to make a good impression.

Then, it was time for the debate, and I think that this was my favourite part. We got to argue our points uninterrupted and stand together as a team, as well as listen to others' ideas. It was very stimulating and really interesting, and I absolutely loved it. After a short break we went on to actually forge alliances and make agreements with other countries on climate action, and it was great to be able to discuss ideas and collaborate.

My team worked with Australia, China and the UAE towards energy targets, and received international financial aid to go towards phasing out non-renewable energy

sources.

After having lunch in the beautiful Drawing Room, we returned to the hall for Part 2 of the conference, wherein several people who worked for Birmingham City Council, in order to try to make the city more sustainable, answered our questions and gave us advice on what we could do within school to take action. I found it so interesting to see all of the different careers that were available in the field of climate action, but also really inspirational to be able to see how many people were dedicating so much to help slow down the climate crisis.

All in all, it was such an amazing day and an irreplaceable opportunity which I learned so much from. A huge thank you to Mrs Chiverton for making it happen, and to my fellow teammates - you're awesome!

# Autumn term 2023 Inter-House results!

## YEAR 7

### ORIENTEERING

1	CYGNUS
2	DELPHINUS
3	AQUILA
4	PEGASUS
5	URSA
6	PHOENIX

### BENCHBALL

1	PHOENIX
2	CYGNUS
3	DELPHINUS
4	AQUILA
5	URSA
6	PEGASUS

### ROWING

1	AQUILA
2	CYGNUS
3	DELPHINUS
4	PEGASUS
5	PHOENIX
6	URSA

## YEAR 8

### ORIENTEERING

1	URSA
2	AQUILA
3	PHOENIX
4	DELPHINUS
5	CYGNUS
6	PEGASUS

### HANDBALL

1	PHOENIX
2	DELPHINUS
3	URSA
4	AQUILA
5	PEGASUS
6	CYGNUS

### ROWING

1	URSA
2	CYGNUS
3	PEGASUS
4	PHOENIX
5	AQUILA
6	DELPHINUS



**YEAR 9****ORIENTEERING**

1	CYGNUS
2	AQUILA
3	URSA
4	DELPHINUS
5	PHOENIX
6	PEGASUS

**HANDBALL**

1	AQUILA
2	PEGASUS
3	URSA
4	CYGNUS
5	PHOENIX
6	DELPHINUS

**ROWING**

1	CYGNUS
2	URSA
3	AQUILA
4	PHOENIX
5	DELPHINUS
6	PEGASUS

**YEAR 10****10X HANDBALL**

1	AQUILA
2	PEGASUS
3	CYGNUS
4	URSA
5	DELPHINUS
6	PHOENIX

**10Y HANDBALL**

1	PEGASUS
2	AQUILA
3	URSA
4	DELPHINUS
5	CYGNUS
6	PHOENIX

**10 ROWING**

1	AQUILA
2	CYGNUS
3	URSA
4	PHOENIX
5	DELPHINUS
6	PEGASUS

**10 TEAM ROWING**

1	CYGNUS
2	PHOENIX
3	PEGASUS
4	AQUILA
5	DELPHINUS
6	URSA

**YEAR 11****11X HANDBALL**

1	PEGASUS
2	DELPHINUS
3	PHOENIX
4	AQUILA
5	URSA
6	CYGNUS

**11Y HANDBALL**

1	CYGNUS
2	PHOENIX
3	AQUILA
4	URSA
5	PEGASUS
6	DELPHINUS

**11 ROWING**

1	CYGNUS
2	DELPHINUS
3	URSA
4	PEGASUS
5	AQUILA
6	PHOENIX

**11 TEAM ROWING**

1	CYGNUS
2	DELPHINUS
3	PEGASUS
4	AQUILA
5	URSA
6	PHOENIX

**YEAR 12****ROWING**

1	DELPHINUS
2	CYGNUS
3	AQUILA
4	PHOENIX
5	URSA
6	PEGASUS

**BADMINTON**

1	URSA
2	CYGNUS
3	PHOENIX
4	AQUILA
5	DELPHINUS
6	PEGASUS

**BENCHBALL**

1	URSA
2	PHOENIX
3	CYGNUS
4	PEGASUS
5	AQUILA
6	DELPHINUS

# Christmas Concert

A fantastic celebration of festive music, it was great to see so many parents and families supporting the school and getting into the Christmas spirit! Our student-organised raffle raised a wonderful **£230** for The Trussell Trust.





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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