

Headteacher's Newsletter – May 2023

Quotes of the month:

'The development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race.... It would take off on its own, and re-design itself at an ever-increasing rate. Humans, who are limited by slow biological evolution, couldn't compete, and would be superseded.'

Stephen Hawking, Physicist

'It's going to be interesting to see how society deals with artificial intelligence, but it will definitely be cool.'

Colin Angle, CEO and Founder of iRobot

'What all of us have to do is to make sure we are using AI in a way that is for the benefit of humanity, not to the detriment of humanity.'

Tim Cook, CEO of Apple

There are those who fear the rise of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and see it as an insidious development that ultimately will doom the human race to a subservient status. Perhaps this is an exaggerated concept, and historically we have seen how new inventions have captured the imagination but also struck fear into humanity - The advent of the motor car was viewed with suspicion and a potential danger to human physical wellbeing if someone were to be transported at a the (relatively gentle) speed of 20 mph. Indeed, they were also viewed as a threat to the way of life at the time and that they would never replace horses. And yet, we cannot now imagine living without them. In the same way, AI will be revolutionary. But in education, will it be seen as a threat to good pedagogy? Perhaps we need to see AI as a tool rather than a danger and to not be afraid of something we still do not fully understand. There may indeed be teachable opportunities here such as challenging students in an English class to analyse the sources or authenticity of a ChatGPT written essay or exam response or to see how an AI produced text can be revised into a new style. What we need to be sensitive to is to explore how to manage yet another new technology and to not be tentative in its possible applications or perceived risks. At school, we endeavour to challenge and inspire students in a multitude of ways whether that be in classrooms or in extra-curricular activity. This is why we are constantly looking at ways to develop our approaches to teaching and learning and to finding ways in which we can ensure every young person is given the opportunity to grow and to tap into their reserves. AI and other technologies are constantly being adapted for educational purposes and we will continue to make the best use of any technology that enhances learning.

In the meantime, we are excited to be working jointly with colleagues at the Junior School in order to find ways to ensure as smooth a transition as possible between primary and secondary education. In Maths, for instance, we are beginning a journey to develop collaboration to work towards raising standards as well as meeting the needs of every child as they enter Year 7. Our approach in September 2023 will be a mixed ability style of teaching with a view to offering as much support as is possible to every student so that all will eventually be prepared and able to sit their IGCSE Maths exams in Year 10, a year earlier than is now the case. In Greek, cooperation between the SS and JS has been evident in understanding the demands at SS and working towards a joint approach that aims to develop key language skills in Greek so that students are better equipped for future IGCSE Greek language assessments. This cooperation has included exploring schemes of work and has also focused on the techniques and key skills required at a higher Key Stage levels that allow our students to be better prepared for future external exams. Moreover, this cooperation has extended into extra-curricular activities and an exchange of valuable material as well as best practice throughout this endeavour to raise standards of achievement in Greek language. In a series of meetings, valuable information has been also provided by the Senior School English Department on the areas that Junior School students need to focus on further in order to raise standards as well as build on their skills more effectively in preparation for their future IGCSE and A Level exams in Language and Literature. Indeed, there has been a strengthening of ties over the last two years through collaboration on curriculum as well as ensuring a smooth transition from KS2 to KS3. The Junior School Literacy Coordinator has moreover shadowed English teachers and observed lessons at the Senior School ranging from Year 7 to Year 13, in both English Language and Literature so as to gain a sound appreciation of what is expected at KS3-KS5 levels. Further collaborations are in progress in other areas such as Science.

Year 10s get down to business at Alphamega

The Business Faculty of our school recently organised an educational trip to the headquarters of @AlphaMega Hypermarkets. Our Year 10 students thoroughly enjoyed the visit. The quality of the presentations was excellent and very relevant to their studies. Students were also able to learn about the role of each Department in a series of presentations. Many thanks to John Pipis and his team for arranging this trip that directly impacted the quality of provision in Business Studies.



