

# THE HOOT

THE SUTTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 37 - WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2023



## Note from the Head

In the midst of the busiest term of the school year, the dedication of both staff and students is evident in every corner of our school. As reflected in the pages of this issue of the Hoot, their collective efforts extend beyond the confines of the classroom and highlight the opportunities students have to get involved.

I would like to thank and extend my appreciation to both students and staff for their unwavering commitment, a sentiment especially crucial as we approach the Year 11 GCSE mock exams.

The resounding success of our Sixth Form Open Evening stands as a testament to the exceptional teamwork of our Year 12 students and the Head Student and Prefect teams. These students not only showcased their dedication but also emerged as stellar ambassadors for our school, leaving an indelible mark on the evening's proceedings.

There was a thought-provoking Remembrance Service in which letters sent to school from former pupils serving on the front line during World War 1 were read. Mr Humphries also researched the story of former student Sidney Charles Odd, who attended SGS from 1913 to 1916 and at the age of just 16 lost his life. The service not only served as a commemoration but also as a demonstration of the enduring spirit and bravery of Suttonians who, in their sacrifice, became an integral part of the school's history.

Keep Faith.

Ben Cloves  
Headmaster



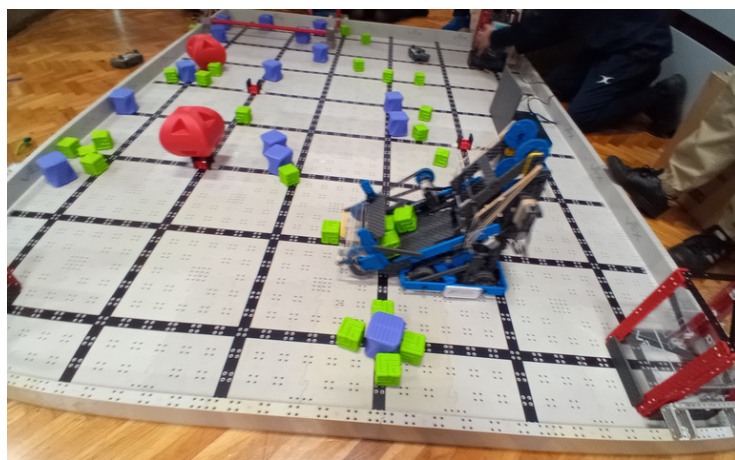
(Left to right) SGS Cybots team - Tanay, Indivar, Ishaan and Aarush P and Aarush K

## Sutton Grammar team wins Robotics competition



Indivar Samanta (9G) reports on a triumph for SGS Cybots

On arriving at the City of London Girls School, we unpacked our robot, borrowed an additional battery from the organiser, and our team (SGS Cybots) became ready for the tournament. After a brief introduction from the event organiser, we received the timetables. The aim was to score the most points while driving our robot with our partner. The more cubes (of three sizes) a pair of teams put into the goal in one minute, the more points would be scored. Therefore, before each match, I discussed with the partner teams and agreed upon a driving strategy based on the capabilities of individual robots. Every team competed in 12 games, and the top 12 teams played in the final round. The rank of each team was displayed based on the highest average of points per game. There were six matches in the finals to decide which two teams would qualify for the national championship. Teams were paired according to their ranks.



(Above) SGS's competition-winning robot

During the qualifying round, until lunch, we had kept a solid third place (one point difference from second), but we were determined to reach second to get the best chance to win the tournament. And indeed, at the end of qualifying matches, we were positioned second, beating John Lyon. For our final match, the score to beat was 88. Our robot was the only robot in the tournament designed with the unique capability to reach the supply zone for an additional score. Therefore, before the final match with our partner, Hydra, we divided tasks and our driving strategy for optimising our joint score.

Finally, our team topped with an astonishing score of 104, breaking the UK record by 32 points! Not only that, but SGS Cybots also won the Excellence Award for the team with the best overall performance (robot design, building, driving, programming, and notebook) in the tournament. Our team received two trophies and double qualified for the national championship in Birmingham in March, where we will face 80 teams from Great Britain.

