

SS Headteacher's Newsletter

November 2024

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'Just remember, you can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets.'

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Actor, former politician, and retired professional bodybuilder



ISI

INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
INSPECTORATE

This last month has been one in which the entire staff of our school have been focused on preparations for our inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) <https://www.isi.net> . The ISI is appointed by the UK's Department for Education (DfE) to inspect British Schools Overseas (BSO). The ISI inspection enables schools to compare themselves to leading independent schools in England and many other British schools around the world.

This is the only accreditation scheme endorsed by the UK. Schools that meet the inspection standards are then officially recognised by the UK Government and accredited as a BSO. BSOs become officially DfE registered, are listed on the GOV.UK website.

Our inspection took place in the week 18-21 November. The aim of any ISI inspection is essentially to carry out a quality assurance assessment on the school.

The Junior and Senior School was assessed according to:

1. Compliance with:



- Quality of education provided
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Welfare, health and safety of students
- Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors
- Premises of the school
- Provision of information
- Manner in which complaints are handled
- Quality of leadership in and management of schools

To pass the inspection, a school must be fully compliant with the above.

2. Educational quality

Student Achievement and Personal Development

Student Achievement focuses on areas such as attainment and progress in public and internal assessments/exams over time; the development of linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education; ICT, numeracy and study skills, including higher order skills; attitudes to learning, including collaborative, independent learning along with the ability to take initiatives and show leadership in the persistence of success.

Personal Development focuses on areas such as self-knowledge, self-confidence, self-discipline and resilience; spiritual understanding; moral understanding and the ability to know right from wrong and take responsibility for their own behaviour; social skills and the ability to solve problems and work towards common goals; contributions to society, in school, locally and more globally; cultural understanding and a respect for diversity; staying safe and keeping mentally and physically healthy with a sound life balance.



All schools that are inspected by the ISI are graded for Student Achievement and Personal Development thus: Unsatisfactory, Sound, Good, Excellent.

Following the inspection of our school, we received verbal feedback from the inspection team. A formal draft written report will be issued in the coming weeks and at some point in January or February we expect the final version of the report to be published. This will be made available on our website.

We are not at liberty to formally state the outcomes of the inspection; however, based on the verbal feedback we received, it appears that we are fully compliant with all standards expected of BSO schools, and in terms of Educational Quality, we appear to have performed extraordinarily well. The confirmation of this very pleasing result of the inspection will be shared once this is indeed formalised in the written report.

In the meantime, congratulations to all the staff and students of our school on a very successful outcome. Staff in particular have put in many hours of planning and preparation over a long period of time to ensure our school was able to show the inspection team the high quality of education offered to our students, along with full compliance with all expected standards for a BSO school.