Year 10s attending one of the series of presentations

Stefani Georgiou (Year 10E) reflects on the visit:

'Friday morning was like no other. The Business Studies students of Y10, all boarded the bus, elated and filled with anticipation for our long-awaited trip to the Alphamega Hypermarket. Upon arrival, we were greeted warmly by the members of the Alphamega team and guided to the elevators which would take us up to their offices. With great excitement, we finally reached the second floor of the building, which consisted of an enormous open office area, surrounded by small, enclosed rooms each hosting a different department. We were then separated into 5 teams, each assigned to a different department: HR, finance, ICT, marketing, purchasing. Each department was like a different world of knowledge, offering a variety of information which motivated and enlightened us with new ideas and knowledge that we could apply to the real world and to our studies at school. Finally, once rotation to different apartments was done, the Alphamega team kindly treated us to warm food and coffee. Once all was said and done, we were lucky and privileged to meet Mr. Papaellinas. After his heartfelt speech, we were taken back to the bus for our return to school. This unique experience at a retail company left us all enormously grateful for the knowledge and ideas that will certainly help us in our A Level Business Studies course.'



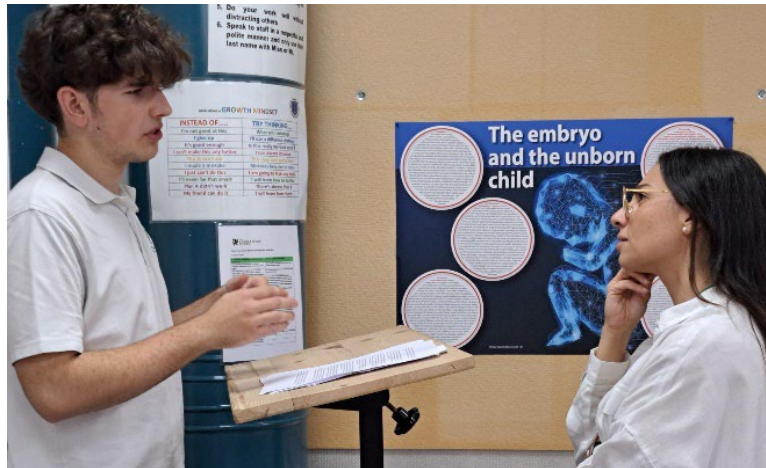
Staff, students and Alphamega staff at the end of an immensely productive day!

Debating challenging moral issues

Year 12 Philosophy, Ethics and Religious Studies students have been applying the principle of the Sanctity of Life to issues surrounding the embryo and the unborn child. Ava and Christos took part in a poster conference where they needed to present their research to teachers and peers who grilled them on their learning. Both students excelled in applying their knowledge and understanding whilst answering questions. They needed to think on their feet and stay calm under pressure. They responded sensitively to some tricky questions and educated their teachers and peers on this global medical, legal and social debate.



Ava explains the essential ethical issues and the various denominational beliefs to Ms. Demetriou and Ms. Kallitsi



Christos providing food for thought on a still unresolved debate to Ms Savva

Year 8 explore places of worship

Year 8 students recently visited the Gurdwara, Sikhi Temple, this term. They enjoyed learning how the Sikhi community worship, and were treated to Langar, a free vegetarian meal offered at every Gurdwara, to anyone, every day, 'because no one in the world should feel hunger'. They experienced Sewa, selfless service that all Sikhs aim to do every day, through being served a meal by members of the Sikh community, who gave up a morning's work to welcome them. Teachers and students enjoyed the Karah Parshad, blessed food, which symbolized the belief in equality and the oneness of humanity. The excursion ended with a meal at a restaurant at McKenzie beach and a pilgrim's activity on the beach, taken from the Christian community of Iona in Scotland who work for peace and reconciliation. Many thanks to Ms Kaccoufa for arranging this enriching experience for our students.



Inside the Sikh temple where the Baba Ji (revered father) stands before the holy book



The Baba Ji, along with other members of the Sikh community, serves staff and students a breakfast of fried bread coated in chickpea batter, a cup of tea and water.

