

YEAR 11 & 13 CELEBRATIONS

Wishing our GCSE and A-Level students success in their exams

DIVERSITY WEEK 2024

School celebrates diversity in first week-long event

CRICKET, FOOTBALL & MORE

Students continue to impress with sporting achievements

S.C.G.S.G.
Class of 2024

BORNEO AWAITS!

The training begins for World Challenge 2024



A message from the

Headteacher

Dr. Barbara Minards

Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter, this seven-week half term has seen the class of 2024 Year 11 celebration and Year 13 leavers assemblies, the start of GCSE and A-level examinations, school exam week for students in Years 7 to 10 and work experience for Year 12.

We recognised and celebrated Diversity week from 14th to the 19th April, with Phoenix holding a fantastic House Charity day on the Friday. Students were invited to wear clothing that represented their cultural heritage for the non-uniform day, there were a wide variety of craft and food stalls in the sports hall with inspiring music and dance performances as part of a cultural showcase during lunchtime. The event was very well supported, it was fantastic to see so many students and staff engaged in learning about different cultures and demonstrating their respect for each other.

We also enjoyed the Spring music concert with wonderful performances from a wide variety of ensembles, choirs and bands. There have been several sporting successes in football, cricket and our Year 7s becoming the top team in the Sport Birmingham games! Just this week 25 of our Year 12 students completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition. This achievement was made all the more impressive as the students managed the changing weather conditions, starting off in glorious sunshine and battling through a day of torrential rain.

In addition to the extra-curricular activities that take place, students also have opportunities to participate in 'super-curricular' activities where they can develop



their knowledge and understanding of subjects beyond the school curriculum. This half term over 200 students in Years 7 and 8 took part in the UK Junior Maths Challenge, with many achieving gold, silver or bronze certificates. We wish the 20 students who have been invited to participate in the next round of the competition, the 'Junior Kangaroo' all the very best for the 11th June.

This part of the academic year is a time for reflection as we see Year 13 students complete their A-level studies, sit their examinations and go on to the next stage of their educational journey. Their leavers' assembly was an emotional and fitting tribute to the year groups' numerous contributions to the Sutton Girls community, with goodbyes and thanks to staff who had supported them throughout their time at school. It finished with a heartfelt speech from the Senior Student Ambassadors and all students being presented with a medal from the Parents' Association to recognise their time at Sutton Girls. We wish all students well with their examinations and next steps, we hope that the outgoing Year 13s keep in touch with us via our alumni

network, Future First.

This half term has seen the transition between the current Year 13 and 12 Senior Student Leadership Teams. These sixth form students exemplify the School's character strengths of Respect, Positivity and Resilience, Making Good Decisions, Integrity and Love of Learning. They are fantastic role models who contribute to many aspects of school life from planning wellbeing activities, leading clubs, delivering assemblies to participating in open evenings and helping at variety of events. I would like to thank the outgoing team for all their hard work, dedication and positivity. I look forward to seeing the contributions that the new team will make to the school community and how they continue our tradition of inspirational student leadership.

Please enjoy reading more about what has been happening at Sutton Girls during the first half of the summer term. I hope you and your families have a happy half term holiday!

Take care,

Dr Minards



Year 11 - Class of 2024

There were laughter and tears through the morning of Thursday 2nd May, as we celebrated all

the hard work of our Year 11 students as they begin the final preparations for their GCSE exams. We're so proud of every single one of them, and we know

they're going to do themselves proud with their exams, and we can't wait to see the results of all their hard work and dedication in August!

Emotional celebrations for the Class of 2024 - Year 11 and 13



Year 13 - Class of 2024

Another emotional day followed on Friday 3rd May as we bid farewell to the Year 13 class of 2024, with a buffet, performance from the Rock Band, speeches

from Dr Minards, Miss Bailey and Mr Charles, and a small keepsake provided by the Parents' Association. For these students, it marks the end of either a seven-year or two-year journey though the school, with highs and lows,

full of learning experiences and some very happy memories.

They have been a wonderful year group, and we know that they will do amazingly in all that comes next!

The 2024 SCGSG Whole School Read!

by Mrs L. Jowett
Senior Librarian

In the run up to our highly anticipated annual Literacy Festival, we have been embarking on a Whole School Read of Night Bus Hero by Onjali Q Raúf!

This wonderful book is about an unlikely hero who discovers the importance of kindness and compassion whilst solving a big mystery in London.

Our students have been enjoying the book with lots of copies available to borrow from the library, and they have also had the option to listen to our very



own school recording of the book voiced by members of staff and our school ambassadors. Badges and character points have been awarded to students that have taken part. Even more exciting,

is that we have the incredible honour of hosting a visit from Onjali Q Raúf, who will be coming to see us during the festival for a special presentation and a book signing!

