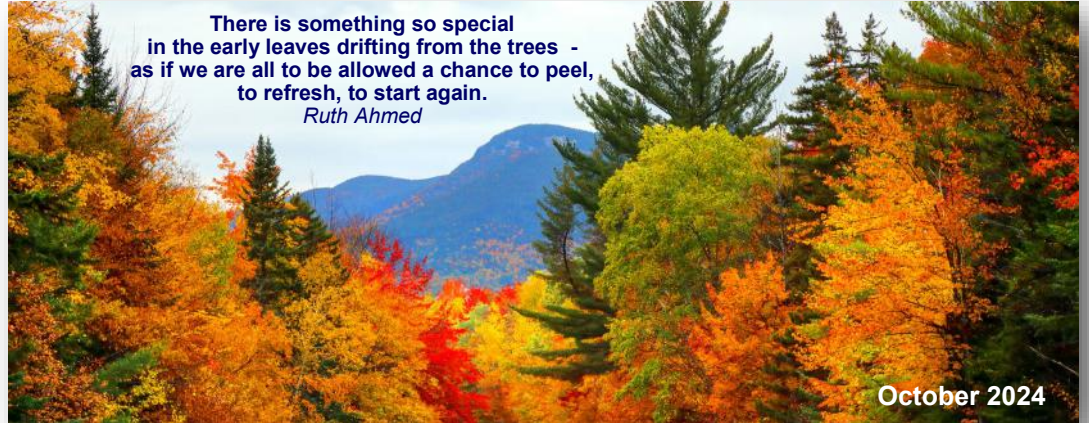




Newsletter

Guildford County School SPECIALIST MUSIC COLLEGE



There is something so special
in the early leaves drifting from the trees -
as if we are all to be allowed a chance to peel,
to refresh, to start again.
Ruth Ahmed

October 2024

Embracing Autumn & Learning Together

As the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp, we find ourselves welcoming the beautiful season of autumn. As I was driving into school this morning, I couldn't help but reflect that this season is more than just a time of colourful leaves and pumpkin spice . . .

Autumn brings unique opportunities for growth and learning that mirror the changes in nature around us.

A time for reflection

With the beginning of the school year behind us, autumn offers a natural pause for reflection. Students can look back at what they have accomplished in the first few months and set new goals for the rest of the year. The

reflective nature of this season encourages deeper thinking, helping students to strengthen their problem-solving skills.

Building resilience

As the weather cools and days shorten, students face new challenges – whether it's adjusting to new routines, or more complex learning material. Autumn teaches us the importance of resilience, just as nature prepares for the colder months ahead.

We encourage students to embrace this mindset, seeing each challenge as a stepping stone to success.

Engaging with nature

Autumn is the perfect season for outdoor learning. Whether it's studying the changing ecosystems, collecting leaves for art projects,

or learning about the science of weather patterns, autumn brings countless opportunities for hands-on experiential learning. We encourage families to take advantage of this beautiful season by exploring the outdoors together.

Autumn is a season of transition . . . a perfect metaphor for the learning process.

Just as trees shed their leaves to prepare for new growth, our students are shedding old habits and embracing new knowledge, preparing for the challenges and growth ahead.

Here's to a season of curiosity, growth and challenge.

*Antonella Bosco-Reid,
Senior Deputy Headteacher*

Spotlight on Year 10

The Yr10 students have made an excellent start to their GCSE journey.

Transitioning into this important phase can be daunting, but our students have risen to the challenge with enthusiasm and determination. Whether in the classroom, or on the sports field, they are demonstrating resilience, teamwork, and a commitment to giving their best; they have recently completed their first language speaking assessment, which the Languages Department are thrilled with. Walking around, I am so proud of the start they have made. The first term of GCSEs is all about building good habits and finding a balance between study and extracurricular activities. Our students have certainly begun this term well and we are excited to see what they will achieve this year.

