



February 2024

PEGASUS CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Students raise awesome total
for two mental health charities



SPORTING SUCCESSES

Badminton and Netball competitions

ART BOOK VOLUME 4

The fourth edition of
the student showcase
is now available

SCGSG CHARITY SPRING UPDATE

Exciting new plans for the
future of the SCGSG site!



A message from the

Headteacher

Dr. Barbara Minards

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2024! It has been a busy five week half term, time has flown by and we are now halfway through the academic year.

Year 11 students participated in a Sixth Form taster day to help with their decision making about the next stage of their educational journey. They experienced taster lessons, met current sixth form students and staff to learn more about the extra-curricular, super-curricular and leadership opportunities available alongside the careers guidance and pastoral support offered.

Our Year 9 students also had the opportunity to think about their next steps as they had a session with current Year 10 students who shared their experiences of the GCSE option subjects. We are looking forward to Year 9 students and their parents and carers joining us for the GCSE Curriculum Evening on Tuesday 20th February.

Our annual wellbeing week took place in third week of January, with students in all year groups (and staff) participating in a range of different activities in tutor times and at lunchtimes. Each day had one of the strands of wellbeing as a theme starting with Be Mindful on Monday, followed by Get Active, Have Fun, Try Something New and finishing with Give to Others. The theme on Friday was aligned with the Phoenix house charity day which raised money for Mind and Young Minds. Overall, it was a really positive week and a timely reminder of both the importance of wellbeing and the numerous



ways we can all invest in our own wellbeing.

In addition to lessons, tutor times and assemblies there have been several opportunities for students to participate in broader educational experiences. There have been trips to the theatre for A-level Drama students, to Shrewsbury prison for Year 13 Psychology and Sociology students and to the CBSO for Year 7s. Today, members of our Student Council took part in an online national discussion hosted by 'VotesforSchools' about online safety.

There is a refreshed programme extra-curricular clubs for the Spring Term and it is fantastic to see so many students involved in a variety of sporting, musical and creative activities during lunchtimes. Annie rehearsals are continuing, and the cast are sounding amazing! I am really looking forward to the

performances next term, it is going to be a great show.

Year 12 have finished the half term with their mid-year examinations. The feedback from these will provide students with key information on their progress so far and inform their approach to learning throughout the next stage of their A-level studies.

This morning the school ski trip departed, with 80 Year 10 students and 9 staff members on their way to Mont-Sainte-Anne, Canada. We hope they have a fantastic time and look forward to hearing all about their adventures on their return.

Please enjoy reading about what has been happening recently at Sutton Girls. Have a lovely half term holiday.

Dr Minards

Pegasus charity day gets 2024 off to flying start!



Mrs S. Alderson
Head of Pegasus House

On Friday 26th January we held Pegasus charity day in support of Mind and Youngminds, as part of Wellbeing Week.

We sold an epic amount of cakes,

cookies, popcorn, candyfloss, mocktails and slushies, wore our own clothes (lots of us in Pegasus Purple!) and watched members of staff battle it out in an epic round-robin benchball competition!

In total we raised an amazing

£1569.34. This has been split equally between the two charities, and will go towards crucial services for those in need of mental health support.

Thank you so much to everybody who contributed to the amount raised, it is hugely appreciated.



SCGSG Charity

We would like to welcome you to the latest newsletter from the Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Charity. Following on from our last communication in December, the Charity Trustees are meeting regularly to advance the Charity, working on governance matters and planning how the Charity can help support the School develop the Estate further.



In this issue we focus on:

- a newly appointed Trustee – Jessica Port who attended the School in the 2000s.
- How the Charity previously helped to fund the teaching classroom development in 2016/17 – "E Block".
- Estate developments going forward.

In the next edition we will be looking back at the School Show which will be taking place in March.

Previous work of the Charity: E-Block

As referenced in the previous newsletter, since the Charity was formed in 2008 it has played major role in helping to shape the fantastic environment the students enjoy today.

In 2017, the School opened a major extension providing a modern home to the English department. This was built on a space that was originally occupied by a caretaker's house. The school needed to expand teaching space following a decision to increase the number of students admitted per year group from 150 to 180.