The end of an era as Student Ambassadors hand over roles

by Izzy in Year 13

It has been a privilege to be the Student Ambassador for Positivity & Resilience this year. In my role, it has been lovely to see the Positivity & Resilience team add to the happiness and strength of the school community. I have gained so many valuable new experiences that will serve me well in the future, for example, I have had the opportunity to lead a group of prefects and learn what it means to have clear communication and work together with a large group of people to get a project off the ground. I have loved working together with my fellow Student Ambassadors Maiya, Tilly, Penny and Harkiran who have made me feel supported all year round and Neha, the Senior Prefect for Positivity & Resilience who has been integral in the leadership of the team and produced many excellent videos to promote wellbeing in school. It has been my honour to represent the students



of Sutton Girls and my role as Student Ambassador has given me a platform to enhance their experience of school.

I am extremely proud to be part of the Positivity & Resilience Team because of the commitment and dedication we have shown in creating and delivering Prefect-led Form Time Activities for Years 7-11 throughout this year. These have been an incredible success and have helped form connections between lower school students and a sixth former that has visited their form every half term. I have had a fabulous year in post as

Student Ambassador for Positivity & Resilience, being part of a values-based school and the Student Leadership team have helped shape me into an individual who is driven by her values and faces any challenge or opportunity with resilience, integrity, positivity and authenticity.

Finally, I am excited to hand over the role to the wonderful Alice who I'm sure will do an amazing job, along with Sancia, Lexi, Hibba, and Marwa as Senior Student Ambassadors for the 2024/25 school year!

Spring Concert 2024

This year's Spring Concert brought cheer to the community when the weather outside was less than perfect! Our students' talent once again shined through, with outstanding performances from the Gospel and Chamber Choirs, Rock Band, and Swing Band "The Rosettes".





Phoenix House Charity Fundraiser

by Mr M. O'Rourke
Head of Phoenix

Throughout the week of 15th to 19th April, we explored and celebrated diversity, and our Diversity Week culminated in the Phoenix charity fundraiser in which students were invited to

dress in traditional garments that reflected their cultural heritage. The result was a gorgeous sea of colour and joy!

For more photographs of the celebrations today, check out the gallery on our [website](#).

Thank you to all the students

in Phoenix for organising their activity and food stalls during lunchtime, and the rest of the school community for donating as part of the non-uniform day. In total, Phoenix have raised an amazing **£1,524.15** for our chosen charity, WaterAid.



by Harkiran
Respect Team Leader

Diversity Week 2024 was really successful – as the Respect team, we’re really proud to have put together the week alongside the Phoenix House Captains who planned Friday’s charity day.

We delivered assemblies to the whole school around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and had received feedback from students letting us know that they did learn a few new things about EDI which was amazing to hear.

Diversity Week 2024

We tried our hardest to make the assembly informative as well as relatable to our school – we managed to gather some statistics showing ethnic and religious diversity and representation

within Sutton Girls and could see that students and teachers were very engaged with our statistics. We also held some activities during lunchtime – the student-led bollywood dancing session was really popular and we’re so grateful to everyone who took part and got involved.

Once again, the Respect team would like to say thank you to everyone involved with planning, executing, and participating in our Diversity week!



Embracing Sustainability: A Journey Off the Grid at the Centre of Alternative Technology

by Mahathi and Areej
in Year 10

In Machynlleth Wales, lies a beacon of sustainability: the Centre of Alternative Technology (CAT). Recently, our Year 10 Design Technology students embarked on a transformative three-day trip to CAT, immersing themselves in a world where eco-conscious living takes centre stage. What made this excursion particularly unique was the group's decision to go off-grid, delving into an experience which broadened their minds and left an impression on their understanding of sustainable living.

Setting off from our school, we chose a mode of transportation that aligned with our eco-friendly ethos. Opting for the train, we significantly reduced our carbon footprint, emitting 70% less CO2 compared to a conventional coach journey. This conscientious decision set the tone for the rest of our adventure, as they journeyed toward CAT with a sense of purpose and environmental responsibility.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by the serene beauty of the Welsh countryside and the warm hospitality of the CAT staff. We were welcomed with open arms and at once immersed in the ethos of



sustainability that surrounds every aspect of the centre. As we settled in, we were warmly welcomed with a captivating talk about the infrastructure and systems used around the area to sustain CAT by a truly knowledgeable and experienced staff who had a lot to share. Among the topics discussed was the innovative use of insulation materials such as denim and cotton—a testament to CAT's commitment to creative and sustainable solutions.