In the realm of sports, our Yr10s are excelling in football, netball, and rugby, showing great team spirit and dedication - winning more football matches than Yr11! A call out for the girls' rugby team too - any students interested, please see Mrs Wilkinson, or our Yr10 rugby players.



As a thought for the term, we encourage parents to ask:
"Are your children coming home and putting the new knowledge they have learned onto flashcards?"

This small step can make a big difference in building long-term understanding and retention, setting them up for success in their upcoming exams.

I wish Yr10 all the best this year, as they work towards the next step in their future.

Hana Stewart, Head of Yr10

Open Evening



County opens its doors and welcomes prospective students & families.



Putting frames together to create the full picture.

Hello from York

Hi, I'm Tom and I think York House has done an amazing job recently. After winning the last House Drama and then placing third in House Music, I think we've done so well . . . not to mention winning the Kirby Cup on Sports Day from all our cheering. I applied for House Captain because I wanted to get to know the students in York House much better and encourage the younger years to take part in as many events as possible. I can't wait to help lead another excellent year for York House and I hope to see all the 'Yorkies' hard work continue.

Tom Yr13



Hi, I'm Srishti and I am really enjoying leading York as one of the House Captains. I think we're the best House because we are all supportive of one another and are exceptionally

good at teamwork. I wanted to be House Captain because I wished to contribute back to the school community. We did a great job in the last House Drama, coming first, and also during House Athletics, where we won the Kirby Cup for our amazing sportsmanship. I am now looking forward to House Rowing to see a display of York's strong team spirit. Everyone of us shows dedication to our House and, more specifically, to each other . . . cheering and pushing peers to reach their full potential.

Srishti Yr13

House Captains



Blood Brothers



Workshop

On Monday 22nd of September, the Drama Department set up a brilliant workshop on Blood Brothers - the play that we are studying for GCSE Drama.

The session started off with a few acting techniques, such as stage analysis and building confidence within ourselves. This approach really helped me open up with the group around me and get more involved too.

For the second part of the workshop, we specifically focussed on the script of Blood Brothers - looking at different scenes. We were even taught a history lesson about the background of the story, talking about where it was based in Liverpool.

All in all it was a brilliant opportunity and I am so thankful for the experience, which I would definitely want to do again.

Thank you to everyone who organised and took part.

Kiki Yr11

**‘This means we’re blood brothers
and that we’ll always have to
stand by each other.’**



Yr11 Business Students



Assessing Operational Risk . . .

gained a fantastic insight into **Marketing, Operations** and the level of **Customer Service** offered at Thorpe Park. During their visit, students investigated the human and IT sources of information, to see how Thorpe Park tries to maximise customer enjoyment. They were also lucky to observe the dangerous weather protocol in action and experience how well visitors were directed to non-weather-dependent



attractions, whilst the operations team assessed the level of risk. Students were also able to analyse the promotional activities for the upcoming Fright Night and Oktoberfest, in the context of target audience. It was great to see how Yr11 managed their time by observing whilst walking around and being loaded onto rides, and also using queuing time to complete their work booklet, maximising learning and enjoyment.

Adam Daniels, Head of Business & Economics



Mixing Business & Pleasure

Business and Pleasure at Thorpe Park

The most wholesome of days!

County walks the Surrey Hills ...

promoting



friendships



determination



resilience



responsibility



community

Watch this space to find out how much the sponsorship raised for charity ...

As is customary, the school's Senior Team organised a Sixth Form BBQ early in the Autumn Term. This brought the whole faculty together, welcomed the Yr12s into the fold, and helped those students new to the school to feel included.

There's no smoke without the Yr12 BBQ

'The music and food were good, the football even better and the weather was on our side too!'

'It was lovely to spend some time with friends and celebrate the first few weeks of Sixth Form. Thank you to the Senior Team for organising this event!'

Enjoy your moment, Yr12

'I have really enjoyed my first few weeks at County Sixth. I am new to the school and I've been able to make friends, as well as work hard, with the hope of going on to study Law. The BBQ was a nice way to signify the start of this journey. It has been the best!'

