



Guildford County School

SPECIALIST MUSIC COLLEGE

July 2024

Newsletter



Each one of you has made us proud . . .

As the year draws to a close ...

As we approach the end of another academic year, the excitement is palpable throughout our school.

The final House competitions - House Athletics and House Music - have been the highlight of our term. It has been truly inspiring to see the level of enthusiasm, talent and camaraderie displayed by our students. The spirit of competition and the support students have shown one another epitomise the values that we hold dear.

House Athletics was a resounding success, with students participating in a variety of events, showcasing their physical prowess and determination. It was a joy to see the Spectrum filled with students running, jumping and throwing with great and improving skill and all with a competitive, yet friendly, County Spirit. Equally, House Music was a phenomenal display of our students' creative talents. From soulful performances to dynamic group acts, the musical talent within our school community is truly remarkable and I am incredibly proud of the unifying impact that musical performance has upon our entire school community. None of these events would have been possible without the dedication and hard work

of our staff team. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all colleagues who contributed to the planning and execution of these events. Their commitment to providing such enriching experiences for our students is greatly appreciated.

This term, we also held our Celebration of Achievements afternoon, a moment to recognise and honour the diverse accomplishments of our students. Whether it was academic excellence, sporting achievements, or contributions to the school community, every student had something to be proud of.

As the year comes to an end, I must also give a special mention to Hayden in Yr10, who has the distinction of being the only student so far this year to have completed both pages of Headteacher Golden Commendations. Well done, Hayden!

As we look forward to the summer, I want to extend my best wishes to our Yr11 and Yr13 students who are eagerly awaiting their exam results. We are immensely proud of you all and have every confidence that you will achieve the success that you so richly deserve. Remember, no matter the outcome, each one of you has made us proud. Reflecting on the year, it's important to acknowledge that every student has achieved

something significant, regardless of the scale. From overcoming personal challenges to excelling in various fields, each student's journey has been unique and commendable.

With September just around the corner, I am excited about the progress that we hope to see with our Autism Centre build over the summer break. This new facility will be a tremendous asset to our school, providing essential support and resources for our future students with autism. We look forward to seeing the positive impact that this provision will have upon our school community.

A reminder to our students entering Yr7 and Yr12 ... the new school year will commence on 3rd September, while the rest of our students will return on 4th September. Specific details will follow before the end of term.

We are excited to welcome you all back and embark on another year of learning and growth. Finally, I wish everyone a safe and healthy summer. Take this time to relax, recharge and spend quality time with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready for the new academic year.

Steve Smith,
Headteacher

Without Geography



Contrary to popular belief, Geography is much more than the study of maps and the memorising of place names to use in a pub quiz, or even colouring in!

It is a critical discipline that helps students understand the complex and interconnected world they live in. At its core, Geography provides the tools to explore physical and human processes, understand spatial relationships, and appreciate the diversity of landscapes and cultures. Recent Yr10 field trips to Guildford Town Centre and Hayling Island highlighted many of these elements.

Students saw evidence that the real world is much more complex than text book Geography, by looking at how processes interact and influence each other in the context of urban development (Guildford) and coastal processes and management (Hayling Island).

These trips also enabled students to make connections between different places and issues - for example, understanding the impacts of coastal management strategies on Hayling Island does not only shed light on local environmental issues, but also on global challenges such as climate change and sustainability.

Undertaking these two investigations also gave the Geography students the opportunity to practise and develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Data collected in the field rarely matches the 'textbook Geography', but this gives students a chance to evaluate why this is the case. They have learnt in the last couple of weeks that traffic in Guildford is affected by the physical Geography, as the only place to drive over the River Wey in the town centre is on the one-way system - this affects traffic flows, pollution levels and environmental quality throughout the town. They have also learnt that coastal systems are much more complex than we teach them - the process of longshore drift on Hayling Island goes the wrong way because of the proximity of the Isle of Wight and the effect it has on sediment movement.

Overall, undertaking fieldwork helps students apply the theoretical knowledge they have learnt in the classroom, and helps them engage with their environment. It encourages teamwork and collaboration (trying to measure beach profiles), and enhances communication skills (asking questionnaires to members of the public). It helps build resilience and adaptability. However, in spite of all these great benefits of fieldwork, I suspect if you asked the students about the highlights of these trips, they would tell you it was having lunch at the fast food restaurant of their choice in Guildford, and the chips at the cafe at the end of the day in Hayling Island!

Carol Smith, Head of Geography, Lead Practitioner



You're Nowhere ...