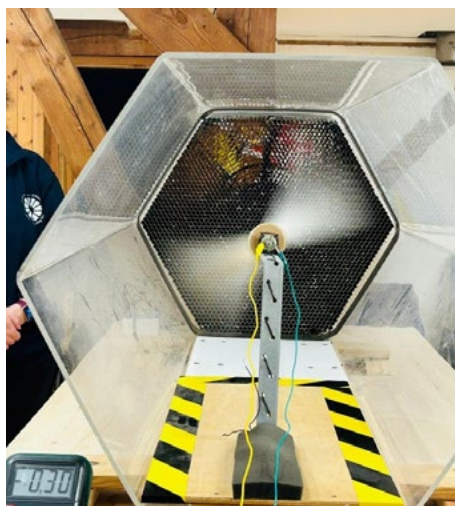
Throughout our stay, we

embraced a lifestyle that was both environmentally conscious and enriching. Water sourced from a nearby lake quenched our thirst, while electricity generated by wind turbines and solar panels powered our activities. Mealtimes offered a delicious array of vegetarian dishes -from a mouthwatering pizza, large enough to rival the size of your head to a delicious and decadently sweet sticky toffee pudding- sourced locally and grown on-site to minimize carbon emissions associated with animal agriculture. The very buildings we inhabited were constructed from carbon-negative materials like rammed earth and lime, displaying the possibilities of sustainable construction.

In between scheduled activities, we had many opportunities to explore the vast expanse of CAT's grounds. Scavenger hunts led us on adventures through lush greenery, while intense games- such as mafia and 'Kahoots' with



the resident cat (Diego) to keep us company- brought moments of joy and connection. Two of the most memorable experiences involved us creating bricks and mini windmills. We created a brick of rammed earth which included materials such as lime and clay—a tangible symbol of our determination to learn and engage with sustainable practices firsthand. With shovels in hand and a shared sense of purpose, we worked collaboratively to mould the earth into a solid block, examining the life cycle of clay which transforms into bricks, starting from the refinement of coarse sand to the gradual evolution into semi-liquid clay. We then created our windmills, exploring the effects on the number of wings but also the angle and shape of them and how these statistics affect the amount of energy generated. The intense competition resulted in team



BAM winning, which consisted of Bahar, Areesha and Mahathi. The second experience helped to build our teamwork but also led to us leaving the building with newfound knowledge.

As the trip drew to a close, we departed CAT with a newfound appreciation for the power of sustainable living. Our time off-grid has not only broadened our

understanding of environmental issues but has also inspired us to incorporate eco-friendly practices into our daily lives. Although enduring mishaps during the train journeys back home, armed with knowledge, enthusiasm, and a deeper connection to the natural world, we returned home prepared to implement sustainability practices in our daily lives, extending beyond our NEAs, and ensuring our safe arrival.

In a world where environmental challenges are large, experiences like the trip to CAT are powerful reminders of the positive impact individuals can make when they choose to live to protect the planet. As we reflect on our journey, we carry with us the words of the CAT staff and the lessons learned from our time off-grid—a testament to the enduring power of sustainable living and the potential for a brighter, greener future for all.

Year 11 student performs at Young Musician competition final

by Emma in Year 11

I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to play in the final of the Staffordshire Young Musician competition and I would like to share that with you!

Earlier this year, I entered Staffordshire Young Musician, which is a competition for young people, with three categories – junior, intermediate, and senior, with two separate competitions for instrumentalists and vocalists. Last year, I made it through to the final on flute and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to compete again but on piano. The first round was a recorded video audition, which was then adjudicated, and 8 finalists were chosen to play in the final in July.



I have been playing flute for 5 years and piano for 8 years and it means so much to me to be able to perform for other people and

share my music. I love being able to express emotion through music and that is one of the reasons why playing piano is so important to me. I find it amazing that through my music I have the ability to make people feel different things depending on how and what I play.

I am also very excited and think it is very important to not only perform my own pieces but also to listen to that of others. Last year, the finalists were all absolutely phenomenal, with styles ranging from a violinist playing a classical piece, to a trumpeter playing a fanfare-style, to a drummer playing Nirvana.

It is a great way to listen to others and build an awareness of all the different musical styles out there!



Year 12 Psychology visit to Dudley Zoo

by Mrs S. Alderson
Head of Psychology

On Thursday 16th May the Year 12 Psychology students visited Dudley Zoo. We had an insightful talk on the use of conditioning

in animals, and got to see Pavlov and Skinner's research brought to life using snow leopards and lynx! We got a little wet whilst trying to locate the chimps, but eventually we found them and conducted our observations on their social

behaviours verses orangutans.

Back in the classroom, we will be conducting statistics on our data and writing a report. The little red train which saved us a big hill walk was also a highlight!

GCSE Geography Fieldwork at Carding Mill Valley



World Challenge: Expedition to Borneo

Several months and many meetings have happened since 15 of us signed up for the 2025 World Challenge Expedition to Borneo. So far...

