

RETURN OF THE LITERACY FESTIVAL

Author talks, Open Doors, musical events and more!

SOLOISTS CONCERT

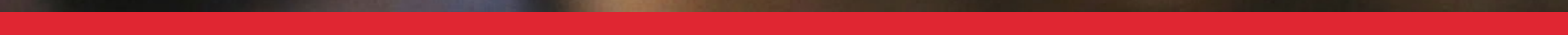
Annual showcase for amazing musical individuals!

HOUSE SPIRIT 2024

Rain cannot dampen our students' spirits!

SCHOOL TRIPS

Whitemoor Lakes, Blists Hill, Paris and CERN!





A message from the

Headteacher

Dr. Barbara Minards

Welcome to the final edition of our newsletter for the 2023-24 academic year! Congratulations to Year 7 and our new Year 12 students who have successfully completed their first year at Sutton Girls. The end of the summer term is a time to reflect on how much we have achieved as a school community since September.

This final half term has seen the successful completion of the GCSE and A-level examinations. We are so proud of the way our Year 11 and 13 students dealt with their external examinations. Year 11 enjoyed their trip to Blackpool and both year groups celebrated at their proms, we hope they continue to enjoy their extended summer holiday.

On 26th June we held our summer open evening for Year 5 students and their families. It was fantastic to see how many of our current students volunteered to help out as guides and subject helpers, sharing their experiences of the School with prospective students and their families. On Wednesday 3rd July we welcomed our next cohort of Year

7 students to Sutton Girls for their New Intake Day. They were given a very warm welcome by staff and students, had a tour of the school, some taster lessons and enjoyed sampling the food in the canteen at break and lunchtime. We look forward to them joining us in September.

The literacy festival was once again very successful with three engaging author visits and the standard of both the book bake off and open doors competition was higher than ever. I hope that students were inspired to keep reading and they take the opportunity to enjoy a variety of books over the summer holidays.

Sadly, due to torrential rain on the 9th July sports day was cancelled this year. Although the athletics events with the whole school spectating at Wyndley couldn't take place, the house spirit competition took place in the sports hall at lunchtime. Although the photos in this edition capture the display of house colours, mascots and banners, the chanting, cheering

and singing had to be heard to be believed!

We finished the term with several residential; over 150 Year 9 students going a four-day trip to Paris, Year 7s enjoying their activities at Whitemoor Lakes, Year 12 Physics students having a memorable trip to CERN and several day trips: Year 8 to Blists Hill, Year 10 to Drayton Manor and Year 12 to Alton Towers. We finish the academic year with a whole school assembly where we will find out which house will be the overall winners of all of the competitions and be awarded the Constellation cup.

Please enjoy reading more about what has been happening at Sutton Girls during the final half of the summer term. As we reflect on another busy and productive academic year it is now time to wish all staff, students and their families a happy and safe summer holiday!

Take care,

Dr Minards



Staffing update: Thank you to our staff leavers

We thank our staff leavers for all of their contributions to the School community during their time at Sutton Girls and wish them all the best for their future.



Mrs B. Lorton
Assistant Librarian



Mrs C. James
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs V. McTear
SENCO & RS Teacher



Mrs K. Rafferty
*Head of Year and
SEND Administrator*



Mr M. Davies
Head of Art



Miss H. Patel
*Teacher of Maths, Business
Studies & Economics*



Mr J. Martinez-Romera
Teacher of Spanish

We look forward to welcoming our new staff who are joining us in September:

- **Mrs Downing**, Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum and Assessment, Teacher of Art & Design;
- **Miss Greenfield**, SENDCo and Teacher of History;
- **Miss Parkes**, Head of Art;
- **Miss Homer**, Head of Year 10 and Teacher of Geography,
- **Mrs Rudd**, Assistant Head of Computer Science;
- **Mrs Ravat** and **Miss Kamil**, Teachers of Mathematics,
- **Miss Zannetou**, Teacher of Spanish
- **Miss Bains**, Teacher of Economics
- **Mr McKenna**, Teacher of Physics;
- **Mrs Parker**, Teacher of Food and Nutrition
- **Mrs Jesson**, Art and Design Technician.

Soloists Concert 2024

On the evening of Monday 8th July, we celebrated our talented music students with our second Soloists Concert, a combination of our Evening of Song and Instrumentalists Concert...

by Mr C. Collet
Head of Music

While these two events have been separate in the past, this year the department decided to merge them together to create a larger evening that showcased even more of our students' talents.

