

THE HOOT

THE SUTTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 24 - FRIDAY 13 JANUARY 2023



Wise Words

It is never clear how long after the 1st of January one should wish a Happy New Year, but since this is the first Hoot since Jools Holland's Hootenanny – Happy New Year!

We have started the year with celebrations of the achievements of the last academic year. Both Senior and Junior Prize Givings have taken place and the stunning academic achievements of our students have been marked. Collectively the Class of '22 racked up the best results in external exams the school has enjoyed, and so it was great to see so many of them return to celebrate individual success. I'm very proud that at both ceremonies we also celebrated the contribution and service of our students to school life and sports teams. Rewards for their impact as role models on the Head Student Team, amongst other things, and, in Lower School, their living up to the School's values.

In this first edition of the term there are reminders about key school policies and in knowing these you can help to support the school run smoothly and look after your children.

Also a reminder from me that next Friday, the 20th, is an Inset day. No students are expected in school.

I hope that your New Year's resolutions are going well. Mine, to exercise more, is not off to a good start.

Keep Faith.

Ben Cloves
Headmaster

Prize Giving

Congratulations to all the students who received prizes and awards at the recent Junior & Senior Prize Giving.

At the Senior Prize Giving we were delighted to welcome SGS Trustee Mr Tom Kohler as our guest speaker. Mr Kohler presented the awards to our students and delivered a thoughtful and personal message to the students and guests. He spoke about coming to understand what success meant to him and encouraged everyone to follow their unique paths as to what success means to them.

Special thanks to Keeran Kirubakaran, Joel Sparks, Naufal Ellahi, Indivar Samantra, Ludwik Kowalczyk, Abhinay Naresh and Edwin Cross for speaking about their thoughts on the last year. Also to Alex Wang, Darwin Du, Eddie Blunt, Arnav Tripathy, Jonathan Pires and Alex Springate for the wonderful music recitals.



Start of term reminders and notices

As we start the new term, we would like to share some reminders, expectations and key information with you. Our key school policies can also be found [here](#).

Special absence requests

We would like to remind parents wishing to take students out of school during term time that they must complete [this](#) absence request form. Once completed, the request form should be emailed to absences@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk. Please note the trustees have announced that absences in term time will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Forgotten school equipment

Please note our office staff will do their best to deliver forgotten items such as PE kits, homework and lunch boxes to students. However, the office is often very busy and we cannot guarantee that your child will receive late items in time for their lessons. If your child is aware you will be dropping something they need, please ask them to come to the office to collect it. This will hopefully ensure they have what they need at the right time.

Mobile phones

For the new school year 2022/23 we will maintain the ban of mobile phones and related technological devices from the school site for students in Years 7 – 11. Year 12 and 13 students have a specific area where they may use their mobile devices, this is the top floor of the Sixth Form Block.

The ban will be in force from the moment students enter the school site until the moment they leave the school site at the end of the day. Mobile phones seen during the school day will be confiscated and can be collected from the school office at the end of the day.

Drop off & pick up

Please can we remind parents to be considerate of the residents around the school when you are dropping off and picking up your child. Please do not park across driveways or block up the roads around the school.

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 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.

Disabilities of parents/carers

The school has a duty to ensure it meets the needs of people with disabilities who use its services. Through the admissions procedures, the school receives information about individual students who require special arrangements for their education. The school wants, however, to ensure that we are able to put any necessary arrangements in place for parents/carers with disabilities who may need to visit the school, for example for parents' evenings. If you have any disability which may affect how you access the school or have any suggestions for the school to improve your access to school events or information, please let us know by writing to the School Secretary or by sending an email to office@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk.

Label uniform items

Please make sure uniform, coats, bags, shoes and especially PE kit are labelled to ensure lost items can be reunited with their owners. If your child loses any item of uniform, please encourage them to look in the lost property box which is located near the Premises office.

Late arrival

We believe that all students are only able to achieve their potential if they attend school punctually and avoid missing lessons. If students are late they must register at the school office. If they do not register, an automated absence email is generated and sent to parents and carers to establish why a student is absent. For persistent late arrivals the school has a detention policy which is shown below.

- 3 late arrivals – an email is sent to parents for information
- 6 late arrivals – 30 minute detention – parents are forewarned
- 9 late arrivals – 1hr detention with the Deputy Head – parents are forewarned
- 12 late arrivals – 1hr & 15min detention with the Deputy Head – parents are invited into school for a meeting

Student records

We would like to remind parents and carers to ensure that all the contact and other details we hold for your child are correct. It is very important that your email address is the one that you currently use as all the information sent to you is via email. Please email the [school office](#) with any updated information.

