

THE HOOT

THE SUTTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 26 - FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2023



Wise Words

I would like to thank all of our students and families who have been so incredibly generous with donations to our special Mufti Day today. I have been humbled by how the school community has come together to raise over £3,000 for the people of Turkey and Syria affected by the devastating earthquakes on Monday.

If you would still like to make a donation, the button on ParentPay will remain open until Monday, 20 February. It's great to see all of us working together to help people in desperate need at such a terrible time. Thank you so much once again.

One of the many things I've been able to do this week is get to Northey to see the House Cross Country. Yesterday I watched the Year 10s complete the course, and I was particularly impressed with how many bold competitors took a swim through the water jump!

In this edition of the Hoot you will find our new Wellbeing supplement from our Pastoral Team. Please take a moment to have a look over this page, which contains some very helpful information and tips.

I wish you and your families a very happy half term.

Keep Faith.

Ben Cloves
Headmaster



British Red Cross

We would like to thank everyone who has generously donated to our Mufti Day in aid of the British Red Cross Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal.

So far we have raised over £3,000. Donations can be made via [ParentPay](#) until Monday, 20 February.

House cross country

It's been an exciting week 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 we will let you know the house winners very soon.



We need your help

Parent-volunteers are crucial to the smooth running of the Mock Tests, whether invigilating during the tests or assisting with car parking before and afterwards. If you can spare some time on any of these dates - 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28 May, 29, 30 & 31 July and 4, 5 & 6 August, please complete either or both of the forms below and return them to the relevant emails. These tests raise vast amounts of money, which are vital for the running of the school.

• For car parking - click [here](#) for the form and send to - car.parking@sgspta.com

• For invigilation - click [here](#) for the form and send to - ptainvigilators@yahoo.co.uk

NEU strike action reminder

The NEU have three days of strike action planned on Thursday, 2 March, Wednesday, 15 March and Thursday, 16 March.

School opening arrangements on the strike dates will be communicated nearer the time.

Sutton STEAMs Ahead



This year's science fair is set to be the biggest and best ever. Pupils at school on Friday, 30 June will have a front seat to some amazing exhibitors and shows here at SGS. For those lucky enough to be off on a residential trip for activities week, fear not, the fair runs again in Manor Park and Sutton High Street on Saturday, 1 July.

The event is part of the borough's Sutton STEAMs Ahead programme, which sees events running throughout the year celebrating Sutton's science and artistic excellence.

Paul Romano and Bhavya Patel, both Year 12 at SGS and Giselle Angba-Rhima from Overton Grange High School can be seen above with the Mayor at the launch event on Saturday. Paul, Bhavya, and Giselle form part of the fair's student steering group which helps determine the type of activities on offer for attendees. A science fair planned by students for students. They have some very exciting ideas with one of our first confirmed exhibitors being Richard Browning and his Jet Pack suit from the company Gravity.

Exhibitors for the events are still being coordinated. If there are any parents or old Suttonians who would like to get involved, please do get in contact.

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 at erc@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk

Eligibility for free school meals

Have your circumstances changed? Your child 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 or you can request a paper copy of the form to fill in.

Intermediate Maths Challenge



Well done to the 150 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 who sat the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge on Wednesday, 1 February (pictured below). The multiple choice challenge was 60 minutes long and encouraged mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Results will be back in about three weeks.



Word of the Hoot

Stilted (adj) - not natural or relaxed; too formal e.g. we made stilted conversation for a few moments.



Half-term wellness



This week was Children's Mental Health Week. 'Let's Connect' was the theme this year, and you could take advantage of the half term break to reflect upon your connections.

You might want to:

- Catch up with a friend but, wait for it, IN PERSON! Rather than sending endless memes online, why not organise to go out and do an activity with a friend?
- Re-connect with somebody that you've lost touch with. Reach out to a friend from primary school or an old sports team, for example. It could be great to catch up.
- Get in touch with a friend or relative in a different part of the world and find out what they've been up to so far this year. Connect with different experiences.