Before writing this article for the newsletter, I was waiting until the Euros Final had been played, so I could make some smug comparisons between the success of Gareth Southgate's England team and my beloved Tudor House. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be ... but as I watched the disappointment of another major football tournament final slip through England's hands, it also made me reflect on what success really is. For me, bringing together a group of players to represent the Nation at a tournament is incredibly similar to bringing students together to represent their House at the different House competitions. Often, students want to excel for their own sense of pride and to impress others around them, which is completely understandable and a fair motivation to take.

However, trying to encourage students to represent the House for the greater good of the team is, for me, a much more powerful motivation.

Gareth Southgate has always had the motto 'team before me', which I think has been shown time and time again by our fantastic team members in Tudor House.

Reflecting on the recent House Music and House Athletics competitions, it was fantastic to see not only individuals excelling, but also individuals pushing themselves outside their comfort zone for the greater good of the team. This included Lewis Harris being compare for Tudor, stepping up when others were less confident. The 1500m event at House Athletics is rarely the most popular event on the day, but again those students who volunteered to compete in the long distance event did so in order to gain as many points as possible for the team, regardless of whether they were to come last or first. This attitude of putting the team first is what I would describe as success. The characteristics of a team player outweigh all the brilliant individual skills a student can bring and if the students can carry this forward into their everyday life, they will be 10 times happier and successful for it. *Harry Hoadley, Head of Tudor House*



Spotlight on Tudor House ...





1st place WINDSOR
 2nd place STUART
 3rd place TUDOR



4th place LANCASTER
 5th place YORK
 6th place HANOVER



Photography courtesy of James Anthony

House Athletics 2024

House Music - July 2024



Second Place Tudor



... through the power of music.



Third Place York

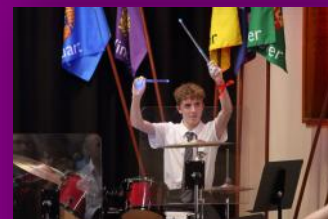
A whole school united ...



Photography courtesy of James Anthony



First Place Stuart



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
Senior Home-School
Link Worker
**Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding**



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
Director of SEND
**Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead**

Safeguarding News

Following on
from our safeguarding column
last month about

Protected Characteristics

we hope you will continue
the conversation
with your children
that we have started at school.

Before you speak

T.H.I.N.K.

Is what you are about to say

True? Helpful? Inspiring? Necessary? Kind?

T.H.I.N.K.



Georgina Young
Head
of
Year 7



Jon Thorpe
Head
of
Year 8



Hana Stewart
Head
of
Year 9



Sam Strong
Head
of
Year 10



Jo Thomas
Head
of
Year 11



Chloe Kemp
Head
of
Year 12



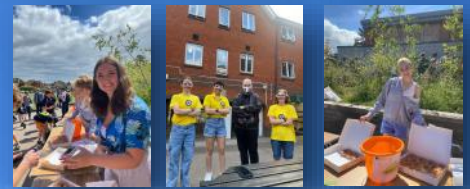
Mark Grimmett
Head
of
Year 13

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion



Thank you to you everyone who has contributed to making Guildford County a more inclusive community. We look forward to continuing this work over the coming new academic year. Remember, you can email included@guildfordcounty.co.uk with any thoughts, suggestions, questions or concerns.

Lindsay Ammar, Leadership Team, EDI Lead



The sun was shining on our Charity Days 2024



and money raised will help support local charities, Challengers and Shooting Star Chase



£3000 raised for CHARITY

When the only answer is a doughnut, what is the question?

Having won inter schools Battle of the Band competition, last term, Catharsis were invited to perform on Sunday 30th June at Guilfest, as one of their prizes.



Congratulations to Yr11's Leah, Avilee, Jason, Jamie, Noah and Hayden for performing so well and for representing the school.



An evening of Bass, Drum & Guitar music

To conclude our **Informal Concert Series**

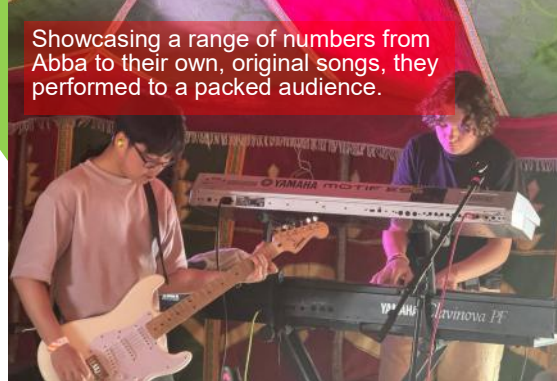
we heard a range of pieces from some of our kit, bass and guitar students.

From full on Rock through to Pop, Funk and Classical and from relatively new beginners to the more experienced, our Yr7-13 students delighted us.

Our packed audience also managed to get home in time for the England 20:00 Euros kick off!

