

# Guildford County School

# SPECIALIST MUSIC COLLEGE

March 2024

# 



When writing this article, I began reflecting on what was most important to us a school, especially at this crucial time of year for so many students, who are preparing for their upcoming exams. Of course, our motto of Give, Create, Succeed underpins everything we do as a school, but what is it that enables us to achieve these aims of generosity, creativity and success in all its forms?

There are so many factors, but I think a huge amount comes down to resilience being able to accept, learn, recover and improve when things don't go quite to plan. This of course is something that we teach all students throughout their time at County. We teach resilience in many ways; the reflection and evaluation they complete after

assessments, to understand how they can improve in their performance next time; the sports training they undertake diligently, which leads them to so many wins, but also enables them to improve after defeats; the revision sessions we hold for every year group to support their exam skills. Yr7 had their first of these 'revision days' at the end of this term, helping them build their resilience from an early stage, and knowing that exam success can be worked on and improved right through their school experience. One of the best things about our school is that we celebrate all successes, as well as academic - indeed, this newsletter will be full of all the fantastic achievements of our school community. We celebrate the hard work that has led to these

achievements and the resilience it takes to improve and grow, Being a Drama teacher, this, of course, has led me to think about my own subject: we build resilience through rehearsals and constant evaluation, and I found a quote that sums it up much better than I could myself:

'In the theatre of life, let

setbacks be the rehearsals that refine your performance. The applause of success is much sweeter after overcoming a challenging act' This is a perfect message to take away, as we will all encounter obstacles and problems when striving for our goals. Building resilience will enable us all to move forward and do better next time. whilst realising that overcoming challenges will make these successes all the more

Lindsay Ammar, Head of Drama (Acting) Leadership Team

rewarding.

# **Exploring the World Through Languages: A Journey of Learning**

As we journey through the academic year, our Modern Languages department has been bustling with exciting activities and opportunities for linguistic and cultural exploration. From celebrating the European Day of Languages to planning enriching trips and exchanges, there's been no shortage of vibrant experiences for our students.

# European Day of Languages: Celebrating Linguistic Diversity

Last September, we celebrated the European Day of Languages with enthusiasm and gusto. Our classrooms were adorned with flags, posters, and decorations representing the rich tapestry of languages spoken across Europe. Through quizzes, games, a cake sale, and interactive activities, students delved into the linguistic diversity of our continent, broadening their horizons and fostering an appreciation for different cultures.

# Upcoming French Exchange and Barcelona Trip: Immersive Learning Experiences

Excitement is building as we prepare for our upcoming French exchange and the much-anticipated trip to Barcelona in July. These immersive experiences offer students the invaluable opportunity to deepen their language skills in authentic contexts while immersing themselves in the vibrant cultures of France and Spain. We're thrilled that 26 students will be receiving their French guests this month, and that 53 students will be embarking on the unforgettable journey to Barcelona, creating lasting memories and forging lifelong friendships along the way.

# Looking Ahead: German Trip and Language Choices

While we're clearly excited for our current adventures, we're also looking ahead to future opportunities. Next year's German trip is already on the horizon, promising another exciting opportunity for students to expand their linguistic and cultural horizons. Additionally, we're pleased to announce that all students in Yr7 have made their second language choice for next year, eagerly anticipating the new language that lies ahead. Furthermore, all Yr9 students have now selected their GCSE language choices, emphasising the importance of making the most of their remaining time to master two languages and lay a strong foundation for future academic and professional pursuits.

# **Maximizing Learning Opportunities**

As we approach the end of the academic year, we encourage all students to make the most of the time they have left to immerse themselves in the wonders of language learning. Whether it's through classroom activities, extracurricular events, or independent study, every moment is an opportunity to

deepen linguistic proficiency, broaden cultural understanding, and cultivate a lifelong passion for languages. Learning and teaching in Languages classes is filled with excitement, discovery, and boundless opportunities. We look forward to continuing this enriching journey with our students, empowering them to become confident, culturally aware global citizens. Katie Macadam, Head of Languages

# **Department S: Who Do You Think We Are?**



Why? ... because the French character seems to reflect much that *this role aspires to* ... The French are well known for paying attention to detail, for having a desire to polish and refine, with a passion for making things look their best.

The French also like to take time to absorb and celebrate life's precious moments, with the smallest of achievements being just as important as the grand.

# WWW (what went well) ?

In keeping with the French motto of **'Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité'** ...this role always endeavours to play fair, by promoting, facilitating and celebrating as many different aspects of the school 'collective' as possible, whilst hopefully supporting individuals, as well as departments, to frame their unique successes.

