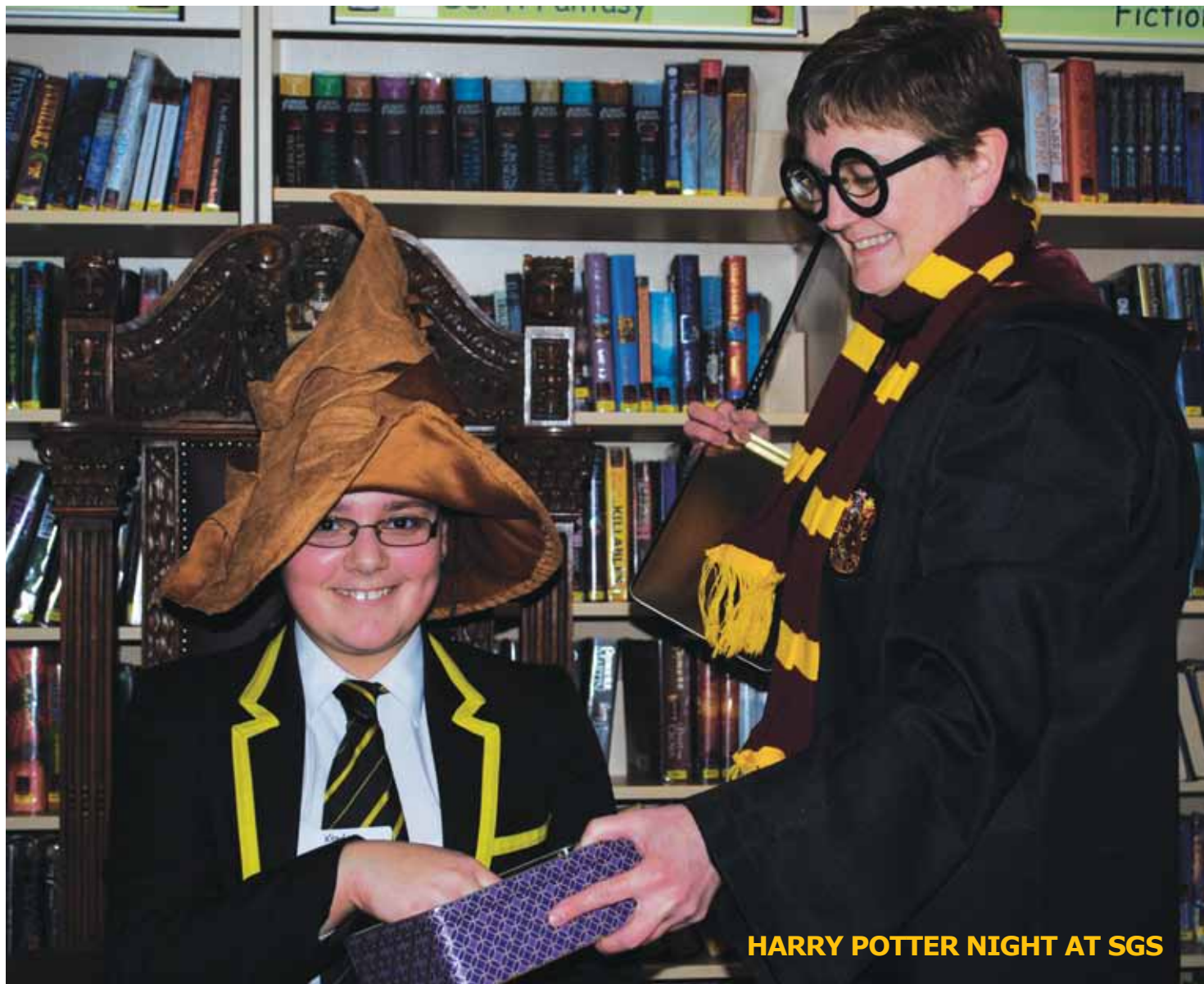


TAKING STOCK /

Stockport Grammar
School Newsletter



Issue 60
Summer 2015



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SPORTS NEWS



CHAMPIONS OF ENGLAND

Congratulations to the First XI on their triumph in winning the National Schools Hockey Championships for Girls. Their 1-0 win against Cranleigh in the Final at London's Olympic Park completed their journey from Northern to National champions.