# Remembrance Service



(Above left to right) Noam, Moyo, Ben, Mary and Mr Cloves.



On Friday, 11 November the whole school took part in a Remembrance Service. Mr Cloves began by reading the story of former student Sidney Charles Odd (pictured right), who lost his life in 1918 while serving on the TS Mercury.



Daniel Johnstone (12E) read his account of a recent trip to the battlefields of Belgium and Northern France, and Alex Foster (12B) and Oscar Reeves (12GA) read the letters of three former students who wrote to the school from the front in France and Belgium in 1914 and 1915. The service was then followed by the reading of the names of the fallen Sutton Grammar students from World War I, by Moyo Oladipupo-George, Ben Roberts and Mary Aggrey, who also laid a wreath below the school war memorial.

Trumpeter Noam Chantry then had the honour of sounding The Last Post, which was followed by a minute's silence. The service ended with a Remembrance prayer. It was a moving and fitting service to remember our brave and fallen Suttonians.

# Eden's badminton wins



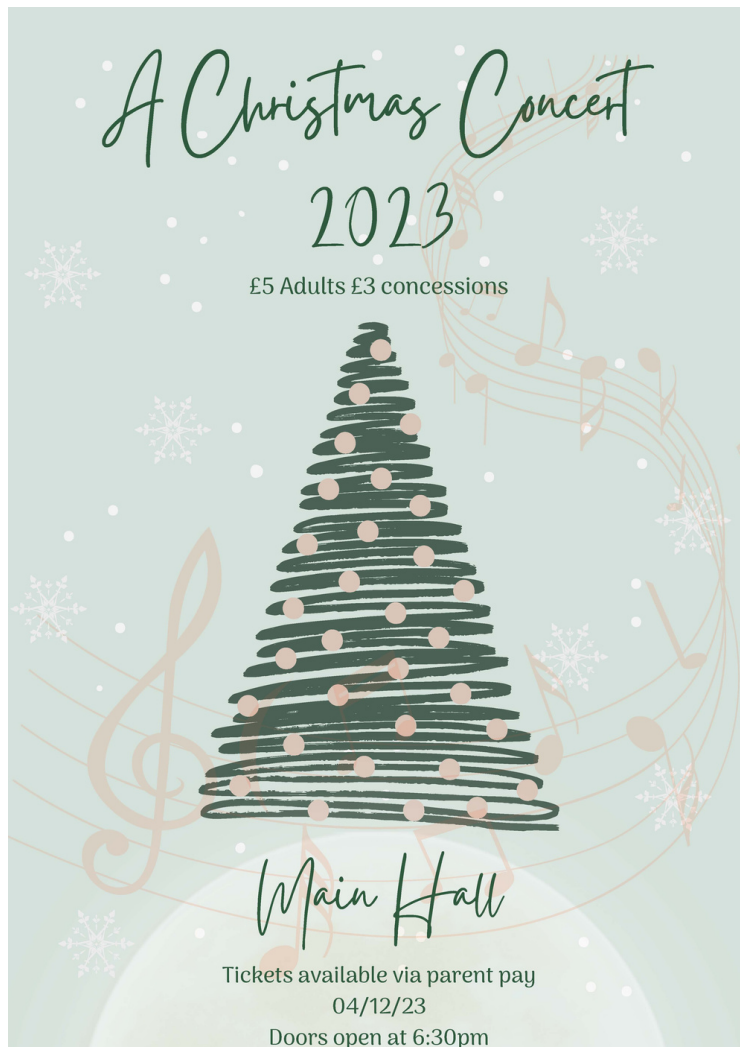
We would like to say huge congratulations to Eden Gough for his fantastic badminton wins recently. In September he won Gold with his partner Jasper Wong (pictured above left) in the Wiltshire U15 tournament. At the beginning of November, Eden won a Gold in doubles and Bronze in singles in the Sussex U15 badminton tournament (pictured above middle). Eden has since won a Silver in boys doubles and a Bronze in the England U13 Badminton England Championship (pictured above right).

