

Spring 2025 Edition



SURBITON SPIRIT



- World Book Day ● Science Week ● 11+ Scholarships
- University Offers ● Fashion & Arts Showcase
- Student Leadership Programme Celebration Day



Spring Term

REFLECTIONS



Principal **MR MATTHEW SHOULTS**

I am delighted to welcome you to this first edition of Surbiton Spirit, our new School newspaper. Since arriving as Principal in January, it has been a joy to see the wealth of academic inspiration, sporting endeavour, artistic performances and other activities which happen as the weeks unfold here. Talking to pupils, it is clear that these different opportunities make such a difference to them finding interests, passions and hobbies (often for life). These first experiments can take our pupils very far indeed: at the annual Boat Club dinner, former pupil, Lola Anderson, her Paris gold medal in her pocket, reflected on her first moments rowing when she was in Year 8.



We are always looking for ways to expand our pupils' experiences. This year's Science Fair showcased over 70 stands, with Sixth Form exhibitors rubbing shoulders with some of our Prep School pupils, while our new Stretch and Challenge Day for some of our Year 8 and 9 pupils encouraged them to collaborate with girls and boys from three other schools to propose solutions to global problems.

The greatest challenge in compiling this first edition of Surbiton Spirit has been to select from the vast range of reports. I hope you find something to connect with, and that you enjoy exploring our pupils' exploits.●





Spring Term

REFLECTIONS



Head of Boys' Prep School

MRS TRACEY CHONG

As we conclude another action-packed term, I want to celebrate the boys' remarkable progress at Surbiton High Boys' Preparatory School. Congratulations to Year 6 on their outstanding 11+ results, and thank you to parents for your invaluable support. Highlights this term included House Singing, STEAM Week, and World Book Day, inspiring creativity and collaboration. We also enjoyed fantastic music and drama performances, including 'Plastic Pirates' and our 'Dracula' themed evening. My sincere thanks to staff and parents for your dedication. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break, and I look forward to an exciting Summer Term ahead.●



Head of Girls' Prep School

MRS LOUISE McCABE-ARNOLD

This term has been lively and eventful, filled with impressive achievements. From captivating performances to exciting competitions, the girls embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm. Year 4 dazzled with their dynamic 'Dragon Days' production, while Year 6 showcased leadership across the curriculum and demonstrated confidence in the Bikeability Programme. House spirit shone during House Singing, and the Spring Choral Concert highlighted the musical talents of our older girls. World Book Day celebrated creativity, with imaginative costumes and literary challenges bringing stories to life. We were also delighted with our 11+ outcomes, with 19 scholarships awarded - a remarkable achievement reflecting the pupils' hard work and dedication.●

We hope you enjoy our first-ever **Surbiton Spirit**! It has been a *pleasure* to put this issue together, filled with wonderful stories and articles from across the School. We look forward to **sharing** more in the Summer Term. *Enjoy* the Easter break! - **Communications Department**



News ROUND-UP



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Dr Alex Calverley, Head of Physics at the Senior School, for receiving the Secondary Education Award from the Royal Astronomical Society. This prestigious honour recognises his exceptional contributions to astronomy education and his transformative leadership of the British Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad (BAAO) programme. Congratulations, Dr Alex Calverley, for “leaving an indelible mark on astronomy education across the UK”! ●

INTERNATIONAL PI DAY

Year 6 at the Boys' Prep School marked the occasion by **memorising** as many digits of the *infinite* number as they could and reciting them in front of their peers. Last year's School record of **150** digits was blown out of the water by Ewan who recited **186** digits and Oscar, who set the new School record this year at **216** digits!

The boys celebrated by eating apple and blackcurrant pie topped with custard. This enjoyable challenge is part of their topic on circles and exploring the relationship between *circumference* and **diameter**.

Well done to all the boys for such fantastic efforts! ●



A-LEVEL MUSICIANS INSPIRED BY LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A-level Music students had the opportunity to attend a stunning performance of 'Brahms's Symphony No. 4' by the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican. The evening featured an insightful introduction by Sir Simon Rattle, explaining Brahms's use of motifs. This experience enhanced students' understanding of their studies and deepened their appreciation of live orchestral music. ●



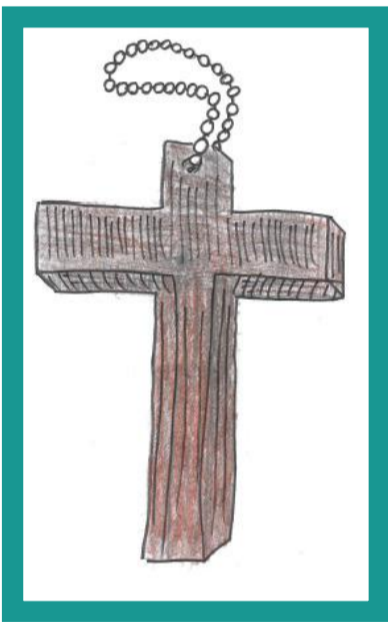
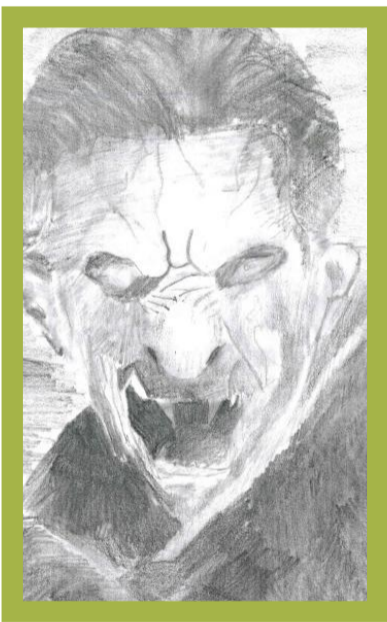


News

ROUND-UP

INSPIRING CAREERS WITH LANGUAGES EVENING

The MFL Department's 2025 Careers with Languages evening was a resounding success, bringing together parents, pupils, and speakers from Year 9 to Year 13 for an evening of inspiration. Former pupils, Alicia, Charlotte, and Poppy, shared how studying languages has enriched their lives, offering insights into university admissions, the joys of spending a year abroad, and how language skills translate into valuable career assets. Speakers, including Jon Owen and a School Governor and parent, Jamie Munro, reflected on the **transformative power** of language study, from connecting with new cultures to gaining transferable life skills. The evening highlighted that learning *languages* is not just about vocabulary, but about opening doors to **future** opportunities.●



YEAR 6'S BOLD AND CAPTIVATING TAKE ON DRACULA

Year 6 at the Boys' Prep transported their audience into the eerie world of 'Dracula', delivering a showcase that was both captivating and imaginative. Drawing on their studies of David Calcutt's adaptation, they demonstrated impressive critical reading skills, making thoughtful connections between the characters and the societal norms of the 19th century. Their performance provided a window into the classroom, offering the audience a chance to see the boys learning in action through a mix of essay readings, satirical pieces, poetry and thought-provoking questioning. Originality and creativity shone through in every scene. The result honoured Bram Stoker's classic while offering a bold and compelling interpretation. Year 6 should be immensely proud of their work—this was 'Dracula' as we have never seen it before!●





News ROUND-UP



SCHOLARS REFLECT ON HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

In January, the Year 8 and 9 Academic Scholars went on a trip to Kingston Liberal Synagogue to learn about Holocaust Memorial Day. I really enjoyed this trip, and it showed me all different angles and perspectives of what people's lives in the war were like. A speaker talked about his mother's experience in the war and even though the story was extremely heartbreaking, it was incredible that we got to hear it to understand about the war, and how to live with hope and not fear. We then got into groups and completed a task of all the laws put in place against Jewish people in the war in a timeline, and lit some candles for those who have passed away in genocide. ● **Written by Annabel G (Year 9)**

CHINESE NEW YEAR

The Girls' Prep celebrated Chinese New Year by inviting girls who celebrate it to wear traditional dress. Our **Equality Ambassadors** shared the story of the Chinese Zodiac and customs. In keeping with tradition, pupils also created a *Surbiton Wishing Tree*, writing their wishes for 2025 to hang on the tree. ●



Competition HOUSE PUBLIC SPEAKING

6 weeks' preparation and **540** lower-school participants whittled down to just **7** teams: the best of the best. Unbelievable buzz in the hall as Pankhurst House rose victorious with Camilla's outstanding speech on 'Overconsumption'! ●



EMPOWERING PUPILS THROUGH HOLISTIC EDUCATION ON SCOPE DAY

SCOPE Day at the Senior School provided pupils with a **unique** opportunity to engage with leading experts, explore key themes such as mental health, financial literacy, and digital awareness, and *participate* in hands-on activities **designed** to foster personal growth. ●

READ MORE
HERE



News

ROUND-UP



AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE

On 17 March our Year 8 and 9 Academic Scholars participated in our exciting first 'Aiming for Excellence' stretch and challenge conference. The conference was a gathering of young minds, designed to cultivate creativity, curiosity and critical thinking in a wide range of areas, exploring areas and questions outside of their current schools' curriculum.

