

THE HOOT

THE SUTTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 12 - FRIDAY 13 MAY 2022



Wise Words

Examination leave started this week. In assemblies with Year 11 and Year 13 students, I reminded them of the commitment and resilience that they have shown over the last three years and how this will stand them in good stead as they approach their first public exams. I am really pleased that this year our students will get their chance to independently prove how talented and hard-working they are. I know that their commitment, alongside that of their teachers and their families, means that they will be amongst the best prepared students out there. I wish them every success over the coming months.

In the Year 13 assembly I did remind them that academic achievement is not the only way that we would want to measure success. I suggested they look around at the students that they were sat in the hall with and contemplated the friendships that they had made and the common bond that they had from being a student at Sutton Grammar School. I hope that we, in some small way, helped to equip them with the skills and character that will serve them well in pursuing their ambitions and that they would stay in touch and continue to be the role models that they have been to others in the school.

As always, The Hoot is full of the additional activities that SGS is able to provide to our students. These, alongside the passion of our staff for their subjects and their charges, add to the richness of the journey through school for our students.

Keep Faith,

Ben Cloves
Headmaster

Year 11 & 13 students



As our Year 11 & 13 students head off on study leave, we wish them all good luck for their forthcoming GCSE and A level exams. Thursday was a momentous day for Year 13 as they marked their last official day at Sutton Grammar School. With the rest of the school watching, they celebrated their leavers' day in great style with a house-themed colour run.

Congratulations to Aadil



We were delighted that so many of our Art students had the opportunity to participate in the Sutton Youth Arts competition this year.

This fantastic competition is a celebration of youth art from around the borough.

We would particularly like to congratulate the very talented Aadil Khan (12Z) (pictured left), who was shortlisted for two awards in the KS5 and Digital categories at the exhibition.

Both of Aadil's pieces of artwork (pictured right) were on display throughout April as part of the exhibition at Sutton Library.



Sixth Form Careers and Enrichment at SGS



As a school and Sixth Form, we are always looking to develop the careers provision and enrichment opportunities at Sutton Grammar School, supported by our wonderful and extensive parent and alumni body. Below are some of the ways in which we are looking to develop our current provision, and we would appreciate it if anyone could support or be involved in one or a combination of these areas.

Work experience – 27 June - 1 July

We are in the final stages of organising work experience for Years 10 and 12. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to take part in the world of work and is the first change for many students to practically engage in areas of industry that they are passionate about. As part of this, Year 12 work experience is being run for the first time, which is a huge undertaking that requires a large amount of planning. At present, there are a number of students who are struggling to find placements due to Covid-related factors, and students have often not heard back from the companies they have reached out to. If anyone has the ability to take on a student (or students) during this week or knows of anyone who might be able to take on a student for a week, we would be hugely appreciative. Equally, please let us know if this is something that you would be willing to set up for the following year.

Lecture series – September onwards

A series of fortnightly lectures is available all students in Year 12. These lectures are presented by parents, alumni and contacts of the school from a range of industries who give up their time to come and speak to our students about their field of work or education to inspire students and give them direction on how their futures could be shaped. Due to the success of this programme, we are looking to extend it to Year 13 to run alongside the Year 12 series, although this requires us to extend our network of generous individuals who would be willing to give up their time. If you or someone in your place of work would be interested in volunteering to speak at one of these events, please do get in touch.

Higher Education afternoon – 6 July

As a further facet of our careers offering to students in Year 12, we are arranging a Higher Education afternoon for students on Wednesday, 6 July, from 2.30 to 3.30pm. This afternoon will involve individuals talking to students in groups of around 20 for two or three 10-15 minute slots. In the past, we have had individuals and ex-students coming in to represent fields from medicine to the army, to universities and beyond. Again, if you or someone within your network of contacts would be available to come in and speak to students on this afternoon, please do get in touch.

DofE Bronze Practice trip

On Friday, 6 May, 24 Year 9 students (some of whom are pictured below) left on their Bronze Practice expedition to the New Forest. They arrived at Harry's Island Scout Camp just after 7pm, and after a briefing from the Outspark instructors, Joel and Julia, they set up their tents and made ready for the expedition.

Saturday morning was bright and sunny, and the four expedition teams quickly packed away their tents, cooked breakfast and set off on the routes they had planned across the forest. Over the next two days, the boys walked over 35km through a mixture of dense forest and open heathland and were incredibly lucky with the weather. All groups did exceptionally well, and the Outspark instructors commented on how well they'd done.

The groups will undertake their qualifying expedition in Dorset in two weeks' time.



