

# THE HOOT

THE SUTTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8 - FRIDAY 4 MARCH 2022



## Wise Words

It's clear to see from this edition of The Hoot how busy the school has been recently, and it's great to see us returning to a more normal school life, as the Covid restrictions are eased.

The Treasure Island performance in February was a huge success and it was evident how much the students enjoyed their parts in the show. Despite several members of the cast being absent with Covid during rehearsals, the students overcame these difficulties to create a wonderful play. I'm sure I'm not alone in wanting to congratulate everyone involved in a superb production, and I'll never think about cheese in the same way again!

I would also like to thank the staff who gave up their half term to take 50 students on the recent six-day trip to Iceland. Despite some stormy weather to begin with, the trip was a wonderful experience for the students and I would like to praise them for their exemplary behaviour.

I think we can see from the evidence in this newsletter how dedicated and determined our students are and how proud we should be of all their achievements.

Keep Faith.

Ben Cloves  
Headmaster

## CyberCenturions



Sutton Grammar School has a team in this year's CyberCenturion competition. "Maurice Security," comprised of Year 11 Computer Science students (pictured above) will be competing in CyberCenturion VIII at RAF Hendon on 21 April. We would like to wish them the very best of luck in this prestigious competition.

## Sixth Form Basketball reach the Surrey League Final



On Monday 21 February, in front of a small yet passionate crowd of students and teachers, the Sixth Form Basketball team bounced their way into the Surrey League Play-off Final after a comprehensive victory (94-38) over St Andrew's School.

The boys stormed into an early lead, winning the opening quarter 25-3; and this margin was never threatened as the match continued. Special mentions to Majiec B (Y10) who did very well as an assistant referee, and also to Will K (Y10) and Oliver K (Y9) for undertaking scoring duties.

The team will now play Richard Challoner School in the U19 final on Monday 7 March, at 4pm in the Sports Hall.

# International Evening

Please come along to our International Evening on Saturday 19 March from 5pm to 7.30pm to celebrate the multicultural community that we have within our school. The event is for all families to share food, drink and entertainment from our many nationalities and cultures. Over the last few years it has proven to be a big success and everyone had a great time, so please join us for this year's event.



## Cambridge University Women in Maths Programme

Each year, the Cambridge colleges of Trinity and Christ's run a three-day residential course introducing academically able young women to the study of undergraduate mathematics. The application process for the limited number of places is always very competitive.

Last year, when the course was provided online, Jessica Cheung 13B (pictured right) was awarded a place and found participating in the various activities an extremely valuable experience. This year, Ksenia Boldyreva 12E (pictured left) has been awarded a place and will be visiting Cambridge in person to attend the residential course later this month.

Further information about the Women in Maths residential course can be found [here](#).



Christ's College Cambridge



TRINITY COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## House Cross Country

It's been an exciting few weeks for the house cross country runners at Northey Avenue. As you can see from the photos below, it has also been rather wet.

Many congratulations to everyone who took part and especially to the winning houses: Year 7 - Lenham, Year 8 - Warwick, Year 9 - Manor, Year 10 - Greyhound and Year 11 - Warwick.



## Duke of Edinburgh volunteering



Many of our Duke of Edinburgh students are volunteering in different departments around the school as part of their Bronze award. Jonathan and Alex, Year 9 students pictured below, regularly volunteer in the Library at break time as part of their DofE award.



## Photography & Art Clubs

Why not discover your inner artist at the Art and Photography Clubs? Photography Club is available for students in KS3 at lunchtime on Thursdays in room 63. Art Club is for KS3 and KS4 students at lunchtime on Mondays in room 63. These clubs are open to everyone - you do not need to be studying photography or art to join.

**KS3 Photography Club**  
Thursday lunch time  
Room 63

**KS3 - KS4 ART CLUB**  
MONDAY LUNCH TIME ROOM 63

Artwork by Jayalakshmi Alackan (12B)

A poster for Photography and Art Clubs. The top half features a Canon AE-1 camera with a rainbow graphic behind it. Below the camera, the text 'KS3 Photography Club' is written in large, bold letters, followed by 'Thursday lunch time Room 63'. The bottom half of the poster is red with the text 'KS3 - KS4 ART CLUB MONDAY LUNCH TIME ROOM 63'. Below this, it says 'Artwork by Jayalakshmi Alackan (12B)' and shows a painting of an owl perched on a branch with colorful, swirling patterns in the background.

## Year 9 options evening

On Thursday 17 March we will be holding the Year 9 options evening from 6pm to 8pm. The move from KS3 to KS4 is an exciting time. For the first time, pupils are asked to make choices that will have an impact on their future study and career paths.

The evening is a great opportunity for students and parents to talk to staff about the subjects that interest them, and to begin to think about their career and academic ambitions for the future. There will be more information sent to parents in the week commencing 14 March, including the Directions Booklet, which has a breakdown of all the subjects on offer.