English Week

The English Department held 'English Week' this month and organised a variety of events which celebrated Language and Literature. At the start of the week Year 9 pupils presented their analysis of poetry by Sylvia Plath and Jenny Joseph in the form of a talk show during break time, under the guidance of Ms Ioannou. Later in the week, a Creative Writing Evening and Performance Poetry Competition took place where eleven KS3 pupils were selected out of 300 Key stage 3 entries. This rigorous selection process took two months and countless hours of rehearsals. KS3 finalists (professionally introduced by Y10 presenters, Leonie Weiderud and Noah Nathaniel) performed their poetry before a panel of judges. We are extremely thankful to our judges: Literature Professor Artemis, Lyricist and poet Mr Stavros Stavrou and our very own Mrs Kallitsi! In addition, the winning entries were read out on the evening from our Mini Saga Prose Competition. A bake sale was also organised by Year 9U students who managed to raise 150 euros. All proceeds will be used to enrich our library. Finally, the week ended with students and English teachers dressing up as their favourite literary characters! Well done to Ms Kasparides and the members of the English Department for arranging the week's activities.



And the winners of the Poetry Competition are...



Breaktime poetry analysis!



All proceeds for book buying! Thank you Year 9U!

Interschool friendlies – Building relationships

The Senior School Football and Basketball teams recently played against the English School. We are proud of our students who performed with great enthusiasm and team spirit. Well done to students and many thanks to the PE department for arranging this opportunity.



Fair play



Teams United!

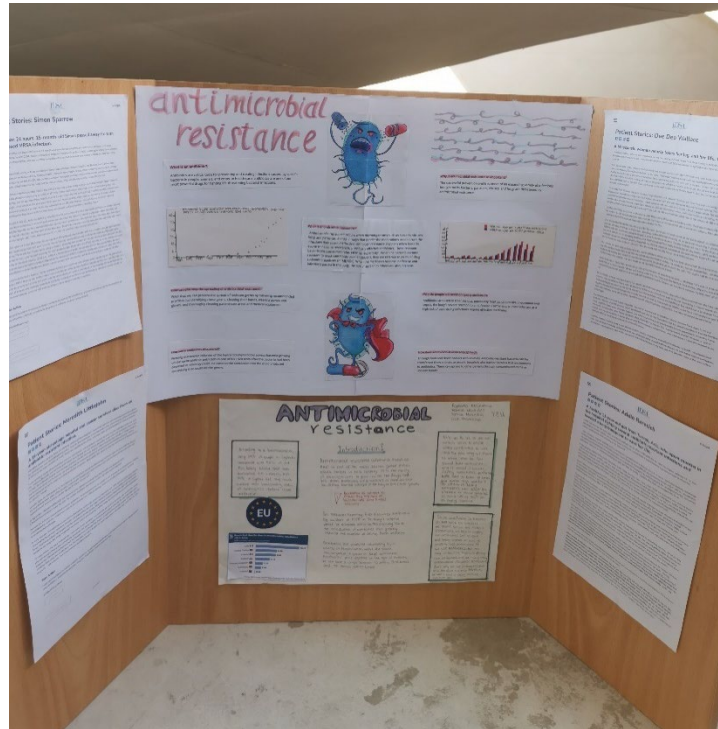
Science in action

Last month, two teams of enthusiastic young scientists from the Senior School participated in the Cyprus Institute's 'sCyence' Fair, an exhibition for students to present their own experiments or research and to have their work evaluated by a panel of professional peers in the field of science and other schools in the community. The Team of Year 7 students (Ivan Symeonides, Nicolas Maroudis, Polina Lebedeva) conducted a study on worms that have evolved to consume and digest plastics to determine the viability of using worms to address the pressing issue of plastic pollution on our planet. The Team of Year 8 students (Argyris Christoforou, Isabella Kalochoritis, Maria Petrescu, Renee Strouthou, Theodoros Drousiotis) gave a theatrical presentation of their research into Antimicrobial Resistance as part of the Science Faculty's collaboration with the University of Cyprus on the European 'MUTLIPLIERS' project, with the overall goal of raising awareness about the misconceptions and misuse of antibiotics in modern society.

Students not only learned so much about their chosen fields of investigation, but also embraced the joy of exploration, having fun, and building connections with peers who share a similar passion for scientific inquiry.

In addition, our school organized an Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Campaign as part of the Year 8 Multipliers Project on May 13th downtown at Eleftheria Square where the general public were able to see and learn about Year 8 students' hard work and enthusiasm in raising awareness about these critical issues. The project was developed with the generous collaboration of the University of Cyprus.