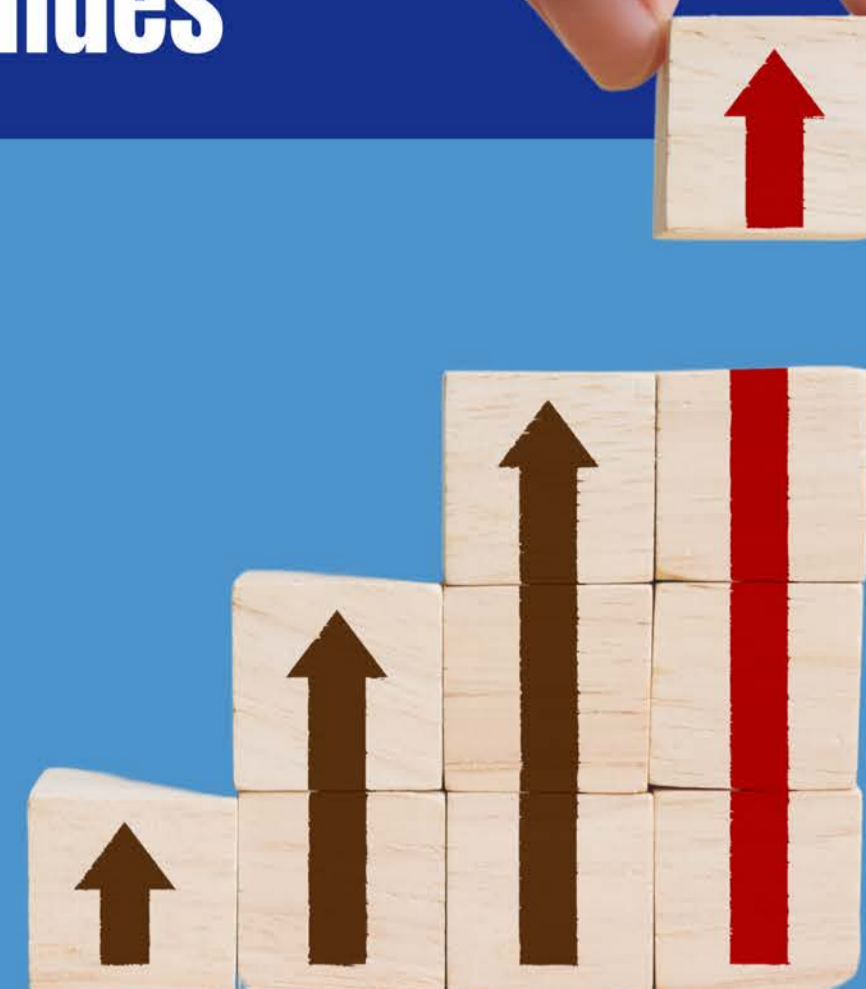


Exciting Progress!

Our IB Diploma Programme journey continues

We are delighted to announce the successful completion of our recent IB Consultation Visit as part of the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) authorisation process. A remote two-day visit was arranged with our IB Consultant to ascertain our progress thus far, and we are very much on track! This marks a significant milestone in our journey towards becoming an IB World School, reflecting our commitment to high-quality, globally minded education.

As part of this process, we also held informative sessions with our Year 10 and Year 11 students through assemblies and hosted a dedicated Year 10/11 parents' evening to share insights about the IBDP. We would like to thank all the parents who attended for their engagement and support—it was wonderful to see such enthusiasm for this transformative educational pathway.



Our Head of IB, Ms Dindoyal, presents to KS4 students details on the IB Diploma Programme



Year 10/11 parents in attendance at IB presentation session

The Consultant's visit provided valuable feedback and affirmed our readiness to proceed to the next phase of authorisation. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, students, and school community for their hard work in making this progress possible.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue this exciting journey towards offering a world-class learning experience!

Outstanding success for SS students in Pearson Edexcel and Cambridge Exams!

Once again, we are delighted to share the successes of our students in their public exams in the summer of 2024.



The following will receive **Outstanding Pearson Learner Awards** on December 12th at a special awards evening organised by Pearson:

1. **Aayush Ramdas:** IGCSE Physics - Highest Mark in Cyprus
2. **Leonie Weiderud:** GCSE Drama – Highest Mark in Cyprus
3. **Melina Louca:** GCSE Mathematics A - Highest Mark in the World
4. **Selina Elia:** IGCSE Spanish – Highest mark in Cyprus
5. **Stefani Georghiou:** IGCSE Economics – Highest mark in Europe

The following will receive **Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards** at a special awards evening organised by Cambridge exams on the evening of December 11th:

1. **Iliana Skordi:** IGCSE Geography – Top in Cyprus
2. **Matvey Gurin:** IGCSE Business Studies – Top in Cyprus
3. **Melina Louca:** IGCSE Music – High Achievement Award
4. **Dafni Aletra:** A Level English Literature – Top in Cyprus
5. **Daria Razumova:** AS Level Digital media and Design – High Achievement Award

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS AND THEIR TEACHERS!



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Religious Studies Competition Success!



