

# THE HOOT

THE SUTTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## Wise Words

I have to admit to feeling quite emotional at the SGS Spring Concert this week. It was a real marker that we are back to some sense of normality after Covid restrictions and able to celebrate the amazingly talented musicians at our school with a live audience. The show was excellent, the culmination of a lot of hard work from students and staff, and the excitement of the students performing for an audience was palpable.

An in-person Parents' Evening for Year 8 was a welcome return too. Despite the possible efficiencies of the online version, a full Hall and face-to-face meetings lend a sense of community and shared endeavour, and strengthen the ties between school and home.

This term sees our Year 11s and Year 13s take their public examinations under usual conditions, with their courses over two years being anything but usual. I have every faith that the way in which staff and students have stepped forward and risen to the challenges of the pandemic will result in SGS's usual outstanding achievement for these talented and hardworking boys and girls.

As the weather brightens, I am looking forward to a bustling, productive and exciting Summer Term.

Keep Faith,

Ben Cloves  
Headmaster

## Ski trip 2022

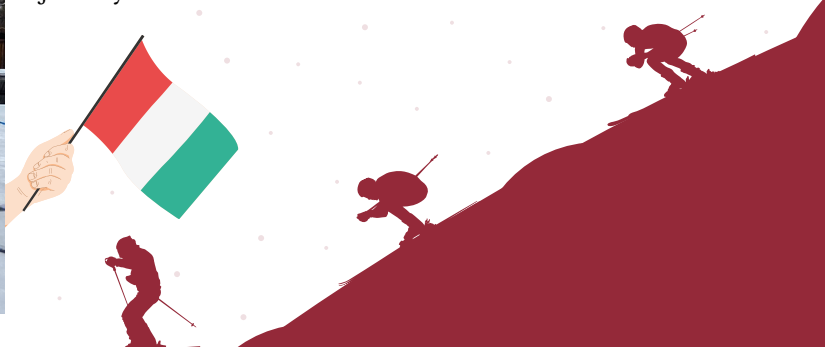
By Oliver Karlsson (9M)



On Friday 1 April, about 110 students and staff departed from school to begin an unforgettable journey. Before we could get to Italy, however, we had to endure a 17-hour long coach ride across France. Thankfully, most of us received some amount of sleep. The next day, when we arrived at the Uappala Hotel in Sestriere, our main activity was being fitted with our equipment that we would use for the rest of the week: skis, helmets, ski boots and poles.

On Sunday, we first took to the slopes and we were arranged into our groups, which varied widely in experience from absolute beginners to advanced skiers. Throughout the week, everyone seemed to make good progress, particularly the beginners, some of whom were going down black slopes by the end of the trip. Everyone had a lot of fun doing it too. Thankfully, the weather for the week was very nice and sunny, but the snow was starting to melt on the last couple of days.

After skiing, there were many forms of entertainment for the evenings, for example watching various football games, playing on Mr Pletts's Nintendo 64 and going to the various shops in Sestriere. Overall, everyone greatly enjoyed their trip and I would to thank Mr Pletts and Mr Humphries for organising such a wonderful journey.





# Geography competition

By Miles Searle (12E)



The transom of Burlington House glistened with the words 'Geological Society' in the morning sun in late March as we gathered to take part in the 'National Schools Challenge', a true bastion of geoscience and academia. Our team was as strong as was at all possible: Kian Stanbridge, Miles Searle and Efan Macmillan (pictured above left) - three Year 12s who knew their igneous from their metamorphic.

As we entered the grand hall of the society, we knew we were in the right place, with floor-to-ceiling maps of rock strata covering every wall around us and a bust of William Smith ('the Father of English Geology') only serving to get us in the mindset of champions. We sat and watched our winning video, which had enabled us to get to the final at all, before psyching out our competition and realising that many of their teachers had earned the prefix of 'Dr'. Mr Pletts had also come with us to the competition.



(Pictured above) Kian, Miles and Efan presenting to the panel judges

The aim of the day was simple: find a suitable location in our fictional town to building a nuclear waste disposal facility, taking into account both the human and physical factors given to us. Initially we were a little shaky, but having figured out which way was north on the map, we were good to go. The morning was spent working vehemently on our plan of action before a light lunch and a presentation to a panel of esteemed and extremely qualified judges. And then it was a waiting game. We had been given a geography and geology quiz to complete which, of course, we won before the tension in the room heightened and Professor Chris Jackson read out the results. Sutton Grammar School, as well as being advised to go on Dragon's Den, were runners-up in the competition, meaning that we received £100 for 'Geoscience education' within the school.

Overall, it was a very successful day and, as we were assured by the professor, covered a topic that is extremely relevant within the world today. Finally, I would like to thank Mr Pletts for the tireless effort that he put in throughout the process, not only on the day but helping with the initial video in its entirety\*. I wish next year's group good luck and I'm sure they will be just as successful as us!

\*Update 29/03/22: Mr Pletts wishes to make it known that Miles' statement may be false and that he may not have provided this much support on this occasion!