The building cost around £1.8m and includes:

- 6 classrooms
- Additional toilets and offices
- The "Hub"

During the school day, the multi-purpose hub is used for assemblies, a study space for



Sixth Formers and a social space for all students at break and lunchtimes as an extension of the dining room. It provides a welcoming entrance to visitors on open evenings and a venue for PA events and the Evening of Song.

The facility is also a great community asset, used throughout the week by a variety

of groups from choirs to exercise classes helping to enhance greater well-being for members of the local community.

The Charity played a major role in helping to fund this building through fundraising initiatives such as 'Build a Brick' and regular donations from the School Community.



Trustee Focus: Jessica Port

As a 2008 alumni, Jessica spent her secondary education at Sutton Girls, with a passion for achieving in all aspects of life. Her dedication to ensuring her values held true, the zealous experience whilst in school has been transposed to every avenue of her life.

Starting her career as one of three women in an engineering organization of 3,000, where she would later find out it was an ambitious 'trial' to see if women could be integrated into an engineering workforce (yes, still in 2012!), the unwavering belief in herself contributed to her rising in the telecommunications world to become the youngest Director in history.

Becoming your best self doesn't happen overnight, its not even something that happens in a couple of years, but Sutton Girls ensured that they offered a guiding light at wherever you may excel. Jessica was fortunate enough to try so many aspects at school, netball, tennis, supporting the library to name a few, which gave her real life skills and opportunities you couldn't gain elsewhere at a young age whilst having the best social time at school. She will forever be thankful that the ability to be a librarian at lunch, guide individuals through team sports and build those connections (especially when starting her graduate scheme),



as she was able to demonstrate key skills above and beyond her University colleagues, due to the support Sutton Girls gave her.

Without the belief that Sutton Girls instilled, the consistent messaging that nothing will stop you, and not even giving a second thought to, "You cannot do that", Jessica has ensured she has taken all the experience gained when she was younger, and shared it with others who were not as fortunate to have unwavering belief before they became teenagers. She has been shortlisted for Leadership Awards, is on several Judging Panels, and is a mentor and coach to younger women in her industry, taking her experience from her earlier

years, and the opportunities she had to attend Harvard Leadership courses, to impart any support she can give.

As a proud alumni, Jessica is dedicated to sharing her experience and help support the young girls of the future, to give them the best start in life possible. It is not all about work, but about giving the girls a rounded capability when they are young to know how to operate in the world after school, how to be a self-starter, and how to be successful at what you love. Without this dedication to her upbringing, without her parents support and the school's support, Jessica wouldn't be the fearless, compassionate leader she is today, where we are tremendously excited to have her on board to impart her experiences and knowledge.

Having a successful career, owning a large property portfolio, and having a wonderful husband that is her biggest supporter, ensures that every aspect of her life is the happiest it can be. Having the resilience to know it is not all smooth sailing, but to know your foundations are solid, has been key to Jessica's life, where she consistently takes herself back to her quiet librarian roots at school after a full social calendar!

Future Estate Plans

The school is continuing to develop plans for the school estate and is hoping to communicate these plans with the school community later this year.

Please go to: cafdonate.cafonline.org/23701

Share business links and fundraising ideas via finance@suttcold.bham.sch.uk



A Day in the Life

For this edition, we're focusing on the Sixth Form taster day, with information from Mr Charles and insight from Year 11 student Ayesha

Mr M Charles *Head of Sixth Form*

On Tuesday 16th January, our Year 11 students took part in a Sixth Form taster day as part of the programme to help them prepare for their Post-16 decisions. Throughout the day, students experienced what it would be like to be a sixth former at Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls. All students chose three A-Level subjects to experience a taster lesson led by subject specialist teachers.

They received information and guidance about A-Level subject

choices, the EPQ project and the range of options available to them during their enrichment time such as Latin, crocheting, work experience and volunteering, in addition to a plethora of leadership opportunities. Students also spent time talking with current Sixth Formers to get advice about routines, and to understand what the typical day would look like.