Mental Health Awareness

Monday 9 to Sunday 15 May was Mental Health Awareness Week, and this year's theme was loneliness. Throughout the week students have been discussing this topic during tutor time and have been encouraged to think about loneliness and the impact this can have on mental health and well-being.



Year 10 uniform

Below are the uniform requirements for students moving into Year 10 in September. We also have second-hand uniform available to purchase. Please email any requests to uniform.sales@sgspta.com

Blazer - Black Sutton Grammar School blazer (From Cladish)

Jumper - Either grey school jumper (From Cladish) or any plain black v neck jumper

Trousers - Plain black

Shoes - Black NOT TRAINERS

In Year 10 lanyards and ties stay the same and students come into school in uniform on Games days. You do not need to order a larger tracksuit, unless your child wants to wear it during Games or at School football on a Saturday morning. All PE kit remains the same as the Lower School.

Extracurricular Clubs and Enrichment

At Sutton Grammar we pride ourselves on the wide variety of extracurricular clubs and enrichment activities which enhance the school curriculum. This is helped to make possible by our dedicated and enthusiastic staff and the regular voluntary donations parents make to the school fund, including being able to claim Gift Aid on the donations we receive.

Whether these clubs or activities happen before the start of school, during break, lunchtime or after school, they all have the same goal of enriching our students. We aim to stimulate and extend students' passions, interests and knowledge. Students can choose to take part in competitive and recreational sports, musical activities, art, technology, history and many other activities. All extracurricular activities are inclusive in nature, and we encourage all of our students to take part and showcase their many talents.

Please click [here](#) to view our new timetable of extracurricular clubs and enrichment activities on offer during the Summer term.

If you would like more information regarding donating to the school fund, please email finance@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk

Comic Club

By Adam Hanas-Alves 9T

Comic Club is just awesome, there are so many comics and graphic novels to read, and we do fun activities like creating our own characters and comic strips. The free biscuits are tasty too! It's the perfect club to go to.



Chess Club

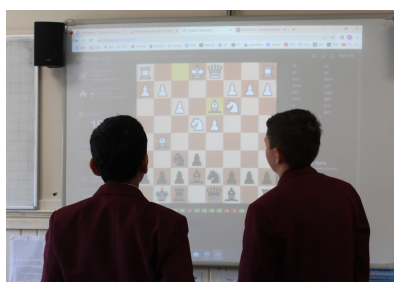
By Jonathan Pires 9T

One of Sutton Grammar School's biggest strengths is the wide range of extracurricular clubs offered to students. One of those is Chess Club, led by Ms Roberts.

Chess Club is a great opportunity to learn and play the famous board game played by millions around the world. The club has proven to be very popular, with particularly strong interest from Year 7s, who are always excited to learn and execute some new chess moves, hoping to emerge victorious in the battles against their classmates. A few students have also chosen chess as the 'skill' element of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Sutton Grammar School has A, B and C chess teams who play in tournaments nationally, while also participating in online inter-school battles on Lichess. We consistently finish in the top 10 of about 50 schools, so well done to those who participate.

If you would like to play chess (or learn it), Chess Club takes place every day at lunchtime in Room 8. The online Lichess team is available for all Sutton Grammar School students to join [here](#).



Secondary School 22 April Team Battle

1	KCS	ice48 47 + 38 - 27 + 24 + 19 = 18
2	Wilsnors School Chess Club	The_Red_Sheep 36 + 14 + 13 + 13 + 12 = 11
3	Brighton College	K-A-B 22 + 19 + 16 + 12 + 11 = 8
4	Sutton Grammar School Chess Lichess Team	Stefan_Ciutac_1 16 + 12 + 12 + 6 + 5 = 3
5	St Paul's School Chess Club	fujun815 17 + 9 + 8 + 7 + 6 = 3
6	eSkinnors' chess club	freddiereid17 22 + 14 + 12 = 0

(Pictured above) One of our successes online, where we finished 4th

History Club

By Alexander Hughes 9W



It was a historic moment for Sutton Grammar School when Mr Burke instigated a new club for Key Stage 3: History Club. Meeting every Friday, students expand their knowledge of history, working on different projects each term that focus on numerous aspects or periods of history.

Last term, we made board games exploring different historical topics that we had studied in class. The Year 9s focused on the French Revolution, whilst the Year 8s focused on the reign of Henry VIII and the Reformation. Representing the multi-faceted and complex nature of historical events as simple, enjoyable board games was a challenge; however, all of us were able to create fun and engaging games that portrayed historical events. My group's board game combined a challenging quiz on Ancien Régime and Revolutionary France with games such as Monopoly, focusing on the fiscal and social situation in France under Louis XVI. Whilst the board game was particularly hard to win, it was undeniably an amusing experience both creating and playing the game.

