

SS Headteacher's Newsletter

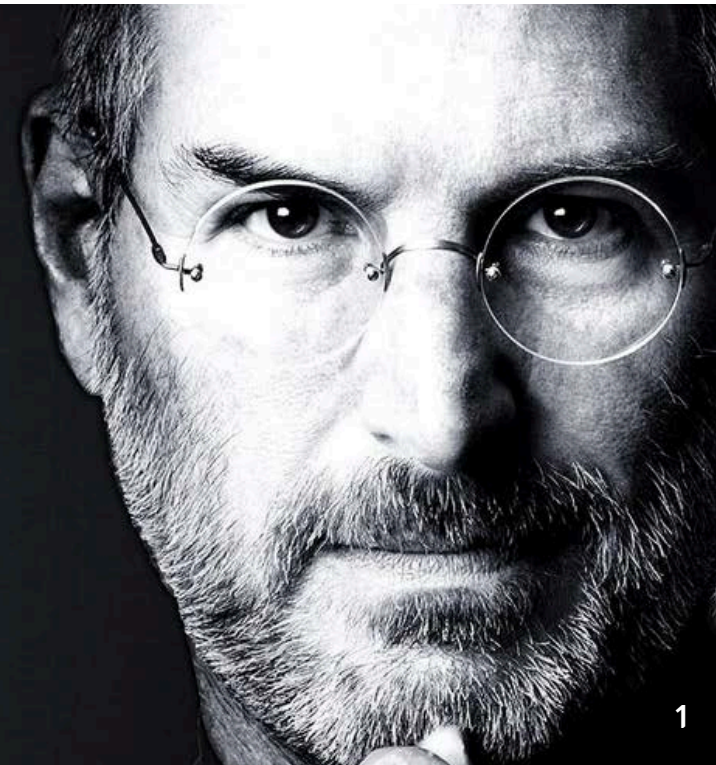
May 2024

QUOTES OF THE MONTH



“What we need to do is always lean into the future; when the world changes around you and when it changes against you - what used to be a tail wind is now a head wind - you have to lean into that and figure out what to do because complaining isn't a strategy.’

Jeff Bezos - CEO of Amazon

A black and white close-up portrait of Steve Jobs, Co-Founder of Apple. He is wearing his signature round glasses and has a beard. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

‘I’m convinced that about half of what separates successful entrepreneurs from the non-successful ones is pure perseverance.’

Steve Jobs, Co-Founder of Apple

The School is committed to continuous educational change that benefits primarily our learners. With this in mind, we have been working on developing our strategic planning for the future. Below, you will read of the main parameters of our strategic plan for the near future. It is divided into the relevant sections that you would expect to see on a school plan with particular emphasis on educational quality and the personal and social development of our students.

In the meantime, we are mindful of the upcoming inspection for our school. This will be carried out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) who will be assessing our school according to the stringent and demanding standards of British Schools Overseas. In June, we will be welcoming the Reporting Inspector (or Lead inspector) for the ISI to our school on a 'pre-inspection' visit. He will be visiting both the Junior and Senior School sites and will be meeting a range of staff (teaching and non-teaching) and some students. He will also be focusing on our compliance with certain standards related to such areas as child protection and child safeguarding, health and safety and facilities. The inspection itself will be in the week beginning November 18th. As part of the assessment of our school, the inspection team will be asking all staff, students (Years 5-13) and parents to complete an online questionnaire. This will go directly to the ISI team and will be just one of the tools they will employ in understanding our school and how well we are doing. As I have indicated in a past newsletter, the focus, aside from compliance, will be on educational quality which will include sections on academic provision and the personal development of our students.

This inspection will be a very good opportunity to measure of our progress and to identify areas that we can address further. The outcome of the inspection will be shared with all stakeholders once the report itself is finalised and published, probably by Christmas 2024 or early 2025.

Achievements

DNA Essay Competition success

Harriet Economidou (Y12) has won a commendation award from the organisers of the World DNA Essay Competition for her exceptional essay 'The Art of DNA'. World DNA Day is celebrated annually on April 25th to commemorate the discovery of the structure of the DNA molecule as a double helix in 1953 by James Watson and Francis Crick and for the completion of the Human Genome Project in April 2003. To celebrate this day, *Medicover Genetics Cyprus* sponsored an essay competition with the title "Family history is one of the most important risk factors for common genetic diseases. What is the role of DNA in the inheritance of such diseases?". The contest provided the opportunity for students to share their knowledge of and raise awareness about DNA and the importance of genetic testing and diagnosis in the treatment of inherited diseases. Well done, Harriet for your outstanding achievement.



