

# SS Headteachers Newsletter

## February 2024

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view—”

“Sir?”

“—until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.”

*Atticus' advice to Scout – To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee*

**新年快乐**  
**Happy Chinese New Year!**



*SS students perform Dragon Dance*

This past month has been dedicated to diversity and acceptance. Our ethos is one of intercultural sensitivity and respect along with a global mindedness that recognises, and indeed embraces, difference whether it be related to religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and any of the other protected characteristics as set out in EU directives on inclusion and diversity.



At the SS, we have seen multiple initiatives on the promotion of acceptance and integration through school-wide activities. These messages were integrated into lessons with the help of Heads of Department/Faculty and Subject Leads and teachers, whereby students created posters and drawings which are now displayed in the assembly hall.



Interestingly, we have seen how every subject can approach the theme of love or acceptance: For example, Year 7 Science teachers have discussed with their students adaptations shown by organisms that represent or demonstrate love, tolerance and respect. In Year 11 Biology, using the context of evolution, students have studied how organisms have evolved the relationships of mutualism and symbiosis which demonstrate the concept of helping one another.

Chemistry students have been looking at the Oxytocin molecule, the hormone released when people are in love and feel loved, when a mother gives birth and breastfeeds her baby, when we hug someone, when we bond with someone.

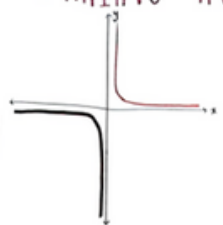

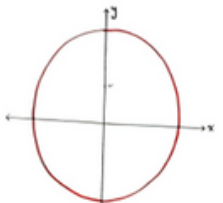

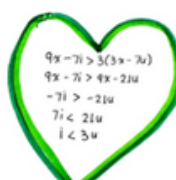


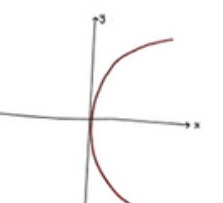

Year 8 Religious Studies students took part in the *Ahimsa* challenge - Practicing kind thoughts, kind words and kind actions and the question of how long one can practice *Ahimsa* without having an unkind thought, saying unkind words or being unkind.

Towards the end of February in Humanities Week, students and staff have focused on social Identity and inclusion with Assemblies led by Year 10 Global Perspectives students.



Even the Maths Department has been able to contribute to our love theme!

5 STAGES OF FALLING IN LOVE


- $\frac{a}{x} = y$ 


- $x^2 + y^2 = R^2$ 



- $y = |x|$ 


- $y^2 = 4ax$ 



## Talent Show 2023-24

On yet another occasion, we were treated to a wealth of talent and entertainment with our Senior School students putting on an impressive display of a range of performances that included, amongst others, power ballads, exotic dance, heavy, head-banging rock and light-hearted sketch from our A Level drama students, all ably supported by the show's student presenters. All of this could not have been achieved without the support of a large number of people, but in particular, much appreciation to teachers, Ms Eleni Cosma and Ms Eirini Filippou.



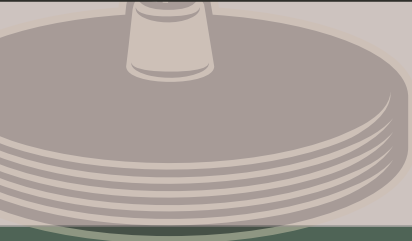
*Rebecca flying high in the wonderfully entertaining 'Elf Therapy' sketch!*



Head Boy, Harry,  
drummer supreme



Alexa sings,  
accompanied by her  
backing band





新年快乐  
*Xīnnián kuàilè!*

A number of our Chinese students put together a wonderful presentation to help celebrate the start of the Spring Festival and the Chinese New Year. As well as explaining the origins of the celebration, our students focused on traditional customs, the New Year scroll and the Zodiac symbols.

We were fortunate enough to have some authentic, home-made traditional sweets made by our Chinese students themselves, which were offered during the presentations in a lively Q and A. The response from the audience was certainly enthusiastic as everyone wanted to taste the amazing delicacies!