Lauren Hunt scored the only goal of the game in the first two minutes, and a brilliant team performance in a tense match saw the girls win the title for the first time in Stockport Grammar's history. Head of Hockey, Miss Withington said the girls couldn't have given any more:

"Having not seen the trophy in the north for over 20 years it is an absolute delight to be crowned National Champions."

Captain Meghan Myers was on cloud nine after their triumph:

"The atmosphere was just amazing. Great team solidarity and positivity got us through. We really stuck together."

To round off their celebrations, two of the team were interviewed live on BBC Radio Manchester and they even gave the reporter a penalty coaching session on the school pitches!



NETBALL STARS

In SGS's first ever year in the cup, the U13 netball squad finished second in the Smile Independent Schools Netball Cup Final, played in Essex.

Bromsgrove School, Withington Girls' School and Bedford Girls' School were all beaten during the girls' cup run before the thrilling 26-23 semi-final

defeat of Brentwood School secured their place in the final.

PE teacher Mrs Wilkinson praised the girls:

"It was an outstanding effort from the squad. It has been a delight to work with them over the season."

MADDIE'S MEDALS

Fourth Year pupil and superb swimmer Maddie Crompton has been selected to represent Team GB in the European Championships in Azerbaijan. Competing in the 14-18 age group, she is one of the youngest in her category.

In the run up to this competition, Maddie has also represented England in the Four Nations International meet in Italy. Competing in five races, Maddie won four Silvers and a Bronze and was the fastest 15 year old in her three individual races.

Training 8-9 times per week, Maddie combines her early morning swims with working hard to keep up with her academic studies.

She told us:

"I would love to get to the Olympics one day. I like winning and really enjoy going away with the team. I've made friends with England swimmers from all around the country, so it's really great seeing them at galas and competitions."



CHESHIRE CUP WINNERS

A last-second conversion saw the Rugby U13s lift the Cheshire Cup with a nail-biting win against St Ambrose College. Andrew Corcoran's winning points added to Seb Walker's try in the last play of the game to secure an amazing 19-18 victory. Earlier tries scored by Oscar Elvin and Seb set up the thrilling finale against an excellent St Ambrose side which the team had already beaten 36-35 during the regular season.

The Cheshire Cup was the boys' second trophy win of the month after they won the Birkenhead School Sevens earlier in the season. Players Max Gilbert and Seb Walker also received national recognition when the Independent Schools RFC selected them for their Dublin touring squad.

Four older players were also in action for their county over Easter: Alex Brooks, Eddie Parry, Josh Doyle and Max Wood were all chosen for the Cheshire U15 side who beat Yorkshire and Kent.



CLEVER CLIMBERS

The SGS climbing team were delighted to win bronze and individual medals in the inaugural Manchester Schools Bouldering Competition.

The team of 11 First Year to Sixth Form climbers finished third out of 19 in the competition held at Manchester's Rock Over Climbing.

Three pupils took home medals after climbing the tricky routes:

Sam Lavender, gold (KS3 boys)

Nick Dow, bronze (KS3 boys)

Ellen Downs, bronze (Sixth Form/FE girls)

Earlier in March, climbing coach Mr Pinder (Vice Chair of Mountain Training England) took adventurers below the Peak District on a fantastic five-hour potholing trip where the team went deep into 10 miles of usually out-of-bounds passages.

Pupils scrambled, swam and squeezed their way through the caves. As well as potholing for the first time, they also learned about the geology and hydrology of the Peak and Speedwell systems.

The team emerged wet and tired from their afternoon underground, having had an unforgettable adventure.

SEMI FINALISTS

The Rugby First XV's brilliant NatWest Schools Vase run finally came to an end at the semi-final stage following defeat at Allianz Park.