# EBI (even better if) ?

This role will always be better when working as a small cog in a bigger wheel, empowering others to have a freer ride towards optimal outcomes.

# And what lessons have been learned along the way?

LESSON 1: Warmth and a 'silver tongue' can open doors ... one of the funniest things that ever happened in this role was when County's former Deputy Head used her Welsh charm to convince complete strangers - on this occasion an unsuspecting group of 30 primary school children and their teacher(!), who were walking innocently along the South Bank in London - that they would do well to come with her and take part in a County concert in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. It wasn't until they were happily ensconced in the auditorium that realization dawned on all parties. Obviously warmth and a 'silver tongue' had opened the wrong door! Oh well ... they were released, unharmed, back onto the riverbank to continue their onward journey!

**LESSON 2: The 'Premises Boys' are GODS in protective clothing! Worship them! ...** they are *the* most valuable beings around ... they perform miracles AND are always lovely!







Some of our fellow Yr12 students recently visited St Hilda's College, Oxford, as part of the Aspire Programme. We were welcomed warmly and spent the day learning about life at Oxford University.

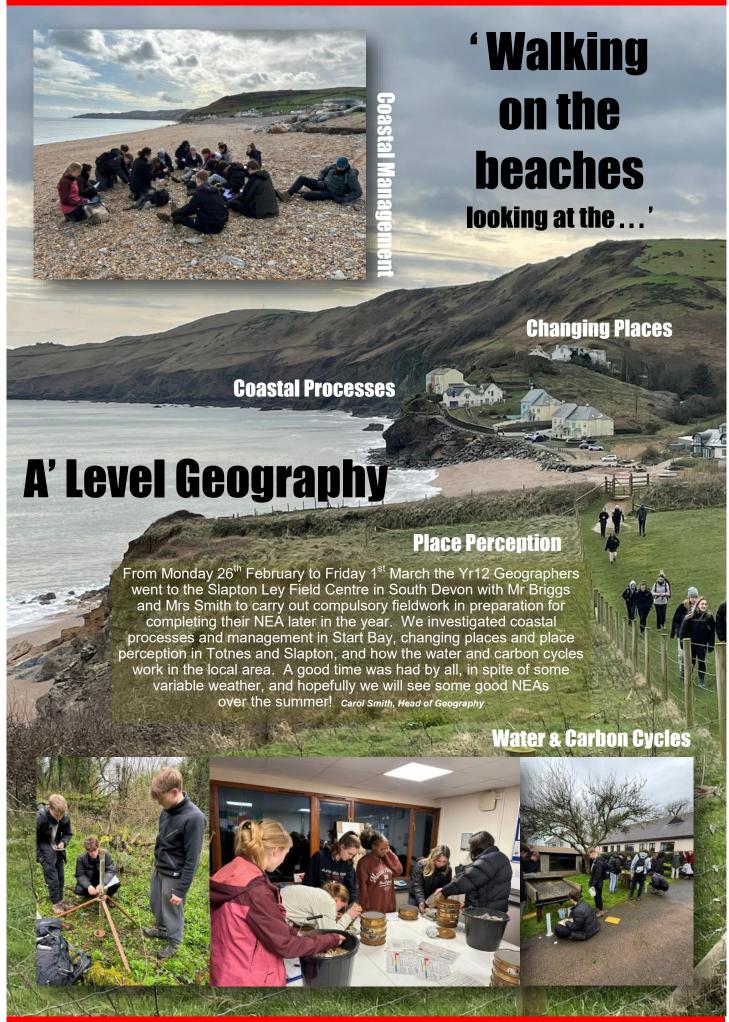
We were able to attend a Computer Science taster session as an example of a typical tutorial at Oxford - a small-scale discussion between students and a professor - and had an exciting conversation about quantum computing, which broadened our horizons to other new subjects, by bringing in ethics and legislation.

Afterwards, an undergraduate student shared her experiences with us in a Q&A session and helped us get a clearer understanding of day-to-day life at Oxford University. She also gave us a tour of the College, showed us the facilities, and introduced us to the college cat, Teabag. During lunch, we could choose from any of the dishes available, of which there were a many great options!

In the afternoon we were given advice and guidance on the application process, walked through the admission tests and also had the interview process explained to us.

Overall, it was a very informative and valuable experience for us, as in the near future, we will be completing our applications. *Jennifer & Erin Yr12* 





**Physics Academy visit to Surrey University** 

Our day started with a very informative talk from Professor Jim Al-Khalili on entanglement and wormholes in space, followed by a Q&A session with a current PhD student, a lecturer and staff member from Surrey University. We learned about their experiences working in the area of **PHYSICS**; they described their varied career paths, and explained how many doors physics can open if studied at university level.