# Exam invigilators needed

Sutton Grammar School is looking to appoint flexible, vigilant and meticulous Exams invigilators to join our current team. You will be employed on a casual basis to supervise students taking both internal and public exams throughout the school year, reporting to the Examinations Officer. Internal exams usually run in December and January, with public exams taking place from May to June. Hours are variable depending upon the exam timetable, but we would expect you to be able to work between the hours of 8am and 4pm. For any queries or if you wish to apply, please contact [exams@suttongrammar.school](mailto:exams@suttongrammar.school).

# Christmas Concert

Tickets for our Christmas Concert on Monday, 4 December are now on sale through [ParentPay](#). The PTA have kindly offered to supply refreshments at this event and our students are working hard to showcase their musical talents and make it a memorable night.



# Year 12 English trip

On Tuesday, 7 November, Year 12 English Literature students had front row seats at Education in Action's 'Aspects of Tragedy' conference. Speakers, including authors and a former principal examiner, spoke about the A-level course texts and the genre of tragedy. It was particularly interesting to listen to theatre director and actor Nick Hutchison, who showed us new ways to think about Shakespeare.



## The Gallery of Greats

Mrs Trentinella, Head of Art and Photography at SGS, has been featured in 'The Gallery of Greats' exhibition, a tribute to outstanding UK educators by The Teaching Awards Trust.

The exhibition, in collaboration with Pearson and photographer Donna Bridgewater, commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Trust. Mrs Trentinella's innovative teaching, integrating tech like stereoscopy and robotics, aims to reshape perceptions of arts and career opportunities, blending the A into STEM.

The striking portraits, including Mrs Trentinella and nine others, tell the story of inspiring educators shortlisted for a Gold Award at the Pearson National Teaching Awards. The educators will be showcased on BBC's The One Show from 20 to 24 November, and the winners will be revealed on 25 November. The exhibition at All is Joy Gallery provided a visual celebration of the profound impact teachers make on students' lives daily.



(Above left to right) The Exhibition portrait featuring Vish, Leo, Mrs Trentinella and Suhail.

## Mobile phones

We would like to remind parents and students of our mobile phone policy. For students in Years 7 to 11 we have a 'Gate to Gate' Policy, where phones need to be put away and not used while in school. This is from the moment students enter the school site until the moment they leave the school site at the end of the day.

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.

If a student is seen using a phone when they shouldn't be, it will be confiscated and can be collected from the school office at the end of the day. After three instances of a phone being used when it shouldn't, the phone will be confiscated for a week.

## Year 13 theatre trip



On Thursday, 9 November the Year 13 English Literature class attended the 29,363rd performance of Agatha Christie's famous whodunnit, The Mousetrap. The pupils greatly enjoyed the cosy crime melodrama, and were able to make many links to their A-level set text, The Murder of Roger Ackroyd.

## PTA Christmas Raffle



Thank you so much to everyone who has generously donated towards the fantastic prizes for our Christmas raffle this year. As well as the amazing prizes listed above, we have lots of runners-up prizes, including:

- Six Junior one-hour golf sessions at Cuddington Golf Course
- Mini Golf for a family of five at Horton Golf Park
- Family Pass (2 adults & 2 children) to Sutton Trampoline & Play Park
- Morning Tennis Camp voucher at Sutton Tennis & Squash Club for February half term