The boys led the game against Seevic College 16-6 at half-time before eventually succumbing to a second-half comeback which saw the Essex side win 43-25 to reach the final.

Despite the defeat, Head of Rugby Mr Corbett said the squad could be proud of their tremendous achievement:

"It was a great experience for the boys to play in such an important game at a superb venue, and it's one that they'll all learn from and take positives from. The team has worked so hard this year to produce what has been one of the most successful seasons for a First XV at SGS - scoring more points and tries than any other Stockport Grammar team on record."

Tom O'Mahony received individual recognition for his performance in the match from schools rugby website *In at the Side*, who named him in their team of the day.

SKI TRIP

This year's ski trip took place in Austria's most extensive ski resort. This was SGS's first visit to the area and the group experienced a stunning resort, perfect weather, blue skies and pistes with plenty of snow in excellent condition. About half the group were beginners and they made rapid progress whilst the more experienced skiers tackled more challenging routes. In the evenings the group went ice-skating, bowling and to the ski show, enjoying an action packed week in a fantastic resort.



THE ARTS



TWISTED TALES

Lower School production *Twisted Tales* surprised and delighted the sell-out audience with a new perspective on some of our best loved fairy tales.

Created by the pupils and Drama teacher Mrs Moffatt over the course of a weekend, the show asked whether we really understood the motivations of the well-known characters. *Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks and*

The Three Little Pigs all benefited from the pupils' comical story makeovers.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed creating and performing the show, with Caitlin Cutts summing up the enthusiasm of the cast in rehearsals:

"Everybody wants it to succeed, everybody wants to be a team. We're all working together to use everybody's ideas."

ARTISTS EXHIBIT AT THE LOWRY

Pieces by three of the school's artists have been displayed at The Lowry in this year's Living Edge School Arts Competition.

The stunning works by Jessye Persse, Georgia Burns and Rhys Richards were nominated in the U18, U16 and U14 categories respectively.

Although our pupils didn't take home the top prizes, having their art hung at the gallery as part of this prestigious competition was a huge honour in itself.



CHORAL CONCERT

Singers in the Chorus and Chamber Choir joined professional soloists *Chorale* along with *Cheshire Sinfonia* for an evening of choral music at SGS.

Conducted by Peter Stallworthy and school Director of Music Mr Dow, the concert gave pupils the invaluable opportunity to work with professional performers and the audience the privilege of hearing them together.

Mr Dow was delighted with the occasion:

"The concert was a great celebration of choral singing at Stockport Grammar School. It was a pleasure to collaborate with musicians from across the Greater Manchester area to put together such an exciting, varied and challenging programme."



HOGWARTS COMES TO SGS

The library hosted their own *Harry Potter Night* for pupils across the school, joining in Bloomsbury Publishing's first ever global event celebrating the hugely popular series.

After stepping through Platform 9¾, *Harry Potter* fans found themselves in a magically transformed, candlelit library, where they were sorted into their houses and chatted excitedly amongst themselves about who might be the biggest *Harry Potter* expert.

The four Hogwarts house teams searched for objects from the wizarding world in a treasure hunt and wand-duelled their way through a game of Petrified Potters before feasting on 'Butter Beer', 'Bertie Bots Every Flavour Beans' and chocolate frogs. Quizzes and games tested everybody's knowledge and saw the houses ardently competing

for the most points, with Ravenclaw steaming ahead to become the victors of the evening.

With the Junior School's Year 5 and 6 classes also experiencing the fun the following day, teacher Mrs Mercer said:

"A huge thank you to the library for the Harry Potter party – the children from my class absolutely loved it. They returned completely fired up by the whole event and haven't stopped talking about it all afternoon!"

This was just one of many events hosted by the library throughout the school year. Poet John Hegley had visited the week before, and earlier in the year the school welcomed author Nick Brown.

LET'S DANCE!

Dancers from across the Senior School showcased a series of brilliant performances during an amazing evening of dance.