It was a lovely way to share an important event for our Chinese community and to further underline the diverse and rich cultures and customs we can enjoy within our school community.

 Well done  
to all students involved!

## Participating students:

Di Zian 10P  
Zhang Chen Hao 10U  
Xin Guan 11U  
Louka Demage 11R  
Yuxin Guo 11R  
Zishuo Wang 11E  
Jingu Du 13P





Fortune cookies and other treats to celebrate the Year of the Dragon



Anna Bychenko (9U) fashioned this magnificent poster on our theme for this month



# Erasmus+ Project update



*Mr Shiaxiate leading our Erasmus+ students*

Year 9 students have been exploring the world of social innovation and entrepreneurship via the Erasmus+ Initiation project! This amazing opportunity empowers them to make a difference by tackling real-world issues through innovative solutions.

Stay tuned for their inspiring journey as they pave the way for positive change! Many thanks to teachers leading the project: Mr Nicholas Shiaxiate, Ms Natalie Shaka and our former member of staff, Ms Maria Xystra, who kindly has volunteered to remain with the project despite her move to public education.

# SS students Debate at the Model United Nations Conference



Well done to our  
MUN team!



Congratulations to our students who recently participated in the Model United Nations Conference 2024, which was held at the European University of Cyprus from 2nd February to the 4th February. The delegation representing Germany consisted of Christia Afxentiou Y12, Olivia Iacovou Y12, George Komodromos Y13 and Petros Loizou Y13. The students representing Bangladesh were Arsalan Jahromi Y12, Katerina Theodoulou Y12 and Anna Lomidze Y13. This year we had representation on the Security Council with Mohand Alghol Y13 representing Russia and Karmen Komodromos was the delegate of Canada in the Special Committee.

All students performed extremely well. They impressed observers with their strong research skills, resolution writing and excellent skills showcasing their strong knowledge and understanding of parliamentary debate. Debates in all the General Assemblies were fierce with resolutions passionately contested and passed with pride. Congratulations to all of our participating students and special thanks to Ms Eithne O’Riordan who led and coached the team.

## *And well done also to our ACMUN Team!!*

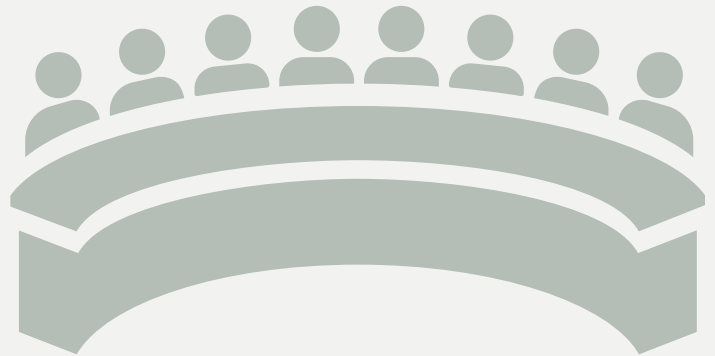
11 of our students recently participated in the ACMUN Conference in Thessaloniki, joining 600 delegates from around the world. Representing the USA and Mozambique, our students tackled the theme of The Role of Technology in Sustainable Development with dedication and insight. In particular, congrats to Andriana Dombo (Year 13) and Iliana Skordi (Year 11) for their outstanding work as Chairs of their GA committees

Well done also to Stephanos Artemis (Year 10) who received an honourable mention as one of the conference's standout delegates!

Many thanks to their teachers, Mr Nicholas Shixiate and Ms Niki Demetriou, for their invaluable guidance and support.