We would also like to thank our two guitar teachers Aram Bahmie and Will Shackleton, along with our drum kit teacher Ben Smith.

Caroline Gale, Director of Music, Head of Creative Arts



Showcasing a range of numbers from Abba to their own, original songs, they performed to a packed audience.



'Performing at Guilfest was an absolute joy and an opportunity we are so grateful to have had. It is insane to think that the band went from playing in charity week at school, to winning Battle of the Bands and going to Guilfest! We spent so many hours rehearsing and smashed it on the day! The support we had was the best'



On 4th July Yr12 A Level Artists visited
**Royal Academy of Art
Summer Exhibition 2024**

This gave them the opportunity to see what is happening in the art world right now, and inspire their 'Personal Investigations' - a project based on their own interests. Around 15,000 works are submitted to the exhibition each year, with more than 1,700 of them making it into the final show for 2024.



This year's theme was 'Making Space' and exhibitors interpreted this however they wished. Most of the works exhibited can be purchased. It features new and recent art created by everyone, from emerging artists to the biggest names in contemporary art and architecture. At one time the show was known simply as 'The Exhibition', where the likes of Gainsborough and Reynolds, Turner and Constable sharpened their skills against each other. Today the Summer Exhibition continues in the tradition of showcasing a variety of work in all media, including painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, architecture and film. Submitting under his real name, Jim Moir - the comedian behind Vic Reeves - sold 25 limited edition prints of his Bird Colour Wheel. The show runs until August 18th and I highly recommend it.

Izzy Baillie, Head of Art



Bird Colour Wheel
Jim Moir



Flaming June
Frederic Leighton

Our class visited the Royal Academy of Art for the Summer Exhibition (including visiting other private exhibitions in the area, and the Academy). Going there was a chance to discover different art/artists and get inspired for our own projects. I personally liked the work of Niall Mclaughlin, 'Athenian Horsemen', since it looked ancient and carved out of stone, but was actually made out of high-density foam. I can relate this to my own project of Norse Mythology, and can perhaps try creating sculptures in the style of Viking artefacts. I also adored 'Flaming June' by Frederic Leighton (not part of the main exhibition). It convinced me to properly delve into Pre-Raphaelite techniques and themes within my own project, realising that this style inspires me immensely. *Rebecca, Yr12*



Athenian Horsemen

Niall
Mclaughlin

Summer Exhibition 2024

Year 7



on target ...

on the Isle of Wight

giddy heights ...

soft centres ...

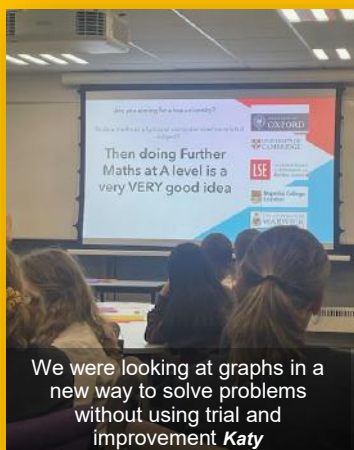
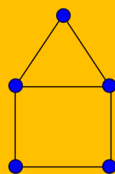
plain sailing ...



We created a model of the Earth and the Moon using scale factors
Charlotte & Karina

19 x Yr10 girls ventured to Surrey Uni for a **Women in STEM** day run by the new Surrey Maths School.

They were involved in activities introducing Graph Theory and modelling the distance from the Earth to the Moon.



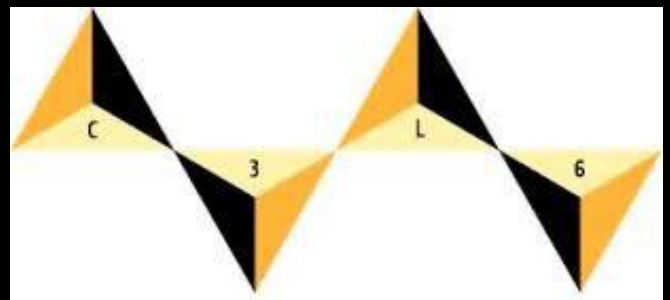
We were looking at graphs in a new way to solve problems without using trial and improvement *Katy*

Have a go ... is this a traversable graph? i.e. can you join each point without taking your pen off the page and not doubling up on any lines?

Shonagh Love, Lower School Maths Lead



Women in STEM at University of Surrey



Cambridge Chemistry Challenge 2024

Congratulations!

to the following Yr12 students for their impressive achievements in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge 2024

Silver Awards:

Hayden, Cameron, Reuben, Ethan, Layla & Joseph

Copper Awards:

Taha, Koby, Bishesta, Opekitan & Cassian

Joyce Kahwa, Lead Practitioner & ECT Induction Lead

Since April of this year, 12 of our dedicated Yr9 & 10 actors have been taking part in a joint project with professional theatre company **Guildford Shakespeare Company** to create an amazing performance of **'Romeo & Juliet'**. Starting with rehearsals in our own Mayhew Theatre, the cast have taken part in stage fighting training and a knife crime awareness workshop, alongside rehearsals of movement and text. The performance itself is an exciting site-specific performance taking place over seven locations around Guildford...

