

# SS Headteacher's Newsletter

## JANUARY 2025

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Human communities depend upon a diversity of talent not a singular conception of ability"

**Sir Ken Robinson, British educationalist**



Now that January has already passed and Year 11 Mocks have been sat, we are focusing on another busy month before Half Term. Mocks will of course then follow for Years 12 and 13. It is important for us to appreciate that the Mock examinations in all subjects are designed primarily to offer our students further realistic preparation for sitting their public exams in the summer. They are also, however, an opportunity for them to reflect on their performance and to consider the feedback they will have received on every script that has been assessed. Year 11s should now be focusing very much on how they can improve on their performance in the first real test of an intense exam schedule that they will have encountered. It will, therefore, not be surprising that some students will feel that they have under-performed. This is perfectly normal, especially at this time of the year when there may still be curriculum content to cover and/or skills that require further development.

With the support of their teachers and others, students sitting public exams need to ensure that they plan their studies in the weeks and months to come. A daily schedule of review and consolidation is strongly recommended. This is the ideal way to ensure a deeper understanding of content and skills along with an opportunity to identify gaps that their teachers will be only too happy to address either in a class setting or in a 1-1 meeting. The important thing for all to remember is the necessity of an early revision schedule that begins now. Leaving revision until the exam period or the Easter break risks gaps not being fully addressed or a rushed and unreliable review of material without the opportunity to meet teachers and practice on past questions with a more confident appreciation of the content and skills required for success.

Parents and guardians are, therefore, requested to talk with their children on how best to make use of their time after school in private study time. This need not be onerous but a clear and well-balanced approach to after school time will reap benefits as outlined above.

# Psychology – real world applications

## Insightful Criminological Psychology Session for Year 13 Psychology students

Year 13 Psychology students had the privilege of attending an engaging presentation by Clinical Psychologist Dr. Kamara late last term. Dr Kamara shared her expertise on key topics from their A-Level curriculum with a particular focus on Criminological Psychology. The session provided valuable insights into real-world applications of psychological theories, sparking thoughtful questions from the students and enriching their understanding of this fascinating field.



## Exciting news on graduate applications

We are proud to announce that two of our outstanding students have received Early Decision acceptances to prestigious Ivy League institutions in the United States!

Well done to Emily Kyriakides, who has been accepted to Columbia University. Columbia University is known for its high academic standards and outstanding research record. Many of Columbia University's graduate programmes consistently rank in the top 10 in the US for research productivity. For Emily to have been offered a place here is the result of her impressive academic achievements along with her extensive extra-curricular involvement which includes a number of initiatives and contributions to a variety of activities. We wish her well at Columbia where we are confident she will thrive!

Congratulations also to Gabriel Dravidian, our 2024 graduate, who has been offered a place at Dartmouth College in the US. This is another Ivy League university with a reputation for rigorous programmes of study and renowned achievements in academia and research. Its absolute commitment to excellence ensures recruitment of the very best students. Gabriel worked hard to achieve outstanding scores for his A Levels. His serious and committed approach to his studies along with a range of involvement in extra curriculars were fundamental in making him stand out in a hugely competitive field of candidates. We are certain Gabriel will go on to achieve greater things at Dartmouth and wish him the very best of luck!

**Note:** There are just 8 Ivy League universities/colleges in the United States. They are extraordinarily selective and pride themselves on their academic excellence and research performance and impact. To have gained a place at one of these elite institutions is an exceptional achievement. The other 6 Ivy League schools: Cornell, Brown, Harvard, Pennsylvania, Yale and Princeton.



# 10R's Charity Drive: Supporting the Karaiskakio Foundation

10R, guided by their form tutor Mrs. Constantinou, organized a heartfelt charity drive in support of the Karaiskakio Foundation. The students took an active role in raising funds by selling bracelets and other items from the foundation, showcasing their dedication to making a difference. This initiative beautifully aligned with the school's theme of charity, highlighting the spirit of generosity and community within our school. Many thanks to all involved, including Head of Year 10, Ms Andreou.

Well done to all student members of the school's Human Rights Club, led by Ms Helen Kaccoufa, for their wonderful mural, located indoors right next to my office! The students have spent many hours on the completion of this work and are to be congratulated for their commitment to both the club and the design and painting of the mural.



Human Rights Club leave their mark!



# Futsal success in recent friendly

Congratulations to our Junior Girls Futsal team who recently played a friendly match against the English School girls. I am happy to report our girls were victorious with a 3-1 win. Both sets of girls played well with some outstanding and inventive play alongside firm challenges and plenty of shots on goal! Many thanks also to Mr Andreas Glykis for his coaching and leadership of the team.



Both SS and ES teams celebrate with group photo.