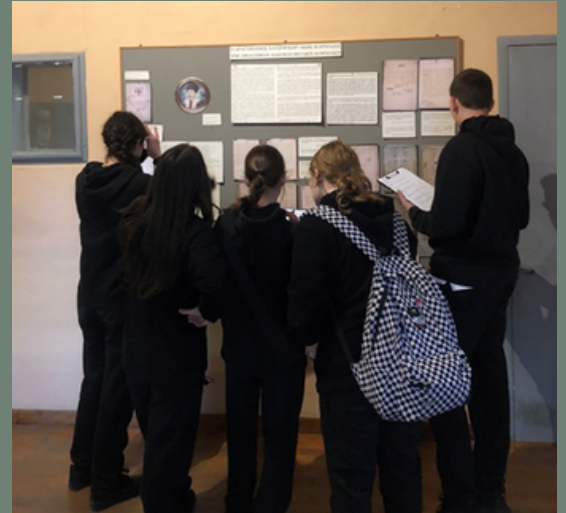


**A fantastic experience for all!**



# Year 9 at the house of Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios

Year 9 students visited the Ethnological Museum at the House of Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios in Nicosia! During this educational trip, they immersed themselves in interactive activities and participated in games that boosted their understanding of the rich historical and cultural aspects of Cyprus.



*Year 9 students carry out their research!*

## Greek Week



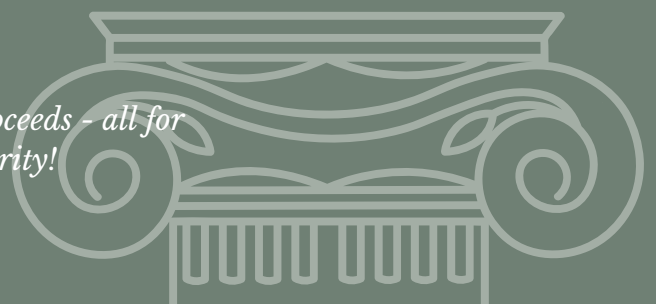
In February, we were fortunate to enjoy a range of activities for the celebration of Greek Week. Activities included a bake sale, the proceeds of which (300 euro) will go towards "Generation for Change," supporting refugees in Cyprus. There was also a second hand book sale and all funds raised will go towards buying books for Makarios Hospital. Other activities included Kahoot spelling games, riddles and tongue twisters in Greek, a literature day with booklets featuring poems from great Greek poets, and Greek language PowerPoint presentations for all classes. Well done to all involved, especially Ms Zapiti and her Greek Department team!



*Look closely and you will spot Ms Andri taking to the dance floor accompanied by some traditional Greek music!*

