

ANNIE THE MUSICAL

Students steal the show with the 2024 musical!

ALUMNI SUCCESS

Student recognised for her research and work in seed conservation

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Students prepare for their Bronze and Gold awards

DofE PLANNING DAY FOR YEAR 12

Students prepare to undertake their Gold award!



A message from the

Headteacher

Dr. Barbara Minards

Welcome to the March edition of our newsletter, the spring term has only been 10 weeks long and it has flown by! It seems very early to be breaking up for the Easter holidays, but it feels as though spring has finally arrived with the lighter mornings and longer days. As always the five week half term has been packed with many fantastic extra-curricular activities alongside all the lessons, tutor times and assemblies. The newsletter is a great platform to celebrate the variety of opportunities on offer to our students at Sutton Girls.

On 20th February the Year 9 curriculum evening took place, with students and their families invited into school to learn more about the GCSE option subjects. It was a very successful 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 love of learning and enthusiasm for their chosen subjects.

Monday 4th March was the first performance of Annie with an invited audience of 190 students from Maney Hill and Kingsland Primary schools. There were shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and for the second year, a matinee performance on Saturday afternoon. The show was amazing! It was wonderful to see the result of all the months of rehearsals and the hours of practice. With over 160 students involved in the cast and crew, it was the largest school show we have had at Sutton Girls. It was fantastic to watch so many students from each of the different year groups



working together create such high-quality performances. As has become tradition, 'show week' had a really special atmosphere throughout school, with a genuine sense of excitement and positivity amongst students and staff. The reactions from the audiences were brilliant and the Saturday night performance ended with a well-deserved standing ovation. I am sure that being part of Annie will be an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

The latest edition of the school newspaper 'The Sutton Scribbler' was published, sharing a variety of different articles researched and written by individuals in Year 8 upwards. To mark World Book Day on 7th March, our librarian Mrs Jowett launched the Whole School Read with the chosen book 'Night Bus Hero' by Onjali Q. Rauf. It is an enjoyable and engaging book; I am proud to be one of the increasing number of people wearing a badge to celebrate reading it. This project will continue through to our literacy festival in July and I am looking forward to reading students' reviews and sharing our love of reading throughout the

Sutton Girls community.

We finished the term with Cygnus House charity day with the theme of celebrating women. Many students and staff chose to wear purple for their non-uniform (purple was chosen by the Suffragists and symbolises loyalty and dignity). The day raised awareness and funds for three charities: Wonder Foundation, Forward and Cleft. At lunchtime there was a showcase with seven acts sharing their talents with fantastic singing, music and dance performances by students across the year groups. This was followed by a variety of stalls selling craft items, cakes and sweets along with several fairground style games. As always, there were high levels of student engagement and a significant amount of money raised (£1,289.66!).

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

Take care,

Dr Minards



Cygnus House Charity Fundraiser

Friday's charity fundraiser, hosted this half-term by Cygnus house, centred around "The Sutton Showcase"; a stunning display of an array of talents, including K-Pop dance, singing, instrumentals, and a Mr Blobby tribute. As well as samosa sales, books by female authors and the classic bake sale! In all, students raised an incredible **£1,289.66** for their chosen charities.



Annie the Musical!

After 7 months of rehearsals, four performances over 3 days, our annual school show has come to a close. This year's school rendition of Annie was a sell-out stunner! We are so proud of everyone that got involved, from the calm backstage crew, sound and lighting team, front of house, and standout stage performances.





To all our amazing staff and the families of our students who have been a huge support throughout our journey. It has been a big year with 160 students in the cast and crew, breaking all SCGS records!



A Day in the Life

With Annie the Musical in the spotlight, this edition focuses on some of the team behind this year's magical production...



Having the opportunity to lead the backstage team as a student has been incredible, and watching fellow students learn and gain experience in the technical aspects of theatre

has been really inspiring, especially the dedication and commitment to making the show as smooth and clean as possible!

by Emmy in Year 12



by Lalika in Year 12



Working on "Annie" as stage managers has been an incredibly rewarding experience. From the early days of rehearsal to ensuring smooth scene transitions

during the performances, every moment has been filled with excitement and energy. It's been a joy to watch the cast's dedication and passion for their roles that have truly brought the story of Annie to life on stage as they

create such unforgettable memories.

Being a part of this journey has been an incredible experience and we're so grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such a beloved production.