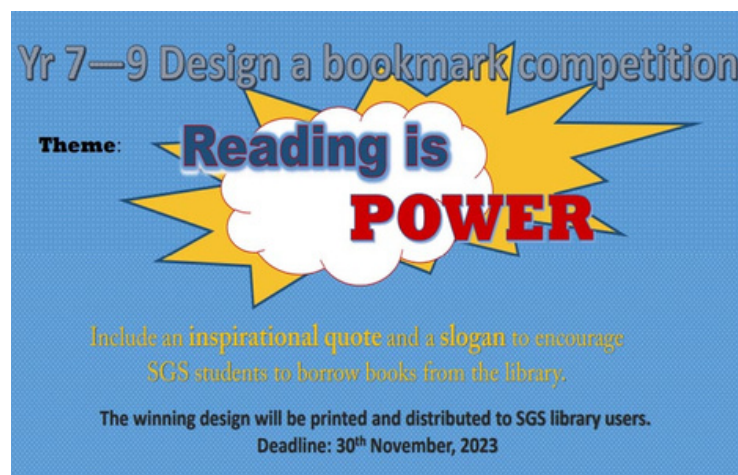
Tickets for the raffle are £1 each and are available for purchase via [ParentPay](#). We will also be selling tickets at the upcoming School Christmas Concert. All proceeds will go towards the refurbishment of the Pavilion at Northey. Ticket sales will close at 11.59pm on Thursday, 14 December, with a draw by the Headmaster on Friday, 15 December. Full details on the raffle can be found [here](#). In addition to the raffle prizes listed, the class with the highest participation rate will win a takeaway pizza lunch to have during the final week of term.

## Bookmark design competition for Years 7 to 9

This year our theme is 'Reading is Power,' to encourage book borrowing from our school Library.

Bookmarks can be created digitally or drawn by hand and we would like students to include an inspirational quote/slogan by either an author or other famous individual. Enter by Thursday, 30 November, and all entries should be handed in to the Library, clearly marked with the student's name and form.

The winning design will be printed and distributed to SGS Library users and achievement points will be awarded. Good luck.



## Celebrating Aniq Matin

We're thrilled to share the fantastic news that Aniq Matin (12B) has been named an Arkwright Scholar after successfully navigating a challenging selection process. In recognition of her accomplishment, Aniq secured a two-year Arkwright Engineering Scholarship to assist her in completing her A-levels at Sutton Grammar School and £440 in funding, a valuable contribution to our Design and Technology Department.

But that's not all - Aniq has also achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award, earning an invitation to Buckingham Palace for the award ceremony next year.

Congratulations to Aniq on these remarkable achievements. We invite the SGS family and community to join us in celebrating Aniq's dedication and potential.



## Christmas lunch

Our canteen is serving its popular Christmas lunch on Tuesday, 19 December for Years 7 and 9 and on Wednesday, 20 December for Years 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Students wishing to have Christmas lunch will need to book in advance via the canteen, by lunchtime on Friday, 8 December.

Students not having Christmas lunch on 19 and 20 December will need to bring in their own lunch, as normal canteen services will not be available at lunchtime.

# CHRISTMAS FEAST

Roast Turkey & Stuffing  
OR  
Vegan Soya Bean & Cranberry Wellington

Both Served with Seasonal Vegetables,  
Roast Potatoes & Gravy

&

Christmas Pudding with Vanilla Sauce  
OR  
Stained Glass Window Shortbread

£3.00

## Year 7 favourite book Christmas tree



The SGS Library will be asking Year 7 students to decorate our Christmas tree with their favourite book titles. This can be a book that they have always loved reading or a great new discovery to share with their peers.

Every Year 7 student will receive a paper Christmas decoration to write their favourite book and author on, and they can decorate it and/or colour it if they wish. When they bring their decoration into the library, they will receive a sweet or chocolate and they can hang it on our Library Christmas tree from 29 November.

## Winter road safety

During the winter months when we have darker mornings and evenings, it is important to ensure students are as **VISIBLE** as possible to road users and pedestrians. If cycling, students should have helmets, wear reflective clothing and have working bike lights to maximise their safety on the roads.



## Word of the Hoot

Reticent (adj) - reluctant to draw attention to yourself e.g. She is so reticent about her achievements.



## Important Dates

28 November	Year 9 Challenge Day
4 December	Christmas Concert
6 - 15 December	Year 11 Mocks
19 December	Christmas Lunch for Years 7 & 9
19 December	Prize Giving
20 December	Christmas Jumper Mufti Day
20 December	Christmas Lunch for Years 8, 10, 11, 12 & 13
21 December	End of Term