SS students have won the 'Various class entries' category in the Spirited Arts 2024 competition run by the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) on the theme 'Why Animals Matter'. Well done to Zoe Booton, Elena Readman, Alina Mitsi, Daryna Potapova, Alexis Kyriakides, Roma Theocharides, Veronica Kalyvitou, Gabriela Tarchanidou.

Please see their entries here: [Various - class entries](#)

This is an outstanding achievement. Our students were competing against 25000 other entrants. And many congratulations to their teachers, Ms Helen Kaccoufa and Mr Christos Aristodemou.



Erasmus+ Programme Success!

Our school is proud to mark the successful conclusion of the Erasmus+ Initiation programme, "Fostering Green Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship in School Education," in collaboration with schools from Estonia, Italy, and Greece. Through this initiative, students gained valuable skills in social entrepreneurship (SE) and social innovation (SI), addressing environmental challenges with creativity and purpose. The programme's highlights included the creation of a digital platform for SE training, the development of learning resources, and equipping teachers with enhanced skills to integrate these concepts into school curricula. Scoring an impressive 90/100, this project stands as a testament to the dedication and innovation of everyone involved. Congratulations to all participants on this outstanding achievement! In particular, many thanks and well done to our teachers who were involved throughout the project, Mr Nicholas Shixiate, Ms Natalie Shaka, and one of our former teachers, Ms Maria Xystra along with the Year 9s who were crucial in their contributions to the successful outcomes.



ECO Mural brightens up site!

The School's ECO Committee leave their mark on one of the outer walls!



Anti-Bullying Week

November saw the school lead on the theme of respect and anti-bullying with a number of events arranged with the support of our Pastoral team, who worked on creating a whole-school anti-bullying rap which is now displayed around school. They also delivered Anti-bullying assemblies to their year groups. On the 14th Odd Socks day was celebrated, where students and staff came wearing their odd socks to highlight our individual and unique identities. Our Wellbeing Ambassadors also led anti-bullying activities during breaktimes, where they provided information on the different types of bullying and their impact through interactive games.



An exciting addition to the week was an anti-bullying flash dance performed by students and staff during breaktime. Many thanks to Xin Guan, Dasha Razumova, Natalie Hickman, Selina Elia, Sarah Elia, Zoe Nicolaou, Athina Philippou, Maria Sofroniou, Christina Avraam Parouti, Mia Petrides, Athina Landa, Emmeleia Pastella, Dasha Godunova, Stephanie Pandela, Synthia Constantinou -

Harriet Economidou and Mr Mohammend Awwad who supported Anti-bullying week and demonstrated much enthusiasm and dedication! Special thanks to Ms Dina Booton and her Year 7 Art classes who created a kindness tree with anti-bullying and kind messages.



