

THE HOOT

THE SUTTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 - FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER 2021



Wise Words

Well done everyone – students, staff, families – we made it to the end of the Autumn Term!

It has not been without challenges as staff and students have had to isolate or work from home and events have had to be postponed and re-arranged, BUT we have still managed many significant achievements – too numerous to mention – both individually and collectively. My congratulations and thanks to you all.

This demonstrates the fantastic resilience, adaptable approach and positive attitude of our students and school community. The staff and I thank you all for staying resolute, determined and therefore successful.

It is, as always, impossible to know what the future holds, but we prepare constructively and optimistically. We will stay in touch to keep everyone informed. Please enjoy the break, keep well and stay safe.

It remains only for me to wish you and your families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy holiday.

Keep Faith.

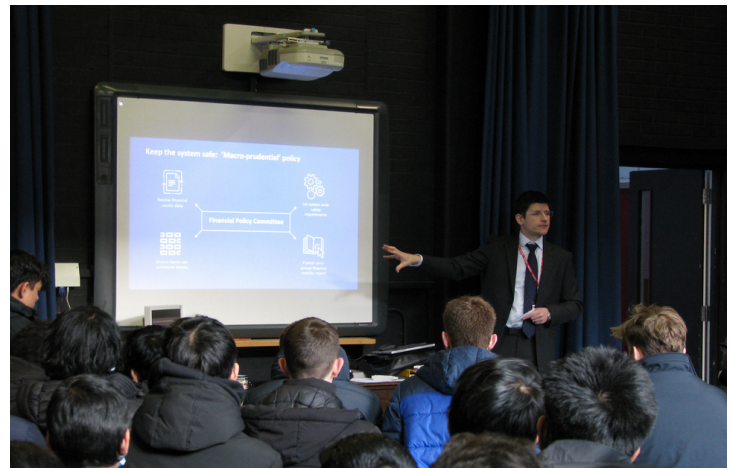
Ben Cloves
Headmaster

Training from an Olympian



Mr Blunt and Mr Waller (above right) recently received some badminton training from Olympic medallist Gail Emms MBE (above left). Gail is a former world champion and won a silver medal at the Athens Olympic Games in the mixed badminton doubles. Mr Blunt and Mr Waller will be sharing Gail's badminton tips with students over the coming months.

Bank of England lecture



SGS Economics department was delighted to welcome back to school recently Mr Paul Brione, an economist at the Bank of England.

Addressing a group of Year 12 students, he outlined the various roles undertaken by the Bank of England in the management of the UK's economy, before describing some of the exciting career opportunities available with the Bank. This very topical presentation concluded with Mr Brione fielding a wide range of questions from members of an appreciative audience.

Thank you to parents



Thank you to all the parents for the kind and generous gifts we have received. The Staff Room has been full of delicious treats.

Curious outings!

Small clusters of Year 7s have been trekking up to the Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre in London this month, accompanied by their generous parents. Year 7 pupils have enjoyed studying the critically acclaimed novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon, in English lessons, and we certainly recommend going to see this award-winning dramatised version, created by the National Theatre. In January, the show will go on the road, eventually coming to Bromley Theatre in June 2022.

Aside from the stunning special effects, some students were captivated by the interesting casting choices, which explored themes of otherness and acceptance in greater detail. The book explores the challenges of being autistic in modern Britain.



New Library book club

Starting on Monday 17 January we have a brand new graphic novel book club for Year 8.

The club will read, learn and explore the graphic novel and comic book phenomenon, looking at its uniqueness in combining illustration and words to inspire audiences to take us on an exhilarating storytelling journey.

We will discuss the background of how the graphic novel genre came to be, artists who have been inspired by them and how they continue to bring delight to readers worldwide. We will even try and create our own graphic novel!



Junior Prizegiving

Congratulations to all the students who received prizes and awards at the Junior Prizegiving this week (below). Sadly we were unable to hold the ceremony in the normal way but there were still rousing cheers from Form rooms as students watched the proceedings virtually and congratulated each other on their achievements.

Special thanks to Matteo, Deb, Trishanth, Arnav, Jake and Varun for their thoughts on the last year. Also to Aaron, Harry, Jonathan and Ian for the wonderful music recitals.



Speak Out

By Chris Payne (12B)

Having competed in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Final last year, this year I had the chance to present the event. I was one of the two Competition MCs who introduced the speakers.

After competing digitally last year, it was fantastic to return to the Cambridge Theatre in the West End for this year's competition.

The speeches covered a range of different topics from organ donation to Elon Musk and it was a pleasure to be involved in the competition again.



Christmas Concert musicians



Congratulations to the musicians who practised and rehearsed to put together the Christmas Concert in digital format this year: orchestra, jazz ensemble, groups, A Capella, choirs, soloists and all those who worked to apply to be in the concert. We had an intense few hours recording it.

Well done from Mr Doherty, Mr Brook and Mrs Gunn.

Music Department update

We are very excited to have received three brand new Yamaha B3 upright pianos in the Music Practice rooms, all thanks to funding from the Taylor Trust.