Pupils were delighted to be meeting new people and working alongside other scholars from Hollyfield School, Newstead Wood, and Dunottar, developing their skills of collaboration, listening and teamwork.

They competed against each other in a comprehension race, as they learned all about the Parthenon, in a Classics workshop. They considered the laws they would create if they were in charge of a society, and how they might punish people that broke them, in a Law session, and they considered their policy

priorities if they were the government for a day, in a Politics workshop. Pupils also worked in groups to analyse the iconography and symbolism in portraiture, during an Art History session, and they debated the extent to which we have a duty to give financially to charitable causes, considering the moral philosophy of Peter Singer.

Pupils also heard a fascinating talk about life and careers in the armed forces from two army officers. They also received a session from our Director of Careers & Guidance about how days such as these can be so useful to develop the key skills that will be needed for future careers such as complex problem-solving, reasoning, critical thinking, and resilience and perseverance.

Between all of these workshops, pupils worked on fun, but very challenging, logic puzzles to see how many they could solve!●



They considered the laws they would create if they were in charge of a society



News ROUND-UP

TERESA HOSTS A TEA PARTY WITH LITTLE VILLAGE

Teresa held a *tea party* with our chosen charity, Little Village, and it was a big success! The atmosphere was filled with laughter and JOY as we told them about our *success* in fundraising so far this year. They told us stories of how **Little Village** came about and heart-warming stories of their experiences within the charity. Seeing everyone come together in such a *wonderful* way made the tea party an unforgettable experience. We had approximately 10 bags of items **donated** in School for Little Village - these contained a variety of children's toys and clothing. Mrs Gladwyn also donated a huge number of bags from the parents of the children at the primary school her children attend. A massive thank you to everyone who contributed to the donations; the kindness that was shown throughout the School was absolutely incredible.●

Written by Phoebe B (Year 12)



YEAR 7 PUPILS SHINE AT LOVE LANGUAGES COMPETITION

Eleven **Year 7** pupils proudly represented Surbiton High School at the *Love Languages* competition at The City of London Freeman's School in Ashted. Their fantastic German singing performance earned praise for "*bringing the fun back into languages.*" With infectious enthusiasm, they even led audience participation. Each pupil received a certificate and Maltesers, a well-deserved reward for their impressive effort after just a few lunchtime practices. Well done to all—what an incredible experience!●



COFFEE MORNING RECITAL

Thirty-five boys from Years 2 to 6 took to the stage in Mary Bennett House, performing solos to an audience of 60 parents, staff, and pupils. Showcasing their dedication, they played a variety of instruments, including piano, flute, violin, and trumpet. For some, it was their first solo performance, making the event even more special. The Coffee Morning Recital is a cherished occasion, celebrating both talent and the bravery to perform live. Well done to all the boys involved!●





Student

LEADERSHIP



INSPIRING YOUNG LEADERS

Pupils from both our Boys' Prep and Girls' Prep had the exciting opportunity to attend the Student Leadership Programme's Celebration Day at St Anne's College, University of Oxford. This prestigious event recognised the hard work and dedication of young leaders across United Learning schools,

providing a platform to showcase their impactful community projects.

A team of Year 5 pupils from the Boys' Prep proudly presented their initiative to reduce CO₂ emissions within the Surbiton High School

community. They designed and distributed 'Turn Me Off' signs for computers and light switches, encouraging energy conservation.

Their efforts were met with enthusiasm as they presented to an audience of around 100 peers and teachers.



Meanwhile, a Year 6 team from the Girls' Prep showcased their 'Recycle to Read' project which emphasised sustainability and social responsibility. Their initiative raised £50 in book tokens, thanks to the generosity of our School community. Beyond their presentation, they participated in an interactive science workshop, where they applied teamwork and problem-solving skills to build parachutes capable of safely landing an egg. They also explored the historic old library, drawing inspiration from their academic surroundings.

These experiences reinforce our commitment to fostering leadership, confidence, and a strong sense of community in our pupils. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and grateful to United Learning and St Anne's College for hosting such an enriching event. ●



These experiences reinforce our commitment to fostering leadership and confidence



Captured Moments **DRAMA**



'JEKYLL AND HYDE'

The Senior Drama Company took over Fusebox Creative Arts in Kingston in an immersive, promenade production of 'Jekyll and Hyde'. Directed by Miss Evans and Miss Arthur and using the style of Punchdrunk, the audience were given one instruction which was "*always, always follow the girl with the laptop*". This adaptation of 'Jekyll and Hyde' was timed perfectly with British Science Week and International Women's Day, as this radical reimagining of the performance crossed between the Victorian era and the contemporary day. We are so proud of the pupils who told our story with such care, passion and talent!●



Sports ROUND-UP



UNLOCKING ATHLETIC POTENTIAL THROUGH SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY

Mr Trigwell concluded his four-part series of Virtual Sports Psychology talks this term, with an impressive 1,500 sign-ups across all three of our Schools. A former National Champion and current Trainee Sports Psychologist, he explored key psychological strategies used by elite athletes, bridging the gap between his work with top senior competitors and the young minds he mentors at the Boys' Prep.

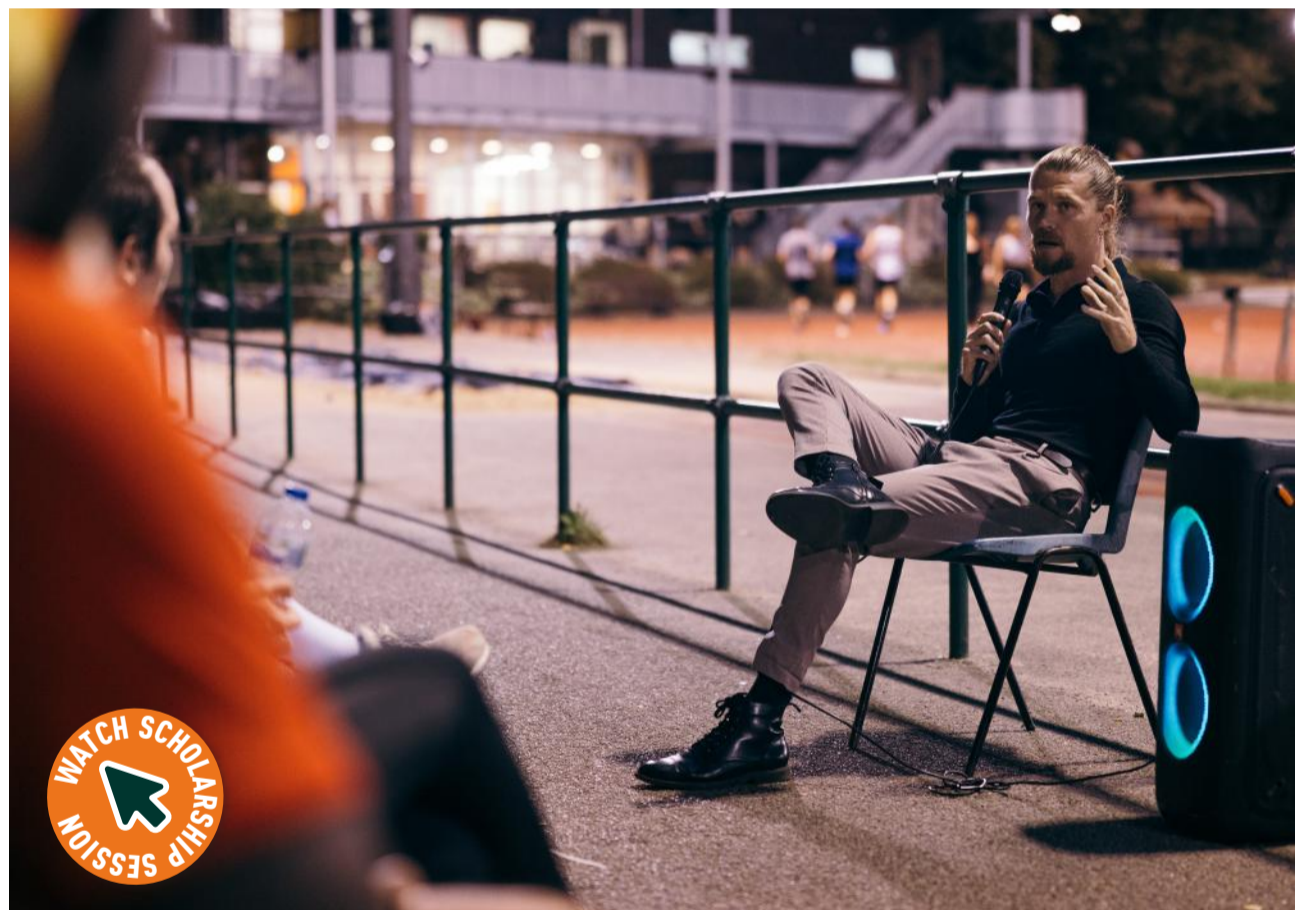
Topics included goal setting, managing challenge and threat states, the importance of autonomy in sports, and how elite athletes optimise self-talk and visualisation. These talks provided valuable insights into techniques that enhance athletic performance, helping young athletes boost motivation, focus, and mental resilience.