Opening the evening, Headteacher Dr Minards presented the Stephanie Cave Extra Mile Award to Year 12 student Evelyn Branch. Stephanie Cave was a student at Sutton Girls between 2008 and 2014 making numerous contributions to school life, particularly within the Music Department. Stephanie's parents have generously funded an annual award in her memory.

This year's recipient Evelyn is a talented, hard-working student and an accomplished musician who 'lives and breathes' music. From Year 7 she held an ambition of studying music at a



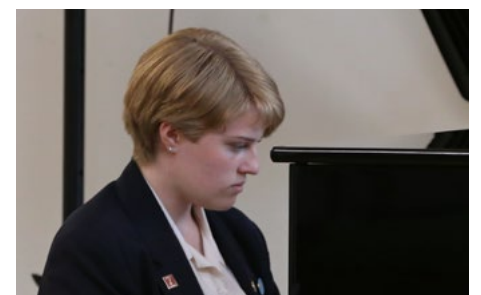
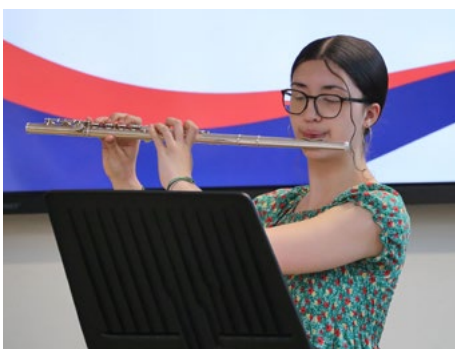
conservatoire and has worked diligently towards achieving this aim. She is performing beyond Grade 8 standard on flute, a very keen and reliable participant in extra-curricular activities including flute ensemble, chamber choir and the school sinfonia. Evelyn has participated in and been an ambassador for the National Youth Orchestra's Inspire programme.

The award was presented at the

start of the evening because as soon as she accepted her award and finished performing the opening item in the concert, Evelyn travelled straight to Symphony Hall to take part in the Services for Education Youth Prom!

After such an inspiring start, the evening continued with fantastic vocal and instrumental performances from students in Years 7 to 10 and 12. It was fantastic to experience the results of all the hours of practice as students shared their creativity and flair with an appreciative audience.

Thank you to the peripatetic teachers, Ms Stamoulis, parents and family members who have supported students with their music this year. We are also grateful for the support of the audience members with their generosity in donating over £200 to the Teenage Cancer Trust.





Aquila House Charity Fundraiser

by Mr J. Gilbert
Head of Phoenix

What better way to end the week-long Literacy Festival with a charity day, run by the best house at Sutton Girls!

This Year, Aquila was the final house to have their chance to raise money for charity, and it was

linked nicely to Literacy Festival with a book-themed non-uniform day. So many students created a variety of excellent costumes and wore them proudly!

Aquila students also managed their own stalls for a secondhand book sale, literary-themed games, the much loved bake sale (the second one this week!) and a

huge Teachers vs Students game of Rounders on the field (with the teachers narrowly winning 6pts to 5), all raising money for the **Read for Good** charity.

When the dust settled, and the teachers finished celebrating their win, Aquila are proud to have raised a total of **£1,372.50**.



SCGSG Mock General Election

by Mr M. O'Rourke
Head of Economics

On Thursday 4th July, people across the country were casting their vote in the General Election, with election fever arriving here at school during lunchtime too!

There was much excitement as we held our own mock General

Election, with students coming down in their droves to the Sports Hall, and a high turn out was confirmed! As the results came in, I had the pleasure of declaring on behalf of Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls...

The students cast their votes as follows: there were 515 ballots cast, which represents 52% of the school electorate.

In first place, with quite a margin, was the Green Party, closely followed by the Labour Party in second place. Third place was Liberal Democrats, and the Workers Party of Britain in fourth.

Fifth place was the Conservative Party, and Reform UK in last.

Overall, there were also a total of four spoiled ballots.



Careers Fair 2024

by Mrs M. Lucas
Assistant Headteacher

The morning of Thursday 4th July saw the return of our Careers Fair in the Sports Hall.

We had a fantastic turnout too! With university courses, apprenticeships, work experience providers and more from Universities such as Exeter, Keele, and Wolverhampton, Deloitte, PWC, JLR, Birmingham and Solihull NHS Training Hub, Royal Marines, Royal Air Force, and Siemens.