Year 7 explore Seed Dispersal methods

by Isla in Year 7

Even though this may seem like a boring subject, by the end of this article I'm sure I will convince you otherwise!

For example, let's start off with one of the most unique seed dispersal methods is exploding. One example of a plant that "explodes" is the Sandbox tree, scientifically known as *Hura crepitans*. This tree, native to tropical regions of North and South America, has a fascinating method of seed dispersal.

The Sandbox tree produces large, round seed pods that resemble small pumpkins. As these seed pods mature, they dry out and become extremely rigid. Eventually, the internal pressure within the seed pod builds up to a point where it reaches a critical threshold. The pods then finally



explode with a loud bang and the seed fly away far from the tree.

Seed dispersal is a subject we have been learning about in science. It has been really enjoyable! As part of our homework, we have made models and posters about seed dispersal, here is a picture of mine!

I really enjoyed making this model as I learnt lots about plants and the

peculiar things that happen around without us even noticing. One plant with a particularly strange behaviour is the "Telegraph plant" or "Morse code plant". Native to Asia, this plant exhibits a unique and fascinating movement known as nyctinasty. Nyctinasty is the phenomenon where the leaves or other plant parts move in response to changes in light or darkness. In the case of the Telegraph plant, its leaflets move in a rhythmic, dance-like motion that can be observed with the naked eye. The movement is particularly pronounced during the day and decreases at night.

Seed dispersal is very interesting and goes on all around you without you even noticing! So, you never know when you next walk past a plant just think, how do you disperse your seeds?

Former student recognised on *International Day of Women and Girls in Science*

In celebration of International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2024, the British Society of Plant Breeders featured two scientists, one of who is SCGSG Alumni, Panida Wadsworth, and she spoke about why they love the career that they're in:

"Since first studying the mechanisms of transpiration and translocation for GCSE Biology, I have been fascinated by plant science and have wanted to pursue it as a career. This spark of interest led me to studying MSci Biological Sciences at the University of Birmingham where I specialised in the fundamental biology of plants.

During my final year, I was faced with a fork in the road: do I continue in academia and complete a PhD or start a career in breeding where I can directly help farmers and contribute



to improving food security? In the end, it was obvious to me, I wanted to be hands-on and feel like I was making a real difference.

So, here I am, almost 5 years in and seeing first-hand all the hard work and industry research put towards producing new varieties for farmers

and end-users.

Breeding is a long process, whether it's combinable crops or vegetables, but seeing a truck load of seed leave your warehouse – especially when you distinctly remember physically making the cross that produced that variety – is well worth it!"

Sutton Girls at the ABRSM High Scorers' Concert

by Tara in Year 8

Sutton Girls were out in full force in the ABRSM High Scorers' Concert, which was held at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire on Sunday 17th March.

This prestigious event shines a spotlight on the sheer flair and talent of a striving group of musicians who have scored exceptionally well in their ABRSM examinations over the past year. Each of the grades from 1 to 8 were celebrated throughout the concert. It was so thrilling to be invited for the second year running, although it was a bit nerve wracking to be the final performer having



all these frighteningly talented musicians go before me! Having Ms Stamoulis by my side, gave me the musical courage to realise the demanding aspects of my chosen grade 8 piece and to perform it with life and colour.

The Recital Hall had such fantastic acoustics, resonating and raising the players to

the edge of their abilities which made it a joy to play in. I was so proud to be representing the school with the girls and it just goes to show what a thriving community of music talent SCGSG is nurturing.

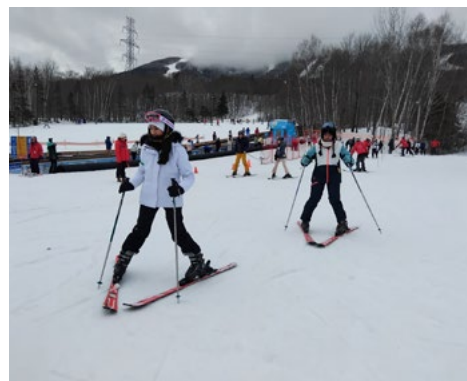
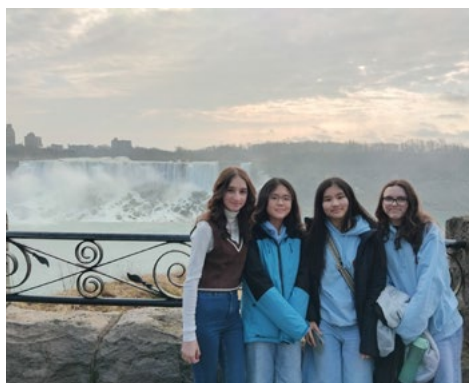
It was a truly wonderful night that inspires me to elevate my musicianship to the next level!