We then had the opportunity to see the Physics Department's laboratories, where we got to watch and get involved in a demonstration using radiation detection equipment - analysing radioactive sand from India - as well as other apparatus used in nuclear physics.

We learned about a typical physics student's experience in this area, and how hands-on and exciting the experiments carried out could be; these could take place in the university or in other countries too. Finally, we were taken on a tour around the campus and

were shown through the Physics Department as well as

the university's observatory.
We found this trip very informative, providing valuable insight into university experience for a physics student, as well as the range of opportunities studying physics could provide. Freya, Seb & Srishti Yr12







Finally, a building challenge, where we had to construct the most cost effective and reliable windmill for producing energy on our planet. Well done to Neil and Alice for winning that round too.

It was a great experience and everyone had a really good time. Toby Yr9

On Thursday the 14th of March, ten Yr9 students went to the Royal Grammar School to compete in SATRO's Planet Utopia event. We got to take part in multiple activities throughout the day which started with an introduction from the main coordinator.

The first task was deciding which people we would like to take to the new planet. We then sent one person from each group to debate with the other groups about which laws we should enforce on this new planet. Well done to Winnie and Jacob for winning that round. Then we completed some other tasks about infrastructure, deciding what types of buildings and transport systems we would want

# Thank you for your support in 2023

On behalf of all of our clients we want to say a huge thank you for the support that you give to the North Guildford Food Bank, Without our loval supporters and volunteers we could not provide the support we do.



# this year:

Total number of parcels distributed in 2023	1709
Total number of people fed	4741
Adults	2669
Children	2072

# County has generously supported

many charities

**Royal Surrey Charity** 

Oxfam

**ME Research** 

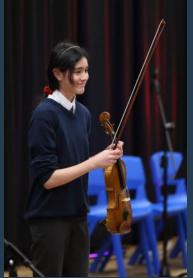
Friends of the Earth

**Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal** 

**North Guildford Food Bank** 

**Cancer Research** 















# 24th April at 19:00 **GLive** Sound from Intent direct ckets G Live 24th April 2024

Informal Concert Series

# An Evening of Strings and Piano Music

On the evening of March 5th, we were treated to a range of performances from some of the students of our string teachers - Jo Levi, Anne Marie Curran and Sarah McKenna, alongside students from our piano teachers, Michael Horner and Shay Wickham. It was wonderful to

students from our plano teachers, Michael Horner and Shay Wickham. It was wonderful to welcome such a large audience and to hear such a range of music . For some, this was their first public concert with students from Yrs7-13 taking part. Punctuating the solo piano and string performances we had a piano trio, string duets and three pieces from our string orchestra. One of these was a debut performance of Jason's GCSE composition 'Elegy' which he led. Congratulations to all those who took part..

Our next concerts in this series will take place in the Concert Hall:

May 8th Woodwind Concert

Celebrating students of Louise Kaiser; Lucy Joyce; Laura Ware-Heine & Emily Callaghan

May 13th Brass Concert
Celebrating students of David Gale; Ed Hodgson; Peter Makarious & James Doherty.

June 11th Vocal Concert Celebrating students of Matt Veira; Gwen Lyons & Calley Lewis-Meredith June 25th Percussion, Kit and Guitar

Celebrating students of Aram Bahmie; Will Shackleton & Ben Smith

Caroline Gale Director of Music Head of Creative Arts

wer School Concert 2

# Safeguarding 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



Antonella Bosco-Reid
Senior Deputy Headteacher
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Daryl Bond
Assistant Headteacher
Director of Sixth Form
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding



Helen Nurton
Assistant Headteacher
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Charlotte Barlow
Director of SEND
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead

# Safeguarding News Drink Spiking

As some of our older children will increasingly find themselves in situations where they and/or their friends are drinking alcohol, it's essential for families to keep an open dialogue about the risks of drink spiking.

Drink spiking is when a substance, often drugs or other forms of alcohol, is added to a person's drink without their knowledge or consent. This can have serious consequences, including loss of consciousness, memory lapses and hospitalisation.

In some cases, perpetrators use drink spiking to initiate sexual assault, and reports of this form of drink spiking have surged in the UK in recent months.

With this in mind, encourage your child:

To never leave their drinks unattended.

To be vigilant when accepting drinks from others, especially strangers.

To feel confident in refusing drinks if they have any doubts about its safety.

