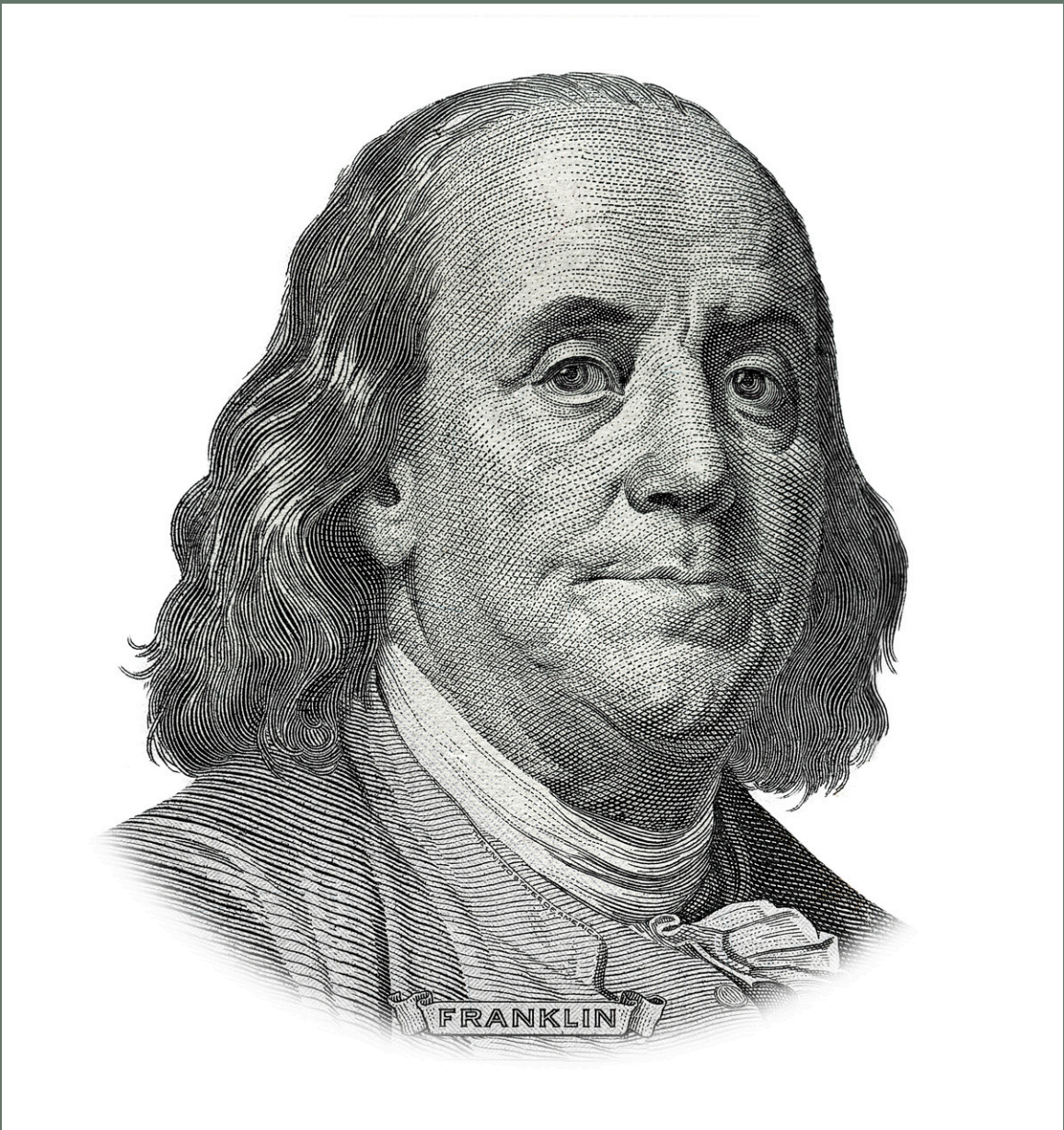


SS Headteacher's Newsletter

October 2024

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



'Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn'

Benjamin Franklin – One of the Founding Fathers of the United States and signatory of the Declaration of Independence

This month has seen a huge amount of activity that has showcased the breadth of opportunities that are on offer for all of our students from field trips to sporting achievements and careers and university prep. Much work has, of course, also been seen in classrooms as students have settled into their routines and have become accustomed once again to the demands of homework assignments and classroom learning. Indeed, one of our main focuses this year is to deepen our commitment to nurturing a student-centred approach to teaching and learning across the school.