# Basketball win!

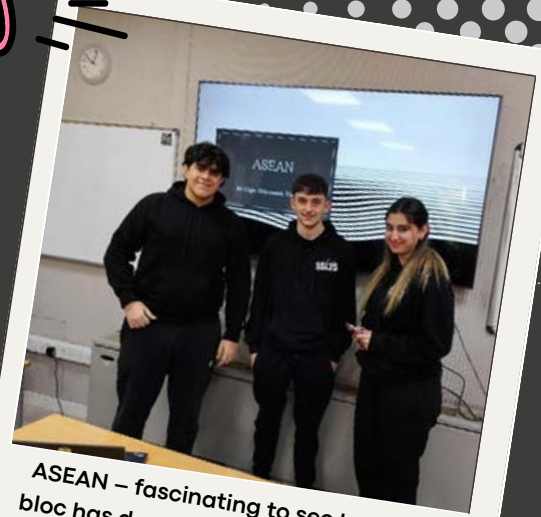
Amazing news for the Senior School KS3 Boys Basketball Team! On the 21st of January, our talented team faced Geri High School in an intensely fought match that showcased their hard work and determination. With an outstanding performance, our boys secured a dominant victory, scoring an impressive 53 points against Geri's 21. Their teamwork, skill, and energy were unmatched on the court. Keep it up, boys! Here's to more wins in the future! Congrats also to their coach, Mr Achilleas Vyrides.



# Year 13s present...



Well done to the 13 A-Level Economics students who recently presented their research on trading blocs for their Economics class. Every presentation included a huge amount of detail on the mechanisms of each bloc, their successes and shortcomings along with examples of the impact on individual nations economic wellbeing. Trading blocs included ASEAN, the EU, Nafta (now USMCA), and Mercosur. These presentations offered opportunities for our year 13s to hone their research and speaking skills as they prepare for final ALs in the summer and beyond in higher education.



ASEAN – fascinating to see how this bloc has developed and been vital for growth in the region



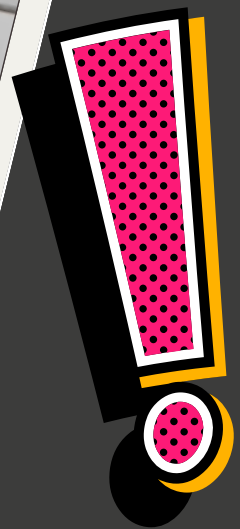
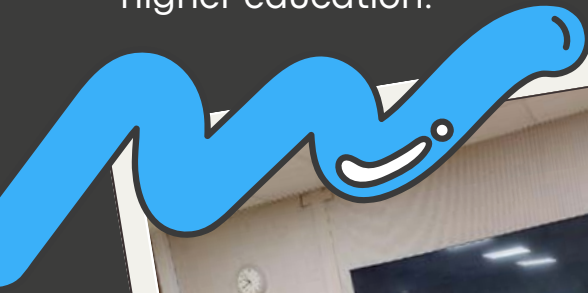
NAFTA/USMCA – Now with the change in leadership in the US, what impact will this have...?



Mercosur – Latin America trading bloc presented with plenty of info!



Our very own EU... The impact of BREXIT for the longer term still uncertain.



# Y8!

*Active as ever!*

Year 8s were very busy last term. Right after half term, they worked together to create 'identity trees' in a competition between the four Year 8 form classes. The winning identity tree is on the right.



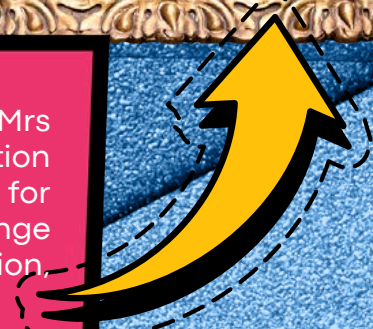
**Bakesale winners in action!**

More recently, Year 8s competed in the annual Bakesale and together raised 750 euros for the selected charity, Generation for Change. The group that raised the most was 8R with 257 euros



Handing over of money to Mrs Evgenia Bartzeli, education coordinator for Generation for Change. Generation for change posted the photo of the donation, on their Facebook page.

Many thanks to Ms Joanna Drousiotou, Head of Year 8, for all her wonderful work in bringing these activities to fruition!



# Careers News

Our Year 13 students have successfully completed and submitted their UCAS applications ahead of the 29 January deadline. This outstanding achievement not only highlights the dedication and hard work of our students in planning their futures but also showcases the invaluable support of our Careers Department.

A special thanks goes to Mrs. Stella P. Petrou, Head of the Careers Department, whose guidance has been instrumental in helping students identify their strengths and skills, ensuring they applied to universities that align with their aspirations and potential. Additionally, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the referees who provided timely and thoughtful reference letters for our students. Your support has been critical in ensuring the success of this process and in helping our students put forth their best applications.

In addition, we welcome the appointment of Ms Eleni Hoplaros to the Careers team. She will be supporting our students in their career and university choices. Look out also for the new Instagram account for the careers Department and the regular newsletters for all the latest news and advice on careers, options and university decision-making.



**EDUCATION EXHIBITION**  
21 February 2025 | 08:30am - 10:30am

Discover a wide range of courses, connect with university representatives, and explore exciting study options and career pathways!

**LOCATION:**  
THE SENIOR SCHOOL CAMPUS

40+ UNIVERSITIES AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UK, CYPRUS, ITALY, SWITZERLAND, CANADA & THE US.