Our students have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities on display, as well as the chance to have professional conversations with providers.

It was also a pleasure to see a number of our Alumni taking part by representing their respective companies!



Year 9 student awarded in Oxford Spanish Flash Fiction competition

by Zara in Year 9

I recently had the opportunity to participate in the Spanish Oxford Flash Fiction Competition.

The competition is all about writing really short stories in Spanish, with a limit of 1,000 words.

My story, titled "Rio de Janerio" was about a detective solving crimes, mainly cold cases. I enjoyed crafting a story that was both brief and engaging, participating in this competition was a challenge.

Writing in Spanish added a familiar twist that made it even



more fun. Seeing my work next to entries from writers all over the world was very inspiring.

I'm so grateful for the chance to be a part of this event. It's an experience I'll never forget!



A Day in the Life

For the final edition of the 2023/24 academic year, we asked Year 7 student Eloise about their school day...

It's hard to believe that I am almost at the end of my first year at Sutton Girls, it's gone so quickly! When I was asked to write about my day at school, I thought about the great opportunity I had to act as a tour guide on the open evening.

It started like any normal day, with form time and registration. Today we were adding the final touches to our door for the Open Doors competition (it's the Literacy Festival this week!) and they need to be ready for when parents come and visit the school this afternoon! Our door is based on The Hobbit, with our form tutor Miss Franklin starring as Miss Smouglin the dragon.

After sticking the last few coins on to the door, it was off to my first lesson of the day, Science with Mrs Chatterton. We have been looking at chemical reactions and what



reactions do we experience every day, things like photosynthesis in plants (even though it's been quite rainy recently!), the combustion

that takes place when the engine of the bus starts up on the way to school, and even digesting my breakfast!

Next lesson, and also the last lesson of the day because we finish early, is Textiles with Mrs Vine.

It feels very strange finishing school at lunch, but it meant that I had some time to practice my lines for the open evening. I remember being shown around school by a student when I came last year with my parents, so I wanted to make sure I could remember everything about school. It was a bit scary, but it felt good to have been selected to do the same for new students this year! I did three tours of the school with different families, and I remembered where all the different displays and interactive classes were!



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](mailto:Mr_Hall) for more information.

by Mrs L. Jowett
Senior Librarian

Our Literacy Festival in June was a fabulous fun filled week, where we celebrated the wonder of words!

The festivities began with our legendary Book Bake Off, which seems to get better every year. 48 cakes were entered this year and demonstrated that we have some truly talented bakers at Sutton Girls. The cakes were sliced and sold for charity at breaktime once the staff votes were placed to select a winner. Throughout the week students also enjoyed a 'Vile Villains' scavenger hunt, which tested their knowledge of famous literary foes! Our Scholastic book fair was here for the week with a range of the latest titles, stationery, and book bargains to browse and buy. We had book themed keyring crafts and scratch art bookmarks in the ILC, the new movie 'Wonka' was playing in the drama studio, and we absolutely must mention our hugely competitive inter-house challenge- The Open Doors Competition!

This year the competition was tougher than ever before, with every form competing to be the champion in their year. With this

Literacy Festival 2024

year's theme of 'Unlikely Heroes' to tie in with our whole school read of Night Bus Hero, each group set out to transform their form room door with a dazzling display of artwork in tribute to a book or series of books. The results were incredible!

One of the main features of the Literacy Festival is of course, the opportunity for students to meet with some incredible authors. This year we were visited by bestselling author Onjali Q. Rauf, author of The Boy at the Back of the Class. Onjali spoke with Years 7-10 about the inspiration behind her books, and about her vital work helping refugees in Calais. We were joined by some visitors from Maney Primary School for one of the sessions too; their Year 4 students were wonderful to have with us as they joined our Years 9 and 10 in hall. All students had the opportunity to purchase a signed

book after the event as a memento of the visit. We also had the pleasure of being visited by thriller writer Sue Wallman, who talked with Years 9 and 10 about the journey to publication and the realities of being a writer, followed by a book signing afterwards. Louise Jordan, songwriter and performer also ran a spectacular musical workshop with our Years 7 and 8, all about historical inspirational women. Both year groups had previously learned parts of some of the songs in their music lessons and were able to join in for some of the performances.