The old saying goes that 'it's good to talk', and it really is. The Children's Mental Health Week website has some other suggested activities for secondary school pupils [here](#).

I particularly like the music task – perhaps parents and pupils at home might share songs that make them feel connected to a particular person or moment in their lives.

They have also teamed up with popular TV show Taskmaster, which has created a series of tasks to help you connect with friends and family. Click [here](#) if you want to know more.

Lastly, in a busy world, it can be enriching to re-connect with nature. Take some time away from the hustle and bustle and go for a rejuvenating country walk.

If you manage to do any of the above this half term, come and tell me all about it when you get back to school.

Have a great break,

Mr Humphries

SGS PTA International Evening on Saturday, 25 March

International Evening is one of the PTA's most popular events, involving families sharing food, drink and other aspects of their culture from all over the world. The PTA is keen to hear from anyone interested in taking part in one of the country stalls or part of the on-stage performances.

This year's event will take place on Saturday, 25 March. Please click [here](#) to register.

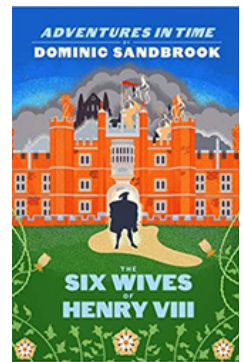
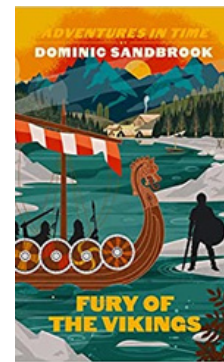


(Above) Some of our amazing parents and volunteers from the International Evening in 2022

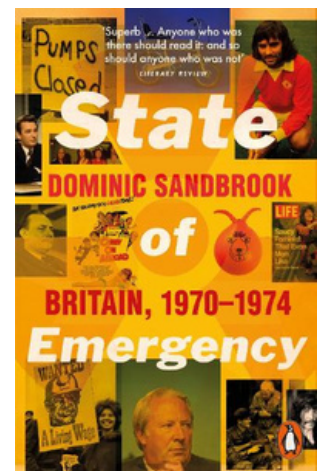
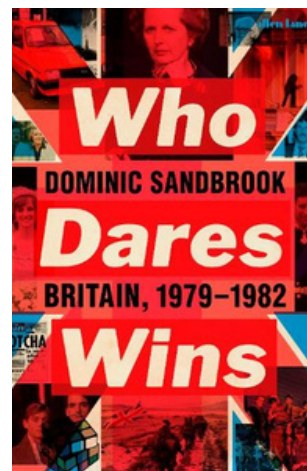
World Book Day news

We are excited to announce that author Dominic Sandbrook is coming in to talk to students on Friday, 3 March when we will be celebrating World Book Day.

Sandbrook's 'Adventures in Time' book series, which are written with young adults in mind, will be available to purchase on the day in the school library for £10 cash, while stocks last.



In addition, Dominic has written some fantastic adult books, which would be a great resource for History and Politics A-level students: 'Who Dares Wins' and 'State of Emergency.' Limited copies of these titles will also be available on the day to buy from the school library, at the discounted cash price of £12.50 each. Dominic will be available in the Library at break times to sign his books.



Chess Team news

Sutton Grammar School Chess Team took part in the Chess Team Trials for Year 8 and below on Wednesday, 8 February. Stefan Ciutac, Bowen Chen, James Lama, Sourjayan Datta and Micah Lai battled hard all through the evening, securing third place overall out of 18 schools. Well done boys!

Coronation art competition

Churchill Retirement Living is inviting students up to 14 years of age to design a Coronation Emblem for their competition in celebration of King Charles III's coronation. The winning designs will be used in their marketing materials and the winners will receive prizes and so will their school. All the details are below.



Design Competition

Churchill Retirement Living needs your help to celebrate King Charles III's Coronation!

We are inviting you and schools across the country to participate in our Coronation Emblem design competition. We are looking for a unique design which celebrates the future of Great Britain and our new King in a colourful, smart and eye-catching way. The winning design will be used in the marketing materials for Churchill's Coronation Tea Party celebrations this Spring!

