

# SS Headteacher's Newsletter

## March 2024

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

‘Action is the foundational key to all success’

*Pablo Picasso*

‘There will be obstacles. There will be doubters. There will be mistakes. But with hard work, there will be no limits.’

*Michael Phelps, US Olympic Champion swimmer and most decorated Olympian (28 in total, including 23 Golds)*

At the Senior school we celebrate achievement and success, not only because we wish to share in those successes with our students (and their parents), but because our expectations are such that we feel that with determination, hard work, a clear understanding of the next steps and challenging goals, young people are capable of anything. The School strives to nurture a culture of high demands and personal development that students will carry with them well beyond graduation. Whatever the obstacles that may lie in their way, our mission is to support and guide, as well as motivate, on the path to success in all areas, including academic, personal and sporting.

### Track and Field Success

Well done, Anastasia Lomidze, for her outstanding achievement in the track and field 150m running event! Her well-deserved second place means that she has now qualified for the upcoming Pancyprian competitions!



Anastasia takes Second on the podium

## Girls' Football win



In a friendly game against the English School, our SS girls showed exceptional effort and determination in a match they finally won 5-2! Their passion for the sport and commitment to teamwork were evident as was their footballing skill. Well done to all and to their coach, Mr Glykis.



What great teamwork!



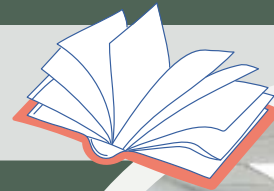
Double success for Anna



## Tennis Trophies

Anna Bychenko (Year 9) has secured two impressive trophies at the Aphrodite Hills Pancyprian G1 tennis tournament! She emerged as the Girls Singles U16 runner-up and Girls Doubles U16 runner-up. Congratulations to Anna! Her dedication and hard work have paid off!

## Religious Studies Poster Exhibit



Year 12 RS students have been exploring the issue of 'the embryo and unborn child'. They summed up their research and presented their work on posters where they were happy to debate the topic with members of staff. This entire project has helped them enrich their knowledge and understanding of a pertinent and sensitive matter that has hogged the headlines in light of the Roe v Wade debate in the US and the enshrining of abortion into the French Constitution. Sofia, Isabella, Sophia and Maria were able to develop a deeper understanding of this global medical, legal and social question as a result of their engagement with the topic and discussion around the issue. Many thanks to their teacher, Ms Kaccoufa, for all her guidance.



Staff and students engaged in discussion on a sensitive issue

## *SS Students lead on human rights*

On Thursday 29th February the Human Rights Defenders from the Amnesty International Club, Michaela, Nikki, Stephanie and Emily raised awareness regarding their Write for Rights campaign by asking staff and students to sign their petition to support the people in their chosen cases whose human rights have been taken away.



## *Senior School students at the European Youth Parliament (EYP) debates*

Our students recently participated in the EYP event at Ayios Georgios Lyceum in Larnaca where we joined several other schools to qualify for the National event in August 2024 and hopefully as in previous years, qualify to represent Cyprus overseas in the final round of debates.



Students prepared and debated their resolution on Accessing Accession in the European Union, with a focus on the following question, *With countries in the Western Balkans in the running to join the European Union for more than a decade, and several countries from the Eastern Partnership (EaP) receiving Candidate Status, what could the EU do to encourage transparency and efficiency within Candidate States during the process of accession?* Our team were successful in having their resolution passed by 37 votes in favour, 34 against and 1 abstention. A hotly contested topic!

Well done to all our students who debated and defended their resolution with in-depth knowledge, passion and integrity, always working towards an honourable outcome, reflecting the values and mission of the EU. Many thanks, of course, to Ms O'Riordan for her guidance and support.

The Senior School's EYP delegation: Angelina Lytra, Anna Panayiotou, Theodoros Zanello and Louca Jose Demange from Year 11 with Styliana Avraamides and Rita Koushiappa from Year 12.