# Year 11 House Physics

The British Physics Olympiad competition for Year 11s provides an opportunity for students to be pushed way outside their comfort zones. Designed to stretch the very top students, it is an hour-long exam comprising many different styles of question, often featuring topics that the students are unfamiliar with but can, with some deep thought, wrap their heads around. It is difficult and time-pressured. Suffice to say, all students received the lowest score they'd ever had in a physics exam!

Despite that, the 37 students achieved a very impressive haul of 8 Golds, 11 Silvers and 11 Bronzes. However, whilst the group covered themselves in glory, not all Houses managed it as can be seen by the results. The maximum mark each House could have achieved was 400:

1st	Lenham	185
2nd	Warwick	174
3rd	Greyhound	132
4th	Throwley	120
5th	Manor	48

Adding the results to the leader board, we find that Lenham have compensated for the Year 7's spectacular last place and put themselves joint top:

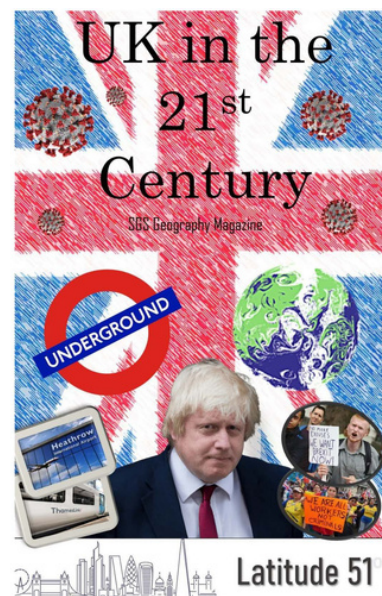
1st	Warwick	15
1st	Lenham	15
2nd	Manor	11.5
3rd	Greyhound	11
4th	Throwley	7.5

Only two more rounds to go with Year 10 in a few weeks' time and Year 8 after half term.

## Latitude 51°

The latest edition of the Geography magazine, Latitude 51°, has just been published thanks to our Sixth Form editorial team and brilliant designers and editors from the Lower School.

Thank you to Harry Robinson, Ryan Belciug, Miles Searle, Christopher Payne and Louis Lazenby. The topic for this year is 'UK in the 21st Century' and it will be distributed to students via SMW and physical copies given to all those who contributed. It is also available on our school website [here](#).



## Environment Club

We are starting a new pen recycling scheme at school. Please can you bring in any old shoeboxes to Room 6. These will be used for collection of the pens.

Thank you,

The Green Team





# CyberCenturion



On Thursday, 21 April our team of Year 11 students competed in the final of the CyberCenturion VIII competition. The team, comprised of Jose Fialho, Anton Simovic, Arvin Abdollahzadeh, and James Southall, came sixth overall, which was a fantastic achievement, especially as it was our first time in the finals. Huge congratulations to the students who took part. They had an amazing day at the Royal Air Force Museum representing the school.



# PE Department news



The summer sports season has already started, with two cricket matches scheduled for this weekend. Athletics training is also underway, with meetings due to start very soon. You can find out more information about all the upcoming sport fixtures [here](#).

The PE Department also have a twitter feed where you can keep up with all the latest sports news [@SGSPE](#)

Don't forget our whole school Sports Day takes place on Thursday, 7 July at our Walch Memorial Sports Ground on Northey Avenue. Everyone is welcome to attend and more information regarding the day's timetable will be sent out nearer the time.

Eid Mubarak

With the holy month of Ramadhan about to end we would like to wish the Muslim members of our school community a Happy Eid Mubarak for Monday.



# Duke of Edinburgh

Over the weekend of 23-24 April, 26 Year 9 students completed their training for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards in the Ashdown Forest near East Grinstead. Instructors showed them how to put up their tents, cook nutritious food on their Trangia stoves and navigate their way across the countryside.



(Pictured above) Parsa Mirzazadeh's impressive camp cooking



(Pictured above) Bronze Award students receiving their equipment training

On the Sunday they packed all their equipment into large rucksacks and walked for 12km through a series of checkpoints to a car park on the edge of the High Weald, overcoming navigational difficulties, sore feet and heavy bags along the way. All teams did exceptionally well and are looking forward to their practice expedition in two weeks' time.

They were joined on the Saturday by five Year 12 Gold Award students (pictured below), who were completing some training to prepare them for their practice expedition in the summer. Mr Biddle dropped them off at a car park in the Ashdown Forest, where they then planned and walked a route back to the campsite, with an instructor taking them through some key skills along the way. They then familiarised themselves with the mountain tents Outspark have provided for the expeditions in the summer.

A hugely successful weekend for all involved, and an excellent start to the school's DofE expedition season.





# SGS Music Department Spring Concert



By Miles Searle (12E)

The time of year had arrived for the Spring Concert, and as the musicians polished their instruments backstage, the audience began to shuffle into their seats for an evening like no other. The proceedings began with a sign of things to come, as the orchestra treated us to a pair of outstanding and varied pieces. Antonin Dvořák's "Slavonic Suite" was followed by the theme from the 1963 film "The Great Escape", composed by Elmer Bernstein and whistled by all attendees for the rest of the show.