Over 60 performers took part in the show, exhibiting the diverse range of dance that pupils take part in both in and out of school, ranging from contemporary ballet to hip-hop.

While some of the routines were choreographed by school Dance teacher Mrs Downing, some pupils also devised their own. Some of the pupils involved have lots of experience in performing, but for others it was their first chance to take part in a dance show.

Upper Sixth Former Faye Holleworth loved being part of the show:

"It's great that people who haven't danced outside of school have been given the opportunity to have a go in lessons. I'm looking forward to coming back as an Old Stop and watching more performances in the coming years!"



LIVERPOOL ART TRIP

Tate Liverpool and The Walker provided plenty of inspiration for GCSE Art students in the run-up to their final exam. Both galleries' recent rehanga let our artists explore fresh displays in different contexts.

The highlight of the trip was Tate Liverpool's *Transmitting Andy Warhol* exhibition that gathered work from the artist's eclectic portfolio including graphics, film and music as well as his iconic screenprints.



MUSICAL SHOWCASE

The Winter Concert showcased the school's vast array of musical talent. Younger pupils were first on to the stage with the Junior Band, the Boys' Vocal Group and the Junior Percussion Ensemble delighting the audience with pieces ranging from Pearson and Elledge's *Hoedown Hayride* to *The Flintstones*. Niamh Johnson, Cornelia Kolusi, Nikita Murray and Gwen Rayworth then followed with a harmonious vocal performance of Perry's *If I Die Young*.

Bringing the first half to a close, accomplished Sixth Form musician Henry Brearley, accompanied by the First Orchestra, produced an outstanding performance of Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No.3*.

The musical opportunities available to beginners and the younger years of the Senior School were perfectly on display in the second half. Girls' vocal group VOX, the beginners' Brass Ensemble, Junior Chamber Choir and the Guitar Ensemble all shared their enjoyment of recently acquired musical skills, receiving an enthusiastic reception.

Senior Flute Ensemble's beautifully performed pieces by Bizet, Mozart and Gannoway provided plenty for the younger musicians to aspire to, while Senior Percussion Ensemble closed the concert with an uplifting arrangement of Pharrell Williams' hugely popular song *Happy*.



THEATRICAL COMEDY

Two hilarious nights of theatrical comedy saw Upper School pupils spoof the workings of an amateur dramatics society in *Blunders* and *Bloomers*. A cast of nearly thirty performed three short plays from Michael Green's *The Art of Coarse Acting* to two sell-out audiences.

Sixth Form 'Director' Luke Berry and his team tackled three different acting styles in a gritty northern drama, a murder mystery and a period classic, with the cast truly pulling off the comic timing.

The production ran without a hitch thanks to the hard work of Director, Producer and Head of Drama Mrs Moffatt, aided by Mrs Johnson and Mr Byrne, along with a huge production team of pupils and staff, who worked on everything from lighting to costumes.

SCHOOL LIFE

INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING AWARD

A Level student Matthew Arden has won fourth place in the International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) competition in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Winning the award plus \$500 in the Engineering: Mechanics category, Matthew was up against tough international competition in this prestigious pre-college science competition which attracted 1,700 high school students from over 75 countries.

For his award-winning project, Matthew designed, developed and built a Continuous Reciprocating Air Filter, which addressed the sand-clogging problems he had identified during his work experience placement with Astrium.

Matthew is thrilled with his achievement:

"I've had an absolutely brilliant week in Pittsburgh. This experience has changed my life."

One of only two students selected to represent the UK, Matthew will receive £500 a year during his university studies from the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers, who say they will follow his career with great interest.



TWILIGHT TIMES

The solar eclipse brought the school community together as nursery children through to GCSE astronomers watched the rare phenomenon. Children were given specially commissioned SGS solar glasses, and the GCSE astronomers used specialist equipment to observe the phases of the eclipse. As well as high-end solar filters on their telescopes, they used some lower-tech methods too such as pinhole cameras made from old corn flake boxes. Senior School pupils from the First to Third Year, Physics students from higher up the school and Headmaster Mr Chicken joined the

astronomers to watch the UK's first major solar eclipse since 1999.