Student centred learning is regarded as an opportunity for students take ownership for their learning. It is associated with allowing young people to take on projects, independent research and collaborative learning that encourages far more secure understanding of content and skills development. It promotes active learning, critical thinking skills, collaborative work habits and independent learning.

Examples include Flipped Learning, whereby students are either given an article to read or some research to do along with some notes and questions to respond to before the upcoming lesson. They will then work with other classmates in sharing their responses rather than the teacher simply delivering the topic in a more traditional setting. In this way, students are far better engaged and will have taken the learning process further than might have been the case normally. Project based learning would be another method employed whereby students will have been given an open-ended question which they can respond to in their own way; this allows them to take charge of their own learning in creative and collaborative ways. Students are then guided through new learning and their teacher facilitates this process. Another benefit is the promotion of formative assessment that avoids over testing in a subject.

Outcomes will be reflected in more effective learning, better levels of motivation and engagement and improved levels of learning which will be evident in scores on assessed assignments.

For more information, do contact our Deputy Head for Curriculum, Teaching and Learning and Assessment, Ms Eleni Kallitsi.

Education Exhibition 2024!

Our education exhibition at the Senior School on Friday 18th, organised by the school's Career Office, was a resounding success! The event was expertly planned, offering invaluable insights and information for both our student and parent community. We extend a huge thank you to the participating universities and their representatives for their contributions.

Their presence made the day truly special. Events like these are crucial in guiding students towards informed decision-making about their academic and professional futures, giving them the opportunity to explore their options firsthand. We look forward to building on this success year after year, continuing to provide our students with meaningful opportunities for their future. A massive thank you to Ms Stella Pericleous, our Head of Careers, for her planning and organisation of the event!





Extremely well attended event at the SS on Friday 18th – Well done to all!



Sports School – Updates



We are delighted to share that our Head Coach for Football, Mr Constantinos Charalambides, at the Sports School has also taken on the role of Sports School Coordinator. We wish him well in his new role!

We can report that our core sports programmes—football and tennis—are running smoothly, with students demonstrating dedication and progress across all aspects of their development. From technical growth to physical conditioning, the athletes are consistently working towards their goals and embracing the challenges that have been set for them. In addition to these core sports, we are proud to support individual athletes who are excelling in other disciplines such as basketball and horse riding. These students continue to make significant strides within our programme, benefitting from the structured development approach we offer in the Sports School.

Our recently renovated gym has been instrumental in the strength training of all 42 of our athletes. This facility has become an essential part of their daily routines, providing the necessary resources for improving physical strength, endurance, and overall performance, which is key to their growth as athletes.

The Sports School has also organized a presentation focusing on the importance of ergometric tests in monitoring and guiding athletic development. This session was well-received by both students and parents, helping them understand the value of these assessments in achieving long-term athletic success.