Mr Trigwell also offered practical advice on integrating these strategies into sports, academics, and everyday

life to strengthen their mental game.

Mr Trigwell leads our Primary Sports Scholarship Programme, which develops the aerobic and anaerobic

fitness of our Year 5 boys. This equips them with the skills and resilience needed for their transition to Year 6 and senior school journey.●



MILANO TEAM NATIONAL FINALS

Our gymnasts have achieved more national success at the Milano Team National Finals! After a tense few hours before competing due to an injury and a last-minute team change, both our older squads gave outstanding performances. The U16 team, consisting of Maeve H, Elle J, Eva R, and Rachel S, placed 2nd overall and were crowned 1st Regional Team National Champions. The U19 team, featuring Daisy A, Emmie A, Rosa B, and Annabel C, placed 4th overall and also became 1st Regional Team National Champions. A huge well done to all for their teamwork and resilience!●



Sports ROUND-UP



GYMNASTS EXCEL AT LONDON NOVICE FLOOR AND VAULT COMPETITION

On Saturday 25 January, Year 7 and Year 8 gymnasts impressed at the London Novice Floor and Vault Competition. Despite some nerves during warm-up, the pupils performed beautiful floor routines and delivered excellent vaults. The U13(B) team of Isobel W, Valary N, Alisa E, Emily G, and Marie H secured the silver medal, while the U13(A) team of Darcey C, Abi H, Sophie R, Ana V, and Sofia S won bronze. Congratulations to both teams for their fantastic achievements. ●



GOLD FOR BOYS' GYMNASTICS TEAM!

Six boys shone at the **Regional Novice Gymnastics Competition** in January, performing a floor sequence and two vaults. For four of them, it was their first competition, but they kept their cool and took home the gold medal. Well done to all! ●



SURBITON HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS SHONE IN BRITISH CHILDREN'S SKI TEAM

We were thrilled to announce that two of our pupils, alongside one of our alumna, were selected to join the British Children's Ski Team for the 2024/25 season. Congratulations to Freya T (U16 Team) and Gigi D (U14 Team), who represented Team GB at the U16 and U14 FIS International Youth Races. We were also delighted to recognise Alice Gillon, an alumna from 2022, who was selected for the U16 Team and has been training full-time with Apex. Representing Great Britain on the international stage is a phenomenal accomplishment, and we were incredibly proud of their efforts. Following their races in February, we were delighted to share that Freya achieved an impressive 4th place finish in the Giant Slalom race in Andorra, securing a strong result in a highly competitive field. Gigi also gained invaluable experience in her first year of international competition, laying the foundation for future success. Well done to all! ●



LONDON YOUTH GAMES

Congratulations to Ava, Ellina, and Caitlin for winning bronze medals, in cross-country, with Team Richmond at the London Youth Games! ●



Sports ROUND-UP



OUTSTANDING SUCCESS AT ISGA 5-PIECE PREMIER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

This season, Surbiton High School entered the **Independent Schools Gymnastics Association** (ISGA) competitions for the first time. Our Over-13 team qualified for the ISGA 5-Piece Premier National Championships, where Daisy A, Emmie A, Annabel C, Maeve H, and Louisa S delivered outstanding performances.●

RESULTS

- **Over-13 Individual All-Around**
3rd Maeve H, 6th Emmie A
- **Over-13 Overall Team** 3rd place
- **Over-13 Group Sequence**
1st place – National Champions!
- **Special awards** for Louisa S & Maeve H, plus a perfect 10.0 for Daisy A

ROWERS SHINE AT HAMMERSMITH HEAD

Surbiton High School rowers competed at Hammersmith Head, delivering an impressive set of results.

The WJ16 first eight secured gold, winning their category by the narrowest of margins—just 0.1 of a second. The WJ16 second eight also performed exceptionally well, finishing eighth overall and claiming the title of the fastest WJ16 second eight.

In the WJ18 category, the first eight unfortunately suffered an equipment failure and were unable to complete the race. However, the WJ18 second eight delivered a strong performance, finishing in tenth place and earning recognition as



the fastest WJ18 second eight.

Beyond their competitive success, the Surbiton High School Boat Club has also demonstrated its commitment to charitable work. Following last year's sponsored row, the club made a generous donation of £4,550 to Love Rowing, a charity dedicated to increasing access to the sport for disabled people and young individuals from deprived areas across the United Kingdom.

The rowers' dedication, resilience, and generosity continue to reflect the spirit of Surbiton High School, both on and off the water.●



PUPILS REACH GRAND FINAL OF EFL UTILITA GIRLS CUP

We are excited to announce that several of our Under 13 pupils have reached the Grand Final of the EFL Utilita Girls Cup at **Wembley Stadium** on Sunday 13 April! After progressing through the Local, Area, and Regional Finals, they are now one of the final two teams from over 700 schools. This marks the third time in four seasons a Surbiton High School team has made it to Wembley. The team, including Claudia W,

Matilda M, Sophie D, Liberty L, Rose D, Charlotte M, Sahara H, Molly P, and Ismene S, has demonstrated outstanding teamwork and skill. Congratulations and good luck! In addition to this success, we have eight age groups in National Football Finals! We look forward to sharing more exciting news in the coming weeks. Congratulations to all involved, and best of luck in the final!●



Sports ROUND-UP



GYMNASTS SWEEP REGIONAL TITLES

Our gymnasts set off early for the Floor and Vault Regional Finals at Streatham and Clapham High School. Competing against strong teams, we entered three squads, with the U19(A) team seeking a spot at the National Finals. Our U14 and U19(B) teams showcased impressive routines, demonstrating exceptional depth and strength. The U19(A) team excelled, with all gymnasts scoring above 15.3 on vault and Louisa S achieving a perfect 16.0 on floor. We were delighted to secure gold in all three categories, with the U19(A) team qualifying for the National Finals in May. ●

REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

● U14(B)

Azra A, Gracie G, Elle J,
Amber J, Sara P

● U19(B)

Daisy A, Rosa B, Lucy C, Kseniya
M, Isabel O V, Rachel S

● U19(A)

Emmie A, Annabel C, Maeve H,
Eva R, Louisa S

BOYS' PREP NETBALL TEAM MAKES IMPRESSIVE DEBUT

The newly formed Year 3 and 4 Netball Club at the Boys' Prep School has been a fantastic success, with an incredible turnout of boys eager to get involved. It has been inspiring to see their enthusiasm and commitment to developing their skills in a sport that is growing in popularity among boys.

This year marked the first time the Boys' Prep School formed a netball team, and it was also their first opportunity to play against other teams. Eight boys have worked exceptionally hard throughout the term, demonstrating great teamwork, determination, and rapid improvement in their gameplay. Their dedication paid off as they represented the School in fixtures against Rowan Prep and Surbiton High Girls' Prep School. It was fantastic for the boys to play against the Girls' Prep Year 3 and 4 Netball Club, showcasing their growing confidence and ability on the court. Both teams approached the challenge with enthusiasm, teamwork, and respect. We look forward to more fixtures in the future!

Mrs Johnson and Miss Loveland have been hugely impressed with the pupils' attitude and progress, praising their willingness to learn and compete at a high level. A huge well done to all involved—this is just the beginning of what promises to be an exciting journey for boys netball at the School! ●





Captains' REPORT



BRITISH SCHOOL GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

After a successful training camp in Schladming, Austria, the Surbiton High School skiers eagerly traveled to Flaine, France, for the British School Girls' Championships, marking the start of the 2024/25 alpine season. The team faced a challenging 14-hour travel day, including two cancelled flights and a stopover in Frankfurt before finally reaching the resort.

Upon arrival, the team began two days of training. The first day focused on Giant Slalom (GS) with the team adjusting to the longer GS skis, followed by ski prep and catching up on missed schoolwork. On the second day, they trained for slalom with on-slope coaching using new radios, thanks to funding from the Ski Club PA and SHS PA.

The first race, the A-team parallel event, was tough. The A-team, consisting of Immy M, Saskia S, and Rose J, faced a strong South Hampstead team and were knocked out early. However, after two days of excellent training and preparation, the team was ready for the main races.

Slalom day saw tough conditions with heavy rainfall, requiring the course to

be salted. Despite the challenges, the team performed well, with Saskia finishing 5th and Rose 8th in the U16 category. Afterward, the team analysed the race to set clear goals for the upcoming Giant Slalom.

