

Headteacher's Newsletter – October 2023

Quotes of the month

'Punctuality is the politeness of kings'

King Louis XVIII

'Courtesy is as much a mark of a gentleman as courage.'

Theodore Roosevelt

'With the benefit of time, the historian looks back...There it was, he says. The turning point. The decisive factor. The fateful day that fundamentally altered all that was to follow.'

From: A Gentleman in Moscow, by Amor Towles

We sometimes aim to inculcate the right habits into young people and encourage a sense of responsibility and autonomy, especially as they assume the greater burdens of public examinations and assessments. As indicated in previous newsletters, getting the best habits in place and focusing on clear targets is fundamental in measuring as well as motivating academic and personal progress and development. Once they have reached the later years of school life, there may be times when they look back and may either express belief that they have embarked on the road to success well equipped and resilient in the face of the challenges that they have faced or with a tinge of regret that they did not necessarily adopt the appropriate habits, whether it be academically or in their personal decision-making. On this particular point, we need to encourage our students into adopting those very basic attitudes to school and life in general which can play a crucial role in bringing about success. For instance, being on time to school and to class, properly dressed in school uniform. Some will maintain that these are less important than the actual learning that goes on in classrooms. However, being on time to school is an especially worthy routine that applies to all of us. When late to school, not only are vital messages in Form periods or assemblies and classroom learning missed, drifting into the classroom or assembly Hall is unnecessarily disruptive and distracting. But even more importantly, *it is discourteous*. We often hear the refrain that, well, it was the traffic or 'I didn't hear the bell'. As understanding and as sympathetic as we may be, there is no excuse for a lack of punctuality on a regular basis. It is not only disruptive to others who are on time, it is also impolite to their peers and to their teachers who are waiting for their arrival into school or class. The school will aim to crack down on lateness, but we also request the support of parents in getting their child to the school gate **by 8.00am** at the latest so that they can be in the classroom or Hall by 8.05. Once these positive habits have become routine, then we can look back in future years and note the difference such attitudes may have made to success both in school and in terms of personal and social attitudes.

And speaking of success:

Award for Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition

The Senior School's English Department is extremely proud to announce that Styliana Avraamidou has been successful once again in the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition with her essay entitled *Age's Thorn*. Styliana received the Silver Award in a competition that had a record-breaking 26,322 entries from all over the world! Well done Styliana for producing such an impressive piece of writing, marked by maturity, sophistication and skill!

Taekwondo achievement for Stelios

Stelios Ioannou (Year 11) recently represent both our school and Cyprus as a professional taekwondo athlete at the International Riga Taekwondo Tournament 2023 in Latvia. It gives us great pleasure to inform you that, after two outstanding contests, Stelios earned the bronze medal in his category. We are incredibly proud of Stelios's dedication, hard work, and sportsmanship, which have led to this remarkable achievement.



Magnificent achievement, Stelio!

Successes and recognition for our students in Pearson Edexcel examinations!

1. Eleni Francesca Kyriacou - **Highest Mark in the World:** Advanced Level Chemistry May/June 2023
2. Emily Kyriakides - **Highest Mark in Cyprus:** GCSE Drama May/June 2023
3. Haiqing Lu - **Highest Mark in the World:** Advanced Level Chemistry May/June 2023
AND **Highest Mark in the World:** International Advanced Level Mathematics May/June 2023
4. Olivia Iacovou - **Highest Mark in Europe:** International GCSE German May/June 2023
AND **Highest Mark in Cyprus:** International GCSE History May/June 2023
5. Selina Elia - **Highest Mark in Europe:** International GCSE French

Congratulations to all and their teachers. Each student will receive an **Outstanding Pearson Learner Awards** certificate from Pearson in recognition of their academic excellence at a special awards ceremony on December 14th.

Meet Our New Student Council!

Congratulations to our newly elected *Student Council members* for this academic year:

- **Y7:** Emma Elise Garrett
- **Y8:** Alisa Dolgova
- **Y9:** Eino Myllyrinne (Social Media Representative)
- **Y10:** Andreana Demetriou & Daniel Mohammad (Social Media Representative)
- **Y11:** Marios Stavrinos & Georgia Nemitsas
- **Y12:** Anthi Andronikou (Treasurer) & Pavlos Bismal (Secretary)
- **Y13:** Angelo Eleftheriou (Vice-President) & Karmen Komodromou (President)

Our students are enthusiastic about driving positive change in our school community. To facilitate meaningful discussions and effective decision-making, they have decided to extend our Student Council meetings. Henceforth, in addition to the regular break time sessions, meetings will be held every second week as an after-school activity. This change permits ample time for in-depth discussions and productive planning for the betterment of student and school life.

Many thanks to Mr Aristodemou for leading the Council as teacher in charge.

Senior School Commemoration of 'Oxi Day'