Criteria:

- The competition is open to the public
- Entrants must be aged 7-14 years old and residents of the United Kingdom
- You may use pencils, felt tips or crayon
- Artwork must be drawn clearly and in the space provided
- No entry fees are required for submission(s)

Closing Date: All submissions must be received by Tuesday 21st February 2023

Four regional winners and one overall winner will be notified via the school by end of March. Click [here](#) for the competition pack.

Full competition details, terms and conditions can be found at www.churchillretirement.co.uk/coronationcompetition

Creative Writing finalists



Lots of students have been enthusiastically entering creative writing competitions recently, and two Year 7 students Joshua Ruddmore and Vedant Hiremath, have been shortlisted as finalists in the Shepton Snowdrops poetry competition, with their poems on the theme Let Nature Thrive. Congratulations to them both, and well done to all the other entrants too.

Travel Club

In this club's initial meeting, the following were discussed: European countries and many of their attractions, how to book flights, coaches and accommodation, and tips for group travel. Student contribution and presentation are very welcome in this Monday B club, meeting lunchtimes in room 72.

History competitions 2023



The History department are running two competitions this year. These are both run by the Historical Association, and you will find all the details below.

1) Write your own Historical Fiction Competition 2023

Please click [here](#) for full details of rules to the competition. We shall be selecting winners from each year group, with the five best entries being submitted to the full competition.

All entries must be sent by email to Mr Burke and Mr Marshall by Friday, 19 May.

2) Young Historians Prizes 2023

There are a series of competitions running and all the details can be found [here](#), and you are welcome to enter more than one competition.

The closing date for entries is Friday, 21 July. Please note: entries supplied by under 16s must be sent by a parent or teacher. Please forward any entries to Mr Burke and Mr Marshall.

Please remember to email Mr Burke - nburkel4@suttonmail.org and Mr Marshall - gmarshall@suttonmail.org with your entries.

Good luck

Celebration breakfast



Members of the Upper School community gathered to celebrate and acknowledge the excellent contributions made by students during form time. A special breakfast was held to recognise the hard work and dedication of our students. The atmosphere was lively and filled with excitement as students enjoyed a selection of breakfast delicacies and socialised with their peers and tutors. The celebration breakfast served as a reminder of the importance of form time and the impact it has on our school community. Congratulations again to those students involved.

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 whether we have it in stock - secondhanduniform@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk. Payments can be made by cash or card.

If you have any school uniform that your child has outgrown and is in good condition, please drop it to the school office.

Year 8 House Mathematics Competition

By Samson Dashko, 8G

$$X = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

At the end of the Autumn Term, a House Mathematics Competition was held for Year 8. The challenge consisted of two sections: with one section centred on Algebra and Number, and the second section centred on Geometry. Houses competed in teams with a maximum of five members, with some team changes between the two sections which were held on consecutive days. The primary aim of the questions selected was to get participants to use their problem-solving skills, whilst also using the fundamental mathematical concepts known to SGS students. Nevertheless, the familiarity was minimised, with often unfamiliar question types (collected from across the world, with countries from Brazil to Singapore) providing additional challenge.



It was personally heartening to see my fellow students (pictured above) and staff enjoying and engaging with this competition and I would like to thank members of Year 8 for their support. The competition has been a success and I can confirm that the Maths Faculty will be holding similar competitions for other KS3 year groups soon.

Before announcing the results of the quiz, I would like to thank the following for participating: Charlie (8M), Avaneesh (8M), Joel (8M), Nathan (8M), Zion (8M), Elvin (8M), Bowen (8L), Kavish (8L), Aaron (8L), Ben (8L), Sam (8L), Leo (8L), Harry (8G), Mubashir (8G), Leon (8G), Hayden (8G), Minyik (8G), Alex (8G), Tanay (8W), Adrian (8W), Aad (8W), Yaseen (8W), Finlay (8W), Tashif (8W), Max (8T), Sourjayan (8T) and Ezra (8T); note that some houses may have more than five members because they had differing teams on both days. I can confirm that overall Greyhound took the first place followed by Manor, Throwley, Warwick and Lenham, and the results were tight.

