

THE HOOT

THE SUTTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 15 - FRIDAY 1 JULY 2022



Wise Words

The school is empty except for the Year 9 Young Enterprisers, with everybody else out on trips or work experience. Along with me, you can follow the foreign trips on Twitter (@SGSGredos and @sgsenglish) and we'll bring you a bumper 'Activities Week' edition of *The Hoot* soon.

This is just the week we needed post Ofsted, a week doing what we do best. And there's a great week ahead with Sports Day and the Sutton Science Festival, as well as welcoming our next cohort of new Suttonians. As ever, it's all go at SGS!

With huge thanks to Mr Blunt and all the activities week organisers and staff on trips. Thanks to Mr Denton, wrangling two year groups on work experience, and all the staff making phone calls checking up on our students. The magic doesn't happen by accident.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Keep Faith.

Ben Cloves
Headmaster

School building work

Work is underway for the pitched roof replacement of the main school building, which still has original tiles from 1928. There will also be fire improvement works on the inside of the building. Both of these projects have been funded by the government using its 'Condition Improvement Funding' (CIF) bid system. The bid process was started at the end of 2020 by our last Bursar, Elaine Beach, who served more than 30 years with us. These improvements will definitely serve as testament to her hard work and dedication to the school. The majority of the work will take place over the summer break.



Sutton Science Festival



Sutton Grammar School is delighted to be working with Successful Sutton on the Sutton Science Festival on 8 and 9 July. Parents may be aware of previous events that SGS students have enjoyed. On Friday, 8 July SGS will host more than 40 local schools at a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths festival (STEM). We are also delighted that the Mayor of Sutton will be opening the event and awarding prizes at the end of the day. On Saturday, 9 July there will also be a Sutton High Street family festival, organised by our amazing Sutton Science Festival team.

We have over 20 exhibitors running interactive workshops throughout Friday, including building and testing of remote operating vehicles, sponsored by Subsea7, as well as a drone academy, a computer game challenge, smelly chemistry, immersive ten and six metre domes and many more.

We are still looking for companies that would like to encourage engineering and STEM to attend the event to share their expertise. If you feel you, the company you work for, or someone you know may be interested, please contact [Mr Zakrzewski](#). You can also find more information on the event and a video from a previous event hosted by SGS [here](#).

SGS at Borough Sports

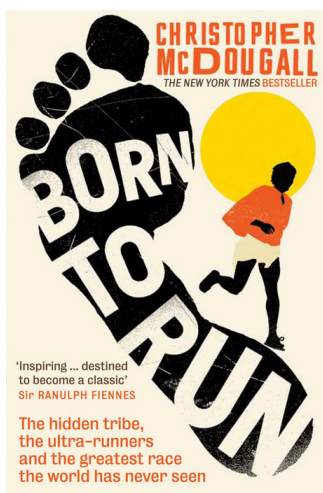


The Sutton Grammar athletics team competed in the Borough Sports last Wednesday. There were plenty of individual medals and the team, as a whole, finished third out of the 12 competing schools. Huge congratulations to all the students that took part.

Famous author Zooms in from Pennsylvania

Last Wednesday, Year 7 pupils, teachers and OFSTED inspectors had the privilege of meeting Chris McDougall (pictured below), author of *Born to Run*, a set text for Year 7, by Zoom from Pennsylvania. Despite the five-hour time difference, the ultra-marathon running author was in fine form, regaling a packed school hall with funny anecdotes as well as words of wisdom.

Ms Winter compered the session, coordinating the questions so that lots of students got to speak directly with Chris, whose book is being turned into a Hollywood movie, starring Matthew McConaughey. It was fantastic that this American celebrity gave his time so freely and so enthusiastically. At some point, he hopes to visit Sutton to meet us in person. A big thanks to Ms Winter for arranging this enriching experience.



Reporting a student absence

Please can parents notify the school of any absence using the following email - absences@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk. Please do not email Form Tutors or the Head of Year.



If you leave a voice message on the school absence line, please make sure you spell all names clearly and include the form tutor of your child.

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.

PTA news

Just a quick reminder that the PTA Summer raffle tickets are available to purchase via [ParentPay](#) at £1 each. Ticket sales will close on Tuesday, 5 July, with a draw by the Headmaster on Friday, 8 July. For full raffle details please click [here](#).



Elections for a new PTA Committee will take place in September, with both the current Chair and Treasurer due to stand down. Anyone interested in learning about getting more involved in the PTA and its work can contact chair@sgspta.com.

Running success for Adam



Huge congratulations to Adam Hudson (13Z) (pictured left), who won silver in the 1500 metres at the Surrey Schools athletics championships recently. Adam has now been selected to go to the English Schools Athletic Championships in Manchester on 8 and 9 July. He recently participated in an open event in the 1500 where he ran 3:57.59, giving him the English Schools qualifying time.



If you have been inspired by Adam's story and enjoy running and athletics and want to progress and compete, why not join the local Sutton & District Athletics Club?

They offer structured training that will help you progress in middle-distance events such as 800m, 1500m or 3000m+ and also run cross-country during the autumn and winter.

Sutton & District AC is the only athletics club based in the London Borough of Sutton and trains athletes from 10 years (Year 6) upwards. Members include Borough County Champions and a number of international athletes, including in cross-country.

The club based at the David Weir Leisure Centre and trains on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6.15 to 8.00pm. If you are interested, please email [Maureen or Nick Hancock](#) before attending.

Big Bang finalist

Well done to Ivan Beresford (12Z) (pictured below) for making it into The Big Bang competition finals at the NEC in Birmingham last week.