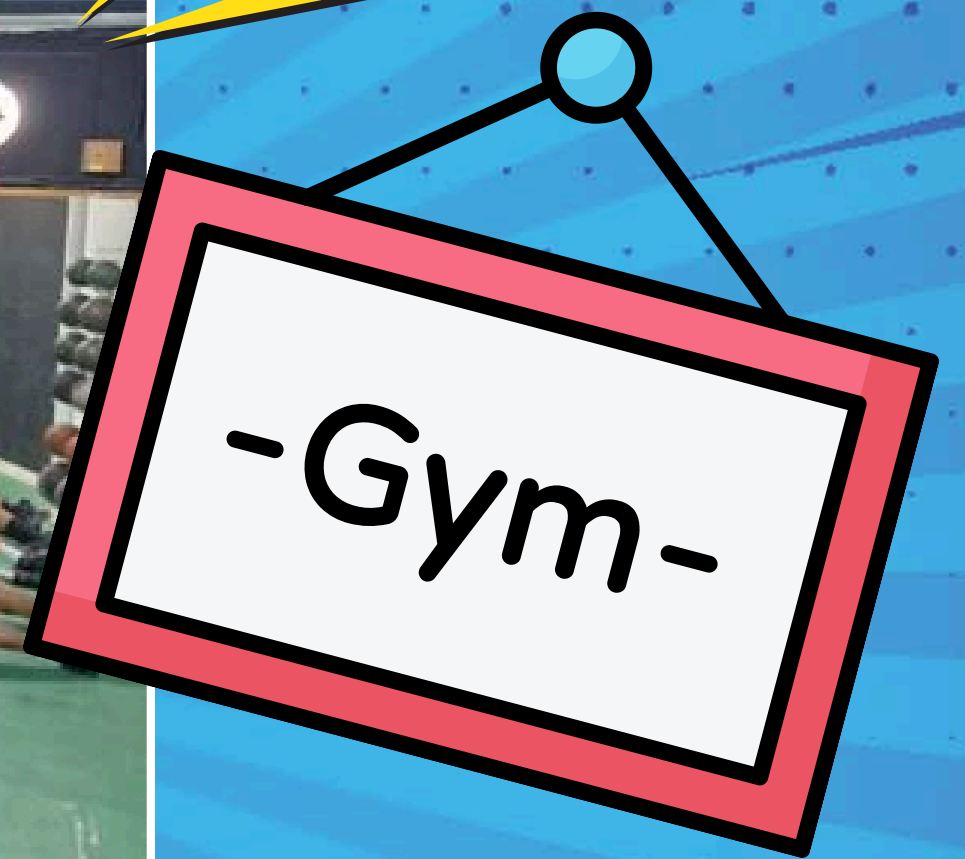
Our young footballers!

GOAL!





Our tennis hopefuls!



Gym work for all!



Just one of the range of sports related presentations for our Sports School students

Swimming achievements

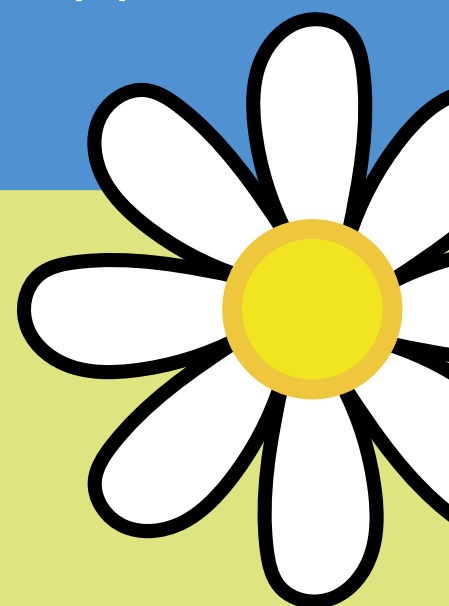
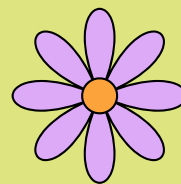
Our swimmers who proudly represented our school – Well done!

Wonderful news from our KS3 Senior School swimming team's recent performance at the inter-school swimming competition held at the Grammar School in Nicosia on October 17th. Our team, consisting of 5 students - Nayia , Andreas, Christina, Tiffany, and Christina - participated in various swimming races. Nayia Georgiadis 7E achieved an impressive bronze medal in the medley race with a time of 1:28 seconds.



This is a fantastic accomplishment, and we are truly proud. Well done to all for their performance and many thanks to the coach, Mr Achilleas Vyrides, for all of his support and encouragement.

Mental Health Week



On the 10th October we celebrated World Mental Health/ Psychology day in our school. In order to embrace this day and raise awareness, interactive stalls were set up for students and staff at the Senior School campus during breaktimes. Students were in charge of the stalls, and staff and students had the opportunity to play games, interact, relax and gain information on different ways in which we can take care of our mental health and wellbeing. Stalls included mindfulness mandala drawing and jars, mood tracker, information on bodily sensations and feelings, match the quote to the psychologist, optical illusions, positive affirmations, self-care and stress release through fidget toys. Much appreciation to all students involved, but in particular, to our School Psychologist, Ms Artemis Theophanous, for her leadership in organising this successful event.