Finally I would like to thank Aarush K for helping me host the quiz, and I would like to thank Miss Kendall and Ms Singleton – along with the rest of the Maths Faculty for giving me the opportunity to run this competition.

Out-of-school support

We recognise that half term can be difficult for some. If you are feeling low or unsafe, it is important you talk to someone and let them know how you feel.

Sometimes it can be difficult to talk to friends and family so here are some other contacts and the link to our school signposting page.

<https://sites.google.com/suttongrammar.london/sgs-signposting/home>

School Nurse Duty Line - 020 8770 5409

Childline – 0800 1111

Samaritans – 116 123

Hopeline – 0800 068 4141

NSPCC – 0808 800 5000

CAMHS – 0203 513 3800

www.talkofftherecordonline.org

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.youngminds.org.uk

www.kooth.com

www.papyrus-uk.org



Double Badminton win

Huge congratulations to Eden Gough for winning a silver in Mixed doubles and a bronze in Boys doubles at the Hertfordshire U15 badminton tournament recently.



(Pictured above left to right) Eden with his boys and mixed doubles partners

Important Dates

13 February

27 February

1 March

2 March

3 March

8 March

13 March

15 March

16 March

17 March

25 March

29 March

31 March

Half-term holiday begins

PTA General Meeting

Year 13 Parents Evening

NEU Strike Date

World Book Day

Year 9 Options Evening

Inset Day

NEU Strike Date

NEU Strike Date

Year 7 Challenge Day

PTA International Evening

Spring Concert

End of Term

WELLBEING

SUTTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL PASTORAL TEAM



Why is wellbeing so important?

Good mental health and wellbeing is essential for school students. It helps them to learn effectively, cope with day-to-day challenges and develop into resilient young adults.



Saturday Workshops

The Tweeddale Centre in Carshalton are running courses for families who have a child with additional needs aged from six months to eight years. The course consists of four workshops and each workshop will help with:

- Understanding local and national services for children and families and what they can offer your child and family.
- Understanding the principles of early support and how early support materials such as the family pack can help you.
- Feeling more confident about working with practitioners and making decisions about your child's journey.

For further information, please contact Children's First Contact Service at **020 8770 6001**.

Growth mindset quote



A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.

Albert Einstein

Children's Wellbeing Week

This year's theme 'Let's Connect' encourages children, young people and adults to make meaningful connections.

At SGS, whether it be through our mentoring scheme, volunteering in the community, our Leadership and Communication groups or our extracurricular clubs we support our students to build healthy positive connections. Click [here](#) to see some young people at a different school talking about how they connect to others.

Sutton Health & Care

We now have a regular school nurse drop service in school on Thursdays at lunchtime. Katy, our school nurse, offers a range of support and advice on emotional and mental health issues, sexual health and relationships, allergies and asthma, sleep issues, healthy eating and much more.

If you would like a leaflet please contact Mrs Lapsley, our Student Support officer, at klapsley@suttonmail.org

Parenting support

Sutton Council provides parenting support through the Solihull Approach parenting programme. The programme has been developed by a team of registered professionals within the NHS, practitioners from across the children's workforce, such as teachers and psychologists, and also with parents.

The training provides resources to help guide parents, legal guardians and carers with their emotional health and wellbeing by promoting positive relationships with all children and young people aged up to 19 years. There are a number of programmes that may be of interest:

- Understanding the teenage brain
- Understanding teenage feelings
- Understanding your child
- Understanding your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Understanding your child with additional needs



The programme is available online. Please go to [inourplace](#) and enter the access code, 'TREE'. When completing the initial form, use the school postcode **SM1 4AS** to access the courses for free.

Signposting

The Sutton Grammar School pastoral team has developed a website full of various links to useful resources ranging from counselling to young carers.

Please click on the signs to the right to access them.