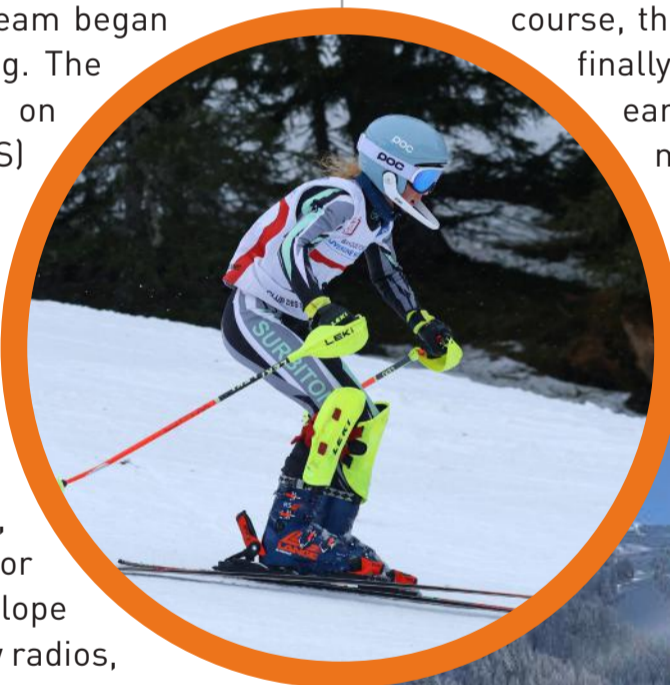
Following heavy snowfall overnight, the team faced more tough conditions but remained determined. After an hour-long delay and much slipping on the course, the Giant Slalom race finally began. Immy earned 3rd place in U16, marking a highlight of the event.

The team left



Flaine proud of their performances, feeling united and grateful for the opportunity, with special thanks to The Ladies Ski Club and their coaching team. ●

Written by Amy R-E – Captain and Elizabeth O – Vice Captain





Spotlight on... JACOB

Jacob's Journey: A Boys' Prep Alumnus Making Waves in Cycling

One of the greatest joys is hearing from our alumni and learning about their journeys since leaving us. Jacob, a former pupil of Surbiton High Boys' Prep, is a wonderful example of how far hard work and passion can take you. His story is not only inspiring but also a reminder of the importance of nurturing talent and supporting young people in pursuing their ambitions.

Jacob discovered his love for cycling at the age of seven. During his time at Surbiton High Boys' Prep, his talent was evident, and he represented the School with distinction in numerous competitions. He became a two-time British Schools Cycling Association National Hill Climb Champion in 2023 and 2024, a remarkable achievement that cemented his reputation as one to watch in the world of youth cycling. Jacob also competed in the London Youth Games, earning a gold medal in the Cycling Time Trial in 2024, adding to his bronze in 2023 and silver in 2022. His success extended beyond the United Kingdom, with third-place finishes in the European Youth Tour of Assen in the Netherlands in 2023 and 2024.

Fast forward to this year, and Jacob has embraced a new challenge in the Under 14s category. Competing for VC



Londres, he stepped into the fiercely competitive British National Cyclocross Series, an event that took him across the country. The field was filled with experienced riders, and, as one of the youngest in his category, Jacob had a steep learning curve. However, his determination and resilience shone through, culminating in a crowning achievement at the British Cycling National Cyclocross Championships. Jacob, along with his VC Londres teammates, claimed the title of Under 14 British Cycling Cyclocross National Team Champions—a well-deserved reward for a season of grit and perseverance.

Jacob's story is not just about winning titles; it is a reflection of his dedication and love for the sport. From broken bikes to muddy tracks, he has tackled every obstacle with determination and focus, qualities we were privileged to see during his time at Surbiton High Boys' Prep.

We are incredibly proud of Jacob and his accomplishments, not only because of the medals he has won but because of the example he sets for others. His journey shows our current pupils what is possible when you combine hard work, passion, and resilience. It is always a privilege to hear where life has taken our alumni, and Jacob's story is a reminder of why we do what we do at Surbiton High School.●





News

ROUND-UP



WATTS GALLERY

On a beautiful sunny day, Year 6 of Surbiton High Girls' Preparatory School headed down to the Watts Gallery. There, we observed paintings and even took a tour of Mary and George Watts' house! We looked at the stunning tiles on the ceiling that Mary handmade and soon after headed to her art studio. Everyone was particularly mesmerised by the completely handmade model of the chapel she built. We then went to see George Watts's gallery, which was adorned with excellent paintings. Later, we went to make our own tiles inspired by the ones Mary made. We all thoroughly enjoyed making tiles, but I think we all found it hard to take in the extraordinary work Mary did on the chapel! ●

Written by Year 6 journalists

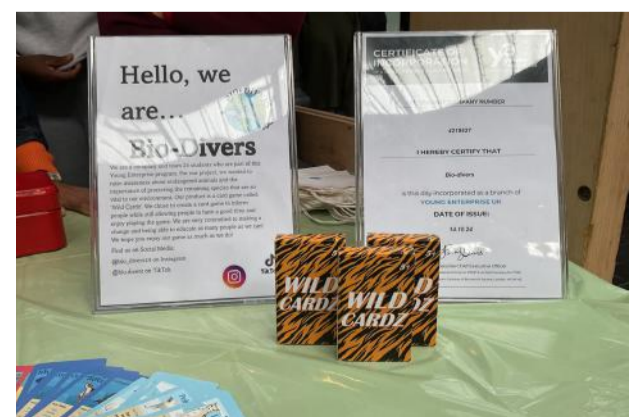


Young Enterprise LONDON TRADE FAIR

The Old Spitalfields Market was a great experience for my team and our first trade fair. As it was our first trade fair, we didn't know what to expect or how many sales we would get; however, we did manage to make some sales and, we were able to speak to many members of the public who had a positive viewpoint on our product - a card game about endangered animals. We had judges who came to us and asked us to pitch our product to them; they really liked the game and thought it was a great idea to get people educated on the endangered species and animals that risk being extinct. The market allowed us to gain real-life experience and really

get a feel of what it's like to sell to members of the public as a business. As time went on, we enjoyed a great lunch in the market and got to see all the different products that the 60 schools were selling. Overall, we had an amazing time and gained valuable experience in what it's like selling and running your own business. We are excited for the future selling opportunities to come! Thank you to Mrs Sharp, Mrs Parsons and Mr White for guidance and continued support through the programme and for allowing us to have a wonderful experience at the Spitalfields Market. ●

Written by Allegra E, 12C





News ROUND-UP

£3,000 RAISED FOR MAGGIE'S CENTRE

Staff, former staff, and alumnae gathered for a fundraising event in aid of Maggie's Centre at the Royal Marsden in Sutton. The occasion was organised to show solidarity with an alumna and her family as she courageously navigates her diagnosis. The evening's highlight was a lively quiz night, with 16 teams testing their knowledge across a variety of challenging topics. A special round focused on Surbiton High School trivia.

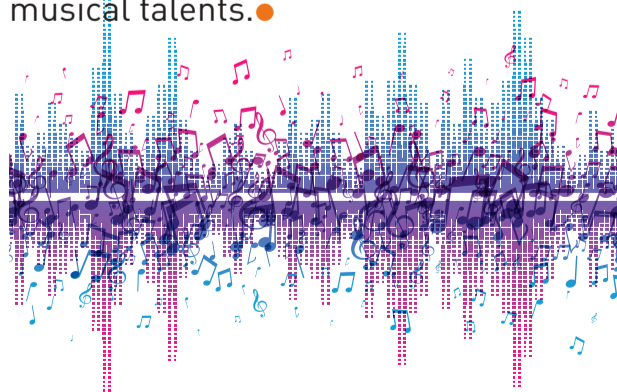


Mrs Adams and her team claimed victory by the smallest of margins. Thanks to the generosity of all those who participated, a remarkable £3,000 was raised for Maggie's Centre. These funds will provide essential support and resources for the centre at the Royal Marsden in Sutton. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed, whether through participation or donation. Your kindness and sense of community have made a meaningful impact, truly reflecting our motto: 'May Love Always Lead Us'.●



MUSIC SCHOLARS...

...from Years 7 to 10 at the Senior School delivered captivating solo performances at St Andrew's Church, Surbiton, following an invitation from the organisers of the Thames Concert Series. Accompanied by Miss Gori, the pupils impressed an audience that included members of the public, showcasing their exceptional musical talents.●



NEURODIVERSITY CELEBRATION WEEK

Neurodiversity Celebration Week promotes inclusion and recognising the strengths of neurodivergent individuals. A highlight was a talk by Fintan O'Regan, a leading specialist in ADHD and behaviour, who spoke on 'Navigating Neurodiversity and Neurodivergence'. Drop-in clinics ran throughout the week, offering support and guidance to pupils. In addition, the Learning Support Department provides a permanent safe space for neurodivergent pupils year-round, made possible by the generous support of the Surbiton High School Parents' Association. Neurodiversity Week highlighted the School's ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where every individual is valued and empowered to thrive.●

SOMETHING'S BREWING...
CLICK TO SEE THIS YEAR'S BIG MUSICAL REVEAL!