Our mental health volunteers help spread the word!



mental health matters



Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) thrives



PSHE is thriving in Year 11. Some interesting work is taking place with students led by their Form Tutors, Ms Panayiota Constantinou, Ms Katerina Ioannou, Ms Danae Frangoudes and Ms Filio Hartoutsiou. For the past couple of weeks, including Mental Health Week, our students have been focusing on Empathy and Affirmations for Others.



Year 11s in the midst of their empathy exercises!

The objective of these sessions is to encourage empathy by having students reflect on the limiting beliefs of someone they care about and create supportive affirmations to help that person overcome their challenges.

The Senior School has done it again in EYP!



Louka Demange, Anna Panayiotou, Angelina Lytra and Daniella Metaxa (Year 12) have been selected to represent Cyprus and participate in one of 3 international sessions of the European Youth Parliament:



The Hague, The Netherlands (April 4–13)



Turku, Finland (July 19–27)



Malaga, Spain (October 25–November 2)

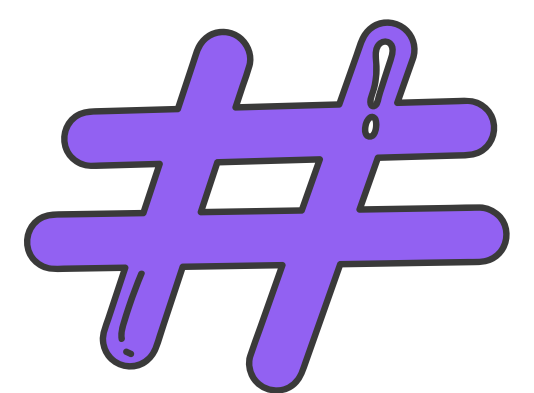
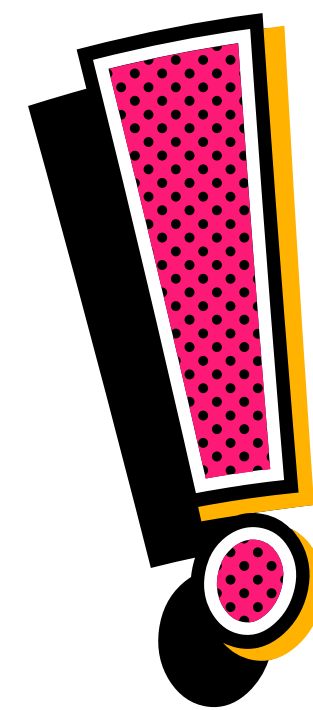
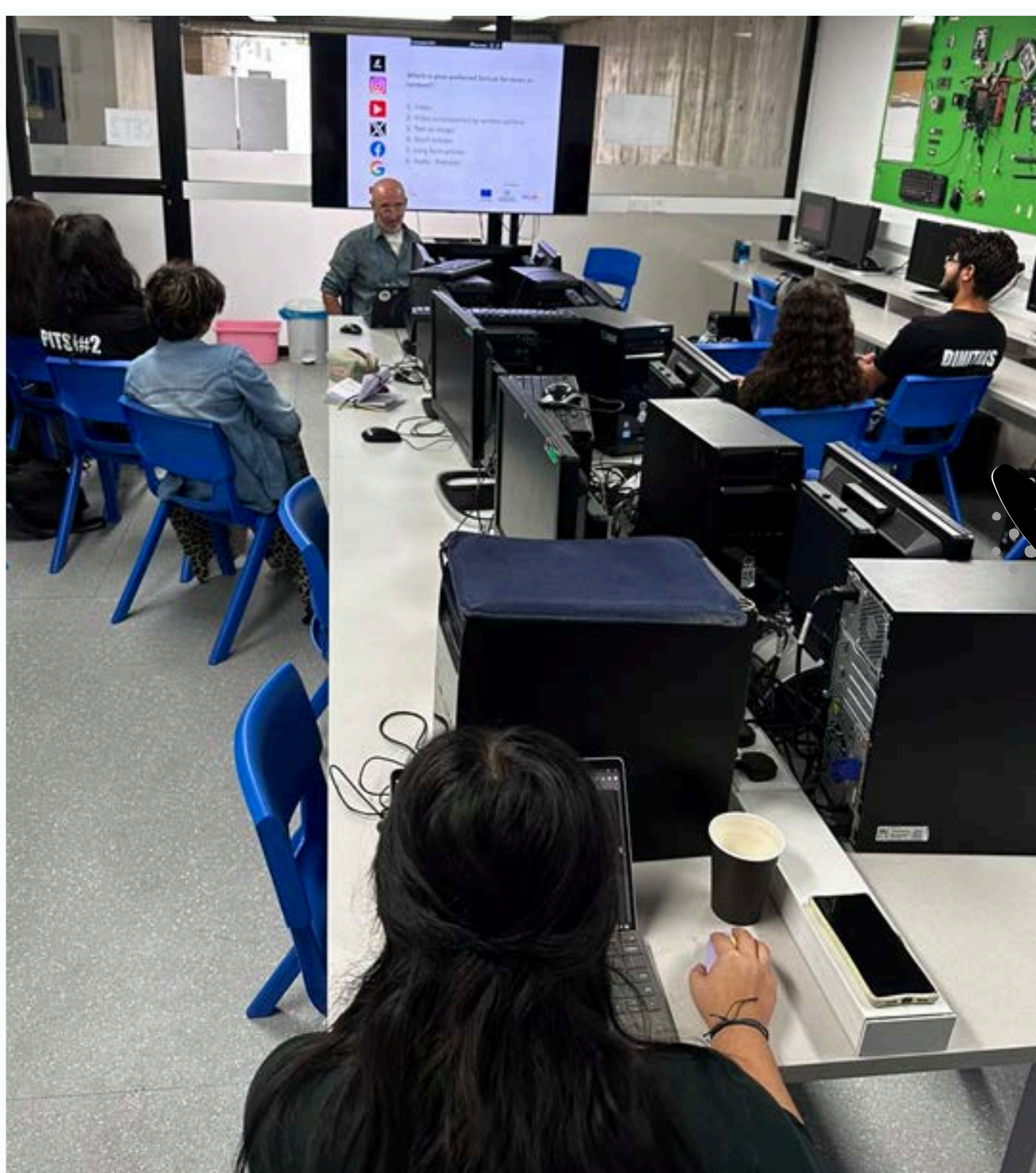
In addition, Charis Chrysanthou and Pavlos Bismal (Year 12) have been chosen to organize one of the international sessions.