We ended the week with a Literacy Festival / Aquila charity day collaboration. We held a non-uniform day for the charity Read for Good, which provides books and storytellers to children who are ill in hospital. Students had the optional opportunity to dress as a book character if they wished, and there were some spectacular costumes.

We hope that all of our students enjoyed the Literacy Festival, and are inspired to keep reading a wide range of books ahead of the event next year!

The winners of our Book Bake Off..



Mr Birling from *An Inspector Calls*
by Simi, Frankie & Nicole



The Tiger Came to Tea
by Samarah



Around the World in 80 Days
by Mollie & Tamsin

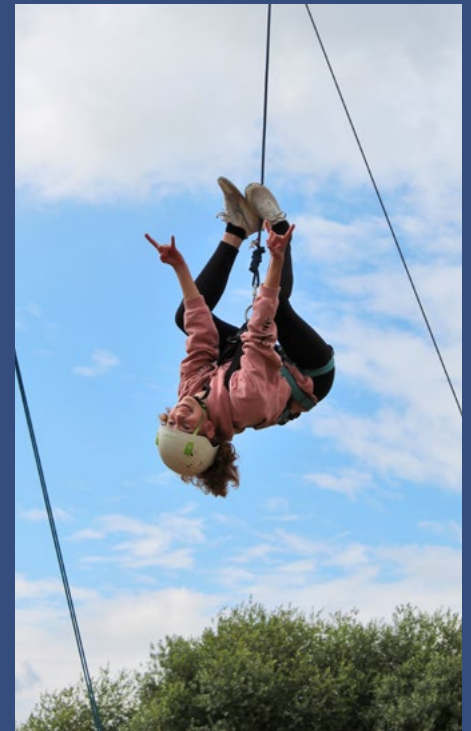
For more photos from our Literacy Festival, head over to the [Gallery section](#) of our website!



Open Doors & Author Visits



Year 7 enjoy exciting activities on their residential at Whitemoor Lakes





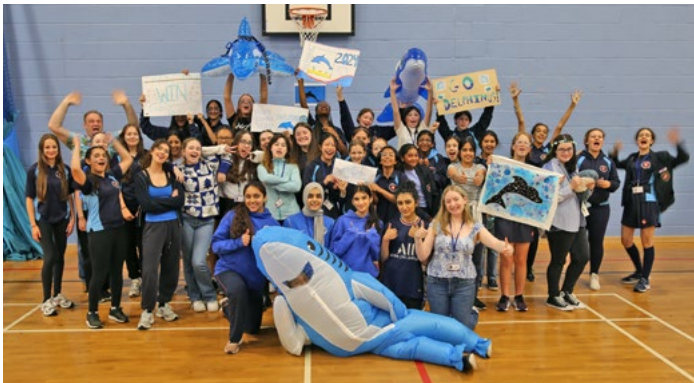
Year 9 students enjoy culture and sunshine on visit to Paris!



House Spirit Competition

Sports Day may have been a wash out this year, but that didn't stop our students from keeping their spirits high as we celebrated their commitment to their Houses in a huge display of colour, cheering and singing!





A very successful term for the Sutton Girls Rounders teams!



Year 7



Year 9



Year 10

Looking back on the sporting successes of the summer term, we are very proud of the performance of our Rounders teams! Most recently, the Year 7 team took part in the Sutton Schools Rounders tournament on Wednesday 12th June. They were so brilliant, winning their first 3 games, and

just missed out in their last game by two rounders, placing them second overall.

Prior to that on Wednesday 15th May, our Year 9 Rounders team played a fantastic game during the Sutton Schools Rounders competition, missing out in the

final game by just half a rounder, finishing in second place.

Going all the way back to the beginning of May, our Year 10 students took part in the Sutton Schools Rounders tournament at Fairfax School!



Sutton Schools Athletics Competition

During the afternoon of Friday 21st June, students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 participated in the Sutton Schools Athletics competition at Wyndley Leisure Centre.

We had to wait a while for the results to come through, but after 24 hours we discovered that overall, our Year 7s came 2nd, Years 8 and 9 both came 3rd, and Year 10 came 2nd.

Well done everyone! You really did the school proud with your performance!

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Celebration Evening



Congratulations to all of the Year 10 students who successfully completed their qualifying expedition, with 103 of them completing all four sections of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award this month!



You can look forward to our next newsletter at the end of the Autumn 1 term in October. In the meantime, keep up to date by following us on:

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



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