

SS Headteacher's Newsletter

December 2024

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door'

Milton Berle, American actor and comedian

As we arrive finally at the end of 2024, we can now look back at an extraordinarily busy year for the school. Every newsletter since last January will have offered an insight into the rich tapestry of school life, including the energy and innovation of members of the school community, from parents and guardians and the staunch support they offer the school in all kinds of ways, to dedicated, professional staff many of whom go above and beyond to ensure that every opportunity is presented to students to learn and to grow as individuals who will become positive contributors to society and the communities in which they will work and thrive. This newsletter is a window into that aspect of school life that allows readers to appreciate a little more the reasons why our school should rightly feel proud of the achievements and experiences of our young people, and we are indeed a school of choice for private education in Cyprus.



Sports Day brings out the best in all!

Towards the end of last month, we were able to enjoy Sports Week and, of course, Sports Day during which students were able to compete and excel in a range of athletic events. Many thanks to Selina Elia for these amazing snaps from the day:







Many thanks to all staff who supported on the day. In particular, much appreciation to Mr Athanasiou and the PE Department for planning and organising the events!





Success for SS students at Swiss Education event!

At the Swiss Education event recently in Limassol, two of our three students secured **first place** in a Pancyprian competition. The award includes a **20% scholarship to a prestigious university in Geneva**, which is an incredible achievement. Considering that many private schools participated, this is a significant accomplishment for our school! Thanks to Head of Careers, Ms Pericleous, for encouraging our students to participate.

Global perspectives students visit to the University of Cyprus

Year 12 and Year 13 AS and A Level Global Perspectives students recently made the most of an opportunity to delve into the University of Cyprus library databases to find sources and material for their research papers. They were taught how to use various platforms and how to use the library reference systems. This research gave them access to academic journals and texts that they will use in their CIE examination research projects on topics in areas such as Human Rights, Law, Crime and Criminology, Sports, Social Media and Artificial Intelligence.

This was a valuable opportunity for our students to engage in academic research and to get some first-hand experience of academic life. Thanks to Ms Christina Leigh, their GP teacher, for arranging this invaluable experience for our students.



Guidance on how to use the university's library and platforms



SS students make use of facilities for their own research papers

Year 7 History visit to Cyprus Museum

Our Year 7 students were able to enjoy a fascinating trip to the Cyprus Museum. This was an opportunity for students to learn more about the ancient history of Cyprus and to develop skills in the investigating of history through artefacts. The Museum visit is part of a wider programme of lessons about the study of primary sources and their contribution to historical thinking. Thanks to Mr Aristodemou for organising the visit, accompanied by Mr Shixiate, Ms Theodorou and Ms Vasiliou.



Year 7s make pedagogical use of their phones in researching artifacts!



Year 11 News!

This month, our Year 11 students showcased their incredible talents in two performances.

On Friday, November 8th, Ioannis Livanos took the stage at the Strovolos Municipal Theatre for Musical Journey, a concert that took the audience on a tour of five countries through music and dance. Ioannis amazed the audience as the main performer, singing songs in five different languages, accompanied by talented musicians on piano and violin. The performance was further elevated by performances from a group of dancers, including two of our students: Betty Eliopolou (Year 11) and Danae Kartoude (Year 13).



Ioannis' talent shining through!



Alexa impresses with stunning performance

On Sunday, November 10th, Alexa Michael (Year 11) performed at the Nicosia Municipal Theatre during A Night with Nama Dama & Special Guest Alexa Michael, part of the Nicosia International Festival. Opening for the local artist Nama Dama, Alexa delivered a stunning performance, showcasing her exceptional talent and stage presence.



A Level Digital Media & Design trip

On Wednesday, November 6th, A-Level Digital Media & Design students visited the A.G. Leventis Gallery for the Teenagers Are Running in the Gallery workshop. Students worked in teams to explore the gallery, choose a painting, and recreate it as a photograph. They took on roles like photographers, directors, and models, using their creativity to bring the artwork to life. It was a fun and inspiring experience for all! Many thanks to Ms Danae Frangoudes, Digital Media lead and Key Stage 4 Coordinator, for arranging this visit.



Adopt-a-Physicist Program: A Unique Opportunity for Our Physics Students

For the second consecutive year, our school was proud to participate in the Adopt-a-Physicist programme, an initiative led by Sigma Pi Sigma, the physics honour society. This programme gave Year 11 and Year 13 physics students a chance to engage directly with five professional physicists, each following unique career paths—ranging from quantum computing, particle physics, aerospace, systems engineering (including collaborations with NASA), to optics.

From Tuesday, October 29th, to Friday, November 15th, students could ask these experts a variety of questions—ranging from advice on future studies and career opportunities to insights about their jobs, daily lives, and physics-related topics. Questions like "Why pursue physics?" and other thought-provoking inquiries sparked fascinating discussions.

Our students enthusiastically embraced this valuable opportunity, gaining inspiration and practical advice to guide their academic and professional journeys. Much appreciation to Ms Maria Monou for leading this valuable initiative.



SS Football team friendly against the ES

The Senior School football team had a remarkable experience on the 2nd December playing against the English School on their premises. Friendly games like these are an excellent way to build camaraderie, improve skills, and showcase sportsmanship. Kudos to the students for their hard work, dedication, and passion on the field. Congratulations to the team on their performance, and many thanks to Mr Vyrides, their coach.



80th Anniversary Concert – A huge success!

The 80th Anniversary concert took place on Friday 13th. Attendees at the Nicosia Municipal Theatre were able to enjoy a range of musical talent in a whole school (juniors and seniors) spectacle which showcased the amazing talent of our students. In due course, we will be able to share photos of what all agreed was a moving and entertaining evening of musical numbers that were largely inspired by the music of the 1980s! The event was of course to mark the 80 years of our school. Alumni and former staff were also in attendance at the event which included a fascinating exhibit of memorabilia and photos from the history of our school. Many, many thanks to all those who were involved, but especially to staff members Eirini Filippou, Marina Kountouridou, Guy Creen and Eleni Cosma who dedicated so much time and energy in planning and rehearsing for the concert.



Open Day 2024

A huge turnout for our Open evening! There was a large amount of interest in our school from visitors who were duly impressed by the school, its facilities as well as staff and students who were on hand to respond to questions. Many thanks to MS Christine Kkolou, assisted by Ms Elisavet Atsikkou, for planning the event, and of course all staff and students who gave up their time to support and showcase the best of our school!

SS Academic Awards Evening 2024

We were again able to celebrate the outstanding academic achievements of our students in public exams last summer with a lovely evening of presentations and music. Also in attendance was our honoured guest for the evening, Dr Memnia Theodorou, motivational speaker, positive psychology coach, dentist and adventurer, who shared her experiences as a member of the team of amateurs who participated in the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race. A fascinating story, enriched with gems of advice and insight into how we can overcome what may seem to be the most daunting of obstacles in life. Many thanks to Ms Eithne O'Riordan and her team for organising the event.

Finally, allow me to wish all a wonderful Christmas break and hoping you have an extraordinary 2025!

Thank you

Yiannis Georgiou
Senior School Headteacher
Acting Principal