Important medical matters

Parents are reminded to please inform staff in the School Office of any new or updated relevant medical information to help us support our students.

Also, if your son or daughter requires medicine in school please complete and sign the form below and return it to the [School Office email](#).



[Parental Consent to Administer Medicine in School form](#)

House Football



On Friday 10 December, the Year 7 House Football competition reached a dramatic climax.

Warwick and Throwley went head-to-head to decide a victor. Throwley needed to win to secure overall victory, with a draw being good enough for Warwick to take home the trophy. In what referee Mr Pletts described as “the best House Football match he has ever seen”, both teams had spells of dominance and chances to snatch a victory. Despite their valiant efforts though, Throwley were unable to find a winning goal and the game finished 0-0.

Congratulations to Warwick who are crowned Year 7 champions in the 21-22 season!

School Christmas trees

We would like to say a special thank you to PTA volunteers, Andrew Eldred, Emma Kirk, Lizelle Lombard and Stefania Hanas-Alves for our fabulous-looking Christmas tree in the Hall.

Thanks to our Premises Team we also have a spectacular outdoor Christmas tree.

Despite the restrictions we have faced in the last few weeks the school has still had a very festive feel.



Public Speaking



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
discovering voices



Congratulations to the SGS Public Speaking team who took part in an early heat of the distinguished English-Speaking Union public-speaking competition for schools. They won second place and now go through to the next round.

Team member Jacob Bickerstaffe, who is also part of the Guardian Newspaper Young Journalists Scheme, has written an online article about the competition, which can be read [here](#).

Basketball update



Year 10 basketball team have started playing their matches in the Surrey League. They comfortably won against Rutlish and lost against Greenshaw in overtime.

Christmas opening hours

The school office will be closed during the Christmas holidays. If you have a general school query over the Christmas holidays please email: office@suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk

Artist visit



GCSE and A Level Art students recently received a talk from Denis Pellerin, a photo-historian with a passion for stereo photography, and Rebecca Sharpe, who works for the London Stereoscopic Company.

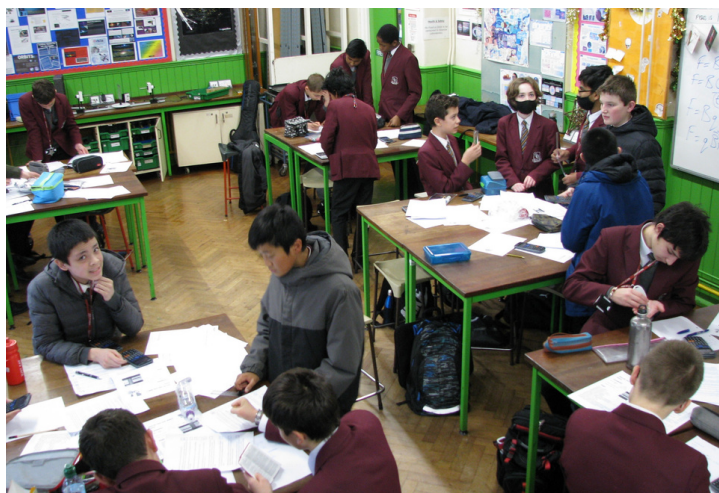
Students learnt about the evolution of stereoscopy and how it has developed over the years; they received a hands-on workshop looking at different stereo equipment and were able to make their own stereo images.

Mr Pellerin gifted everyone beautiful OWL stereoscopic viewers and anaglyph lenses to be able to view the photos in 3D, as well as his book, co-authored with Dr Brian May – Queen's guitarist – for which we are all extremely grateful.

Our guests are both experts in this field of photography and have equipped our students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make and view stereo photos.



House Physics competition



After a little disruption due to the announcement of extra assessments for the Year 11s and 13s, House Physics is now underway. Each year group has its own competition and the scores go towards an overall House Physics score, with points going towards the House Shield at the end of the year.

Year 9s have spent a couple of lunchtimes going through some fiendish problems, otherwise known as Fermi Quiz. Named after Italian/American physicist Enrico Fermi, these problems are solved by correctly estimating the order of magnitude of the answer to a tricky question. For example, "If every person in the UK held hands, how long would the line be?" or "How many balloons can you fit in an Olympic size swimming pool?"

With questions ranging from the subatomic to the interstellar in size, the students' ability to estimate and calculate (without getting worried about not knowing everything) was put to the test and Year 9 proved to be exceptional. The lowest score would, in many previous years, have won and the winning score of 36 is the highest seen.

After only one round, the House Physics leader board is a direct reflection of the positions in the Year 9 round. Points are allocated with 5 for 1st place, 4 for 2nd etc. In the case of a tie, points for both places are added and shared equally.

- Warwick – 5 points
- Lenham – 4 points
- Manor – 2.5 points
- Throwley – 2.5 points
- Greyhound – 1 point

There are 6 more rounds so plenty of time for this to change before the summer.