His project was an automatic pill dispenser, which is a device that handles a user's medication, allowing them to go throughout their day without worry about timings or dosages. Hundreds of thousands of people suffer from incorrect medication usage every year and this is largely due to the patient having to manage medicine themselves. Ivan's solution involved creating a device which avoids technicality and difficulty through the use of an automatic pill dispenser controlled wirelessly by a mobile app. The mobile app can also be used by doctors if the patient is not tech-savvy.

The automatic pill dispenser in the photo is a functioning prototype. Ivan received a lot of interest at the competition and has plans to develop it further.



Eligibility for free school meals

For many families, the coronavirus pandemic has meant a change in financial circumstances. If your circumstances have changed, you might want to consider whether you meet the criteria for free school meals.

You may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you receive).

By registering for free school meals you could save hundreds of pounds per year. In turn, the school will receive funding, known as Pupil Premium, for use within the general curriculum, as the government pays schools for each pupil registered.

For those students entitled to a free school meal, a daily sum is automatically added to the child's cashless card and they pass through the checkout in the same way as those paying for their meals.

If you meet the criteria and would like to apply for free school meals, please email [Ms. O'Connor](mailto:Ms.O'Connor) in the school office. She will arrange a convenient time to call you and input all the relevant details into a secure government website to apply.

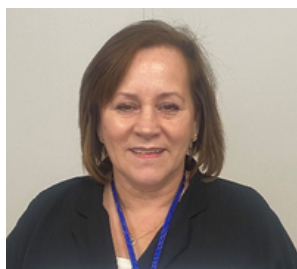
Below are some useful links to charities and organisations that offer help and support if you need it.

turn2us.org.uk

[Help with school costs - Citizens Advice](http://Help.with.school.costs-CitizensAdvice)

trusselltrust.org

Young carers



Following on from the article about Young Carers in Issue 13 of *The Hoot*, we are starting our Young Carers drop-in sessions over lunchtime on Friday, 8 July with Julia Kerr (pictured above) the Sutton Young Carers lead. Julia will be offering sessions once every half term however, students do not have to wait to speak only to Julia, they can also talk to their form tutor, Head of Year, and Mrs Lapsley or Mr Waghorn from the Student Support team.

Sutton Young Carers have 'Chill and Learn', and Peer Support groups running throughout July and August, if you wish to find out more or book on please email anna@suttoncarerscentre.org or text 07787 063 340.

Debating Society



(Pictured above) Students debating for and against a government of experts rather than a democratically elected parliament.

Founded late in the spring term of this school year and originally consisting of six members, the Debating Society has since grown into a community of more than 20 people, and a WhatsApp group for the student members. The SGS Debating Society is for anyone interested in talking, public speaking about any topic from the world in general to advances in science and technology, to problems in society, and moral and philosophical arguments. We meet every Friday at lunchtime in Room 47.

Think conference



A level economists (left to right) Ksenia, Akhil and Joshua discuss, over lunch, the morning's presentations at the IEA's Think Conference.

The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) promotes individual liberty and market-based solutions to a wide range of social issues. As such, it offers an alternative perspective to the government intervention presumed on the A level Economics course. To better appreciate this contrast, last Saturday several of SGS's A level economics students attended the IEA's annual "Think" conference.

This year, delegates to the conference heard presentations and had the opportunity to question speakers on topics as diverse as the economics of crime; threats posed to the global economy; and the importance of free speech to the making of effective economic policy. The full programme for the conference can be found at: thinkiea.com

The high calibre of the speakers, combined with the generous hospitality of the IEA and the excellent facilities of the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington, all made for a rewarding day and the students departed with plenty of ideas for material to discuss in their personal statements when applying to university.

Sports Day information



Following the last few years of covid restrictions, Sutton Grammar School would like to warmly welcome parents back to the annual school Sports Day event. An email was sent out to parents and carers today with lots of information regarding Sports Day. We would like to encourage you to read it thoroughly, as there are new procedures in place for attending Sports Day.

Most importantly is the [Google form](#) we would like you to fill in, if you would like to attend, as this is to ensure we have all our safeguarding procedures in place.

There will also be a BBQ lunch available to parents and students. Please also note that any food or drink will need to be paid for with cash only. There will be no card payments for visitors and no thumb print payments available for students.

Full details on all the Sports Day arrangements can be found in the email sent today.

Lost property



As you can see, the school lost property box is overflowing with uniform, bags and coats. If your child is missing any uniform please encourage them to look through this box, before the end of term, so they can be reunited with missing items. We would also like to remind parents to clearly mark your child's belongings – especially PE kits and coats – so that we can return items to them.

Sadly we do not have space to store lost property items that are unnamed and not collected. Any unclaimed items will be passed to the PTA second hand uniform to sell, or disposed of at the end of term.

As we approach the end of term we would like to remind students to check their lockers are empty and padlocks are removed to enable a thorough clean to take place during the holidays. We need lockers to be ready for the new school year and as a result any remaining padlocks and contents being removed during the Summer holiday. This includes lockers in the Sixth Form Centre which must also be emptied and left open.

Arnav at the Corner Gallery



(Pictured above) Arnav with the Deputy Mayor at the opening of the Carshalton Artists Open Studio weekend.

Huge congratulations to Arnav Jain (10L) who has art on display, and for sale, at the Corner Art Gallery in Carshalton, as part of the Youth Art Exhibition run by the Carshalton Artists Open Studios 2022.

Arnav was selected from a number of young artists, and given the opportunity to experience exhibiting work and being a professional artist. Arnav has also been mentored by Corner Gallery owner, Jackie Khan, and selected artists, including Neal Vaughan (pictured below with Arnav).



Important Dates

6 July
6 July
7 July
8 July
8 July
15 July

Year 6 Induction Day
Year 12 Higher Education Afternoon
Sports Day
Sutton Science Festival
Year 13 Leavers' Dinner
End of Term