Thank you, Senior Team

We are County

Safeguarding at County

'Keeping children safe is our number one priority at County, and all staff work together to make that happen. Some of the key names and faces in this effort are below. If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, please contact one of the team listed. If a child is in immediate danger, always call 999. Lastly, if your child wants to speak to someone about something that is bothering them, but might find it hard to begin that conversation, they can email me@guildfordcounty.co.uk.'



Jack Houghton
Deputy Headteacher
**Designated
Safeguarding
Lead**



Jemma Boddington
Safeguarding Manager
**Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead**



Steve Smith
Headteacher
**Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead**



Antonella Bosco-Reid
Senior Deputy Headteacher
**Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead**



Daryl Bond
Assistant Headteacher
Director of Sixth Form
**Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead**



Helen Nurton
Assistant Headteacher
**Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead**



Charlotte Barlow
Assistant Headteacher
Director of SEND
**Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead**

Safeguarding News

Road Safety

With several busy commuter roads surrounding County, drop-off and pick-up times can be particularly hazardous to pedestrians. Side streets become congested with parked cars, and many drivers use these routes to avoid traffic on busier, main roads. It is crucial that we all work together to keep our children safe in these challenging conditions.

One of the biggest risks is the use of technology by children. Studies show that distractions from phones and headphones significantly increase the chances of accidents. Remind your children to put their devices away when walking to school and to be aware of their surroundings.

Families can have important conversations about road safety by stressing the importance of looking both ways, staying visible, and being extra cautious in areas where visibility is reduced due to parked cars. Encourage your children to take their time and not rush across the road.

For additional resources, check out websites like **Think! Road Safety** (think.gov.uk) and **Brake** (brake.org.uk) for more tips on how to discuss road safety with your family.



Georgina Young
Head
of
Year 7



Jon Thorpe
Head
of
Year 8



Rachel O'Rourke
Head
of
Year 9



Hana Stewart
Head
of
Year 10



Sam Strong
Head
of
Year 11



Mark Grimmatt
Head
of
Year 12



Chloe Kemp
Head
of
Year 13

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Our spotlight this October is Black History Month 2024. We aim to celebrate and highlight some of the contributions made to the country by Black communities and individuals, as well as to present a well rounded history of Britain. We aim to celebrate and acknowledge Black history every day of the year, as we know here that Black British history is just British history.

This month we are looking to spotlight some Black British leaders whose impact on the country have had lasting effects:



Ignatius Sancho: Sancho was a writer, composer, and actor. In 1774, Sancho became the first Black man to vote in Parliamentary Elections. He also became the first African prose writer to have published work in Britain.



Mary Seacole: Seacole was a pioneer nurse and helped redefine our understanding of nursing. Learning from her mother in Jamaica, Seacole went on to found 'The British Hotel', a safe haven for sick soldiers during WWI. Seacole was deemed a hero of the war.



Justin Fashanu: Fashanu was a football player, and was the first Black footballer to command a £1 million transfer fee. Fashanu made history by being the first professional footballer to come out as gay whilst still playing.



Dianne Abbott: In 1987, Abbott was elected as the Labour Party MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington - making her the first Black woman to be elected to Parliament. She is currently the longest serving black MP in the House of Commons.



Performance CoIs Beraha, EDI Lead

Music College Instrumental Initiatives

As a Music College, we strive to give our students as much access to music as possible. Part of this includes the opportunity to play **brass**, **strings** and **double reed** instruments, via our **instrumental schemes**.

To start this process, we organise assemblies so that our Yr7 can hear live performances, understand how these instruments work and hear from older students, just what it is that they enjoy about learning these instruments.



Rediscovery:

On Monday 7th October, we presented our double reed instruments - the oboe and bassoon - and launched our annual **Rediscovery** scheme. We had a beautiful solo oboe performance from our professional oboe and bassoon teacher, Miss Ware-Heine, which was followed by students explaining about the range and quality of

sonority for the oboe, cor anglais and bassoon. A Q&A session came next, before rounding off the session with a duet from two of our oboists and a couple of pieces from our Double Reeds Ensemble.