We are very proud of how our Sixth Form students have become role models for the younger years, something that has been a consistent strength of our school for a number of years.



When it comes to life after my GCSEs, I have been keeping my options open; on the one hand, I would like to try something new, but I also want to continue being around my friends! The sixth form taster day gave me a good idea of what things could look like if I stayed.

One of the A-Level choices that I was absolutely sure of was Chemistry, so the taster class we had with Mrs Trotter was a very important one.

During the shorter than normal class, we started by looking at the 3 main areas of Chemistry (Organic, Inorganic and Physical) with the experiments today focusing on organic chemistry and identifying between Aldehydes and Ketones. To do this, Mrs Trotter guided us through the "Silver Mirror" test.

An Aldehyde will be oxidised by Tollens reagent whereas a ketone will not. Tollens reagent contains silver ions (Ag^+). These are converted to silver metal when it oxidises another species. The silver metal coats the inside wall of the glass vessel, creating the "Silver Mirror" effect. This was subtle but cool experiment, with the shimmering results only visible after taking the test tubes out of the heat bath!

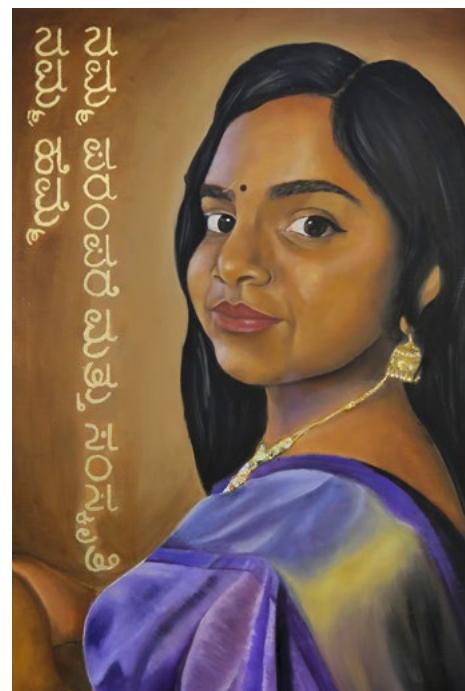
Overall the taster day has helped me to understand what life as a sixth form student here would be like. I found out more about the EPQ and how flexible that can be (have some ideas for topics already!) and the Friday morning enrichment activities.

Ayesha in Year 11

Art Book Vol.4 now available to view!



[Click here to view the latest edition of Art Book!](#)



Metamorphosis at the Belgrade Theatre

by Holly in Year 13

On January 25th the Drama A-Level students visited the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry, to see a Frantic Assembly performance of Metamorphosis.

They had a wonderful time and said the performance was a most unexpected one. Following the story of Gregor Samsor, a broken man exhausted by eternal work and an ungrateful family, who wakes up one morning to find himself changed. To those around him, he is a dangerous, untouchable vermin and a burden. The story was fascinating to watch, and the abstract components of theatre design such as the moving set and the flashing images sucked us into the characters' mundane lives

Frantic Assembly is just one of the practitioners that drama students study during their two-year course, so the opportunity to see live work of the practitioners' methods was a great way for drama students



to experience and see the work of the practitioners being put into practice in a performance; from the style of acting, play structure to the staging, set, costume and lighting choices. Seeing this live performance was helpful for the students to gain inspiration and ideas they could use in all components of their A-Level; when devising when creating theatre, or to allow the students to gain knowledge of productions for stage, and even for the final exams when the students must use their

knowledge of practitioners and theatre to answer questions from the perspective of a director and an audience member.

Going to watch a performance is helpful in so many ways for students. This trip was successful, and the students enjoyed going to the theatre together to watch a play they knew little about, each going in with an open mind and leaving with praises, critiques and ideas they still discuss in the classroom!

Year 7 battle the weather to see the CBSO at Birmingham's Symphony Hall

by Hana in Year 7

On 7th February, Year 7 had a very exciting trip to see the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) in Symphony Hall. We arrived very excited (and soggy!) and soon managed to get to our seats.