This term, we are focusing on castles and fortifications from different periods. The castles vary from motte and baileys or concentric castles to 17th-century fortifications such as star fortresses.

In conclusion, History Club has proven to be a great addition to the plethora of clubs and societies at Sutton Grammar. Not only does it allow pupils interested in the subject to pursue creative projects linked to history, but it also helps our ability to work in a team.

If anyone would like to join Mr Burke's popular History Club, it runs every Friday lunchtime in Room 45.

Volleyball club

Pictured below are our fantastic Volleyball club members (left to right) Arun Vashishtha, Patrick Lyons Mermelstein, Raphael Bonnet, Qais Osmani, Alister Wong, Cheuk Nam and Harsh Rajurkar. The club runs on a Friday lunchtime and is organised by Qais Osmani, who is self-taught and fanatical about the game.



Macbeth performance

By Alexander Hughes 9W

Last Friday, the Young Shakespeare Company performed one of Shakespeare's most prominent tragedies, "Macbeth", for Year 9. Interestingly, the play was adapted to account for the small size of the acting troupe and the limited time they had to perform it to us. Whilst Macbeth is the shortest of Shakespeare's tragedies, many scenes had to be cut or shortened both to ensure that the play remained in the allotted time and that it could be performed by only four actors. Even though it was undeniably sad to miss scenes such as the famous Porter Scene (thought by some to be the origin of knock, knock jokes) and the murder of Macduff's family, the performance was undeniably well executed, both logistically and dramatically. The actors were able to create an intense atmosphere in spite of not having control of the lighting or set. For example, throughout the play, sound effects were frequently employed to heighten the mood of scenes, which, in combination with the good acting, more than compensated for the lack of control over the set design and lighting.

At the start of the play, rather than beginning the performance straight away, the acting troupe discussed how they would perform the play with the audience, talking about how the actors interpreted the different characters' actions and the decisions made during the performance. For example, particular emphasis was placed on how the Witches would be presented. They asked members of the audience for particular styles in which the Witches could be portrayed. Not only is such a method good for rehearsing, but it also helped us to understand how the presentation of characters in Macbeth (particularly the Witches) could impact the interpretation of the play.

Ultimately, the portrayal of the Witches in this production of Macbeth was both conceptually interesting and very visually striking. Whilst still emphasising their supernatural nature, rather than being weird fiends serving Hecate, they were spirits possessing the dead bodies of beheaded traitors. Not only was this visually effective, emphasising the unnatural nature of the Witches, it also invites comparison with Macbeth, who is decapitated as a traitor at the end of the play. This depiction of the Sisters could be intended to emphasise their influence over Macbeth's actions or is aimed at inviting comparisons between the traitors (and perhaps the Thane of Cawdor himself) with Macbeth. Regardless, the changes to the Witches' character were both striking and conceptually interesting.

In conclusion, the performance was extremely well executed, adapting to the limitations of a small acting troupe and the minimalistic set. Not only were they able to create a coherent and enjoyable performance, but they also created an interesting one. No one can deny that they learnt something from the performance. From the discussions on how to perform the play at the beginning to the depictions of different characters, most prominently the Witches, this production of Macbeth proved to be both entertaining and educational.



Woody gets vault gold



Huge congratulations to Woody Melbourne (10T) who competed in the South East Regional Under 16 Men's Artistic Gymnastic championships on Sunday, 1 May. Woody (pictured, centre) came overall 3rd but won gold for his vault.

Sporting news



Year 7 B Cricket Team

The cricket season is up and running. We have already played against Latymer and Wallington. The matches tomorrow, Saturday 14 May, are against John Fisher. The Year 7 A team is playing at John Fisher School, and the Year 7 B team and Year 9s are playing at the John Fisher Sports Ground.

The Year 7s have also progressed to the next round of the Surrey Plate, having beaten Riddlesdown.



Our Year 8 and 10 Athletics Team (pictured above) competed in the Track and Field Cup at the Guildford Spectrum on Tuesday, 10 May. 16 teams competed in this Surrey County round and our Year 10 team finished 6th, while our Year 8s surpassed all expectations, finishing 4th, only just being beaten by our private school rivals.

Important Dates

16 May
30 May - 3 June
9 June
7 July
15 July

GCSE & A level exams begin
Half-Term
Year 12 Parents Evening
Sports Day
End of Term