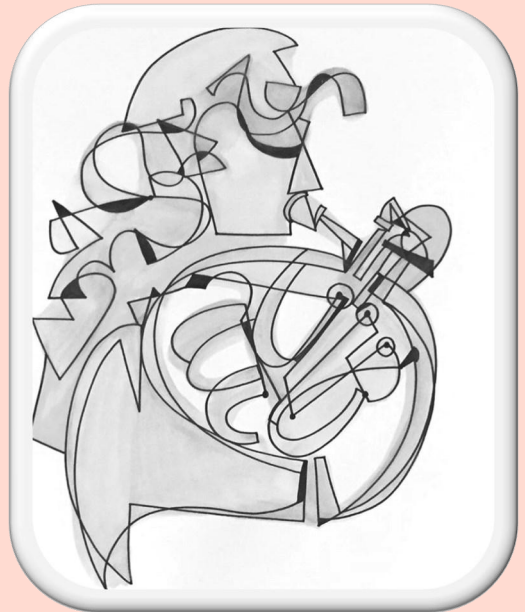
Brass Beacons:

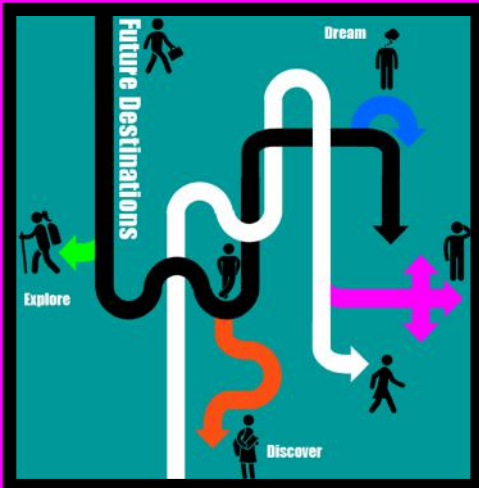
On Friday 11th of October Mr Gale presented some of our brass instruments. This assembly opened with a beautifully controlled piece, performed by our Trombone Choir. Then followed explanations and demonstrations from French horn players, trombonists and tuba students, all finishing with a performance of "Thunderbirds".

Thank you to all the specialist instrumental staff for their help and to our Sixth Form Music Ambassadors for sharing their enthusiasm and musical experiences with Yr7.

We are delighted to have had a lot of interest and look forward to celebrating their progress in the woodwind and brass concerts later in the year.

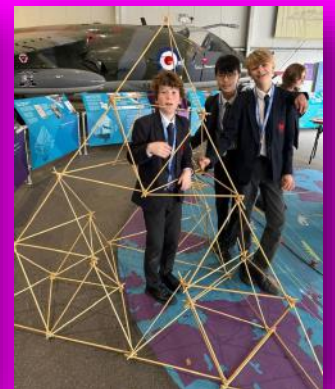
Caroline Gale, Director of Music, Head of Creative Arts





Brooklands Innovation Academy

Yr8 students had an out-of-this-world experience at Brooklands Innovation Academy Day, held at Brooklands Museum in Weybridge. The STEM-packed event was filled with exciting activities and engaging talks, culminating in a captivating presentation by the esteemed Professor Brian Cox. From landing spaceships, to exploring the intricacies of medical support, students were immersed in a world of scientific wonder. They also put their engineering skills to the test, by building tetrahedrons from sticks, a hands-on challenge that encouraged creativity and problem-solving. The day was a resounding success, inspiring students to explore the fascinating fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We look forward to future events that will continue to spark curiosity and foster a love of learning in our young minds.



Future Destinations Programme

A group of Yr11 County students had an exhilarating afternoon at the Surrey Games Innovation Hub. They had a unique opportunity to explore the world of gaming and learn about the skills and disciplines that go into creating and playing electronic games.