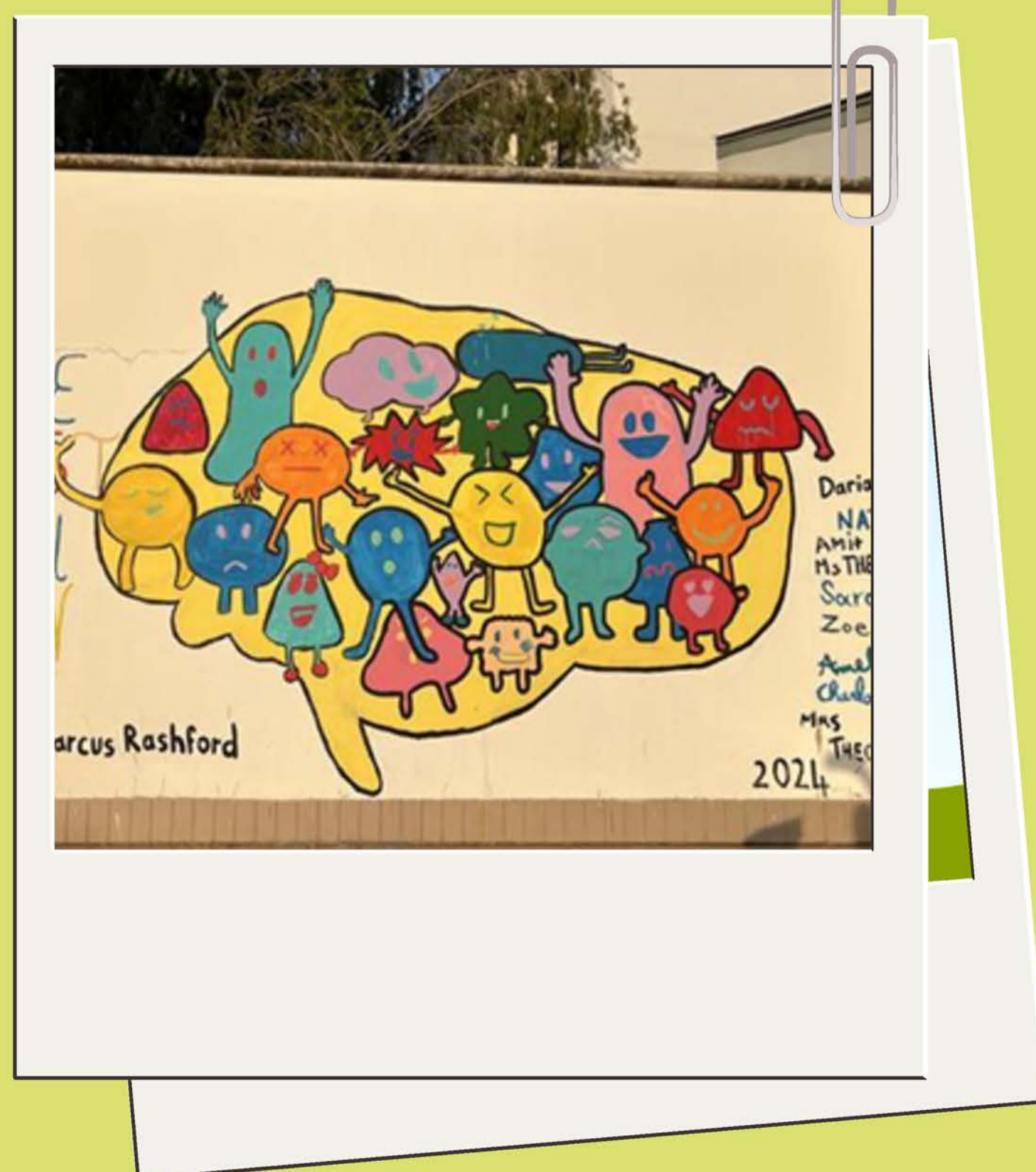
Year 7 artwork filled with antibullying messages



Students and teachers flash dance in break!

Wellbeing Wall

Our students alongside Ms Theofanous and Ms Theodorou are behind the creation of an art mural dedicated to Wellbeing. The design and quote ideas were suggested by students and all worked hard to complete the task. Many thanks to Dasha Razumova, Natalie Hickman, Athina Philippou, Sarah Elia, Selina Elia, Zoe Nicolaou, Xin Guan, Amit Ako and Ioannis Skordis for all their contributions.



English Department Gothic Week (October)

The English department worked with KS3 students on Gothic literature towards the end of October during 'Gothic Week'. A number of activities were arranged to sensitise students to this rich area of English literary tradition. Through engaging classroom activities, they explored this captivating genre, including suspense, and the supernatural. Adding to the excitement, students organized a 'spook-tacular' bake sale, raising an impressive €234 for the Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society. This event not only showcased their creativity and teamwork but also their commitment to supporting a worthy cause. Well done to all involved for making Gothic Week a hauntingly memorable success!



Delicious baked goodies on sale for a good cause!



**SPOOKY
VIBES**



Karate Success!