Congratulations to all our EYP students. They continuously commit, contribute and perform at these highly competitive events and raise the standard of resolution writing and debate to another level. And many thanks also to Ms Eithne O'Riordan for all her support and encouragement of these students.

Global Perspectives Update!

Exciting things have been happening in Global Perspectives recently! In October, Mr Nicholas Karides, a representative of the Institute of Mass Media in Cyprus visited the Senior School. Mr Karides spoke to the Year 11 and Year 13 Global Perspective students about the reliability of mass media today in the era of social media.

Our students were able to ask questions, but also to gain a better understanding of misinformation and the difference between content creators and journalists. This presentation was an eye-opening experience for the students who were able to get an insight into how their research and evaluation of sources in Global Perspectives has relevance in the world. Many thanks to our teachers for arranging this event, Ms Christina Leigh and Ms Natalie Shaka.



Mr Karides explores the impact of social media platforms on society with our students

KS3 English report

In order to promote the beauty of the English language, KS3 students were taken to the library for an exciting treasure hunt at the start of the academic year. Students worked exceptionally well in groups and successfully completed their quizzes. It was a lot of fun for all! Many thanks to Ms Ioannou, for arranging this activity!



Queen's Commonwealth Essay entry

As reported in the September issues, our student, Styliana Avraamidou won a gold award for her Queen's Commonwealth Essay entry. Here is a link for you to read her essay!