The concert is always a highlight of the school calendar as it provides a chance to celebrate the wide range of musical talent throughout the entire school community and this year was no different. The solo performances ranged from the younger musicians Alex Springate and Hayden Lo, on the piano, to singer Aaron Sathees, right through to the esteemed A-Level musicians Henry Kim, Adam Howell and Mattias Evans. Only enhancing these solo performances, the many groups which the Music Department boast only served to make the evening even more enjoyable.

The Lower School Voices stunned the audience with their confidence and wonderful vocal skills, the Jazz Orchestra bought charm and style to the affair and the Acapella band transported us all back to the 1960s with the hits of "Wake Up, Little Susie", made famous by the Everly Brothers, and the R&B hit "It's so Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday". To close the proceedings, the orchestra tuned up once more for a rousing rendition of "New York, New York" (performed alongside extremely talented vocalists Miles Searle, Jessica Cheung and Kian Standbridge) and a selection of excerpts from the Indiana Jones franchise.

A wonderful time was had by all and a huge thank you to all the performers for such a memorable evening and for all their hard work, the premises staff in helping to reconstruct the school hall for the event and the PTA for providing refreshments. I would like to extend a further thank you to Mrs Gunn, Mr Brook and, above all, Mr Doherty. Without such tireless work by the Music Department, the evening would not have been such a resounding success and brilliant experience for all.



# Library news



Welcome back to the Summer term at the Library. We hope you all enjoyed some good reads over the Easter Holidays. Don't forget the library is open every day until 5.30pm.

For the latest book and literary news head to our [blog](#).

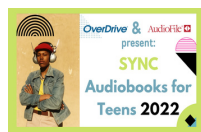
## Sora



Sutton Grammar School subscribes to SORA, the student online reading app for e-books and audio books, to add depth and breadth to our Library offer to students. It is a secondary school curated collection of materials including novels for all year groups and study aids very relevant for our GCSE students. You are also able to link to the London Libraries Consortium for your searches and download available e-books through this app.

Unfortunately we have noticed from our records that so far usage of this service has been disappointingly low among our students. In an effort to understand why this might be, we will be surveying some of the parents and students in KS3 to see what we could be doing better. In the meantime if you have any concerns, ideas or questions concerning SORA please email the [Library](#) directly.

We know that that screen time is often raised as a cause for concern for parents and there is an interesting article on the OverDrive blog called [Is screen time the threat we think it is?](#) which we feel you may find useful.



We are also really pleased to announce that SYNC Audiobooks for Teens has opened for its 13th season with a pair of free audiobooks featuring exciting short stories.

During week one of this year's programme, you can download Black Panther: Tales of Wakanda, edited by Jesse J. Holland and performed by JD Jackson and Joy Sunday, and Four Short Stories by Arthur Conan Doyle, read by Carl Rigg.

SYNC offers students two new thematically paired audiobooks each week. Click [here](#) for details on how to listen.



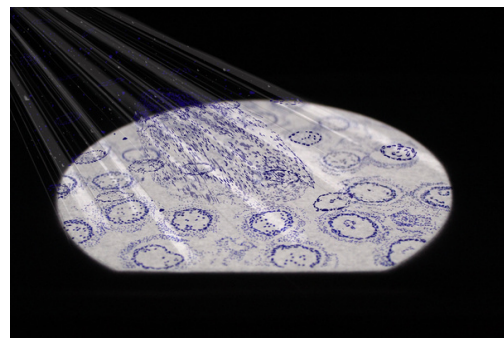
National Teen Book Club is a free virtual book club and if you're quick you can sign up for the next book club and start reading The Crossing by Manjeet Mann, a trailblazing novel which is on the 2022 Carnegie Medal shortlist. This online book club takes place on Wednesdays, from 3.30 to 4.30pm and starts on 4 May. Speakers include Jeffrey Boakye (author, broadcaster and educator) Sarah Coleman (illustrator and lettering artist), Dr Angela Herbert MBE (transformational coach and chair, Violent Crime Prevention Board) and a live Q&A finale with Manjeet herself.

But [sign up](#) today, the deadline is Friday 29 April.

# Art update

We are delighted that 29 of our students across Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 & 13 have work on show at the Sutton Library as part of the Sutton Youth Art Exhibition. This is a fantastic competition which aims to celebrate the wealth of artistic talent amongst the borough's young artists. Below are pictures of a number of entries from our students in Years 10, 12 & 13. You can also see more of the entries from Sutton Grammar School [here](#).

The exhibition is in The Gallery on the 2nd floor of Sutton Central Library, open during Library hours until tomorrow, Saturday 30 April.



## Why not share your news?

We are very proud of our students at Sutton Grammar School and would love to share their special achievements with everyone in the school community.

If you have any news you would like to share, please send us an email and a photo to [erc@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk](mailto:erc@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk)

## 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

2 May  
30 May - 3 June  
9 June  
7 July

Bank Holiday  
Half-Term  
Year 12 Parents Evening  
Sports Day