News

ROUND-UP



EXPLORING THE WONDER LAB

Year 3 from the Girls' Prep embarked on an exciting trip to the Science Museum, where they explored the Wonder Lab and delved into the fascinating world of forces. A highlight of the visit was the interactive slides, which allowed the girls to experience firsthand how friction and gradients affect speed and movement. Through hands-on experiments and engaging demonstrations, they discovered key scientific principles in a dynamic and memorable way. The trip not only sparked curiosity and excitement about physics but also encouraged the pupils to think like scientists—observing, questioning, and making predictions. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring learning to life beyond the classroom! ● **Written by Year 6 journalists**



AFRICAN KINGDOMS PROJECT

Year 8 History students at the Senior School took part in an exciting African Kingdoms project, which was also linked to their PSHE lessons. The classrooms were transformed into vibrant museum exhibitions, where pupils had the chance to explore the fascinating diversity of religion, culture, trade, and politics in ancient African civilisations. The creativity and enthusiasm shown by the pupils were truly inspiring, as they brought this important part of history to life. It was an engaging and memorable experience for all involved, showcasing their talent and teamwork! ●



News ROUND-UP



HOUSE SINGING

This year's House Singing at the Girls' Prep was a fun and exciting event, with Arundel, Balmoral, and Caernarvon all putting in a lot of effort. In KS2, Arundel performed 'The Greatest Day', Balmoral sang 'Reach', and Caernarvon performed 'Stargazing'. After all their hard work, determination, and great team spirit, Caernarvon won the competition for KS2. In KS1, Arundel took the win with 'Here Comes the Sun', Balmoral sang 'Reach', and Caernarvon performed 'Shotgun'. It was an amazing day filled with talent and House spirit! ●



'DR VOLCANO' IGNITES CURIOSITY AT THE GIRLS' PREP

Professor Dougal Jerram, known as 'Dr Volcano,' brought the science of eruptions to life during an exciting visit to the Girls' Prep. With thrilling stories, stunning photos, and a lava bomb experiment using Coco Pops, he captivated pupils while explaining the powerful forces behind volcanic eruptions. His fascinating tales of exploring active craters left pupils inspired and eager to learn more about Earth science. Thank you, Dr Volcano, for an unforgettable experience! ●



BOYS' PREP PUPILS IMPRESS WITH POWERFUL SPEECH ON TEAMWORK

In March, Henry, Sebastian, and Kiran represented the Boys' Prep at a public speaking competition at Epsom College. The boys had collaboratively created, written, and rehearsed a compelling verbatim presentation on 'The Power of Teamwork'. They delivered their speech with passion, eloquence, and confidence, demonstrating not only their dedication but also their growing mastery of oracy. They were true ambassadors for the School, and we were immensely proud of their performance. Taking part in this enriching event has helped the boys to develop an important life skill further - one that will serve them well in their future endeavours, both academically and beyond! ●





SHSPA

Summer festival



11AM
- 4PM

SATURDAY
5TH JULY

INFLATABLES
CHILDRENS GAMES
FOOD STALLS
LIVE MUSIC
MARKET STALLS
AND MORE!



HINCHLEY WOOD

SPONSORED BY



 bloomin'
marvellous



Captured Moments

FASHION & ARTS



This year's Fashion and Arts Showcase once again displayed the immense creativity of our pupils as they explored the theme 'Myths and Legends From Around the World', bringing ancient lore to life through fashion, dance, and visual media.

The incredible sense of community shone through as pupils worked together to create something truly remarkable. Our brilliant Year 12 House Leaders did an exceptional job guiding pupils in Years 7 to 10 through the entire process—from the initial conception of their outfits to the final designs, shaping cohesive House performances and successfully demonstrating leadership on a scale far beyond what many have experienced

before. The Fashion and Arts Showcase is a cornerstone of House co-curricular life at the Senior School, and year after year, the incredible performances created entirely by our pupils continue to astound. Congratulations once again to all pupils who took part, thank you to all who attended, and very well done to Pankhurst House who were crowned our overall winners by the judging panel!

We raised over £14k in aid of our School and House charities, so thank you to all who contributed to the success of the biggest charitable event in the Senior School calendar!●



School **PODCASTS**

#SHSSpirit



SURBITON HIGH PREP SCHOOLS' PODCAST



**With Prep School Headteachers
Louise McCabe-Arnold and Tracey Chong**

LISTEN NOW - Ep 20
Taking Back Control (Part 2)



Available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and all major Podcast providers



Unlocking OXBRIDGE



MYTHS, REALITIES, AND TAILORED SUPPORT

As Mr McDermott, Head of Oxbridge, begins interviews with our next cohort of prospective Oxbridge applicants, we would like to share some insights into Oxbridge life, and our dedicated support and address common myths and realities.

■ ■ I WON'T HAVE FUN ■ ■

The collegiate system at both universities fosters a strong sense of community and offers vibrant social scenes with a wealth of activities, including sports, nightlife, theatre, and concerts. With the charm of medium-sized cities and proximity to London, students benefit from an engaging student experience and access to the capital. ●

■ ■ OXBRIDGE DOESN'T LIKE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL STUDENTS ■ ■

While the proportion of offers to independent school students has declined, this reflects broader changes in application demographics. Increased international applications and improved outreach to pupils from non-traditional backgrounds have impacted success rates across both sectors. Oxbridge prioritises individual context, such as postcode, over school type. Notably, 30% of Oxbridge students still come from the independent sector, compared to 7% nationally. ●

■ ■ IT'S TOO PRESSURED ■ ■

Although Oxbridge students often face a heavier workload, many compare it to their sixth form experience; with good time management and strong support systems, the workload is manageable. ●

■ ■ I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH ■ ■

Oxford and Cambridge use rigorous selection processes to identify students who will thrive, including interviews, assessments, and submitted work. This careful approach ensures strong course matches and contributes to low dropout rates and high academic success. ●

■ ■ IT'S NOT DIVERSE ■ ■

Oxbridge's diversity is steadily improving; around 70% of pupils come from state schools, with approximately 25% identifying as Black, Asian or from other minority ethnic backgrounds. Additionally, 19% identify as non-heterosexual and women now make up 47% of the student body. ●

By addressing these myths, we hope to provide a realistic view of life at Oxbridge and encourage students to apply. With the extensive support at Surbiton High School, students are well-positioned for success.

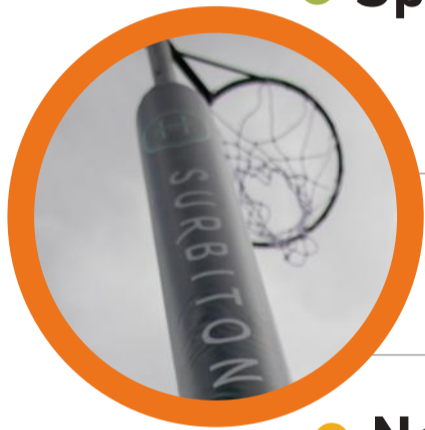
WHAT DO WE OFFER AT SURBITON HIGH SCHOOL? Our Oxbridge Programme begins in Year 12, building on the Scholars' Programme from Year 7. Open to all pupils, the Oxbridge Programme offers personalised course guidance, and university visits, alongside entry test preparation, personal statement writing, and interview skills. ●



Parents' **ASSOCIATION**

SINCE THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR, THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION HAVE MADE WISHES COME TRUE AROUND DIFFERENT AREAS OF SCHOOL.

- **Sponsorship of the Royal Institute Science Sessions as part of Community Classrooms**



- New Netball Hoops for the Senior School

- **New Ski Equipment and Uniforms for the Ski Team**

- Purchase and installation of defibrillators in more areas of the Schools and Hinchley Wood

- **Co-funding CRY (Cardiac Screenings) for the Senior School**

- 'Quiet Room' equipment to provide a peaceful and calm space in the Senior School



- **The Forest School final sponsorship to get the space completed and fully refreshed!**





PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

COMEDY NIGHT

FEATURING
SCOTT BENNETT
DOMINIC HOLLAND
THE NOISE NEXT DOOR
NINIA BENJAMIN



17 MAY 2025

**SURBITON ASSEMBLY ROOMS
7:30 PM**

£18 PP

BAR AND SNACKS AVAILABLE

**TICKETS GO ON SALE
FRIDAY 28TH MARCH AT 7PM
ON CLASSLIST**



World BOOK DAY



World Book Day was a fantastic celebration of reading and creativity across Surbiton High School, with both our Prep and Senior Schools taking part in a day filled with inspiring activities.

At the Boys' Prep, the day started with a sustainability-themed costume parade, where the boys recycled or upcycled materials for their outfits. They also participated in live storytime sessions, a carousel of reading activities, and a book swap, with remaining books donated to The Children's Book Project to help combat book poverty.

The Girls' Prep also dressed up as their favourite book characters, enjoyed story sessions in different classrooms, and were inspired by a talk from award-winning author, Anthony McGowan, who discussed his book, 'Dogs of the Deadlands', and the challenges faced during evacuation.

Meanwhile, the Senior School were fortunate to host two fantastic author visits. Anthony McGowan spoke to Year 7 pupils, while SHS alumnus, Jacob North, joined the Literary Society for an engaging session. The pupils also took

part in a series of fun, form-time activities throughout the week, including a live Taskmaster event in the Main Hall, which was a highlight for many.

The School community also supported the Children's Book Project with a book drive, donating children's books to those in need. Finally, staff embraced the spirit of the day with a popular costume competition.

It was a memorable day filled with reading, creativity, and a strong sense of community!●





Spotlight on...