Year 10 Ski Trip to Canada

Over the February half term, 80 of our Year 10 students had the opportunity to be part of the Ski Tour to Canada, which featured an incredible itinerary! As well

as five days of ski instruction of 4 hours per day at Mont Saint-Anne, students also got entrance to the Canine Village, Valcartier winter playground and evening

entertainment (including night skiing!), exploring the city of Montreal, and a transfer to Niagara for 'Journey behind the falls' walk.





Spring Term Inter-House

YEAR 7

X-COUNTRY

1	PEG
2	AQU
3	CYG
4	URSA
5	DELP
6	PHO

YEAR 8

X-COUNTRY

1	AQU
2	PHO
3	DELP
4	CYG
5	PEG
6	URSA

YEAR 9

X-COUNTRY

1	URSA
2	CYG
3	AQU
4	DELP
5	PEG
6	PHO

YEAR 10

BADMINTON

1	URSA
2	DELP
3	AQU
4	CYG
5	PEG
6	PHO

YEAR 11

BADMINTON

1	CYG
2	PEG
3	DELP
4	PHO
5	AQU
6	URSA

YEAR 12

ROWING

1	AQU
2	DELP
3	URSA
4	PHO
5	CYG
6	PEG

BADMINTON

1	URSA
2	PHO
3	AQU
4	DELP
5	CYG
6	PEG

BADMINTON

1	URSA
2	AQU
3	PHO
4	DELP
5	CYG
6	PEG

BADMINTON

1	AQU
2	PHO
3	PEG
4	DELP
5	URSA
6	CYG

NETBALL

1	URSA
2	AQU
3	DELP
4	PEG
5	CYG
6	PHO

NETBALL

1	PEG
2	PHO
3	CYG
4	AQU
5	URSA
6	DELP

BADMINTON

1	CYG
2	URSA
3	DELP
4	PEG
5	PHO
6	AQU

NETBALL

1	AQU
2	PHO
3	DELP
4	PEG
5	URSA
6	CYG

NETBALL

1	DELP
2	PHO
3	PEG
4	CYG
5	URSA
6	AQU

NETBALL

1	PEG
2	AQU
3	CYG
4	URSA
5	DELP
6	PHO





Year 10 enjoy Duke of Edinburgh Bronze training day

by Mollie in Year 10

I had such an incredible day on thursday for our DofE training day. The day was packed full of team building activities and

competitions to help build our skills ready for our expeditions, from creating masterpieces out of spaghetti and marshmallows (our team built the tallest!) to putting up a tent whilst trying to make

sure it doesn't fly away. We all had so much fun and can't wait for our expeditions in June! Thank you to all the staff who supported us.



Kit bags at the ready for the Duke of Edinburgh planning day

by Jessica in Year 12

On the 27th of February, the Duke of Edinburgh Planning day at Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls took place. The 28 participants, along with three leaders from Karos adventures - the company which would run the expeditions - spent the day in the dance studio preparing for their training and qualifying expeditions.

The day started with a kit check - ensuring that our backpacks, boots, sleeping bags and waterproofs would be able to keep us and our supplies warm and dry during the five-day expedition. This meant that our bags had to be able to hold at least 65 litres, our waterproofs were checked to ensure they were fully waterproof, and our sleeping bags had to be at least three season to ensure we would be protected from the



British weather.

After that, we finalised our 2-3 person tent groups and seven person teams and planned our routes for the final expedition. For the first two days we were able to choose between a comfort

route and a stretch route - with the stretch routes being more challenging, for example on day 1 the stretch route lead over the top of Ingleborough - the second highest mountain in the Yorkshire Dales.

After we chose our routes, we worked out meal plans with our tent groups and headed home at 3:30, excitedly looking forward to the training expedition in April and ready to prepare for our summertime trip to the Yorkshire Dales - to complete our Gold DofE expedition.



If you would like more information about the Duke of Edinburgh programme we run here at SCGSG, including medical consent forms and activity logs, please visit the dedicated page on our website.

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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