School uniform reminder

Thank you to all parents and carers for their continued support with uniform, which makes our students look so smart. We expect all students to wear full school uniform at all times, including their journey to and from school. Students are also expected to wear their blazers/school jumpers, except for hot days when students may opt to carry these instead.

Lanyards

Students must wear lanyards with their ID badge at all times when in school. Any student who has lost their ID badge must report the loss to the school office. A new ID badge must then be paid for via [ParentPay](#) before a new one can be issued at a cost of £5. Broken or lost lanyards can be collected from the relevant Head of Year. The sanction for a student not wearing a lanyard with their ID badge is a 20-minute same day detention.

Canteen News

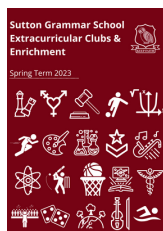
Students at SGS purchase their lunch and snacks by placing their finger on the Biometric Reader in the school canteen and snack shack. Payment is then deducted from their online account. Accounts must be topped up in advance using the [ParentPay](#) system. Parents are able to see what items have been purchased by logging into their [ParentPay](#) account and clicking on Transaction history and then Payment history. Canteen menus for this term and current price lists can be viewed [here](#).

School Library

Our Library is open until 5.30pm daily. We have a full range of books to suit all students, with our collection being regularly added to throughout the year. To get in touch with us please email: library@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk

Extracurricular clubs and enrichment

At Sutton Grammar we pride ourselves on our wide variety of extracurricular clubs and enrichment activities, which enhance the school curriculum. This is made possible by the help of our dedicated and enthusiastic staff and the regular voluntary donations parents make to the School Fund.



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 of our extracurricular activities are inclusive 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 this term.

Eligibility 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](#) 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.

Contact The Hoot

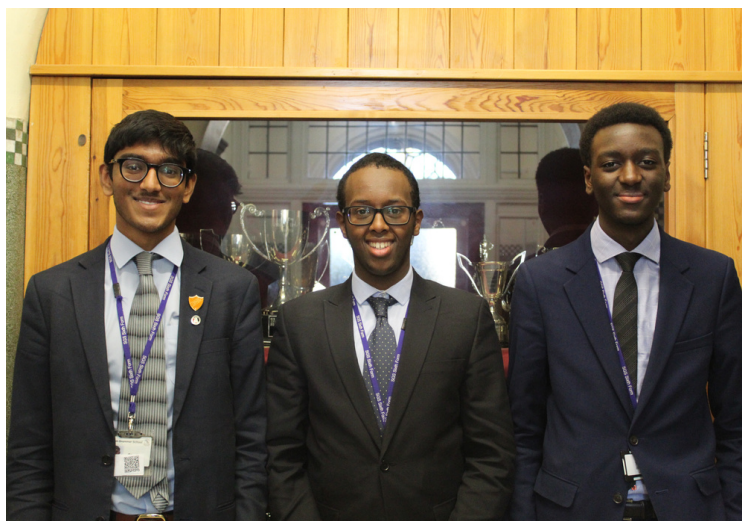
The Hoot editorial team welcome comments, feedback and contributions.



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

Throwley House update

By Anthony Emmanuel 13B - House Captain



(Pictured above left to right) House Captain Anthony Emmanuel, Sport Captain Yonis Mohamed and Deputy House Captain Joel Adu-Gyamfi.

This year marks the most successful year in Throwley history as we dominated the House competitions like never before. With the newest House finally up to full strength and at full force, we made staggering progress as the Orange Revolution reached unprecedented levels of triumph.

Our newest recruits, the Year 7s, brought brilliant enthusiasm and desire as they bested the other houses on all fronts. They enjoyed a scintillating Sports Day, dominating the field and scoring 179 points, the fifth-highest score out of every form in the school. The Year 7s this year, tell me their highlights mainly consisted of the brilliant friends they have made and the fun house activities they competed in. They unanimously agreed that the biggest highlight of the year was sharing their first year in Throwley with Mr Humphries, whose diehard attitude and loyalty to Throwley is clearly reflected in his form.

Years 8 and 10 put up impressive displays in basketball, cricket and physics. The Year 9s dominated in javelin and chess, demonstrating the wide variety of skills Throwley has to offer.

