

# NEWSLETTER

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

24 APRIL 2026

### SuMthingS Wrong at the National FIRST Tech Robotics Championship

The Copper Box arena loomed ominously on Tuesday as the 13-strong robotics team, SuMthingS Wrong, wheeled their completely redesigned, but half-constructed, robot into the venue to compete at the two-day National Championship event of the FTC Robotics competition, which they qualified for in the March regional heat. It was all hands to tools and keyboards to prepare their robot for scrutineering, which .... didn't go well. A few inspections later and their robot was finally passed and placed on the game field with seconds to spare. Scoring a grand total of 0 points for their first match did not come as a surprise to the team.

What a difference a night makes! With very little (or more accurately, no) sleep, the build-team had a working robot for Day 2.

A detached motor in Game 2 limited their scoring potential, shortly followed by a win in Game 3 which was a real highlight moment. Games 4 and 5 were a lowlight, after a chain failure, but an ingenious zip tie fix gave us a win in Game 6, followed by the most competitive game of the day as a fitting end to the team's journey. Their determination, ingenuity and stand-out team spirit didn't go unnoticed, with a surprise win in the coveted Judge's Award category.

The team all agreed that the event was the very definition of a rollercoaster ride, with a huge amount of experiences for learning along the way. To even reach the national finals in their rookie year is a phenomenal achievement, and topped off with the Judges' Award is an achievement to be very proud of. **Well done Team SuMthingS Wrong!**

### Parent/Carer Testimonials

We really value the insights shared with us by you, our SuMS parents and carers; and we know how incredibly helpful it is to offer holders' and applicants' families to hear from you what life in the SuMS community is really like.

We are developing a new page on our website, to share **parents' and carers' testimonials**, and we would love to have your input. In your experience as a SuMS parents/carers, what are the things that prospective parents and carers would most like to know about? Are there any key questions that they would like to have answered? What would help them to establish whether SuMS is the right school for their child's A Levels? What makes us truly unique and different from other schools?

**If you'd like to share a quote for our website (whether by name or anonymously) please just drop Mrs Stapledon an email. We're always happy to hear from you!**

### SuMS car park

This is a gentle reminder that we don't have capacity to enable parents and carers to use the school car park. Please use the Mary Road or Bedford Road car parks, both of which are less than 5 minutes' walk from school unless you hold a disabled parking permit.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- 27 Apr - Policy Cyber Crime Unit assembly - Y12
- 29 Apr - PC6 results home - Y13
- 4 May - Bank Holiday (school closed)
- 11 May - Road Safety Officer assembly - Y12
- 11 May - A Levels exams start - Y13
- 18-22 May - Progress Check 3 - Y12
- 25-29 May - Half term break

**Planned absence:** please request via [attendance@surreymathsschool.co.uk](mailto:attendance@surreymathsschool.co.uk) - min. 48 hours notice

**Unplanned absence:** please report via [attendance@surreymathsschool.co.uk](mailto:attendance@surreymathsschool.co.uk) - by 8.30am - every day of absence



## WHAT'S HAPPENING? (CONTINUED)

### Women in STEM Summer Schools

This summer we will again run our annual Women in STEM summer schools for female-identifying students in Year 10 with an interest in STEM subjects, particularly Maths, Further Maths and Physics. The 2 days will include subject-specific sessions focusing on exploring higher level concepts and problem-solving, emphasising collaboration and sharing ideas with like-minded students. Participants will also meet a panel of STEM university students and lecturers.



**This high-value summer school is completely free of charge.** If you know someone who might jump at this opportunity, please [pass on the details here!](#)

**Bookings are open until 1 May and places can be booked using this QR code:**

### Lead-up to A Levels for Y13

In the weeks commencing 27 April and 4 May normal lessons will continue with a focus on revision and corrections from PC6, final exam preparation and practice.

In the week commencing 11 May all teachers will be following their usual Y13 timetables. We encourage all students to use these times to work with their teachers and work through problems. For most students attendance will be optional, but individuals will be told if their attendance in a particular lesson is required. If asked, they must attend lessons as normal, as these smaller lessons are designed to support them with their final pieces of revision and exam preparation.

**In the week commencing 18 May study leave for all begins.** From this week on, there will be a special timetable of revision sessions in place. This will be shared with Y13 students closer to the time. Some students will be required to attend these sessions - if asked to attend, they must do so.

## PASTORAL UPDATE

In **Year 12** our Relationships and Sex Education work has now concluded. In the final lesson, we talked about unplanned pregnancies, how people experiencing this are likely to feel and the choices available once conception has occurred. Year 12 discussed the various factors that would influence people's decision-making, appreciating that every individual context would be different and that this subject matter is particularly emotive and contentious. We explored key issues surrounding adoption and abortion as well as considering how to support a friend going through an unplanned pregnancy.

As we reach the final few Personal Development sessions with **Year 13** we are focused on supporting them in this critical and stressful time before the final A level examinations. This week the students have created or reviewed their final 10 week revision plan, please do ask your young people to share this with you. We also considered how best to prepare the night before and morning of an exam.

There was also an interesting radio programme this week too - [please click here](#).

We are also looking forward to celebrating the end of exams at our first ever **SuMS Leavers' event on Thursday 25 June**. Please make sure that you have booked your young person's ticket via MCAS!

**Year 13 parents and students: please look out for a separate email today from Mrs Joyce with more comprehensive details about events and arrangements for these final few weeks at SuMS.**



# PHOTO GALLERY