MRS ADAMS

We were delighted to announce that Mrs Olivia Adams, current Head of Classics, was appointed as the new Vice Principal for Educational Excellence & Innovation at the Senior School.

Having led the highly successful Classics Department for five years, Mrs Adams has driven consistent academic excellence and fostered growing interest in the subject. Her previous role as Assistant Head of Oxbridge saw her contribute to the strategic development of the School's successful Oxbridge Programme. Additionally, her experience as an OCR A-level examiner highlights her dedication to academic rigour.

A Cambridge University Classics graduate, Mrs Adams brings a wealth of experience from independent and state schools, providing her with a comprehensive understanding of the educational landscape. Her insight into the evolving challenges young people face, including mental health concerns and the rise of digital technologies, will be invaluable as she takes on this pivotal role.

Mrs Adams shared her enthusiasm for



this new chapter: *"I am excited to engage more actively in classrooms, contributing to the exceptional learning and teaching at Surbiton High School. The School's dedication to going above and beyond for its pupils is inspiring, and I look forward to supporting them in reaching their full potential."*

Recognising the balance between tradition and technological advancements, Mrs Adams remains committed to fostering creativity and innovation while upholding the academic rigour that defines Surbiton High School.

We look forward to seeing the continued impact of Mrs Adams's passion and expertise as she leads the School into a new era of educational excellence. ●



The School's dedication to going above and beyond for its pupils is inspiring



Captured Moments **BOYS' PREP**

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN DAY

Year 1 travelled back in time to Ancient Egypt

The Boys experienced Ancient Egyptian life by taking on roles like hunters, fishermen, and farmers, learning how

jobs depended on the River Nile. They crafted canopic jars, explored mummification by preserving an orange,

and wrapped it in bandages before decorating their own sarcophagi with amulets and inscriptions. ●





School

TRIPS & VISITS



BRITISH LIBRARY VISIT

On the 30 January, the Year 7 Scholars and friends visited the British Library to explore an exhibition called 'A Silk Road Oasis: Life in Ancient Dunhuang'.

The day started with a brief explanation of the exhibition, and we were fortunate enough to have one of the curators there to really dig deep into it. She explained how the people of ancient Asia would trade and use Dunhuang as a main checkpoint. In the exhibition, we saw everything from an ancient shoe to a 21-metre-long scroll! We were challenged to think about how Dunhuang and the Mogao caves (where most of the artefacts were found) were closely related. We also heard how scholars translated some of the scripts from languages no one speaks. After a delicious lunch, we got straight to learning some Chinese calligraphy. It was amazing to explore what all the different symbols mean and how they come together to create ornate and unique pieces of art. As the day came to an end, we went back to School with so much new knowledge! Overall, it was an amazing experience and we all really enjoyed it. ● **Written by Hattie G (Year 7)**

A FAIRY TALE ADVENTURE AT PAINSHILL PARK

Year 2 girls enjoyed a truly enchanting day at Painshill Park, stepping into the magical world of fairy tales. They wandered through the Three Bears' House and Sleeping Beauty's Gothic Temple, bringing beloved stories to life through captivating drama and storytelling. The afternoon held its own wonder as they transformed into plant explorers, uncovering the secrets of nature, learning about plant life cycles, and discovering Painshill's majestic oldest cedar tree. Their boundless curiosity and thoughtful questions added a touch of magic to an unforgettable adventure. ●

21.01.2025





School

TRIPS & VISITS

Year 2 boys took a trip to **The Science Museum** in London. It was out of this world! They took part in a **workshop** and role-played launching into space on a mission to the ISS. The boys learned all about what astronauts eat and drink and even how they go to the loo. Some boys had a chance to play basketball using an anti-gravity device and they got to see lots of incredible rockets and learn amazing facts about the race to space. The boys particularly enjoyed seeing a piece of the moon on display.●

AN UNFORGETTABLE SPORTS ADVENTURE

The Boys' Prep Years 5 and 6 Sports Tour to Holland was an exciting mix of rugby, football, cultural experiences, and team bonding. The boys competed in fixtures, explored Dutch culture, and created lasting memories. The adventure began with football fixtures against Odijk, followed by warm Dutch hospitality. Saturday featured a competitive rugby festival and an unforgettable tour of the Amsterdam Arena, home of Ajax FC. The football team also trained at the KNVB facilities, enhancing their skills. Sunday was dedicated to football, with matches against Kampong before watching FC Utrecht play live. The tour concluded with bowling and reflection on a fantastic experience. A perfect blend of sport, culture, and fun, this trip will be remembered for years!●



BOCKETT'S FARM

The Reception boys had a fantastic day at Bockett's Farm to compliment their learning about signs of spring. During a guided tour, they were able to learn lots of interesting facts about the animals and were given the opportunity to feed and stroke them. The boys were even treated to a tractor ride and a very eventful pig race!●





Captured Moments **DANCE**



EVOLVE DANCE SHOWCASE

On Friday 28 February, the Senior School proudly hosted its 6th annual dance showcase, 'Evolve'. The event highlighted the exceptional talent of pupils from across all year groups, showcasing both their GCSE and A-level dance pieces, alongside performances developed during co-curricular sessions. The sold-out audience of over 200 was captivated by the dynamic performances. We were also delighted to welcome back Dillon Dance Youth, who presented an excerpt from their stunning work, 'Wardrobe'. The evening was a resounding success, with many attendees commending the pupils for creating much of the choreography themselves. The dancers demonstrated remarkable confidence, energy, and skill, ensuring the audience remained enthralled throughout the entire performance. ●





Pupil

WELL-BEING



THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF OZZY, THE THERAPY DOG

As schools prioritise pupil well-being, therapy dogs have become a valuable asset. At the Boys' Prep, our much-loved Labrador Therapy Dog, Ozzy, has had a remarkable impact on both pupils and staff.

Miss Kilpin's beloved dog, Ozzy, is far more than a pet; he is an integral part of School life. His success has led to an increased timetable, with him now joining fitness sessions, classroom visits, and one-to-one support. A highlight has been our Walk and Talk sessions, where Key Stage 2 boys take Ozzy for a lunchtime stroll, offering them a relaxed space to talk with staff and peers.

Each morning, Ozzy greets boys at the gate, setting a positive tone for the day. He listens to pupils read and supports engagement in lessons. His presence has also inspired the Head Boy Team to introduce Ozzy Tokens, rewarding boys with extra time with him for demonstrating responsibility.

Therapy dogs help reduce anxiety, promote emotional regulation, and encourage social interaction. Ozzy provides comfort and companionship, ensuring pupils feel supported and fostering a strong sense of belonging within the School community.



In line with her dedication to pupil well-being, we are also delighted to announce that Miss Kilpin, currently Key Stage 1 Lead and Year 1 Teacher, will be stepping into the role of Joint Deputy Head (Pupil Development and Well-being) alongside Mr Buckingham in September. Her passion for supporting emotional well-being has been evident in her work with Ozzy, and we are excited to see how her leadership will continue to shape the School's commitment to the holistic development of our pupils.

At the Boys' Prep, emotional well-being is just as important as academic success, and Ozzy plays a vital role in this commitment. ●



Pupil

WELL-BEING



BOYS' PREP WELCOMES THE CONCUSSION JOURNEY WORKSHOPS

Surbiton High School was delighted to host *Barney Davies* from The **Concussion Journey** at the Boys' Prep for a series of workshops on concussion in sport. Using personal stories and **real-life** experiences, Mr Davies highlighted the importance of recognising and **managing** concussions to *protect* athletes' health. The sessions included:

- A practical workshop for Year 5 pupils on safe tackling techniques and symptom awareness.
- A staff session on concussion management and safeguarding strategies.
- A discussion with parents on recovery support and long-term health considerations.

These workshops reinforced the School's commitment to prioritising pupil well-being while nurturing a lasting love for sport. ●



MANAGING ANXIETY

We welcomed parents of Year 10 and 11 pupils to our Managing Anxiety Coffee Morning, led by Dr Rebecca Williamson and Dr Helen Woodhouse, Senior Educational Psychologists from Achieving for Children. With their extensive experience in cognitive behavioural therapeutic approaches (CBT) and supporting young people's well-being, they provided invaluable insights into managing anxiety and fostering resilience. A huge thank you to everyone who attended—creating a supportive community for our pupils starts with these important conversations!

Book Recommendations

Dr Williamson and Dr Woodhouse also shared their top recommended reads for parents looking to further support their children's well-being. ●





Pupil

WELL-BEING



Nutrition Week Highlights **FUELING THE BODY AND MIND**

Nutrition Week at the Girls' Prep was an exciting celebration of healthy living, focusing on how food fuels both our bodies and minds. With the theme 'Food for Fuel', we explored the connection between nutrition and physical performance through a variety of activities, including snack making, understanding nutritional labels, and learning about the microbiome. Pupils eagerly shared their healthy snack boxes, demonstrating their newfound knowledge about balanced eating.

One of the highlights was welcoming Lucinda Miller, Clinical Lead of the NatureDoc team and a leading expert in neurodevelopmental nutrition. Lucinda led workshops on the importance of hydration, eating colourful foods, and strategies for better sleep. Using easy-to-follow recipes from her bestselling books, Lucinda provided practical tips on how to incorporate healthier choices into daily routines.