# Maths Week

Maths Week was once again held in March. A number of activities was organized by the department:

Thank you to all Mathematics Department colleagues for their enthusiasm and support throughout the week! In particular, much appreciation to Ms Yiallourous for her instrumental role in the organisation and smooth running of the Year 8 and Year 7 House Competitions. Many thanks also to our Heads of Year 7 and 8, Ms Vasiliou and Ms Drousiotou for offering their time to support the Mathematics Department during the House Competitions for their year groups. In addition, well done to Gabriel Davidian (Year 13) and Chess Club members for organising a very professionally delivered Chess Tournament. A number of students were also involved in the success of the charity *Pi Day Bake Sale*!

We also wish to thank Mr Panicos Ioannou, Mr Kyriacos Kilaras and his team for their support in setting up various activities!

## Euroscience Success!

On a recent trip to Rome to participate in the Euroscience event, we are delighted to report that our team was very successful. The team were awarded 3 prizes in the Euroscience Presentation Competition.

- 1st Prize Solo Presentation
- 2nd & 3rd Prizes Group Presentation

A successful trip to Rome!  
Many thanks to teachers, Ms Demetriou and Mr Papadopoulos for their guidance and support.



# English Department Mural promotes Literature!



The English Department once again joined forces with the Art Department in the creation of this impressive mural.

Thanks in particular to Joe Stewart, Isabella Booton, Zoe Booton, Sophia Dombo, Danae Kartoude, Rebecca Petrou and Alexandra Manias for their input!

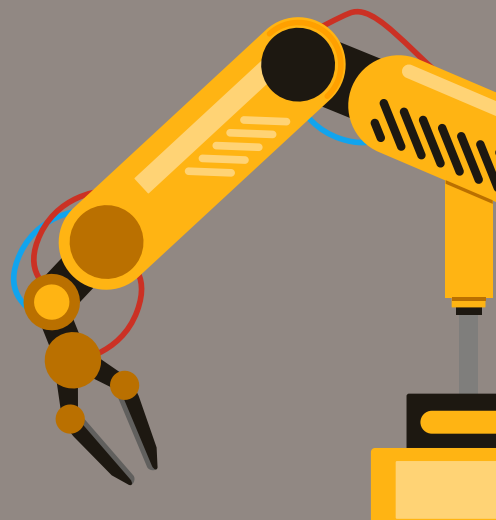
## Gender Equality



In March, we were very fortunate to welcome **Dr. Alexia Panayiotou, UNESCO Co-Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at the University of Cyprus** to our school. She addressed Year 11 students on stereotypes and gender equality in Cyprus and beyond, presenting the topic: "Don't let them fool you: Countering the Power of Stereotypes". Her focus was on how we best address issues relating to related stereotypical behaviour and attitudes.

## Robotics event

We are delighted to report that our Robotics Club Team members represented the school and attended the First Tech Challenge (FTC) Competition with their own robot built from scratch! Well done to all and here's to further involvement in this event. Many thanks to the Science Faculty for their support and in particular, Ms Chrysostomou and Ms Cleary for their time and efforts.





## *Eco Committee Reaches out!*



Fantastic work from the SS Eco Committee. They recently accompanied Year 2 on their field trips to the park.

One of the aims of the Senior School Eco Committee is to take steps towards gaining the Eco Schools flag, which involves engaging with the local community on environmental issues as well as providing evidence that they have tried to combat the issue of pollution on a local level. One of their main concerns was the abundance of litter found in various areas, predominantly schools, parks and beaches. Similar to the beach clean-up organised over Christmas, they wanted to continue their efforts by involving younger year groups in such initiatives. They asked then to join the Year 2s on their environmental awareness trip to Ayios Demetrios Park (next to the Junior School). They delivered a presentation to the students on the impact of littering on wildlife, the importance of waste reduction, and the benefits of recycling. They also organised some eco-focused activities, aiming to inspire the students to take responsibility and care for our environment. The JS commended the SS students for their 'professionalism and proactive and positive interactions with the children'. Well done to all!