Track and Field Winner

Congratulations to Senior School student, Antranik Ashjian, for his incredible achievement in the Panhellenic Games in track and field. Antranik jumped a remarkable 15.13m in the Triple Jump thereby securing first-place. We are immensely proud of Antranik's success and commend his perseverance in pursuing excellence both on and off the field. An exceptional feat!



Biathlon Challenge



Andreas Demetriou Y8 and Gurin Matvey Y11 participated in a Biathlon race (run-swim-run) at the Grammar School, Nicosia . Their performance and behaviour were exemplary! Gurin Matvey won third place in his category by running the 1200m, followed by the completion of the 200m swim and again running the 1200m!

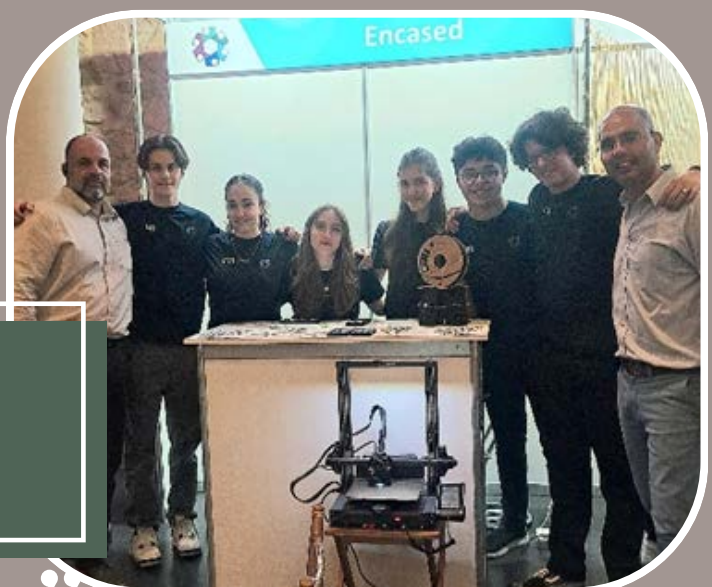
Junior Achievement

'Encased,' reached the Grand Final of the JA Company of the Year competition. Alex Theodorou, Pavlos Bismal, Rebecca Petrou, Emily Kyriakides, Mark Anderson, and Charis Chrisanthou were outstanding. Having secured a place in the top 10, they were in a strong position to top the honours with their impressive presentation and product which show-cased exceptional business acumen. Having progressed from the Trade Fair where over 300 students competed, 'Encased' distinguished itself from 44 student companies and 30 schools across Cyprus. In the Grand Final, the judges pressed our team with some challenging questions following their powerful stage presentation. Despite not topping the ranking in the Final, the team's responses were well considered, and they managed to put on a convincing display that marketed a strong and financially profitable business venture. Both the product itself and the business plan were realistic and innovative. 'Encased' certainly met the expectations of the JA programme: 'Participants learn how to take a business idea from concept to reality and have hands-on experience of running a real business, from team formation, capital raising, business plan development, product development, marketing, and sales to liquidating the company.'

The purpose is to design and proceed to production of a product or service, which meet identified social needs, is environmentally friendly and distinguished by innovative characteristics.'



'Encased' – prior to their presentation



In addition, our second company, Bloomarks, was also honoured with the prestigious Phoenix Award, a testament to their remarkable success. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to them as well. We also acknowledge the participation of our other two teams, Sweet Tooth and Ambrosia, in the competition.

The dedication, innovation, and hard work demonstrated by all our teams have earned our utmost respect and appreciation. Finally, many thanks to Mr. Afantitis and Mr. Shixiate, their teachers, for their invaluable support, guidance, and encouragement throughout this journey. Mr. Georgiou, Mr. Paphitis and Mr. Pipis were also on hand to support and guide the 'Encased' team for the Grand Final itself.