For more information, please reach out to our Careers Department on 22 849 163.

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THE SENIOR & SENIOR SCHOOL

Note also our Education Exhibition on February 21st. Students and parents once again will have an opportunity to meet and chat with representatives of institutions of higher education from overseas and locally.

# Year 9 Greek RI Trip

## Report from Mr Philippos Philippou - Trip Leader

I am delighted to share that our recent Greek RI - Year 9 educational trip was an inspiring and enriching experience for our students. We visited three exceptional sites in Nicosia that offered unique insights into Cypriot history, culture, and heritage.



Our first stop was the **Pancyprian Gymnasium Museum**, where students explored its 12 remarkable rooms filled with exhibits that trace the history of Cyprus' oldest secondary education institution, founded in 1812. From its Archaeological and Numismatic Collection to the Art Gallery featuring masterpieces by former teachers and students, the museum provided a fascinating journey into education, culture, and history.

We also visited the **Pancyprian Gymnasium**, the oldest high school on the island, founded in 1812 by Archbishop Kyprianos. On an educational level, this institution is highly regarded and considered a model school. Over the years, it has been a place of learning for many influential figures, including **Nobel Prize-winning economist Christopher A. Pissarides**. Students were particularly intrigued by the historical crypt beneath the school's entrance, reputedly a meeting place for Archbishop Kyprianos and members of the Philiki Etairia. The Severios Library, with its vast collection of over 60,000 manuscripts, further highlighted the school's immense contribution to education and scholarship.





Finally, we explored the stunning **Cathedral of St. John the Theologian**, built in 1662 on the site of a 14th-century chapel. This small but beautiful cathedral captivated us with its vibrant, fully preserved wall paintings depicting biblical scenes, along with its 18th-century icons painted by the renowned Cretan master Ioannis Kornaros.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Ioanna Skordi, Ms. Stella Louca, and Ms. Georgia Papasava for their time, effort, and commitment in ensuring that this excursion was both educational and memorable for our students.



This trip was not only a memorable experience but also a valuable opportunity for our students to deepen their understanding of Cypriot history, art, and culture. It allowed them to connect with their heritage in meaningful and tangible ways.

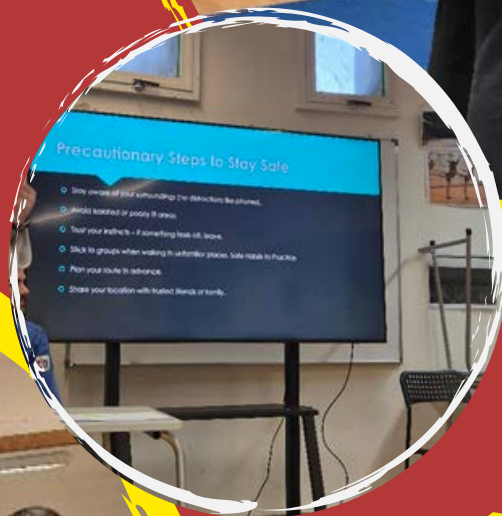


# Year 13 PSHE news

In January, our Year 13 PSHE class had the pleasure of hosting judo trainers from Onisilos Judo Club. The trainers, Antonis Patsiantos, Sophia Demosthenous (Pancyprian champion), and Herodotos Artemiou, gave an insightful presentation on self-defense and judo. They demonstrated some basic movements, which some of our students eagerly tried out. The students thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience.

A special mention goes to our participating students: Ektoras Alexandrou and Rita Koushiappa from Y13, and Eirini Alexandrou from Y10, for their enthusiastic involvement. Additionally, one of our own students, Timofey Butusov, demonstrated MMA movements, and Alexander Ker Lindsay assisted throughout the session.

**It was a fantastic experience, and we're grateful to all involved for making it such a success!**




# SENCON 2025

The annual Senior School Conference, **SenCon is back for another year!**

After the massive success that it was last year, we are delighted to announce the conference's renewal this year, on **Saturday March 1st, 2025**.

The theme for SenCon 2025 is **Restoring Faith in Humanity**, and the committees are as follows:

- ◆ **Economic & Social Council:**  
Should fast fashion companies be held legally accountable for environmental and labour violations?
- ◆ **Human Rights Council:**  
Should international military intervention be justified in cases of human rights violations?
- ◆ **Security Council:**  
Should economic sanctions be used as a tool for maintaining international peace?
- ◆ **Social & Humanitarian Council:**  
Should tourism in developing countries be limited to preserve local culture and environment?
- ◆ **Technological Development Council:**  
Should governments censor online hate speech to protect marginalised communities?
- ◆ **World Health Organisation:**  
Should vaccine mandates be enforced globally during pandemics?

 **Good luck to all participants. Note that this conference will welcome students from other schools in Cyprus.**

## Key Dates Reminder:

- February 20th Tsiknopempti
- February 21st Education Exhibition
- February 28th Last day before half term
- SENCON 2025: March 1st

*Thank you*

**Yiannis Georgiou**  
Senior School Headteacher