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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had much to be proud of this week with teams from the Senior School doing well in two competitions. On Saturday, 10 students from Years 8 to 12 took part in the Young Climathon, a competition run by the University of Nicosia to highlight climate change and to encourage young people to work towards finding solutions to this very complex problem. A team of four of our Year 11 students: Gabriel, Rami, Harry and Anna Myria, worked to develop a solution to the impact of climate change on Cyprus, its ports and local marine areas. They worked on their idea as a team, all contributing to an interesting solution involving kelp farming. Their confident presentation secured them second place in the competition, winning them a small cash prize. I was really proud of all of our students who took part – they were an absolute credit to the school! Thank you to Mrs. Monou for publicising this opportunity for the students.

This week also saw the 8th Innovation Camp, organised by Junior Achievement Cyprus. Four of our Y11 Economics students took part and their challenge was to develop an innovative product, service or solution in order to improve the emotional, psychological, physical and social well-being of people that have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Participants had to work in a group of students they never met before, propose a solution within very limited time, and prepare a power point presentation which was then presented to a panel of judges. Three of our students were in the six finalists while Pelagia's team won 3rd place. Congratulations to all students and their teacher, Ms. Christou.

The Greek Department organized a Creative Writing Workshop with the writer George Papaconstantinou. Our Key Stage 3 students had the opportunity to engage in activities and conversations, which reinforced their critical thinking and creative writing skills. The students will take part in a Creative Writing Competition and therefore this workshop and experience have been greatly useful and productive for them. In the previous two years our students won 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize in the same competition. Many thanks to Ms. Thrasyvoulou and Ms. Vasiliou for coordinating the workshop!

Today seven of our students passed their St. John's Ambulance First Aid qualification with flying colours – congratulations to all of them for working hard and doing so well in this important qualification!

Yesterday we held our first parent seminar: 'A Parent's Guide to Study Skills'. Thank you to all those of you who attended and asked some interesting and insightful questions. The seminar was recorded and the link to the recording is here:

 [Study Skills.mp4](#)

We very much appreciated the opportunity to share our experience with you and look forward to the next seminar of which more details will follow after Christmas.

I would also like to use this newsletter to share some of what happens in lessons in the school and I'm very pleased to be able to start that with a glimpse into A Level Physics. Our amazing Year 13 physicists were involved in a fun and exciting experiment called "Hit the Rat!" whilst covering the difficult concepts of Faraday's and Lenz's Laws of electromagnetic induction. They were given the challenging task of trying to hit a "rat" passing through a long copper tube. What they were not told is that there were actually two "rats"; one made of a simple metal and one that was a magnet.



The point of the experiment was to use the theory to be able to explain the different speeds of the two "rats", whilst enjoying practical Physics. Experiments like this can bring the theory to life, making an abstract concept more memorable and relatable for the students.

Our non-uniform day on Friday 10th December raised an impressive €970 for Young Heroes, a local Cancer charity. Thank you very much to Student Council for organising the non-uniform days and selecting the charities.

Next week is the last week of term and the arrangements are as follows:

- Afternoon activities will take place on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st December
- There will be a Christmas themed non-uniform day on Wednesday 22nd December
- School will finish at 12.30pm on Wednesday 22nd December
- There will be no after school activities on the last day of term
- The buses will run as normal leaving the Senior school at 12.30pm

Both The Junior & Senior Schools will be officially closed from 24th December until 2nd January inclusive and we are looking forward to seeing the students again on Friday 7th January for the start of the Spring term.

Have a good weekend everyone and Stay Safe!

Kind Regards,

Dr. Beth Ashfield

Acting Senior School Headteacher / Principal

THE JUNIOR & SENIOR SCHOOL