The concert started with the bustling Classical Masquerade. Soon after we were introduced to the string family by our host. Next, we had the smooth, Gentle 'La Nuit et l'amour' from the 19th Century. We were then introduced to the woodwind family who displayed to us the first moment of the Wind Serenade Op 44 by Dvorak with its swirling, crashing crescendos. Once we had been introduced to the brass family, they led us through a piece by Gabrieli written



for an important event in 16th century Venice.

Just before our next piece we met the percussion family. We were highly impressed how the snare drummer could play even while he had a drum case put on his head (placed there by the cheeky host!). They gave us the speedy Spanish Bolero. Now we moved on to the rather modern and clashing tune from Angry Birds. We heard a roar of approval (mainly from the other schools!) as it began. The one we were all waiting for was

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone – Harry's Wonderful World. The host introduced us to the conductor, Mike Seal, and his wand-like baton. The swinging baton led us into this beautiful and rather famous piece. However, the next piece was, well, entertaining! The host got us up on our feet and soon (even the teachers!!!) were dancing along to the tune of Soul Bossa Nova.

We were now reaching the end of the concert. We were next led back to the Appian Way in Ancient Rome where we heard the grand arrival of the Roman Army. Before we realised it this magical time had ended and we were filing back into the rain. However, it was such a magical experience that I don't think anyone will forget our highly fun outing to see the CBSO.

West Midlands Regional Netball Competition

Miss L. Taylor
PE Department

On Sunday 28th January, students in the U14 and U16 teams represented Sutton Girls in the West Midlands Regional Netball Competition. Both teams did exceptionally well, with the U14s team winning three games,

drawing one game, and narrowly missing out on two, and the U16s team winning four games and missing out on two, meaning both teams placed 4th in their groups. It was a great day of netball with some very exciting games.

The PE department would like to thank the U14s team (pictured on the left) Evaleen, Serena, Eve,

Anabel, Evelyn, Isabelle, Yasmin, Gabriella, Sophie and Emily, as well as U16s team members (pictured on the right) Ava, Imogen, Charlotte, Isabel, Lucy, Millie, Sasha and Eva. Well done to all of you for your dedication throughout the competition!



Students take part in the Sutton Schools Badminton competition

by Erica in Year 10

Last month, I took part in the Sutton Schools Badminton Competition. I was a part of the KS4 team alongside Nicole, Haimi and Gabbie, but there were also 2 other KS3 teams.

During the competition, some students played singles, others played doubles, depending on what rank you were.

We played against 3 other schools: Arthur Terry, Plantsbrook and Bishop Walsh. It was a lot of

fun cheering each other on and playing alongside other skilled players. I enjoyed the whole experience a lot, and all in all a great opportunity.

In the end, our team won and the KS3 teams came 1st and 2nd!

Badminton star brings home U13s competition medal!

by Chinmayi in Year 7

Recently I won a bronze medal at the badminton England nationals, and I would like to share my experience with you!

This was my very first nationals as I had only been playing tournaments for a year, playing county for three years ever since I was eight. As I walked inside the hall it felt as if I had butterflies fluttering around stomach. And then they temporary died down, as I saw my friends waving at me, calling me for a warmup. Finally, I heard my name being called for mixed, so I walked up to the court with my partner, to our very first match that ended with a very close score. We played two more games which again were very close, one ending with a two-point difference, but unfortunately, we did not make it to the quarter finals.

Next was singles, the group stage I passed with not too much difficulty. And when I was called to the quarters I was put against the top seed, the person who went on to win nationals, where a close



match got exchanged.

Now, finally, it was time for doubles, so me and my partner went to our first two matches in the group stage with one match that we won with two straight games and another more close match, which ended with three games in our favour. We had gotten into the

semis which was on the next day. On the second day, we got to play with an umpire's line judge, and the scoreboard which was used for international matches. After a tough battle, we came home with a bronze medal.

Thank you to everybody who has helped me to reach this level!

You can look forward to our next newsletter at the end of the Spring 2 half term in March. In the meantime, keep up to date by following us on:

facebook.com/suttcold or twitter.com/suttcold



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