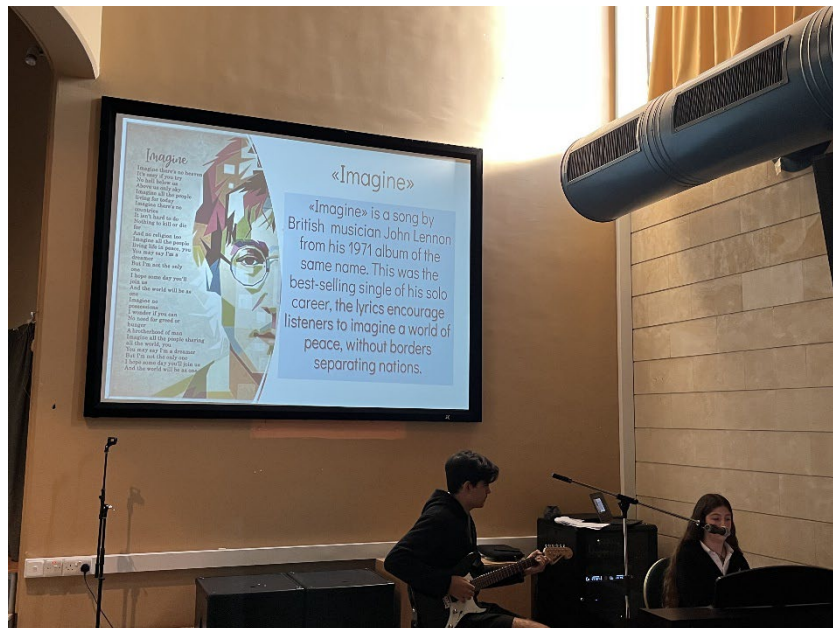
The Senior School came together in the week before Half Term to mark the commemoration of Oxi Day. In specially assemblies specially arranged by the Greek Department, students recited powerful poems, and in addition special attention was paid to the Holocaust in Greece. The assemblies were beautifully orchestrated, featuring moving poems and soulful songs. This was another opportunity to increase awareness for our students of a key moment in Greek history. Many thanks to Ms Demetra Thrasyvoulou and Ms Anna Kyza for planning and putting together the assemblies.



Students leading assembly commemoration



Respectful and attentive



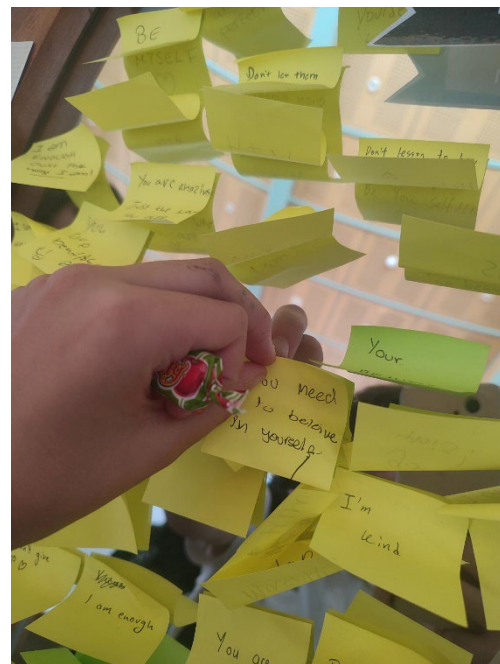
Rounding off the commemoration with an iconic song



Thank you to our talented musicians

World Mental Health Day marked at the SS

In light of the World Mental Health Day, on the 10th October, an affirmation station was set up in our school, where staff and students could write their own affirmations and post them. The use of affirmations can enhance self-esteem and promote a growth mindset. Furthermore, in collaboration with Mrs Theofanous, students attended assemblies on mental health led by the trainee school psychologists from the University of Nicosia, Ms Christina Kalogerou and Ms Grigoria Papageorgiou and Ms Dafni Morroni, who is an alumna of our school and a PhD student in clinical psychology. Much appreciation to Ms Artemis Theofanous for leading this initiative.



Posting messages of affirmation and personal growth

Cyanotype Workshop – Visit of NABA Milan to the SS

The Art Department and Ms Stella Pericleous, our Careers Officer, arranged a workshop for Year 12 and 13 Art and Digital Media students. The workshop was run by Michele Corandini, Head of Fashion Design at NABA (*Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti*) Milan. NABA is the largest art academy in Italy, so this was an important opportunity for our students to meet and learn more about opportunities at this renowned university dedicated to fine arts.



In preparation for the Cyanotype workshop students collected weeds, leaves and weed flowers which they then used to create their compositions, these were then exposed to the sun to reveal fascinating outcomes, with the play of light and shadow.



Concentrated artwork



Inspired to innovate and create

Founders' Day – October 2023

On the day before Half term, the school arranged a number of Founders' Day activities. Thank you so much to all who assisted, and in particular the PE Department, led by Ms Parpotta who with her team were able not only to organise Key Stage 3 events but also helped with other year group activities. Thanks also to Heads of Year for taking on the planning of events for their year groups. A good day was had by all, and there was even cake to round it all off.



PE Department keep the flags of tradition flying



Team-building and competitive fun



Year 10s enjoying an old-fashioned tug o' war



Sports Captains lead the way

University Exhibition

Many thanks to our careers Officer, Ms Stella Petrou for organising this year's University Exhibition at our school. A number of universities were represented from the UK and Europe (including the Netherlands, Italy and France). Students and parents were able to visit and ask questions about the courses available, entry requirements and other relevant matters.



Mixing Founders' Day events with university enquiries!



A busy scene in the Hall for the Uni Exhibit.

Biathlon success!



On 25th October 4 students from key Stage 3 participated in a Biathlon race (run-swim-run) at Governors Beach. Their performance and behaviour were exemplary! Well done in particular to Cleo Mouzakis of Year 7 who managed to gain 2nd place in her category. Congrats to all and to Mr Vyrides who led the team.

DoE Awardees



Congratulations to Roman Bobrov for gaining the Bronze Award



And well done to Yiangos Grimm, also for achieving DoE Bronze

28th October Parade



*Well done to our student
parade marchers!*



Gabriel and Harry, our flag bearers

Upcoming calendar events for November:

November sees a number of key events planned:

6th November	Science Week
13th November	Sports week with Sports Day on Friday 17th
20th November	Business week
21st November	Options Evening for Year 11 parents and students
30th November	Options Evening for Year 9 parents and students

Further details on the last two will be shared in due course.

Kind Regards,

Yiannis Georgiou
Senior School Headteacher