[QCEC 2024.pdf](#)

MORE SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS TO CELEBRATE

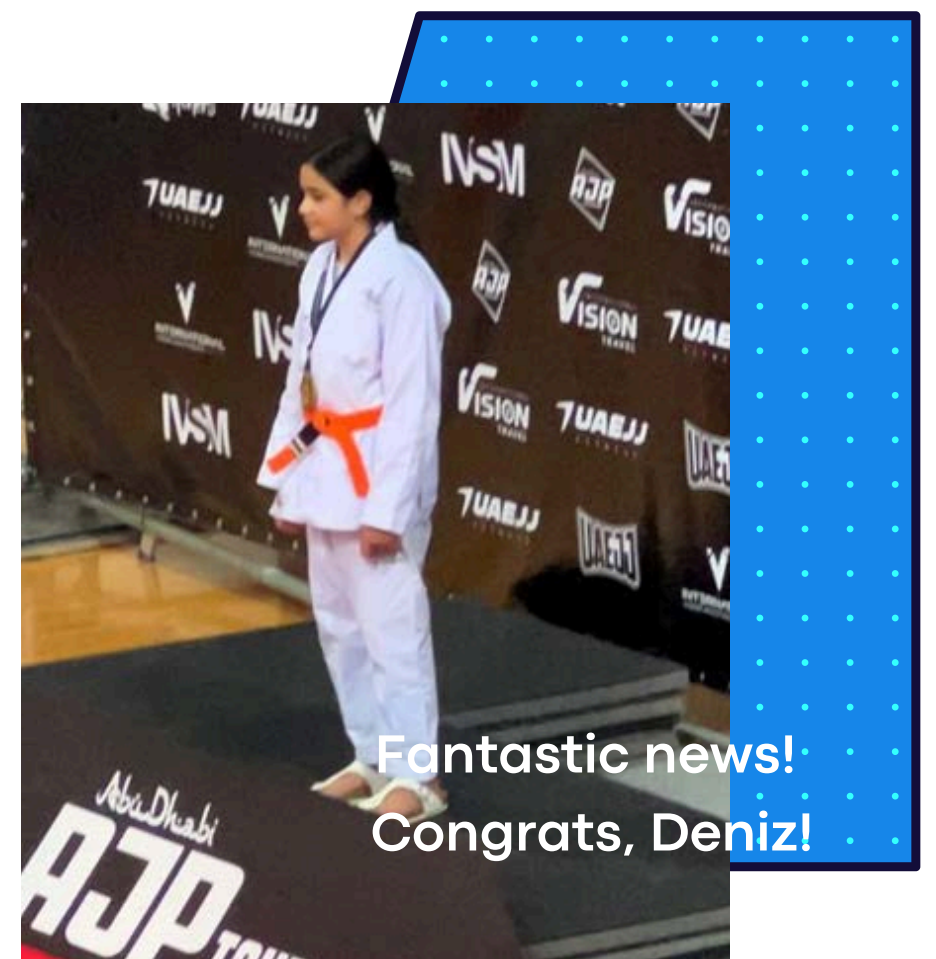
SS Student World Cup Karate Success!



Iouliana Daliti (Year 11) recently represented Cyprus as a member of the National Karate team in Jesolo Italy in the World Championship Cup. She ranked 7th overall in the World Cup and her new world ranking is 23rd. An outstanding achievement! Well done, Iouliana!

Jiu-Jitsu Achievement!

We're thrilled to announce that our very own Deniz gained an outstanding victory at the prestigious AJP Jiu-Jitsu Pro tournament in Larnaca! On October 5, Deniz competed against 118 athletes from around the world and secured the gold medal in the 48 kg orange belt category (2013-2014 age group).



Doubles Tennis Victory!



Andreas Constantinou and his partner have won the Pancyprian U14 Doubles Tennis Championships at the Famagusta Club in Limassol! Their success reflects the dedication we foster at The Senior School. Well done!

Our student/athlete, Anastasis Mosaikos, has claimed 1st place in the Famagusta Tennis Club Pancyprian 2024 Grade 1 (Boys Singles U14) We're proud of his hard work and dedication!



WELCOME BACK PARTY

A huge thank you to the Senior School PGA for planning and organising the first-ever Welcome Back Party for our school. It was a phenomenal success with over 600 tickets sold! The evening was filled with incredible performances from our talented student bands and amazing community spirit.

Special thanks to Mrs. Theofanous, Mrs. Philippou, our dedicated staff, our wonderful PGA and parent volunteers, vendors, and especially our amazing students who made this night unforgettable. The energy and community spirit were truly inspiring!



Student bands in concert!



Ms Filippou and Mr Mo, thank you for helping to make the evening so successful!