## *Student Council Initiative*



Congrats to the SS Student Council's recent efforts which have raised €880 through events such as the non-uniform day and Valentine's Day. Half of the amount raised will support the Red Cross, and the other half will go to the Red Crescent. Excellent work by all involved!

# Year 12 and Year 13 Mocks begin!

March 26th marks the start of the Mock exam period for KS5. We would like to wish them the best of luck in their endeavours and look forward to seeing them back in class after two weeks as we rapidly approach the end of the Spring term with the public examinations period in sight!



## Ski Trip 2024

Ms Parpotta and a group of Year 7-11 SS students have returned from a trip to Crans Montana in Switzerland where they were able to enjoy a full programme during their stay, including, of course, lessons from professional instructors in skiing and snowboarding along with a range of après ski activities. All went smoothly and our students had immense fun and were impeccably behaved. Many thanks to Ms Parpotta and Mr Glykis for arranging and ensuring a successful time for all.



Our students en piste



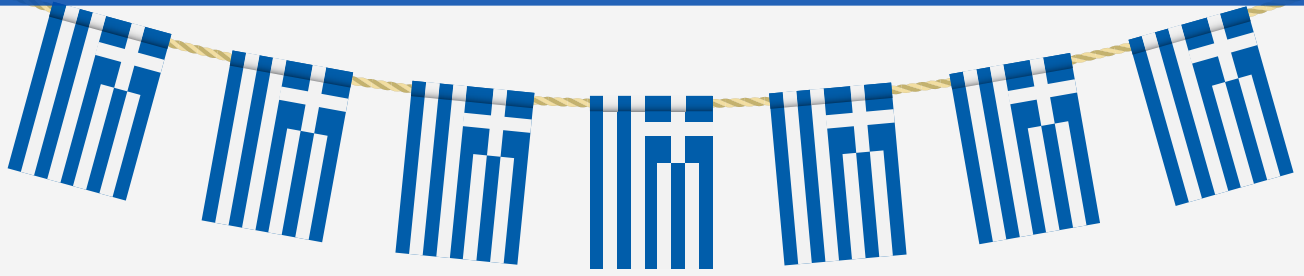
SS Skiing team 'off piste'



Students and staff take to the ice rink



# March 25th – Greek Independence Day – marked by our students



Our SS students once again put on an impressive show through their participation in the annual 25th March parade along Byron Avenue. Along with all other Nicosia public and private schools, Senior School students showed our School's respect by marching past the Greek Embassy in full uniform, thereby commemorating and recognising the honourable sacrifice of all those who gave their lives in the uprising against the Ottoman Empire which began in 1821.



TJSS banner flying high



ELDYK (Greek soldiers stationed in Cyprus) marching in their Evzones uniforms at the front of the parade.



SS students proudly march past the Embassy





# One Dream One Wish organisation

Motorcyclists from the One Dream One Wish Association, escorted by police and volunteers, visited our school to collect money raised for their cause. Year 7 students were on hand to welcome them!



## Reminders:

Students in this last part of the Spring term will need to ensure they are on top of all their assignments and revision. In particular, Year 11s will need to have begun their study schedules for upcoming IGCSEs. The work should, of course, already have started for them. For Year 11s along with 7-10s, **it is imperative that attendance to school is punctual and unnecessary absences are strictly avoided.** This is the period to maximise all efforts aiming to gain the best possible grades in summer examinations.

It is also important that students are wearing proper school uniform. As the weather warms up, some will come in the mornings in school sweaters/hoodies, but as the day progresses and they will inevitably feel warmer. They will also, then, need to be wearing their school polo shirts underneath if they wish to remove hoodies. **Any student out of uniform will be sent home to change or the correct uniform will be brought to school before they enter class.**

Any support from parents/guardians on the above is gratefully appreciated.

And finally many thanks to Ms Stalo Spanoudi for the formatting and design of this and other Newsletters!

*Thank you*

Yiannis Georgiou  
Senior School Headteacher  
Acting Principal