You may have noticed the High Street being closed in the evening for three weeks across June and July, and spotted some of the performers in action!



Our students have formed part of the **Montague and Capulet Gangs**, and have performed their scenes in front of Holy Trinity Church and inside the beautiful grounds of Guildford Castle. They have been dedicated and committed throughout the whole process, keeping energetic and focused during a five hour tech. rehearsal after school, and six evening performances throughout July. They have met the actors and backstage team and seen what it's like to be part of a professional performance. We are so proud of their hard work, enthusiasm, positivity and creativity!

Team Drama

<https://www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk/romeo-and-juliet-2024/>



How will you vote?

Montagues v Capulets



The Yoto Carnegies 2024

A literary outing to London . . .



On Thursday 20th June, I, along with approximately twenty five other students, went to London for the Carnegie Awards Ceremony. We were led by the amazing Mrs Davies, Mrs Fredborg and Mrs Doar. After arriving at school, we took the train to London's Waterloo Station, and then stopped at a park to have some snacks. We then resumed our walk to the Cambridge Theatre, where the much-anticipated ceremony was held. We were all so excited to witness the amazing authors and illustrators get their deserved awards and I also got some books afterwards. We then walked back to the park to have our lunch. Though we were reluctant to leave London, we headed back to Waterloo, where we were met by an unexpected surprise of free ice cream samples! Everyone was over the moon and devoured them on the way home. A huge thank-you to the wonderful librarians, Mrs Fredborg and Mrs Davies, for organising this memorable trip.

I hope we can go again next year!
Hazel Yr8



Congratulations to all those in Yr10 who took part in the Silver Practice Expedition

Silver D of E



Celebration of Achievement 2024



On Wednesday 3rd July, we gathered as a school at Guildford Cathedral, to celebrate the achievements and successes of our students. It was a truly wonderful ceremony where students, friends and family all came together to commend our students. Our guest speaker, Sophie Power, a GB ultrarunner, was inspirational and she reminded us all that we should never be scared to try anything new and that we could be whatever or whoever we wanted to be. We hope that our award winners are as proud of their school as we are of them!

Antonella Bosco-Reid, Senior Deputy Headteacher



The whole place was dressed to the nines ...



Prom 2024



Photography courtesy of James Anthony

... We were dancing like we were made of starlight'

Taylor Swift



Sophie's
LEGACY



THE JUNGLE BODY GUILDFORD UK
AND HH TRAINING PRESENT:

GO GOLD

CHARITY FITNESS NIGHT

IN AID OF SOPHIE'S LEGACY CHARITY
AND CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2024
GUILDFORD COUNTY SCHOOL, MAIN HALL

DOORS OPEN: 6:30PM | CLASS TIME: 7:00PM - 8:10PM
WITH POST CLASS RAFFLE | EARLY BIRD TICKETS £15
THEME / DRESS: GOLD

BOOK ONLINE AT [SOPHIESLEGACY.CO.UK/EVENTS](https://sophieslegacy.co.uk/events)

Take Part in Movie Making Fun this
Summer Holiday at Guildford County

Creative Learning & Unforgettable
Filmmaking Fun for Ages 7-18



Make Your Own Movie

Learn all about movie making with Sparks Film School. Experience making your own movie, just like on a real film set. Boost confidence, creativity and learn lots of new skills.



Guildford County Lettings

What is coming up that may appeal to you or your family?

Editorial thank yous ...

As we hurtle towards the end of this academic year 2023 / 2024, and head for sun-kissed climes, I would like to express much **Newsletter** gratitude to:

- *our staff for inspiring so selflessly*
- *our students for participating so wholeheartedly*
- *our parents and carers for supporting so enthusiastically*
- *our contributors for providing so willingly*
- *our photographer for capturing so creatively (thanks, James)*
- *our readers for engaging so consistently*

Without any one of these elements this record of County's colourful tapestry would not be possible. There is always much to celebrate here!

Enjoy a long, warm and safe summer.

Lesley Nicole, Editor

Dates for the Diary:



Fri 19th Jul	Summer holidays begin
Thu 15th Aug	A Level results
Thu 22nd Aug	GCSE results
Mon 2nd Sep	INSET
Tue 3rd Sep	Yrs 7&12 return
Wed 4th Sep	All years return