



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 at the end of the first Spring half term, 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 new Chair – Jane Petit who attended the School some 50 years bringing a wealth of experience to the Charity*
- *How funding from the Charity has helped the annual school show*
- *Future events*



Charity Reg.
No: 1126917

The annual SCGSG school show: *Annie the Musical*



In March, the school held its annual musical, which was Annie. This was a great opportunity for students to showcase their skills to the wider school community. Parents, grandparents, pupils, current and former school staff plus their families all attended the show and were treated to an amazing experience, in one of the four shows.

Newly appointed Trustee Danielle, attended the opening night and was hugely impressed with the high level of performance and took the opportunity to get a photo with the cast at the end of the show.

To help showcase their talents, the students require high quality facilities. To help enable

this, the Charity has recently given a donation to the school to replace staging lighting in the hall, which was funded by parental donations to the Charity.

This has improved the experience for the students in the cast and crew, and for the members of our audience.



Trustee Focus: *Jane Petit*

Hi, I'm Jane Petit former Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls pupil and very honoured to be writing to you as the recently agreed Chair of the Sutton Girls School Charity.

My association with the school began more than fifty years ago, back in September 1969, when we wore jockey caps in the winter and straw boaters in the summer with peppermint green candy-striped dresses and the world was a very different place.

When we had to make our choice of secondary school Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls school was my first choice and I was thrilled when I was offered a place.

The opportunities provided by the school seemed endless both academically and in the wider fields of drama, music, and sport. The biennial music and drama festivals were a highlight of the year for many and who can forget the lead role in Puss in Boots being upstaged by a penguin.

There were teachers who inspired us for many reasons and even today I remember our French teacher Mr Freer saying "It's not important that you know everything, it's important that you know where to find it out" which has stayed with me ever since.



I continued into the sixth form and with another student at the time caused some scratching of heads by choosing Biology, Religious Studies, English and General Studies as my options which didn't fit neatly into any timetable but were eventually accommodated.

Armed with my A-Levels I began my career as a nurse, training in Nottingham and then specialising in cancer and palliative care at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London. I worked across acute, community and specialist NHS settings in London before moving into the charitable sector in 2000. I worked in senior leadership positions for several national cancer and palliative care charities before taking up my first CEO position in 2009 at St Elizabeth's Hospice in Suffolk. During this time, I led on several major building projects, helping to raise the necessary funds, and working with architects,

designers, and the end users of the buildings to provide facilities fit for current purpose and the future.

The experiences I gained at Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls helped build the tapestry of experience and skills which have led me to my current role as CEO of Foothold, a global charity focussed on the health and wellbeing of engineers and their families.

And I am proud to be able to bring my knowledge and understanding of the charitable sector back to the school, building on all that has been achieved in the last ninety-five years, by helping to develop the environment so that it supports students in their learning and development.

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls continues to provide a balance of academic excellence and personal development and as the Chair of the Sutton Girls Charity I am excited to be part of the next chapter in its development, raising funds for vitally needed improvements to the physical environment in which current and future students can continue to thrive.

I hope that you will join us as we enter this exciting new chapter.

Future Plans

Trustees of the Charity are planning to host some new events at the school, and attend existing ones in the next few months, of which some examples are:

- Tours of the School for alumni.
- Welcoming our next intake of Year 7s who start this coming September.
- An information evening on the planned developments to the School Estate.

How can I help?

If you would like to help current and future generations of students, we recommend a regular monthly donation to the School Charity (suggested amount £10 per month).

You can do this via the online platform supported by the Charity Aid Foundation. Donations can be made via Direct Debit, or Debit/Credit Card. The School can claim Gift Aid on donations adding a further 25% to your contributions. You can also make one-off donations.

Please go to: cafdonate.cafonline.org/23701

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