High energy on the night!



Food galore for all to enjoy!



SCIENCE FACULTY REPORT:

European Researchers Night

This is an event that is open to the public held every year in all European Nations to showcase Scientific Work being done in each country and which also gives students the opportunity to present a scientific topic of interest related to the theme of the event. Congratulations to Polina Lebedeva (Year 9) who participated at this year's public speaking competition, 'Science Unfold'.



Polina presented the work that she and Ivan Symeonides (Year 9) are working on entitled: **Tumor Microenvironment Replication using decellularized plant-based scaffolds**

Science Week (October 7th-11th)

Science week celebrated all things Science! Each day was dedicated to one Science Discipline and there were activities held throughout the week at each break time to help students and staff have fun and put a little Science into their day:



Monday 7/10: Biology day
- Biodiversity Guessing games/Leaf Prints

Tuesday 8/10: Physics Day -
Rube Goldberg Machine design ideas/Physics Games



Wednesday 9/10: Chemistry Day - Elephant Toothpaste/Burning Money Demonstrations

In addition, on Thursday 10/10 we enjoyed Psychology Day & World Mental Health Day with mindfulness/mood tracker activities – see report above

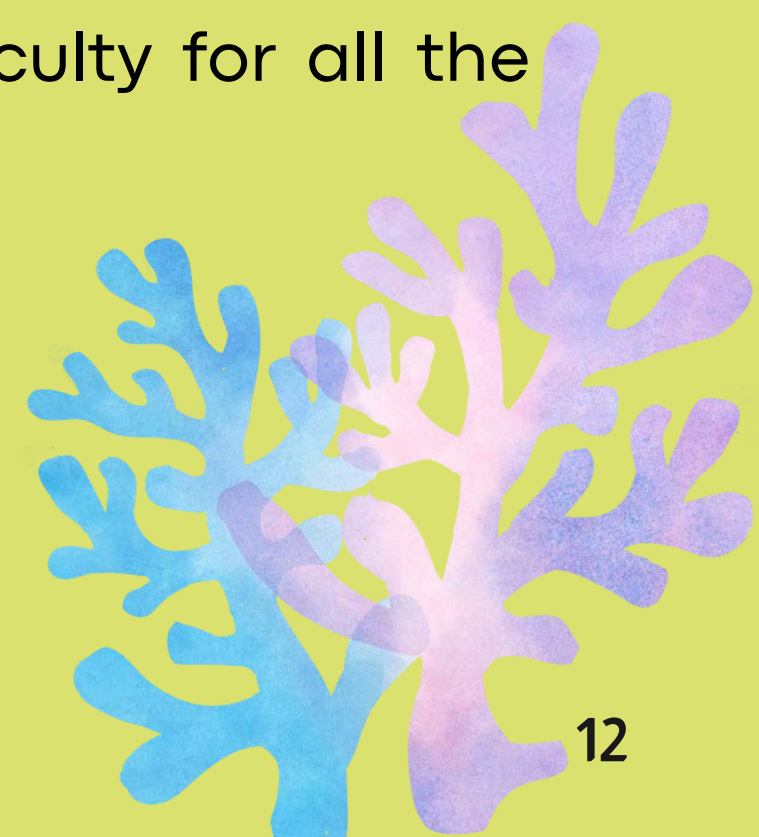
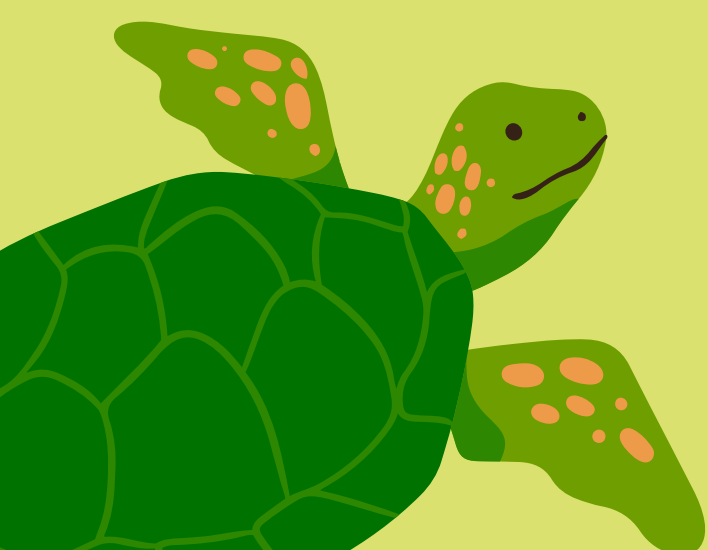