Lucinda's expertise, particularly in neurodevelopmental nutrition and its impact on children's health, was invaluable. Her evening talk for parents covered how to balance blood sugar, nourish the gut microbiome, and the role of key vitamins in daily nutrition.

In addition, we were thrilled to host Lola Anderson, a former Surbiton High School pupil and professional rowing athlete. Lola shared her journey to becoming a Olympic gold medalist and how she fuels her training with proper nutrition. Pupils enjoyed a fitness session with Lola, and the chance to hold her Olympic medal was a memorable experience for everyone.

Overall, Nutrition Week was a huge success, empowering our pupils with the knowledge to make healthier choices and take control of their well-being. ●





Our ALUMNI



OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST INSPIRES PUPILS

Lola Anderson, a former pupil (Class of 2016) and now an Olympic gold medalist from the Paris 2024 Games, returned to Surbiton High School to share her journey and inspire the next generation. Lola, who is also a World Champion, European Champion, and a recipient of the Sunday Times Sportswomen Team of the Year Award, started rowing at Surbiton High School at the age of 13. She was inspired by her family members and wanted to try something new with her friends.

During her visit to the Girls' Prep and Senior Schools, Lola humorously recalled winning the unofficial prize for the most successful at capsizing when she first embarked on the sport. She emphasized three key attributes necessary for her success in rowing:

- **Physical Power and Physiology:** The importance of having the physical strength and the right physiological



attributes to excel in the sport.

- **Technique:** The need to master the skills and tools required to deliver top performance.
- **Mental Toughness:** The approach of focusing not on the outcome but on giving your best performance at any given moment.

Lola also spoke about the importance of working with a team and maintaining self-discipline, before recounting the preparation for the big race and how she felt once it was confirmed they had won gold. What is next for Lola? Four years of training towards the next Olympics in Los Angeles – taking one day at a time! It is always wonderful to welcome our alumni back to Surbiton High School, and Lola's confident and powerful talk was truly inspirational to all pupils and staff who listened, leaving them motivated and eager to pursue their own dreams, both in sports and beyond.●



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

Surbiton High School was proud to host our alumna, Molly Gilmore, for a talk on apprenticeships during National Apprenticeship Week. Molly, who is now a Junior Management Consultant apprentice at IBM, along with Mr White from our careers team, spoke about her experiences since leaving Surbiton High. This included highlighting how apprenticeships are an equally valid route into employment and may suit some students better than the traditional university route. It was great to see Molly again and hear how she has continued to flourish since leaving Surbiton!●



Spotlight on...

MRS FRANCIS

In the Spring Term, Mrs Rebecca Francis began her role as the Senior School's Assistant Principal for Pupil Development & Well-being. With 15 years of experience in pastoral care, including roles as Head of Year and Head of PSHE, Mrs Francis has been deeply committed to supporting pupils and ensuring their voices are heard.



Before joining Surbiton High School, Mrs Francis served as Head of House at Woldingham School, where

she was actively involved in pastoral care. Outside of her professional life, she is a busy mother of three and enjoys reading and taking long walks with her cockapoo.

In a recent interview, Mrs Francis shared her thoughts on the challenges young people face today, particularly around managing the pressures of social media. She also spoke about Surbiton High School's well-being programme, which is built on the PERMA model

and the 'Nourish to Flourish' philosophy, helping to equip pupils with the resilience and life skills they need to thrive. Recognised with the 'Wellbeing Award for Schools' in 2024, the School continues to place a strong emphasis on pupil happiness and support.

Through a comprehensive well-being curriculum and continued guidance, Surbiton High School ensures that pupils are supported, especially during challenging times like exam season. Under Mrs Francis's leadership, the School is dedicated to providing an environment where pupils feel valued, supported, and ready to succeed. ●





School RESULTS

EXCEPTIONAL 11+ AND 10+ RESULTS FOR SURBITON HIGH BOYS' PREP

We are delighted to share the outstanding success of our Year 6 pupils in this year's 11+ examinations. Our 37 pupils have achieved an exceptional set of results, securing an impressive 121 offers from leading senior schools, including 31 scholarships.

Furthermore, our Year 5 boys have also achieved fantastic success in the 10+ process, receiving six offers from top senior schools.

These achievements reflect the hard work and dedication of our pupils, along

with the guidance of our teachers and the encouragement of their families.

We congratulate all our pupils on their success and look forward to seeing them thrive in their senior schools!●

SCHOOL	OFFERS	SCHOLARSHIP
City of London Freeman's School	1	
Claremont Fan Court School	16	9 Academic, 1 All-rounder Scholarship (Music & Sport)
Downsend School	2	
Ewell Castle	9	2 Academic, 1 Sports Scholarship
Halliford School	10	1 Academic, 1 Sports Scholarship
Hampton School	14	2 Academic, 2 Music Scholarships
Hampton Court House School	1	
Ibstock Place School	3	
Kingston Grammar School	14	1 Academic, 1 Music, 2 Sports Scholarships
King's College, Wimbledon	2	1 Academic Scholarship
Radnor House School	3	
Reed's School	18	2 Academic, 2 Music, 2 Sports Scholarships
St George's College	3	
St James Boys' School	4	
St John's School, Leatherhead	11	1 Academic Scholarship
The Kingston Academy	1	
Thomas' College	3	
Tiffin School	5	
Wallington County Grammar School	1	



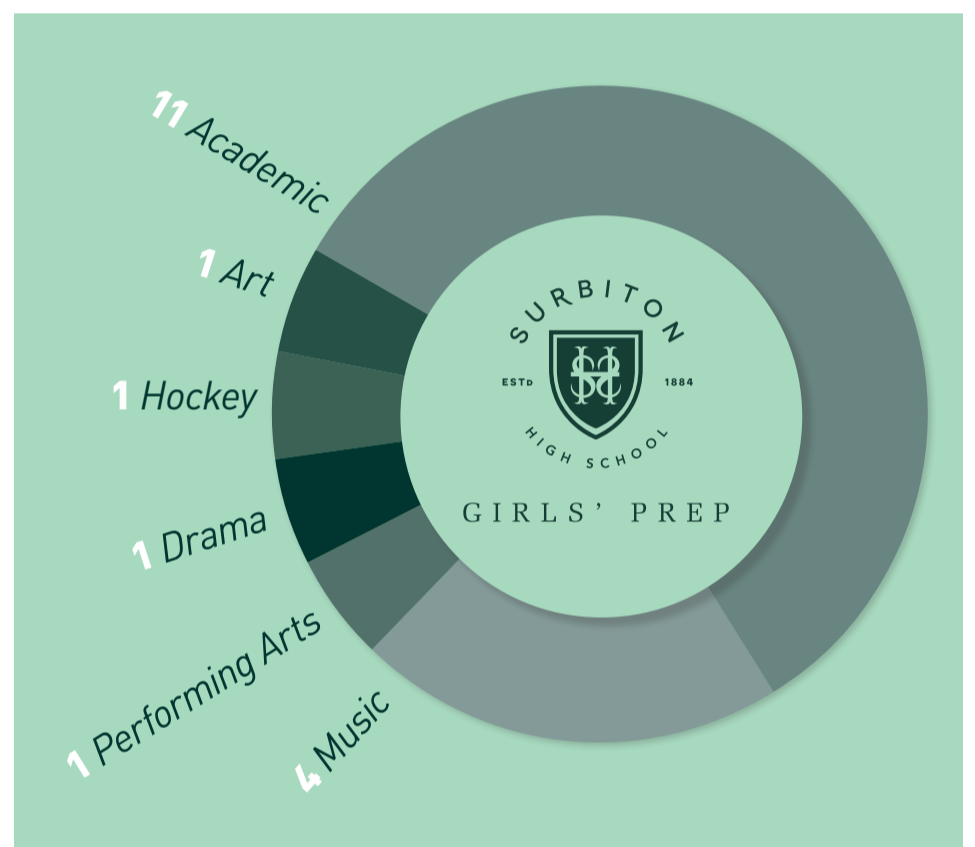
School RESULTS

CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 6 GIRLS

Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils at Surbiton High Girls' Prep School on their achievements in this year's 11+ examinations.

Our pupils have achieved a fantastic set of results, earning a total of *19 scholarships* for senior school

Their success reflects the dedication, talent, and hard work of our pupils, as well as the support of our teachers and the encouragement of their families. Well done to all! We look forward to seeing them thrive in senior school.



CELEBRATING UNIVERSITY OFFERS

The breadth of the curriculum and the support provided in the Sixth Form enable our students to discover their individual strengths and interests. This is particularly evident in the wide range of offers our Year 13 students are receiving from a diverse selection of universities and courses.

This year, **14** students have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge, a testament to their commitment to both academic excellence and personal

growth. In addition, our students have received an impressive **20** offers for medical school, **3** for veterinary science, **8** for physiotherapy, and **2** for nursing. Our students have also received **5** offers for foundation art courses at Kingston University and Ravensbourne University, with more to come in the months ahead.