Researching Borneo: Did you know it's the third largest island in the world? It's situated in Southeast Asia and is politically divided among three countries: Malaysia and Brunei in the north, and Indonesia to the south.

It's also famous for Orangutans.

We will be travelling to the Malaysian-side of Borneo. Approximately 7,300 miles away and an 18-hour flight!

Meetings: To maintain communications, we have regular meetings every half term to update one another on our new fundraising ideas and preparation plans. The meetings give us a chance to research different activities and methods of saving and be the most sustainable we can be through the whole process. They also give everyone a chance to present different modules: Travelling Responsibly, Comfort Zones, Global Citizen, Stress Bucket and Wellbeing, in order to help each other learn more about

the trip. Most importantly, we get to know one another before we commence the actual journey, so much so that we are having a Teams Video Meeting after Year 11 summer exams!

Fundraising: This entire expedition is relatively expensive, so some members of the group have been coming up with ideas to help pay towards the costs. However, a few of us are funding it ourselves! Some fundraising ideas include bake sales, selling items at SCGSG Preloved Event, organising and hosting events for family such as bingo, film night and dinner parties, umpiring netball/football matches, raffling prizes at Scouts.

Fitness: This expedition is bound to be physically challenging, with multiple hikes and long walks. In February, we had our first bleep test, which will continue for the next 15 months. This is to ensure that our group's fitness remains good and hopefully improve before the expedition. Many members have been maintaining

their fitness by doing a sport weekly, walking the dog or going on runs. This summer some will start to go on longer walks with a heavy daypack/rucksack, similar to what we'll be doing during the expedition, to replicate the hard treks on our journey.

Opportunities: We are all very privileged to be going to such a cultural and breathtaking place as Borneo and would like to thank the school, Mrs Kemp and Ms Grossett for providing us with such a fantastic once in a lifetime opportunity that will help us with other aspects of life. Due to the varied year groups going, from Year 10 to Year 12, not only are we able to gain a vast variety of experiences and skills on our adventure, but also converse and create some new friendships gradually building not only on our confidence but our own character on a deep level.

by Marwa and
Simi in Year 11





Gold DofE qualifying expedition in the Yorkshire Dales



KS3 Cricket team off to flying start in three-week tournament!



On Tuesday 30th April, our KS3 cricket team took part in the first week of a 3-week tournament at Bishop Vesey.

They made a great start to the competition by winning three out of four games (only losing the 4th by just two runs)!

In their third and final game, they were facing off against Arthur Terry who were a formidable force. Both teams were incredible, but we narrowly missed out by just 2 wickets, placing us second overall.

Well done to Rebecca in Year 9, Ella, Lynn, Samarah, Shaan, Sophie, Taraji and Zaynah in Year 8, and Anjali, Nikki, Parizay, Pavit and Saahi in Year 7.

Year 7 students take over at Sport Birmingham games

by Mrs R. Hughes
Head of PE

Back in January, students Kaia, Esohi, Alessandra, Gracie, Anutofumni, Chinmayi, and Anna attended the Year 7 trials to be selected to represent the Sutton Girls Team.

These students participated in the Sutton Schools competition in February and came first, qualifying for the Birmingham School Games. This took place at Birmingham University on Monday 15th April where there was a total of 11 schools in the Year 7 category.

Our team made a fantastic effort throughout and were rewarded with a win. With this under their belts, our team are now the top Year 7 team in Birmingham!



Sutton Schools football tournament

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been hosting the Sutton Schools indoor 5-a-side football tournament after school for Years 7-9. We spoke to Luwam in Team 1, and Mojetoluwa in Team 2...

by Luwam in Year 7

I have been playing football for a couple of years now and honestly Sutton Girls' football competition environment has elements of competitiveness, sympathy, and courteousness. When we played as a Year 7 team, it felt like we had been playing together for ages. The teamwork, kindness, and acknowledgement of other peoples' abilities really brought the team together and really helped score more goals and block opposing team's goals.

Overall, playing with the girls in Year 7 was a really great experience and I am really looking forward to playing with them more in the future as the years go.



by Mojetoluwa in Year 8

This tournament marked my second time playing for the team, having joined earlier in a similar event at Wyndley. Working alongside my teammates was a joy, and our collaboration was evident in every match. Each goal scored brought us closer together, and I'm grateful for the experience we shared!

A special thanks to Mrs Tunstall for her support and guidance throughout the tournament. Her encouragement boosted our morale and helped us secure victory. Winning the tournament was an incredible achievement for us all, and it made the experience even more memorable.

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

[facebook.com/suttcold](https://www.facebook.com/suttcold) or twitter.com/suttcold



Phone Number: 0121 354 1479
Email: enquiry@suttcold.bham.sch.uk
Web: www.suttcold.bham.sch.uk

Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B73 5PT