Additionally, knowing the signs of drink spiking is crucial. These include sudden drowsiness, confusion, and disorientation. If your child experiences any of these symptoms or suspect their drink has been tampered with, they should seek help immediately from a trusted friend, venue staff, or medical professionals.

Depending on the age of your child and how frequently they access the night-time economy, you may want to have discussions about various products that are available to safeguard against drink spiking – these are available online. Lastly, we have received reports of injections being used to drug potential victims, emphasising the need to ensure our children are with trusted friends when socialising.

**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



**Chioe Kemp** Head of Year 12



Mark Grimmett Head of Year 13





We have been pleased to cover some key events in assemblies this year, ably assisted by some fantastic students. Huge thanks and congratulations to Olli Newton, Nicole Hynes, Gizem Gugercinoglu, Isobel Wolfenden, Holly Belle Collinson and Isla Fahey, who have been part of the planning and delivery of all these assemblies Most recently we have covered

https://www.internationalwomensday.com/

# **International Women's Day**

International Women's Day occurs globally on the 8th March every year, in honour of the amazing women who campaigned for women's rights and those who continue to do so today.

# **Why? Imagine a gender equal world.**

A world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all #InspireInclusion

Everyone is welcome for our final two meetings of the year, held at lunchtimes in A34

**Summer Term 1** 16th April **Summer Term 2** 21st May

**Neurodiversity Week 2024 Multi-Culturalism** 

You can email included@guildfordfordcounty.co.uk at any time to ask questions or raise concerns. Please follow us on instagram @guildfordcountyedi for updates.

# **March 2024**

8 Mar International Women's Day

10 Mar Islam: Ramadan begins

22-30 Mar Hinduism: Navratri

23 – 24 Mar Judaism: Purim

24 Mar Christianity: Palm Sunday

25 Mar Sikhism: Holi

25 – 31 Mar World Autism Acceptance Week

27 Mar Sikhism: Hola Mohalla

29 Mar Christianity: Good Friday

30 Mar World Bipolar Day

31 Mar International Transgender Day of Visibility

31 Mar Christianity: Easter Sunday

We have discussed many of these with students in assemblies, Personal and Learning sessions, and through lessons such as PRE.

Lindsay Ammar, EDI Lead, Leadership Team

There are lots of important dates for many communities in March and April, some of which are listed here . . .

# **April 2024**

2 Apr World Autism Awareness Day

9 Apr Islam: Ramadan ends tbc

10 Apr Islam: Eid al-Fitr tbc

13 Apr Sikhism: New Year Vaisakhi

17 Apr Hinduism: Rama Navami

22 Apr Stephen Lawrence Day

22 - 30 Apr Judaism: Pesach

24 - 26 Apr Buddhism: Theravada New Year

**Important dates** for many communities

# **Sports Round Up**



This month we saw the exciting launch of the Sixth Form Sports Tie. With the improved quality of sporting performance and provision in the Sixth Form, the PE Team and Sixth Form Team have been keen to add a more professional look to how students present themselves during home matches. The lucky first team to wear the tie was the ABL Basketball Squad for their final home league game of the season. The Lower School students were certainly in awe of the professional looking Sixth Formers, as they prepared for their match in the afternoon! Harry Hoadley,

Head of Physical Education

Sixth Form Sports Tie

Being Sports Ambassadors this year has been an amazing opportunity for us to gain a deeper insight into all the sports that take place at County - competitions both against other schools and between our Houses - with the skills and teamwork shown by County students, allowing us to win many competitions and matches. A huge amount of appreciation must go to all the PE staff for putting on these fixtures, as without them none of this could happen. Aside from competitions, a highlight for us has to be the Sports Dinner (largely run by Miss Cook) as this is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements made by certain teams and individuals. It also showcases the immense support displayed within the County community. We can't wait to see how County advances in sports and we hope that all the events put on by the school encourage a new generation of athletes. Passing on the baton of Sports Ambassadors at Easter, we hope the work we will help show everyone that participating in sport - no matter the level is an opportunity accessible to all. Thank you to everyone ayer and club captain who has participated or supported sport at our school this vear Freya & Ciara, Sports Ambassadors eason r 150 games Guest Speaker Mary Southgate



Recently, and helped by some very pleasant West Yorkshire weather, three girls from County enjoyed huge successes, representing Surrey at the English Schools' Cross Country Race in Pontefract.

With forty six counties competing, competition was stiff, but with amazing performances in both the Intermediate and Senior age groups, Surrey clinched an impressive second place

Congratulations go to our County girls, Sophie and Katie, who ran for Surrey in the Intermediate category, as well as to Violet, who represented at Senior

Guildford County School is proud ... Well done, girls!