Drama students have also secured places at highly competitive drama schools and institutions including

LAMDA and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

International offers from universities, include Leiden University in the Netherlands, as well as sports scholarships to prestigious US universities such as the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Purdue University.

As students prepare for their exams, we wish them all the best of luck.



News

ROUND-UP

NATHANIEL C ACHIEVES PRESTIGIOUS GOLD AWARD AT LE CARROUSEL DU LOUVRE

Nathaniel C from the Boys' Prep has achieved an exceptional milestone, with his artwork selected for exhibition at the renowned Le Carrousel du Louvre in Paris. This prestigious opportunity allowed Nathaniel to showcase his artistic talent at one of the world's most iconic cultural landmarks. The judges were highly impressed by Nathaniel's submission, praising both his creativity and technical skill. His work, which carries a powerful message on environmental protection, captivated the panel. Nathaniel's dedication to his craft and ability to convey meaningful messages through his art is truly commendable. In recognition of his achievement, Nathaniel travelled to Paris to receive



his Gold Award and see his artwork on display. This remarkable success is a proud moment,

and we eagerly anticipate Nathaniel's continued artistic journey. Congratulations, Nathaniel! ●



INSPIRING DAY!

Our Year 12 Further Mathematicians had an inspiring day at the Maths Fest at The Royal Institution! They explored fascinating topics beyond the curriculum, from crowd flow analysis to the maths behind the Rubik's Cube. A highlight was Emily's debut at 'Maths Slam', where she presented on Benford's Law, revealing the surprising patterns in the frequency of digits. ●



News ROUND-UP

A HEARTFELT VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION AT FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School was filled with love at the Girls' Prep as we celebrated reaching the halfway point of our first year and Valentine's Day. Our grownups joined us for a special session, exploring and playing together. We performed a Valentine's song, demonstrated our fire-making skills, and created Hapa Zome heart designs. Making mud brownies in the outdoor kitchen added to the fun. It was a day of love, laughter, and adventure!●

YEAR 6 EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS NIGHT

Year 6 pupils at the Girls' Prep experienced a night in makeshift cardboard beds in the Runcie Hall, gaining a small insight into the challenges faced by homeless individuals. They were joined by Bruce from SPEAR, a charity supporting people from homelessness to independence, and Andy, who shared his inspiring journey from living on the streets to helping others. To support SPEAR, visit their website to report sightings of people sleeping rough and help connect them with vital support.●



CAREERS INSPIRATION

Dr Lamb, a parent at Surbiton High School, visited to speak to our potential medics about her career as an Army Doctor and Infectious Diseases Consultant. She shared insights into military medicine, clinical pathways, and sponsorship opportunities within the Armed Forces, inspiring our pupils to consider diverse and impactful careers in the medical field.●

SURBITON HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS PERFORM WITH THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Ten Senior School pupils participated in a prestigious concert with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall on Saturday 18 January. They performed as part of the children's choir for John Adams's 'On the Transmigration of Souls', a poignant piece commemorating the victims of the September 11 attacks. The concert was a resounding success, with the pupils excelling in mastering challenging music in a short time frame.●





News

ROUND-UP



SURBITON HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORMS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN GHANA

Two years ago, the Surbiton High School Parents' Association faced the challenge of rehoming surplus uniforms featuring the old logo. Rather than letting them go to waste, the PA found an innovative solution—partnering with schools abroad.

We are delighted to share that these uniforms have now been distributed to the Katamanso Presbyterian School, Katamanso Number 1 JHS School, and the Children of the Sunday School of Olive Tree Praise Ministry near Accra, Ghana.

The schools expressed their gratitude, saying: *"Once again, a BIG, massive thank you to everyone who helped us put a smile on a child's face."*



This achievement was made possible by the dedication of the Parents' Association, volunteers, and supportive parents. Special thanks go to Vicky Bulger for ensuring the uniforms reached Ghana.

This initiative is just the beginning. Surbiton High School will continue to collect old logo uniforms and other suitable items to support these schools. Together, we can make a lasting impact and strengthen global connections. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this inspiring effort. ●





School **PODCASTS**

#SHSSpirit



[SURBITONHIGH.COM](https://surbitonhigh.com)

The Surbiton High School Podcast



LISTEN NOW - Ep 60
Introducing Principal Matthew Shoults

LISTEN NOW - Ep 61
Celebrating Founders' Day 2025



Available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and all major Podcast providers



News ROUND-UP



FASCINATING INSIGHT INTO BRITISH POLITICS

The politics trip to parliament was an incredibly enriching experience, giving us a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the world of UK politics and lawmaking. The day started with a guided tour, leading us through the iconic halls of the Houses of Parliament before we were able to witness a live debate in the House of Commons. We ended the tour with a fun parliament workshop which included an intense mock general election between the students.

During our lunch break, we seized the chance to explore the House of Lords, hoping to witness another live debate. In a remarkable stroke of luck, a few Politics students had the opportunity to engage in conversation with a viscount on his way to the chamber and even got his autograph! This impromptu encounter offered us a rare and fascinating insight into the life of one of the few hereditary peers still active in parliament. He was

kind enough to grant us a once-in-a-lifetime privilege: access to the House of Lords itself, where we were able to sit inside the chamber amongst the lords and witness a debate of the Lords firsthand. It was an extraordinary experience that truly brought our studies to life!

Finishing the day off, we were given a guided tour of the Supreme Court, another key area of our A-level studies. We were able to sit in a courtroom, where landmark cases are debated, and engage in a mock trial of a real-life previous hearing. The highlight of the visit was attending a live Supreme Court hearing where we observed part of the process of legal appeals. Overall, the trip provided an unforgettable experience that offered us a firsthand perspective into British politics and law-making, sparking our enthusiasm even more! ●

Written by Emily R, 12P

STEAM WEEK 2025

STEAM Week took place at the Boys' Prep in February with the exciting theme of **'Changing and Adapting'**. Pupils were grouped together in mixed-age teams, allowing them to collaborate with younger and older peers—a highlight of the week. The boys took part in *fantastic* hands-on activities, including 'Survive the Flood' raft making, volcano building, rocket launching, designing earthquake-proof towers, shelter construction, and navigating a coding robot mystery maze. Fully immersing themselves in the **challenges**, they worked together to modify and *improve* their creations, showcasing adaptability and teamwork. It was a joy to see so many smiling faces throughout the week, and the whole School buzzed with SCIENTIFIC chatter and excitement about the upcoming activities. A huge thank you to all the staff for their hard work and **effort** in making the activities so exciting and engaging for the boys! ●





News

ROUND-UP

ANCIENT WORLD DAY 2025

Year 7 enjoyed a fantastic morning exploring ancient theatre. Over the past two terms, they created hand-built pots in Art and studied mythology in Latin. The pupils took part in a drama workshop, learning about voice projection and body language to express emotions. They then rehearsed and performed scenes from exciting myths: Arachne and Athena, Perseus and Medusa, and Theseus and the Minotaur, wearing their impressive homemade masks. The performances were judged by our Sixth Form classicists, with a supportive audience from their year group. To top off the day, the pupils enjoyed a themed lunch inspired by ancient Greece. ●



IGNITING CURIOSITY

As part of our 2025 Community Classrooms, we were thrilled to welcome back the Royal Institution for a sixth year. Their EXPLOSIVE FOOD show, part of the Science in Schools programme, captivated pupils with pyrotechnic presentations ahead of National Science Week. Thanks to the generosity of Surbiton High School's Parents' Association, 1,800 pupils from across Kingston attended over three days, fostering scientific curiosity and community engagement. ●

THE LARGEST SCIENCE FAIR YET!

We had the pleasure of **hosting** our largest and most *successful* Senior School Science Fair yet. With over 70 outstanding projects and more than 150 talented pupils, it was a true celebration of creativity, hard work, and dedication. The incredible efforts of all involved showcased pupils' *enthusiasm* for STEM. This event would not have been possible without the generosity of the Green and Silver Club, whose support was vital to its success. We *sincerely* appreciate it! ●





News ROUND-UP

NEW WALL ART INSPIRES CREATIVITY IN THE GIRLS' PREP

The Girls' Prep has undergone an exciting makeover over the winter break, with each floor featuring its own unique design. The ground floor showcases a bookshelf brimming with characters and stories, while the second floor offers an inspiring message to promote resilience. The third floor celebrates STEM with a wall dedicated to influential figures, and near the music room, a motivational quote – “When words fail, music speaks” – is accompanied by images of musical instruments.

A new timeline on the main stairs spans from the dinosaurs to the Lionesses' football victory, with a notable highlight being the founding of Surbiton High School in 1884.

Mrs Sullivan explained the wall art's creation: “Mrs McCabe-Arnold encouraged teachers to share creative ideas to make the School more engaging, reflecting what our pupils

learn and offering insights into history.”

Teachers across all year groups contributed topics, giving younger pupils a preview of what's to come.

The project took two years to complete, with the staff working hard every week, even over the winter break.

Mrs Sullivan expressed her pride in the final result, excited for future generations to enjoy it. ●





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