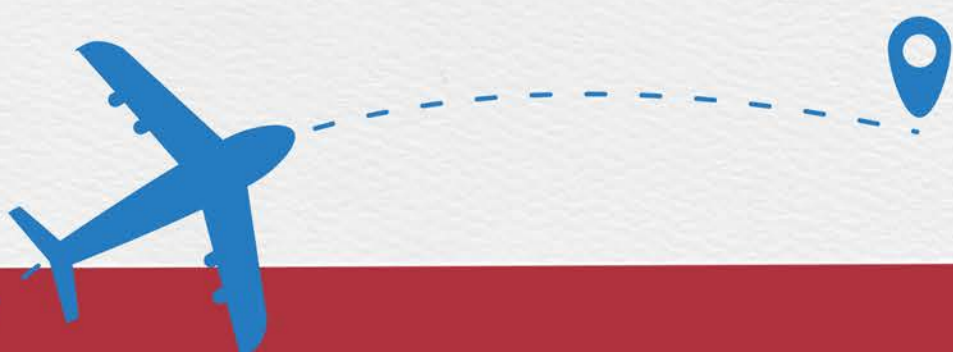


Well done, Katherine Pepa of Year 7, following her participation in the 49th FEW CUP (Karate European championship) that took place on 26-27 October. We are delighted to share that on both days she gained 3rd place!

Trip to New York – Senior School students visit the Big Apple!