'Bloomarks' receive the Phoenix award

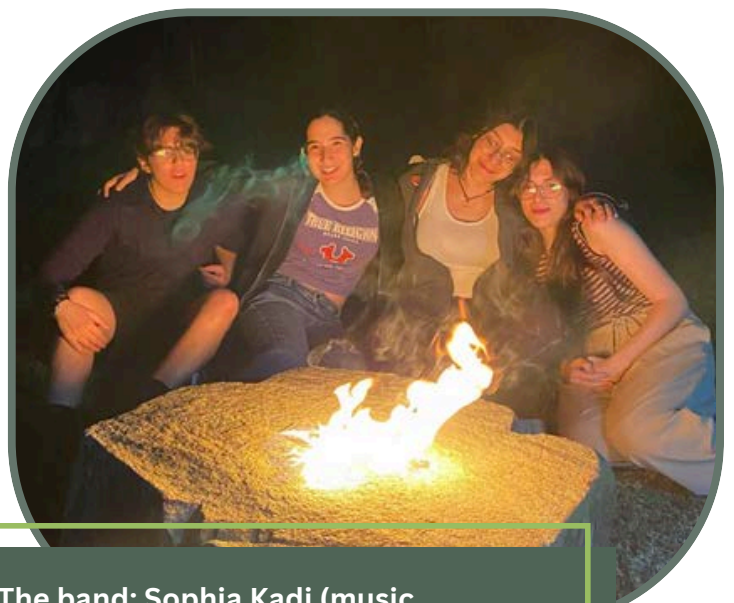


SS Musical talent shines once again

We are proud to announce that a band consisting of four Senior School students was selected after a competitive audition process to participate as one of six bands at the *Fengaros High Festival Competition* at Dali amphitheatre!

Fengaros High offers young musicians and songwriters in Cyprus a platform to showcase their talent and creativity.

Well done to all!



The band: Sophia Kadi (music composition, vocals and piano), Finn Markides y12 (guitar), Daphne Panayiotou (base), Raphaela Eleftheriou (drums).



Equestrian Triumph for SS student!

Well done, Stephanie Georgiou. She is an equestrian show jumping champion of Cyprus!

Her results for the Cyprus Equestrian Federation competition in April were outstanding:

- **First place in Category A, 125cm**
- **First place in Category A, 130cm**
- **And for the 2024 Spring season: Cyprus Champion for Category A and Overall Winner in Category B.**



Exceptional!

Other News:

On the 21st May, we had the pleasure of welcoming Dr Maria Karekla to deliver a presentation to parents on addictions. Dr Karekla (also a parent in our school) is a licensed Clinical psychologist and an Associate Professor at the University of Cyprus. Throughout her presentation she discussed the warning signs of addictions and substance abuse and provided the parents with practical tools to address this with their children. She also offered practical steps parents can take in case they are concerned, as well as how they can act proactively.



We were most grateful to Dr Karekla for affording time with us on an issue that is plaguing our community here in Cyprus. Accompanied here by our School Psychologist, Ms Theofanous.





Scientist visits the SS

The School was most fortunate to welcome Dr. Alexandra Lockwood who presented her work on the James Webb telescope to our Year 7 students. Dr Lockwood is a Project Scientist for NASA's James Webb Space Telescope at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, MD. She is currently seconded to NASA Headquarters where she serves as the Strategic Messaging and Engagement Lead for the Science Mission Directorate. Thank you to Ms Jordanou for arranging this invaluable opportunity for our Year 7s.



Year 7s exploring space with Dr Lockwood

Year 10 students Daniel Cleanthous, Zian (Bruce) Di, Christophoros Kadi and Roman Vasiuk also had the opportunity to meet and speak with the NASA Scientist Dr Lockwood about her work on the James Webb telescope and to see the images that her and her team produced from the telescope's data. This was in the context of an invitation to a reception at the US Ambassador's residence at the US Embassy, featuring artwork by American artists of space images as part of the US State Department's 'Art in Embassies' programme.



Our four Year 10s with Dr Lockwood, accompanied by Ms Jordanou, Head of Science faculty.



Comments from students:

ZIAN (BRUCE) DI

The astronomy event which focused on the James Webb Telescope was incredible! Learning about its advanced technology and how it's exploring our universe was mind-blowing. Seeing images it captured was like looking back billions of years in time—totally awe-inspiring.

Getting to pose in-depth questions directly to the Project scientist, Dr. Lockwood was fantastic too. This event really boosted my love for astronomy and got me thinking about studying more about space tech. Can't wait to see what the James Webb discovers next!

ROMAN VASIUK

' The event was an incredible opportunity for students to discover more about the Universe and be inspired in thinking about what might come next in the James Webb Space Telescope's exploration of something bigger than us. Having had the chance to have insightful discussions with Dr. Lockwood, I learned more about the infrared technology on board the telescope, found out about its complex gravitational navigation system, as well as learning the exciting news of an atmosphere around a recently discovered Earth-like planet. The art exhibition featured prints of the most iconic images taken by the James Webb Telescope, as well as several unique artworks from contemporary artists. All in all, visiting the United States Embassy was an inspiring and educational experience!'

Mega Greece Journalist at the SS



MEGA

We were delighted to recently host the journalist and presenter, Ms. Stella Stylianou from Mega Greece to our school. Ms. Stylianou engaged our Year 10 IGCSE Greek Language students in a thought-provoking discussion on the topic of real vs. fake news. She explored the ways misinformation spreads through the media and stressed the importance of journalistic ethics.