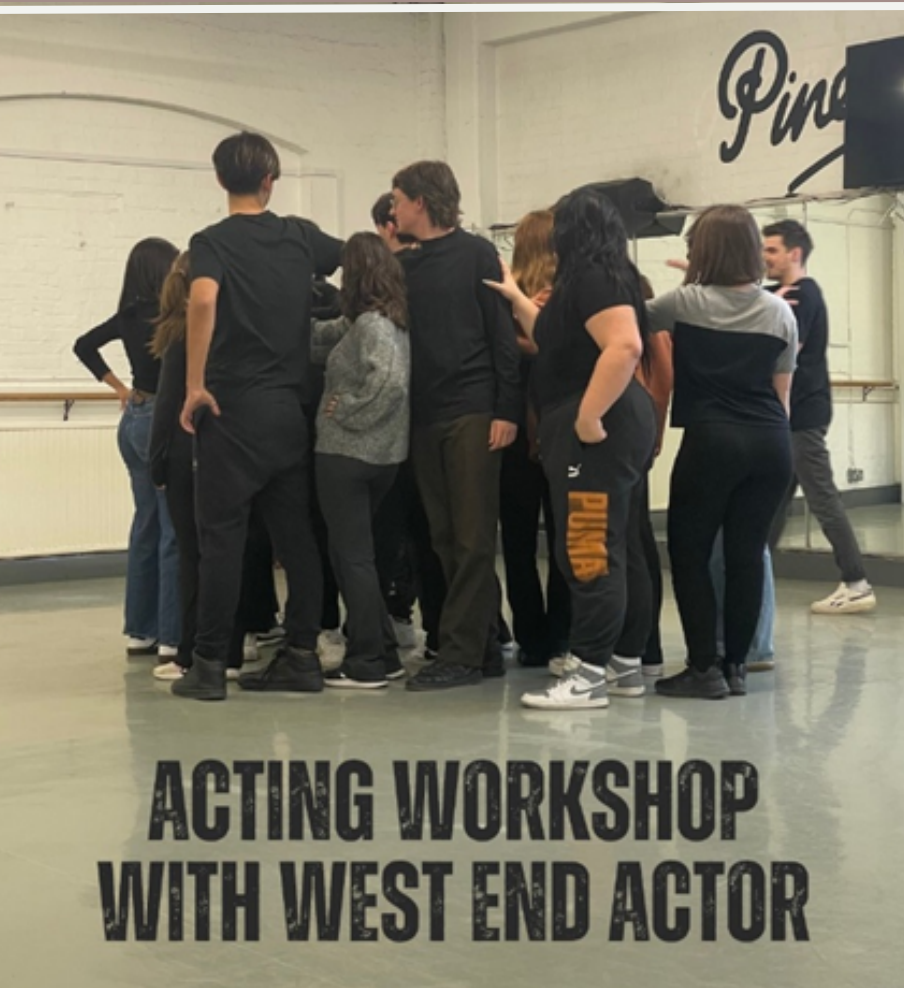


*Book sale proceeds - all for charity!*



# Drama students make yearly pilgrimage to London Theatres!

A Level Drama students had an incredible time exploring the theatre scene in London. Over just three days, they participated in acting workshops with professional West End actors, toured the National Theatre and the Globe Theatre learning all about how things work behind the scenes, and saw four exciting productions:



## ACTING WORKSHOP WITH WEST END ACTOR

'The Witches' and 'Kin' at the National Theatre, 'Ghosts' by Ibsen at the Sam Wanamaker Theatre (a historical theatre entirely lit by candles!), and the contemporary piece, 'Leaves of Glass' at Park Theatre. Time was also reserved for shopping trips in Oxford Street and Covent Garden, an optional visit to Tate Modern for our Art students, delicious dinners in Chinatown, Leicester Square and Southbank, an escape room activity at the incredible EscapeHunt venues, and a visit to one of the biggest bookshops in London to complete a series of theatre-based challenges. The trip was greatly enjoyed by all, and the Year 12's are already counting down the days until next year's trip!

## FOYLES BOOKSHOP DRAMA CHALLENGES!



## GLOBE THEATRE BACKSTAGE TOUR

And many thanks to Ms Eleni Cosma for arranging and planning such an amazing trip for our drama students.

# Modern Languages Week



This year, Languages Week included a packed programme of activities and events that aimed to promote the value of multilingualism and sensitivity for and understanding of other cultures.

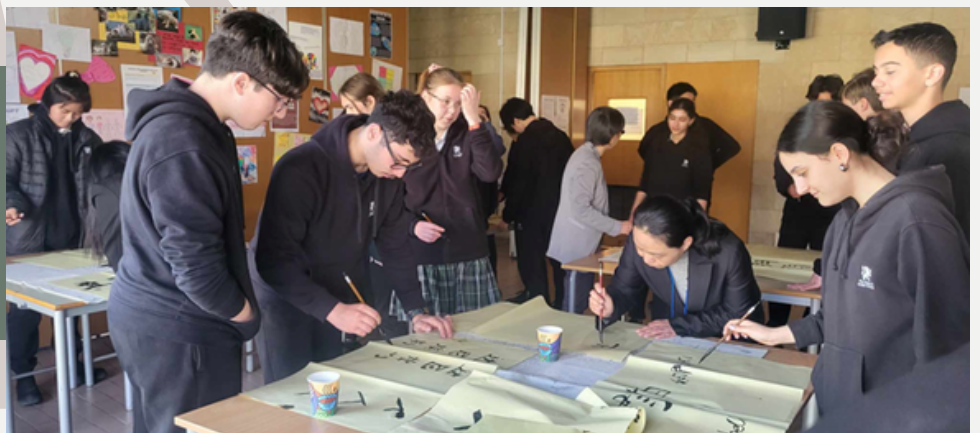


*SS Spanish language students visit the Instituto Cervantes*

Quite apart from exposure to modern languages, there were opportunities to taste Arabic, Latin American and Spanish food, participation in language games, and access to books in other languages. We were also lucky to enjoy a visit from the University of Cyprus Confucius Institute. Students celebrated Chinese New Year activities such as watching the Dragon dance (performed by our own Chinese students), Chinese character calligraphy, sugar painting and presentations on Mandarin and Chinese culture. Well done and many thanks to Ms Papanastasiou and her colleagues from the MFL department!