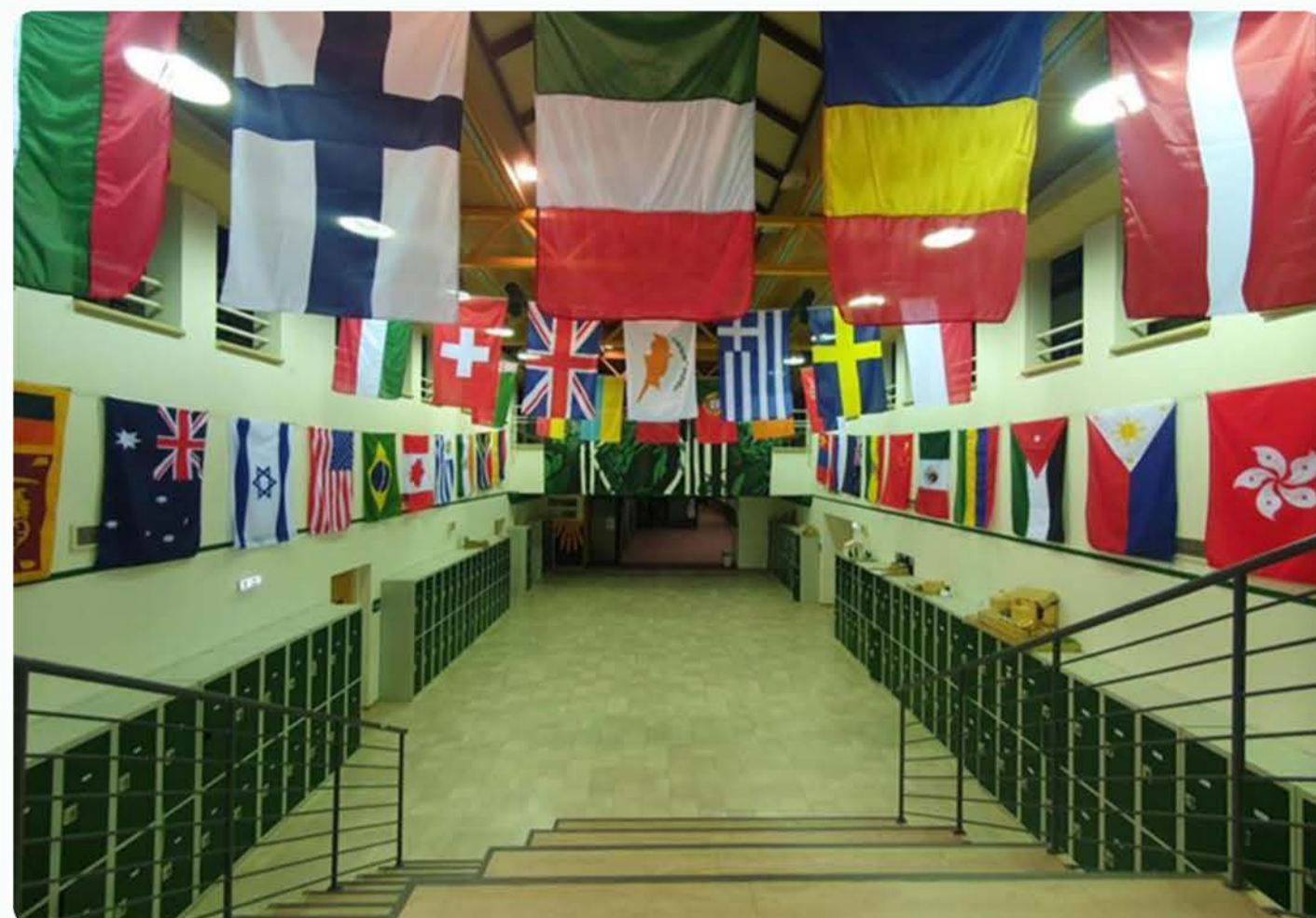


The Business Faculty and History Departments organised an unforgettable journey to New York City from 29/10 to 02/11! This immersive educational experience brought the world of business, history, and culture to life for our students. Many thanks to trip leaders, Mr John Pipis and Ms Eithne O’Riordan.



A truly international school!

Welcome to our new look main hallway. All national identities of members of the SS school community (students and staff) are represented here. We are grateful to RS Subject Lead, Ms Helen Kaccoufa, for her leadership in bringing this project to fruition. This is a particularly pertinent initiative as we move towards becoming an IB World School.



OXI Day Parade

Well done to our students who represented the school to parade in front of the Greek embassy on 'OXI Day' to commemorate the heroic defence of Greeks in the face of Mussolini's ultimatum and consequent invasion of Greece. Their appearance and marching were, by all accounts, outstanding! Thank you also to Mr Vyrides in preparing and accompanying our parade team.



SSL25 Founders' Day Mural

Well done to our Year 13s for their initiative in planning and painting a beautiful commemorative mural on Founders' Day. Surrounding the tree, you will see the handprints of this year's graduating class (along with a few handprints of SS staff!).



Join The Junior and Senior School on Friday, December 13th, for a spectacular **80th Anniversary Concert** at the Nicosia Municipal Theatre. Featuring the combined talents of our **Junior and Senior School Choirs** and the **Senior School Orchestra**, this unforgettable evening will showcase a vibrant selection of iconic hits from the 1980's.

Tickets include complimentary drinks (alcoholic for over 18s, soft drinks for younger guests).

This will undoubtedly be a concert to remember!



Get your tickets now at

<https://www.ticketbox.com.cy/80th-anniversary-concert/december13th>

THE JUNIOR & SENIOR SCHOOL
80TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
Featuring music from the 1980's

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 7.00PM
NICOSIA MUNICIPAL THEATRE



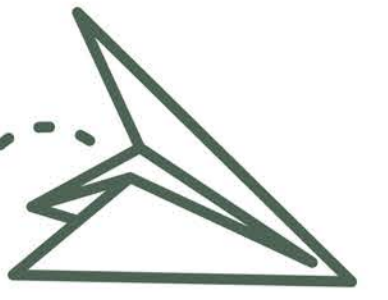
18€/12€ (includes drinks)
From [Ticketbox.com.cy](https://www.ticketbox.com.cy)
Scan the QR code to buy now!



THE JUNIOR & SENIOR SCHOOL

Inspiring young people to think and care

Please note Upcoming Events



DEC

- December 3rd:** Open evening at the Senior School
- December 5th:** The Senior School Awards evening
- December 10th:** Year 11 Options Evening
- *December 13th:** **80th Anniversary Concert*** 
- December 17th:** Year 9 Options Evening
- December 19th:** Last day of term for students

Thank you

Yiannis Georgiou
Senior School Headteacher
Acting Principal