Much appreciation to Ms Chrysostomou, Ms Elia, Mr Wilkinson and Mr Awwad for their assistance in preparing the students for this event, and, of course, Ms Iordanou for leading all our science related activities.



Year 8 Scientists' work on display underneath Eleftheria Square



Multiplier project event in full swing in the 'moat'

Dramatic inspirations



Mr Mo's drama studio!

Feline health drive!



The first of a series of fundraisers was launched in May with a bake sale aiming to support care for the local cat community, including regular health checks for all cats on the school grounds. 🐱

Football at the SS Sports School – 2023-24

We are delighted that we are now able to offer football, our first team sport, at the Sports School as of September. On Saturday 20th May, our Head Football Coach, Mr Constantinos Charalambides, coordinated football trials on the GSP main pitch for applicants to the Sports School which included a range of tests designed to assess the skills, fitness and potential of young footballers.



Perfect conditions for the trials



The hallowed turf of the GSP set up for our young football stars



Health and fitness tests a priority



Post-trials catch-up with Head Coach, Mr Charalambides

For an overview of the day's football trials, take a look at this video, expertly produced by Ms Parpotta, our Director of Sports:

 [Sports School Football Trials 2.mp4](#)

Please note: Tennis trials also took place last week with 4 additions to our elite tennis playing Sports School for 2023-24

House Captains and Vice Captains - 2023-24:

The students below have been selected for their respective new roles for next year: They all demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, a strong work ethic and a commitment to representing their team house in the spirit of sportsmanship and hard work. Well done to all!

Gayford <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Captain: Andriana Neophytou • Vice-Captain: Ammerisa Tsikala • Vice- Captain: Konstantinos Theocharides • Vice-Captain: Isabella Koulermos 	Kenny <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Captain: Maia Symeonides • Vice-Captain: Yarden Tsur • Vice-Captain: Rafail Petrou • Vice-Captain: Keizer Mendoza
Stone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Captain: Christian Markides • Vice-Captain: Rafaella Ioannou • Vice-Captain: Oriana Theodotou • Vice-Captain: Nestoras Panayiotou Ioannou 	Christodoulides <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Captain: Daniella Metaxa • Vice-Captain: Stelios Ioannou • Vice-Captain: Stefanos Kalis • Vice-Captain: Sarah Elia

Road Safety Talk

Ms Rafaela Miltiadous, Cyprus Road Safety Ambassador, spoke to Year 9 about road safety and the difficulties she faces being in a wheelchair in Cyprus. Her talk to our students was fascinating and she urged all young people to seek inclusion and equal rights for every citizen. We are grateful for her visit. Many thanks to the Greek Department for arranging this.



Ms Miltiadous leads talk on road safety

Anti-bullying project

We are grateful to the Paraskinio Theatrical Team for their dramatic performance in school of *The little hero*, for Year 7 and Year 8. This was a powerful performance against bullying and harassment.

For those who have yet to enjoy it, please see here a copy of the Greek Department's recently issued magazine: [ΠΕΡΙΟΔΙΚΟ ΤΜΗΜΑΤΟΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΩΝ 2023.pdf](#)

Breaking news:

Fengaros High Concert 2023 at the Dali Amphitheatre – Support & Vote for Senior School students!

We are thrilled to announce that one of our talented Senior School students, Alexa Michael (Y9), has been selected as 1 of 6 finalists to participate in the inaugural young songwriters' competition, Fengaros High 2023, <https://fengaros.com/high>! Organised by Louvana Records and the Fengaros Festival, this competition offers a remarkable platform for young artists to showcase their original music.

*Along with the other finalists, Alexa will present her music live during the Fengaros High Concert on 24 June 2023. At the concert, Alexa will be supported on drums, bass, and guitar by 4 other Senior School students – Charidimos Ioannou (Y12), Doros Orphanides (Y10), Natalie Christofidou (Y9) and Achilleas Antoniadis (Y8). During the concert, the winner will be selected through a combined voting process – 50% of the votes determined by the audience and the remaining 50% by an artistic committee. **If you can attend, please note that you can get tickets here: <https://fengaros.com/high>***

Best of luck to all!

Yiannis Georgiou

Senior School Headteacher