*Our students trying their hand at Chinese calligraphy*



# Chess success for SS Student!

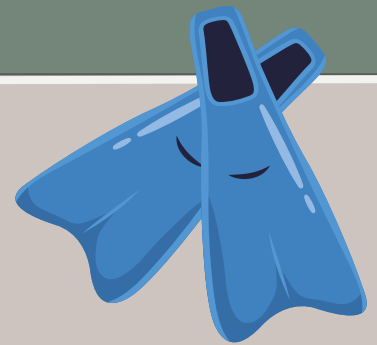


*Michail ponders his next move*



One of our students, Michail Kravets has won 3rd place in the K 14 category of the Pancyprian Youth Chess Championship 2024. What an amazing achievement! Well done, Michail!

# SS Swimming Team achievements!



The Senior School Running team participated in a Pancyprian running race (1500 metres) organised by the Ministry of Education and Sports and Youth in Larnaca. Our team comprised Anastasia, Sotia and Ermioni from Year 7 along with Marian, Junkai and Michael from Year 8. Anastasia came 8th, Marian 15th and Sotia 9th out of 226 participants! Fantastic work!

# Humanities Week

The Humanities were promoted this month through a variety of events such as a celebration of diversity, presentations on sustainable cities (Geography) and Global Perspectives projects on human trafficking victims and social inequality. Religious Studies students spoke on religion and the environment along with presentations on Amnesty International. The school's ECO Committee spoke with Year 7s about 'making an impact' and EPQ candidates were able to demonstrate their research into their chosen topics. All in all, a rich assortment of work and activity from a range of fields! Well done to all staff and students in the Humanities!

Our very own Alexa releases her original single!



We are thrilled to announce that our Senior School student Alexa Michael (Year 10) has now released her first original single “Always the Fool” on all key platforms such as Spotify, YouTube and Apple Music. Alexa wrote both the music and lyrics for the song, and also performs the vocals and piano in the recording. This is an important step in Alexa’s music journey. Alexa, we are so proud of you!



<https://open.spotify.com/album/2SI89VFknPbdepRGq9bOfb>



<https://music.apple.com/us/album/always-the-fool-single/1729844976>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSq9Fy5oKb0>

## SENCON 2024

The Senior School’s first student-led conference was launched on Saturday 24th with the participation of students from schools across Cyprus. Around 100 young people gathered at the SS site to debate and exchange ideas on the theme of the conference: ‘Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow’.



The day included workshops with guest speakers with extensive experience in electoral processes and politics - Ms Savia Orphanidou (House Representative) gave the opening address on behalf of House Speaker, Ms Anita Demetriou -, group work in committees and voting on resolutions.



The ultimate aim of this initiative is to raise awareness in the electoral process and to nurture active citizenship amongst young people at a time when democratic norms are under so much pressure. Well done to all! An impressive, professional effort that once again show-cased the maturity and drive of our students. We also would like to express our gratitude to Logicom for their generous sponsorship. In particular, special thanks to Mr Shixiate as teacher in charge and the student organising committee for their leadership and sense of purpose in bringing this initiative to fruition!

*Future leaders*



Please can parents ensure their children are properly dressed for school in our school uniform. We want to avoid needless conversations on uniform or having to send any student home to change. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

We also expect students to be on time to school, so can those parents who drive their children to the Senior School site make sure they arrive **by 8.00am at the latest** so that they are in class or Form Room by 8.05 when the bell rings. This will help classes and form periods begin on time and *without disruptive interruption from late arrivals*.

If your child is sitting public examinations this summer, make sure you have entered for all exams via the Portal that we have introduced this academic year. For any queries on exam entries, please refer to Mr Kaccoufa.

*Thank you*

**Yiannis Georgiou**  
Senior School Headteacher  
Acting Principal