In Year 12, we were victorious on Sports Day, beating the competition with ease and comfortably winning, with 183 points for the first time - a fine way for some of Throwley's greatest-ever athletes to bow out.

I would like to congratulate my fellow Throwlians on an incredibly successful year, in which we came second in the House Shield. With Mrs Harris at the helm and the Throwley team consisting of Deputy House Captain, Joel Adu-Gyamfi, Sports Captain Yonis Mohamed and me, House Captain, we hope to be able to build on this great year and next year maybe, just maybe, take that final step to win the House Shield.

Year 9 Options Evening

On Wednesday, 8 March we will be holding the Year 9 Options Evening from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. 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 nearer the time, including the Directions Booklet, which has a breakdown of all the subjects on offer.

Inset day reminder

The school will be closed to all students on Friday, 20 January for a staff Inset day.

The school will reopen as normal on Monday 23 January.



Christmas Quiz winners

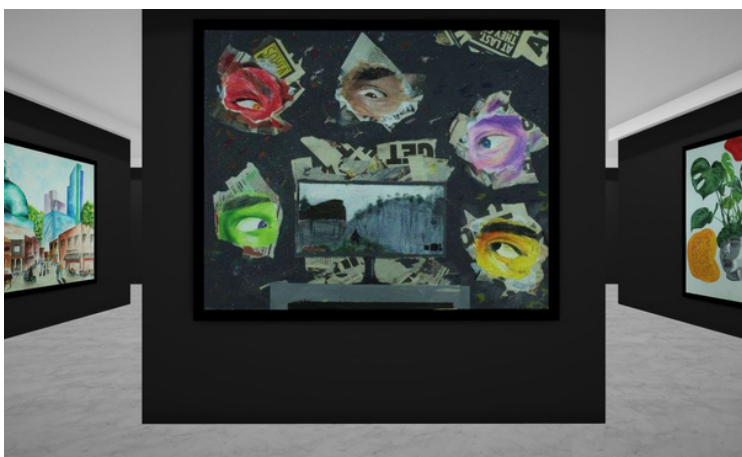


(Pictured above left to right) Madhur Sudarshan, Joshua Pak and Ivan Zifri

Congratulations to our Library Christmas Quiz winners in Years 7, 8 and 9. First prize was won by Madhur Sudarshan (7M), second prize by Ivan Zifri (7L) and third prize went to Joshua Pak (8M). Runners-up were Felix Waudby (7L), Kavish Kade (8L) and Zachary Windheuser (7L). We would also like to give a special mention to 7L, who had the most correct answers.

Virtual art gallery

The Art Department now has a virtual exhibition of recent GCSE and A-level art work. Please click [here](#) to view our online gallery.



Online safety update



Please take a look at the email from Mr Marsh, which was sent earlier this week, with an online safety update. The email contains some resources on how you can ensure your child stays safe online.

CREST Award

Last year, when still in Year 11, Lakshya Koul, Paul Romano and Alastair Tennent designed and completed their Biology STEM project 'Investigating the Effects of Plant Materials on Bacterial Growth'.

The project was submitted to the CREST Award scheme of the British Science Association. Feedback from the assessor included: 'Thank you for submitting this fantastic project to CREST Awards. I was incredibly impressed by the detail of your report. The aims, objectives and wider purpose of your report were very clear, as is your reasoning behind your chosen approach and your plans for the project'.

Subsequently, the award was upgraded from Silver to Gold. Many congratulations to Paul, Lakshya and Alastair on this fantastic achievement.



(Pictured above left to right) Mr Sollewijn, Lakshya Koul and Paul Romano

New competition for SGS



During the autumn term, SGS participated in the very first year of the British Algorithmic Olympiad. This competition combines Mathematics and Computer Science into one exam based on problem-solving, logical thinking and programming.

The problems are incredibly challenging, and we are very proud of those students who were brave enough to take part. Many congratulations to Fabio Carneiro de Souza and Antony Salta, who participated and scored in the competition, Jun Ying and Anuraag Datta, who achieved a Silver award and Ming Ying, who achieved a Bronze award.

SGS in CyberCenturion final

Our SGS CyberCenturion team, which made it to the finals in 2022, have succeeded in making it to the finals again for the 2023 competition.



The following members of the team, called Maurice Security, will be representing the school in April for CyberCenturion IX: Arvin Abdollahzadeh, James Southall, Jose Fialho and Anton Simovic. Please wish them luck, and watch this space for competition news.