# **Grit and Determination**

brings County successes at **English Schools' Cross Country** 







It has been another busy term for the Friends with a Uniform Sale, Friends' Coffee Morning, Quiz Night, Easter Raffle, and cooking and serving for the Sports Dinner.

A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered, come along to events, donated prizes and bought raffle tickets...

You have all helped us to continue to meet our dual-aims of:

- 1. maintaining & enhancing relationships between members of our school community
- 2. fundraising to support the purchase of resources and experiences that school would not otherwise be able to provide

Purchases agreed with school this term have included a £1092 donation towards new furniture for the Sixth Form Common Room and £800 for a pewter caster for DT. This will enable them to start metalwork projects on a small scale, as they look to develop an exciting new metalwork provision.

The raffle was being drawn as the newsletter went to press so so look out for a separate letter revealing the winners and the total raised.

We hope everyone in our school community has a lovely Easter break.

Amy & Friends of GCS Team

# **Next Events:**

Friday 19th April

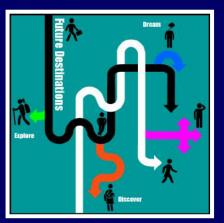
Friends' Coffee Morning - Dining Hall 09:00-10:00 - all welcome.

**Thursday 2nd May** 

Friends' Open Meeting - Sixth Form Centre - 19:30

Saturday 11th May

Funk Night - an incredible evening of live music and refreshments - 20:00 - over 16s only



Future Destinations has had another action-packed term! We hosted inspiring guest lectures, engaging assemblies, and informative apprenticeship discussions. Preparations are now in full swing for our exciting Careers Fair on May 8th, offering students a chance to connect with potential employers. A huge thank you to all the amazing speakers and guests who have motivated our students this term – their contributions are invaluable! Stay tuned for more details on upcoming events in the April Newsletter

# **Future Destinations**

Dates for the Diary:

Mon April 15

Summer Term begins

Wed April 24

Gala Concert - GLive

Sat April 27

Bronze DofE Assessed

Fri 3 May

Yr13 Springfest

Wed May 8
Careers Fair

# Lettings Why not have a look? You might find a new interest!

County School is extremely fortunate to have fantastic facilities which we hire to some wonderful local instructors. It means we have all sorts of fun and relaxed fitness classes right on your doorstep.

Newest of all . . . we welcome Zumba Dance Fitness, which is here every Saturday morning. Gemma's energetic classes mix low and high-intensity moves and interval-style calorie busting exercise to Latin and World music. So, get those dancing trainers on!

Helen Smith, Lettings Officer

# What else is on at GCS?

# GCS Fitness Classes:

# Mondays

19:00-20:45 The Jungle Body Concert Hall @thejunglebodyguildforduk

with Rachel & Michelle

**Tuesdays** 

18:30-20:30 Gym Based Circuits Fitness Suite hannahhayward84@gmail.com

with Hannah

Wednesdays

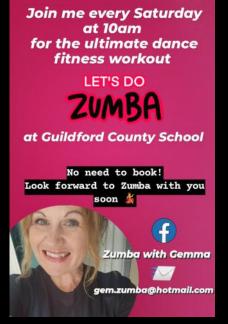
18:00-19:15 Yoga Mayhew Theatre anna@annacoatesyoga.com

with Anna

Saturdays

10:00-11:00 Zumba Concert Hall gem.zumba@hotmail.com

with Gemma







Sign up and join in the fun . . .





Welcome to Camp England.

Join us this Easter for awesome Multi-sports, Tennis, Dance & Drama and Gymnastics Camps.

# CampEngland

Coaching by England Sports Group

- Imber Court, East Molesey
- Esher Church of England High School, Esher (Multisports and Gymnastics from Age 4)
- Tiffin Girls' School, Kingston
- The German School Richmond
- Orleans Park, Twickenham
- Bushy Park, Teddington
- Chertsey High School (Multisports and Gymnastics from Age 4)
- Guildford County School, Guildford
- Birtley Tennis Club, Guildford

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DBS checked coaching

Free late pick up 5.00pm

Free early drop off from 8.30am

Ofsted Registered

team

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Tennis Camp Age 5-15 10.00am - 4.00pm (extentions available)

Dance & Drama
Camp Age 5-13
10.00am - 4.00pm
(extensions available)



Gymnastics Camp Age 5-13 10.00am - 4.00pm (extensions available)

Multi-sports
Camp Age 5 - 13
8.30am - 4.30pm
(extensions available)

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