Our students then were able to participate in a discussion on media practices, gaining valuable insights into how to identify reliable news and facts.



We are most grateful to Ms. Stella Stylianou for her visit!

SSPGA contributes to a cleaner campus!

Many thanks to the PGA for their contribution to helping keep the school cleaner with new, bigger bins at key locations!



ECO Committee at work!

ECO Committee members, accompanied by Mr Dean, plant new saplings in our school grounds




Thank you, Mr Photis for your invaluable assistance!



ECO tree huggers

Year 13 take their leave!

The last day before the Easter break marked the final day of formal lessons for Year 13s before they embarked on their study leave for public examinations. This last day followed a week of so-called theme days for Year 13 such as ‘come in dressed as a teacher day’, ‘come into school dressed as a decade!’ and ‘attend school with anything but a bag’ (some very innovative ideas here!). The last day itself, (after the usual so-called overnight ‘Pinda’) included an alternative graduation assembly led by student leaders with speeches from Deputy Head Pastoral, Ms O’Riordan and 6th Form Coordinator and Head of Year 13, Ms Varvatsoulis. This was followed by a gathering of Year 13s and their teachers over snacks and drinks in the area outside the main foyer. Afterwards, SSL13 were able to enjoy playing some sports until finally their departure on hearing the school bell for the last time at 2.20pm!



15th Annual Graduation Ceremony

The Junior and Senior School and its Fifteenth Graduation Class would like to invite all family, friends and Alumni of The Junior & Senior School to the 15th Annual Graduation Ceremony being held at the Senior School Campus on Wednesday 26th June 2024 at 7.30pm.

Students will receive their Apolytition Certificate and Commemorative Plaque, and certificates will be awarded for 'Special Achievements'.

We look forward to sharing with you what has come to be an enjoyable and unforgettable evening supporting our School's fifteenth graduating class.

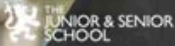
BOOKINGS
Bookings can be made directly by completing relevant details in the [Link](#).

Please reserve your tickets early to avoid disappointment. The deadline for bookings is Friday 7th June 2024.

"We wish the Graduating Class of 2024 the best of luck in their future endeavours"

Regards,
The Junior and Senior School Graduation Committee

Details of the Graduation Ball which will be held at Lapatsa on Thursday, June 27th will be shared in due course along with the relevant links for bookings and payments.



“

We look forward to
SSL13's Graduation
and farewell on
June 26th

”

“

SSL13s
fundraising
efforts

”



Alexa's new single is out!

After the successful release of her debut single, "Always the Fool," our Senior School student Alexa Michael (Year 10) has released her second single entitled "Surprise" across major platforms including Spotify, YouTube, and Apple Music. We are very proud to see Alexa showcasing her talent with her composition of both the music and lyrics along with her impressive vocals and piano performance on the recording.



We are also delighted to report that Alexa will be performing on stage at Cyprus' leading music festival, Fengaros 2024, this August. As one of the youngest artists to ever feature at the festival, Alexa's achievement is particularly noteworthy. We invite the Senior School community to see Alexa's live performance at the festival on 1st of August.

YOU CAN LISTEN TO "SURPRISE" ON:



<https://open.spotify.com/track/3xCYZ9675kipJaUatoNwpv>



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXWTiKGiTWE&list=OLAK5uy_lgiPttUrYlKxf-FO-JusMmD7OSN215IF0



<https://music.apple.com/cy/album/surprise-single/1741073965>



AND SEE ALEXA LIVE AT FENGAROS FESTIVAL 2024:

<https://www.fengaros.com/F24AlexaMichael>

TICKETS:
<https://www.fengaros.com/tickets>



THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR INSTITUTE – WE ARE LAUNCHING IN SEPTEMBER! DON'T FORGET TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

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ENGLISH CLASSES FOR ALL!

Our Mission

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Facilities

Located in a convenient and accessible neighbourhood, our facilities provide the perfect setting for effective learning. Equipped with the latest technology and resources, our classrooms are designed to enhance your learning experience.



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THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR INSTITUTE

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Notes for your calendar:

Final days for Year 7-10 students
at the SS:

Wednesday, 19th June 2024

Exam Feedback, day 1 and
Assemblies/Awards

Thursday, 20th June 2024

Exam Feedback, day 2 and
Assemblies/Awards

Friday, 21st June 2024

School trip to Fassouri Water Park

Thank you

Yiannis Georgiou

Senior School Headteacher, Acting Principal