Equipped with state-of-the-art computers, our students were immersed in a hands-on gaming experience. They delved into the intricacies of game design, explored various gaming genres, and learned about the technical aspects of game development.

This enriching event not only provided valuable insights into the gaming industry, but also helped develop essential skills, such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and teamwork.



Surrey Games Innovation Hub

County students are actively shaping their futures and diving deep into essential career development skills ... from crafting personal statements and CVs, to understanding the ins and outs of apprenticeships

The Future Destinations Programme encourages:

Skills Development: students hone their problem-solving, communication, and teamwork abilities through hands-on activities and workshops.

Career Exploration: career counsellors guide students in identifying their passions and exploring potential career paths that align with their interests.

Personal Branding: students learn the importance of creating a strong personal brand and effectively communicating their skills & achievements.

Apprenticeship Insights: local businesses share valuable insights into apprenticeship opportunities and provide a clear understanding of what to expect.

Stay tuned for more updates ...

Huda Gay, Future Destinations Lead

This is our C.A.S.T.L.E.

Netball



As the new netball season approaches, we are incredibly excited to have accepted the challenge of joining the **Surrey Sixth Form Netball League**, as this will really allow us to grow and develop as a team, whilst still focusing on our individual strengths and skills. Playing competitively as a sixth form team provides many opportunities for our players; the chance to bond with teammates and build a strong sense of community, as well as representing the school, which instils a sense of pride and determination. We can't wait for more matches and hopefully lots of success
Evie Yr13 - Sixth Form Netball Captain

Delighted to report that our Yr11 Netball A Team remain undefeated and have once again retained their title as **District Champions**. Despite a smaller squad, due to some injuries, the girls showed their versatility playing in some new positions and going on to win every match as follows:

- 10:1 Christs
- 8:3 Broadwater
- 5:3 G. Abbott
- 7:0 Howard
- 6:0 St Peter's

Sports Desk



What an opener!
County Sixth Form Football Team got their season off to a winning start, resulting in a 7- 0 win against Esher College. Well done to all involved.

Football



Join me every Saturday at 10am for the ultimate dance fitness workout

LET'S DO
ZUMBA

at Guildford County School

No need to book!
Look forward to Zumba with you soon 🍌



Zumba with Gemma

gem.zumba@hotmail.com



The Rams are calling YOU!

We love basketball at County School and are proud to have an amazing Basketball Academy in the County Sixth Form. Our County Basketball Teams regularly play in competitive leagues and are enthusiastically cheered on by Sixth Form spectators - follow the action on Instagram @gcsbasketball

The fantastic County Basketball Coach, Lekan, also runs Surrey Rams U12 Rising Stars Hoops Academy at County School Mondays from 17:30-18:30.

Surrey Rams Basketball is dedicated to creating an engaging and supportive environment where players of every age, gender, and ability level can flourish. So why not start your basketball journey here at County School.

Facebook
@GuildfordCountySchoolLettings

Many thanks!
Helen Smith
Sports & Community Lettings Office
01483 504089 ext:246

SURREY RAMS

RAMS U12 RISING STARS HOOPS ACADEMY

LEARN NEW SKILLS TEAMWORK
DEVELOPMENT
FUN AND EXCITING BASKETBALL CHALLENGES

AGES: 8- 12 YEARS OLD
GUILDFORD COUNTY SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE
DATE: MONDAYS
TIME: 17:30 - 18:30

TO BOOK A FREE TASTER TRIAL SESSION
CONTACT: LEHAM@SURREYRAMS.NET
TEL: 07958 011 046

Dates for the Diary:

Thu	24 Oct	Yr12Tutor Evening
Fri	25 Oct	INSET / Half Term begins
Mon	04 Nov	School Returns
Thu	07 Nov	Sixth Form Open Evening
Thu	14 Nov	House Drama



The place where we excel