## Contact The Hoot

The Hoot editorial team welcome comments, feedback and contributions. If a student has some news you would like to share, please get in touch by emailing [erc@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk](mailto:erc@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk)

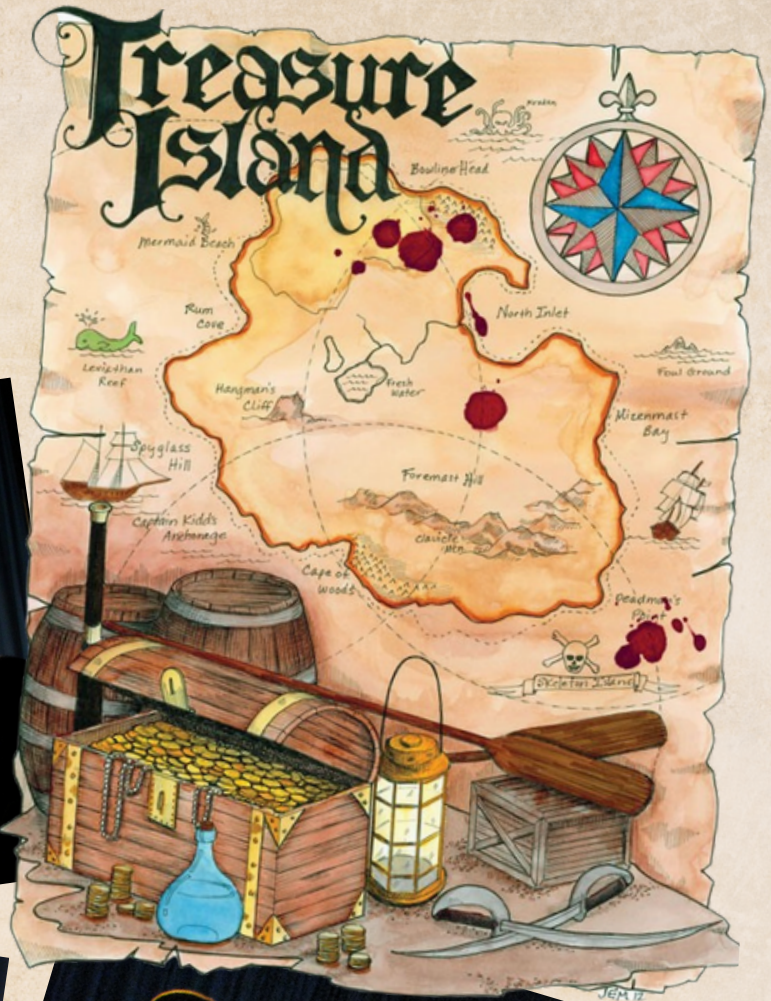


# Treasure Island

By Tom K and Alex G (9W)

On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of February, we performed the incredible Treasure Island after many months of rehearsals. Everyone really enjoyed being in the school play, and friends, family and teachers came to watch it. Ms McKenzie and Chatchan (from the Sixth Form) played a big part in bringing the play together and so did all the cast members, lighting and sound crew and everyone else involved.

There were a lot of rehearsals and line learning but when the show came together it was great to see our hard work paying off. Despite the different year groups being involved, we all became great friends during the rehearsals and after Covid it was excellent to have the opportunity to be part of this brilliant play.



# Iceland trip

By Sebastian Boesten-Allocco (9T)



At half term, a group of students went on a trip to visit the land of elves and Vikings... Iceland!

Our first couple of days included some stormy weather, ultimately meaning some of the activities scheduled could not go ahead. Our teachers, however, were not troubled by this course of events and decided instead to make the group play Taskmaster, with different rooms competing for points. Luckily, on the second day we were able to visit two gorgeous waterfalls, the second one having a viewpoint at the top from which we could look down on the cascading water.

On the third day, we went on a road trip, visiting a flood plain blanketed in lava (which itself was covered with snow), an iceberg lagoon with gigantic lumps of ice from the nearby glacier floating about and a trek by a glacial lake after which many people's shoes were soaked.

Then we embarked upon our fourth day in Iceland. This day contained, the glacier walk, which for some would be the highlight of the trip! After a trek through the snow with crampons attached, we came to the glacier. This massive block of ice, slowly moving downwards, had crevasses and cave systems littered over it. Those who had the chance slid through an ice tunnel in the glacier and had a little venture into an ice cave. Afterwards, we walked around the rim of a dormant volcano.

Our last full day in Iceland saw us completing the Golden Circle Tour, with the Blue Lagoon replaced with the Secret Lagoon due to age restrictions. The Secret Lagoon is a swimming pool-sized geothermally heated lagoon with hot springs and a tiny geyser trickling into it. Next was the Gullfoss waterfall. This was massive and had a huge amount of water running down it. Then came Strokkur at Geysir, the geyser spouting out an awesome column of steam. Lastly, Þingvellir, the crack in the earth. This is a shallow ravine splitting the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates. It also happens to be the site where the first parliament in the world was founded.

Before heading to the airport, we had a short while to browse around Reykjavik before returning home. All in all, this trip was amazing and I would recommend it to everyone who would be eligible for the trip next time!

## Top Year 11 Physics students



At the beginning of February, 26 Year 11 students took part in an online competition run by the British Physics Olympiad organisation (BPhO).

Over two lunchtimes, they faced a fiendish selection of questions under tight time pressure. 4,494 students from 156 schools took part, with most students receiving a Bronze or Commendation certificate.

All of the SGS team achieved higher than this, with 10 Silvers and 16 Golds. The "real" BPhO Year 11 competition takes place in a couple of weeks and is an hour-long exam designed to stretch the best in the country, so these results bode very well for that.

## Reporting a student absence

Please can parents notify us of any absence using the following email address – [absences@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk](mailto:absences@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk). Please do not email Form Tutors or the Head of Year.

This should be done by 8am on the day of absence and will help ensure our registers are accurate at the start of the school day, and will avoid the school emailing or calling to establish why your child is absent from school.



## Important Dates

10, 11, 12 March	Joint musical with Sutton High School
17 March	Year 9 options evening
18 March	Year 7 Challenge Day
1 April	End of term
1 - 9 April	Yr 9, 10 & 12 ski trip