Friday 11/10 was dedicated to Science Day, with a science themed bake sale to raise money for the Ithaki Charity. Visitors from Vimodo presenting to the Year 10 Biology students an Erasmus+ project on Women Scientists in STEM fields. Over €300 was raised for the Ithaki Charity of Nicosia that supports people and families dealing with dementia!



The Year 13 Biology Students, accompanied by Mrs. Iordanou and Mr. Pipis, visited the Environmental Studies Centre in the village of Kritou Terra (Akamas Region) to conduct Ecological Fieldwork to fulfil A2 Biology course requirements. The students enjoyed the educational opportunity they experienced on this annual residential trip which involved the completion of two studies: Rocky shore zonation (using systematic sampling) and Fire and Vegetation Succession Study (using random sampling).

Many thanks to Ms Iordanou and her team in the Science Faculty for all the preparation and organisation of the week's activities!



School Uniform – Winter items update:

We have been informed by Classmates that the delivery of 2 winter items, namely the black hoodie without the zip and the black sweatpants, has been delayed. Even though orders were placed well in advance, so as to be able to have the products in time for the winter season, developments in the field of trade and in particular the shipping of goods, has led to substantial delays. All the goods were shipped in August, but the closure of the Suez canal due to the Houthi attacks on vessels, has meant that these two winter items will now finally arrive and be available at the end of October.



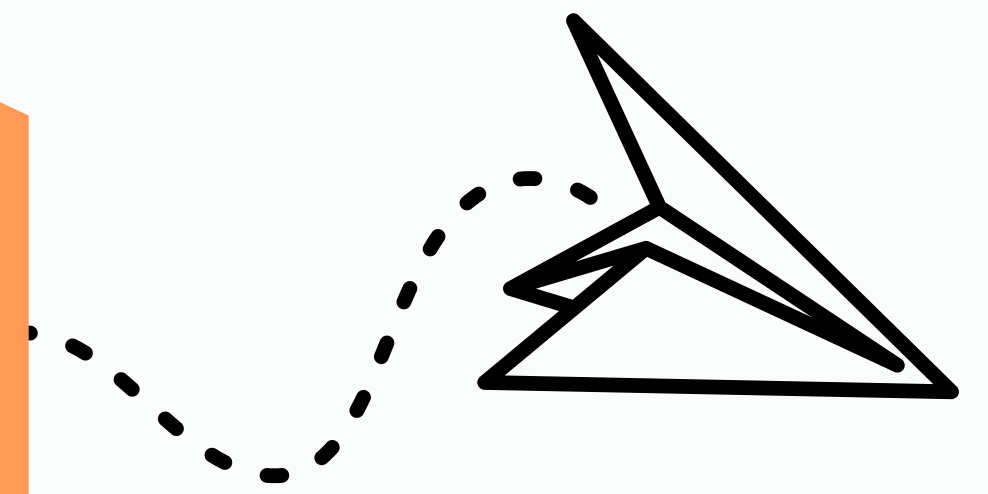
Online Assessment Tool:

ONLINE

Please note that after some teething problems, the Online Assessment Tool on iSAMS is now available. This tool allows parents to view and monitor assessment results for their child in every subject. This is another means of effective communication for parents to have an overview of the academic progress of their children.

1

Best you forget...



1

Many thanks to all who were able to complete the online ISI questionnaire. Our upcoming inspection is in the week of November 18-21!

2

ARDs are coming in November – Please check separate email communications on this!

4

Enjoy the Half Term break!

3

Mobile Phones:

We are tweaking our policy on mobile phones. You may have seen a communication on this recently. Essentially, it will mean students can have their phones in their bags, (switched off), but must not use them on the school site. See email for details. This will apply after Half Term.

Thank you

Yiannis Georgiou
Senior School Headteacher
Acting Principal