January mass testing for students



We have been asked by the government to carry out lateral flow testing before students return to school in January.

Full details of the testing schedule have now been sent to parents. Testing is voluntary and we will not stop any student returning to school if they have not given consent to be tested, but we are strongly encouraging all students to take the onsite test.

We would like to thank all parents for their continued support and understanding as we test and stagger the return of students.

Testing reminder

Government advice is that school staff and students continue testing twice weekly. All students have been given test kits to take home and should log their results on [TestRegister.co.uk](https://www.testregister.co.uk).

Students should continue to test over the Christmas break, and just before they return to school in January. Positive tests should be reported immediately and a PCR test taken as soon as possible. We recommend testing on a Sunday and Wednesday and the results should be logged on [testregister.co.uk](https://www.testregister.co.uk)



7L & 7G win pizzas

Congratulations to students in 7 Lenham and Greyhound for being the forms to sell the most tickets in the PTA Christmas raffle. As thanks for all their hard work and effort, the PTA rewarded with a pizza lunch.



Senior Maths Challenge Success 2021

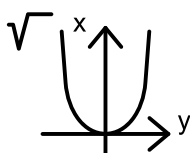
In November, 102 students, mainly from Y12 and Y13, took part in this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. The top 10% in the UK receive a gold certificate, the next 20% silver and the next 30% bronze. Congratulations to all students from SGS. They achieved 60 golds, 25 silvers and 16 bronzes.



The best in year certificates have been awarded to: Vaibhav Singh Y13, Yuvan Chikka and Robbie Moustafa Y12, Anuraag Data Y11 and Boaz Ting Y10.

The 60 students who achieved gold also qualified for the follow-on Olympiad and Kangaroo rounds, which took place at the beginning of December. As soon as we receive the results from these rounds we will update you with their achievements.

Hans Woyda Maths Competition



Hans Woyda is a challenging Mathematics competition, in which over 60 schools in London compete. Students compete both individually and in teams, answering questions on geometry, algebra, calculus and mental arithmetic.

This term, some of our brilliant young mathematicians took part in this competition. Congratulations to Aditya Bist, Soham Sud, Mohammed Bilgrami, Anuraag Datta, Paul Romano, Kaaviigan Vijathevan and Alex Baccar for representing Sutton Grammar in this competition.

Referees course



The Old Suttonians Football Club have arranged a referees course, run by the Amateur Football Alliance, on 26 & 31 January and would like to invite SGS staff and students over 16 to attend.



The referees course will take place at Northey Avenue and will be run by registered AFA trainers. The sessions run from 6pm - 9pm on Wednesday 26 January and 9.30am - 5.30pm on Saturday, 31 January and will be a mixture of theory and practical sessions.

To reserve a place on this course please email chadbi@aol.com and secretary@amateurfootballcombination.com by 20 January.

Important Dates

4 - 7 January	Staggered Start after Testing
12 January	Chemistry Olympiad Exam
20 January	Year 9 Parents Evening
21 January	INSET Day
26 January	Year 10 Parents Evening
2-4 February	Lower School Drama Production
14 February	Half-Term Holiday

Out-of-school support

We recognise that the school holidays 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 111
 Samaritans - 116 123
 Hopeline - 0800 068 4141
 NSPCC - 0808 800 5000
 CAMHS - 0203 513 3800

www.talkofftherecordonline.org
www.nspcc.org.uk
www.selfharmuk.org
www.youngminds.org.uk
www.kooth.com
www.papyrus-uk.org



SGS Fantasy Football standings



This year 90 pupils are taking part in the official Premier League Fantasy Football game. Each week they tinker with their teamsheets in the hope of scoring as many points as possible.

Rank	Team & Manager	GW	TOT
1 ●	Lukakuszn Aryan Nath	74	1077
2 ●	Ayew Shaw?? Logan Fear	69	1049
3 ▲	Haven't Jota Clue Abinian Sriranganathan	81	1032
4 ▼	WhatZiyechIsGoingOn? Adam Heesman	67	1030
5 ▲	Lord of the Ings Luka Alves	81	1030
6 ▼	shawlyAGoal Edwin Cross	70	1029
7 ●	Show me the Mané Ben Wright	71	1020
8 ▲	Bentekkers Eshan Kesvani	81	1018
9 ▼	Amartey McFly Adam Hudson	52	1014
10 ●	Anakin Kylewalker Daniel Porteous	68	996
11 ▲	Kalabut Rovers Sameer Miah	77	995
12 ▼	IsThePopeACathcart? William Humphries	79	986

Diehard players meet on Tuesday lunchtimes to discuss the highs and lows of each game week with Mr Humphries.

The picture (right) shows the current top of the table standings in the school league. Mr Humphries conveniently decided to display a top 12 rather than only a top 10!

Chess update

As part of the English Chess League, Sutton Grammar School B and C teams took part in the repercharge events on the 6th and 8th December.

Sutton Grammar School B came 3rd in their event and the Cs came 4th. This means B team have requalified to compete in the League again!

Congratulations to our chess masters!

