



# NEWSLETTER

15 APRIL 2024



## DEAR STUDENT

Welcome back to the summer term! We hope you had a good break over the last couple of weeks, and are refreshed and ready for the final leg of your GCSE journey.

We know that this can be a stressful time for students and parents/carers alike, so on page 3 we share some resources that we really like. We have selected them because they provide practical, easy-to-access hints and tips to help you navigate this next phase towards the end of Year 11.

We are excited to see your progress this term!

## STAFF NEWS

We are delighted to share with you that SuMS is now fully staffed. We have recently welcomed:

- Dr Hannah Brierley - Teacher of Physics
- Dr Neil Kirby - Teacher of Chemistry
- Mrs Christine Robinson - Lead Teacher of Year 12 and Teacher of Computer Science
- Mrs Alex Ryzak-McGhee - Teacher of Economics

Please visit our website ([click here](#)) to learn more about them. We are excited to start working with them and we know you will be too!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As a SuMS offer holder you are invited to join a series of valuable events over the coming weeks:

- **Online information session for students & parents/carers: 24 April 17.00-18.00**
- **Online "Ask a Teacher" GCSE support sessions:**
  - Maths - 15 May 16.30 - 17.30
  - Physics - 21 May 16.30 - 17.30
  - Maths - 2 June 16.30 - 17.30
  - Maths - 9 June 16.30 - 17.30
  - Physics - 13 June 16.30 - 17.30
- **Offer holders taster day: 1-3 July (1 July 10.00-14.00 at University of Surrey, other details to follow)**

We will send out details of how to register/dial in to all of these sessions by email, so please keep an eye on your inbox!

## WHO IS JOCELYN BELL BURNELL?

At SuMS, our four houses are named after mathematical scientists that we respect and admire. We want to share a little more about each of them; this week we're starting with Jocelyn Bell Burnell.

Growing up in Northern Ireland in the 1950s, Jocelyn faced many challenges as a woman in STEM. At school she had to overcome a ban on girls studying science, being sent to cookery class instead. As an undergraduate student at Glasgow, she was the only woman alongside 49 men in her class. When a woman entered a lecture theatre – usually as the sole female – the men would shout, jeer and bang the desks.

As a PhD student at the University of Cambridge during the 1960s, she was one of very few women in the physics department, and one of even fewer who came from outside the south of England. Whilst at Cambridge she discovered pulsars – a previously unidentified type of star. “I had impostor syndrome,” she says. “I felt I didn't really deserve to be there, so I worked very hard and very thoroughly, and spotted the pulsars even though they were not part of the research programme I was working on. I saw the signals produced by the pulsars, and they did not fit any current explanation we had, so needed attention.”

***“When I started secondary school, it was assumed that the girls would do domestic science and the boys would do science, and I wasn't too happy with that.”***



Her discovery of pulsars won Jocelyn Bell Burnell the Nobel Prize in Physics – but the award was given to her male supervisor, rather than to her. However, she was later awarded the US Breakthrough Prize and used the £2.3m prize money to set up a scholarship fund. She firmly believes that bringing people from a wider range of backgrounds into physics will improve research.

***“Diversity adds to the creativity of a team, it brings an extra openness...scientific breakthroughs are about taking data and when you come across something new, examining it open-mindedly. That's what I did: I saw the data and realised it did not fit and needed attention – it was an anomaly...and so was I!”***

Did you know? Ms Kettleborough saw Jocelyn Bell Burnell give a lecture in Manchester aged 15 which inspired her to study Physics for her degree!

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# NAVIGATING EXAM SEASON

We are very mindful that the summer term of Year 11 can be a stressful time for both students and parents.

Obviously we want you to get the best possible results in your GCSEs - because we want you all to join us! - but we also want you to ensure that you are looking after your physical, mental and emotional health as well.

To support you, we've gathered a few resources that we like - they are all quick reads, designed to give you some simple thought-starters and handy hints:

- [Guide to Exam Stress](#)
- [Navigating Exam Season](#)
- [Staying Mentally Healthy During Exams](#)
- [Exercising for Exam Success](#)
- [Simple Self Care for Exam Season](#)




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## HOW CAN WE HELP?

We want to make sure that our newsletter is accessible to everyone; easy to read, friendly and informative. If there is anything that we can do to make it more accessible, or if there is content that you'd love us to include, please get in touch.

You can call us on 01483 974211 or email us on [admissions@surreymathsschool.co.uk](mailto:admissions@surreymathsschool.co.uk).

**We're always happy to hear from you!**

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*"If you look at other countries, you'll find lots of girls doing physics, engineering, and science. It's something to do with the kind of culture we have in the English-speaking world about what's appropriate for each of the two sexes." - Jocelyn Bell Burnell*



We have now published our term dates for the year 2024-25 on our website. We know that lots of you are keen to have these, so that you can plan holidays & family events.

You can find full details on our Term Dates page [here](#) and our Calendar page [here](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to email us on [admissions@surreymathsschool.co.uk](mailto:admissions@surreymathsschool.co.uk).