Secondhand uniform

We have a large selection of secondhand uniform available for parents to purchase. Please send us an email with the item and size you require and we will let you know if we have it in stock - secondhanduniform@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk. Payments can be made by cash or card.

News from SGS PTA

Our first PTA meeting of this year will be held on Monday, 23 January at 7.30pm in the school hall and everyone is welcome to attend. Items to be discussed will include the Headmaster's update, introduction to the PTA, upcoming events and funding requests from the school.

Dates for your calendar:

Monday 23 January, 7.30pm - PTA General Meeting
Monday 27 February, 7.30pm - PTA General Meeting
Saturday 25 March, 5pm - PTA International Evening

How can you help?

The PTA can't raise money without the help of parents to serve refreshments, assist with secondhand uniform sales, and help with Mock Tests car parking. If you can offer even an hour of your time, please let us know by contacting one or more of the following:

- [Refreshments team](#)
- [Secondhand uniform team](#)
- [Mock Tests parking team](#)

If you have any questions or ideas, we would love to hear from you. Please email chair@sgspta.com.

Library update

Our school library has lots of new books available for KS3, KS4 and KS5. Here are two books that have just come in: Two Hundred Years of Muddling Through by Duncan Weldon, and How to be a Human by Karen McCombie. For a list of our new book suggestions, please click [here](#).



Online wellbeing platform



Kooth is an online wellbeing community platform for children and young people, offering peer support and self-help strategies. Below are links to the January webinars for parents and carers:

[January Blues & Finance: How Kooth & Qwell Support Mental Health over Winter - Tuesday 24 January 10:00am - 11:00am](#)

[January Blues & Finance: How Kooth Supports Mental Health over Winter - Thursday 26 January 10:00am - 11:00am](#)

[How Kooth & Qwell Can Support Male Mental Health - Tuesday 31 January 10:00am - 11:00am](#)

[How Kooth Can Support Young Male Mental Health - Tuesday 31 January 4:00pm - 5:00pm](#)

Safeguarding at SGS

Our Safeguarding Team

Ensuring the safety of students in our school.



Mrs Kate Ross
Deputy Head & DSL
☎ 020 8661 4501



Mr Bob Murrill
Safeguarding Governor



Mr Tony Blunt
Head of P.E. and Games
& DDSL
☎ 020 8642 3821 ex 237



Mr Chris Robson
Head of Lower School
& DDSL KS3
☎ 020 8642 3821 ex 206



Mr Alex Marsh
Head of Upper School
& DDSL KS4
☎ 020 8642 3821 ex 205



Mrs Lynda McDonald
Head of Year 12
& DDSL KS5
☎ 020 8642 3821 ex 233

At Sutton Grammar School the safety and wellbeing of our pupils is our highest priority. Together with providing exceptional pastoral care, we are proactive in ensuring all students have the information and knowledge to keep themselves safe at school and online, and that they know how to communicate any concerns they have personally or about others.

All staff and students are aware of which members of staff make up the Safeguarding Team (pictured above) and know the procedures in place to raise any concerns. If you have any worries or questions about safeguarding, please get in touch with a member of the team.

School Fund

Thank you to all those parents and carers who continue to support the school by paying a voluntary contribution to our School Fund each month. The suggested amount for 2022/23 is £50 per child, however we understand that some parents/carers may be able to pay more and some less, so please adjust the amount accordingly. With the help of our dedicated and enthusiastic staff, the School Fund is used to ensure that we can protect the curriculum enrichment and quality of our school offer. This includes providing such benefits as a counsellor, language assistants and extra science technicians for our outstanding project work. We provide a large extracurricular programme, including extensive sport at the weekend, extra swimming classes, electronics lessons, chess teams, orchestra and music clubs, debating teams and much more.

If you don't currently contribute and would like details, please email the Finance Team at finance@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk. At this time of increasing costs, all contributions at any level help us maintain our high-quality provision for your child. Thank you for your support.

Important Dates

18 January
20 January
23 January
9 February
13 February
21 February
27 February
2 March
2 March
8 March
13 March
17 March
25 March
29 March
31 March

Year 7 Parents Evening
Inset day
PTA General Meeting
Year 9 Parents Evening
Half-term holiday begins
Year 8 Challenge Day
PTA General Meeting
Year 13 Parents Evening
World Book Day
Year 9 Options Evening
Inset day
Year 7 Challenge Day
PTA International Evening
Spring Concert
End of term