Junior School children also watched the first eclipse of their lifetimes together after enjoying Year 3's assembly about the moon. Complete with spacesuits and some super acting, their assembly told the story of the first moon landings in 1969.

Georgia Atkinson, who played Buzz Aldrin, said:

"The assembly made us realise how amazing it must have been to go to the moon."

POETIC FRENCH

A word-perfect recital of Jacques Prévert's poem *Déjeuner du Matin* saw Bryony White win the Third Year French reading competition. Judged on voice and articulation, physical presence and evidence of understanding, Lukas Amstutz and Megan King were also awarded second and third prizes respectively by Languages teacher Mr Lorentz and Languages assistant Mr Sonnet.

The competition was extremely close and Mr Lorentz was full of praise for all those involved:

"It's difficult enough to stand in front of your peers and read a poem in English, and it's even harder to do it in a foreign language. All our finalists evidently understood what they were reading, and Bryony, Lukas and Megan did so beautifully!"



EUROPEAN RELATIONS

Languages pupils spent a week renewing friendships in Bad Segeberg on the return leg of their German exchange (pictured left). Trips to the Baltic coast, the Hamburg Football Stadium, Lübeck, local restaurants and an ice rink were among the activities enjoyed by the Fifth Years when they caught up again with pupils from Städtisches Gymnasium.

Staying with their German friends gave pupils the chance to practise their language skills and discover German customs, while a warm welcome from officials at the Town Hall provided information on Bad Segeberg and its population.

There were a few tears on departure and pupils intend to keep in touch with many having plans for future visits.

PLAYING THE MARKETS

Business and Economics pupils traded stocks and shares, with teams investing £100,000 of virtual money in the stock market in the Institute of Financial Services Student Investor Challenge. The school's winning team of Sixth Formers James Longbottom, Jaimin Lakhani, Thomas Stead and Adit Kulkarni finished in the top 25% nationally with a 10% return on their investment.

Winning team member Jaimin said:

"The competition gave us a fantastic opportunity to trade in real-world markets, but without the risk!"

The winning team's performance was nearly matched by two groups of Fourth Year pupils who attend Share and Investment Club. They finished second and third in the school competition.

Chris Corcoran from the second-placed team said:

"The game's definitely given me more of a taste for business and economics and I'd like to study one of them at A Level."



BIOLOGY OLYMPIANS

Over 6,000 pupils from across the country participated in the national Biology Olympiad competition this year. Seven of SGS's best A Level Biologists entered and all achieved awards including golds for Ellen Downs and Emily Dow, silvers for Ana Krywonos and Jacob Murray and a bronze for Christian Anderson.

BREAKING NEWS



Twenty five girls and boys in the Third Year took part in the school's first BBC News School Report. The pupils met regularly at lunchtimes during the Spring Term, to learn about news-gathering, reporting, filming and editing. Visitors such as BBC Health Correspondent Dominic Hughes and Film Maker Paul Kearton helped to arm the reporters with plenty of information and expertise. The groups selected news stories to cover and set about researching and recording their films, as well as writing additional stories.

All their hard work came to fruition on News Day when the library computer room was turned into a busy Newsroom with everyone working hard to meet the news deadline of 4pm, at which point all their content was uploaded onto the SGS website and linked to by the BBC.

Grace Patterson, reporting on Sierra Leone, especially enjoyed the buzzing atmosphere of News Day:

"I've really enjoyed myself -we've learnt so much and worked as a team. The whole thing has been a great experience."

STAR BAKERS

Great British Bake Off finalist Luis Troyano visited SGS to judge the inaugural House Bake Off competition, where eight pupils representing the four houses battled for the trophy.

Creative 'showstopper' ideas ranged from a pizza cake to a Chanel handbag, with the winning design being in the form of a chocolate Easter nest complete with chicks and eggs. Pupils had just an hour to decorate their creations, so the pressure was on. Luis took time to offer advice and even some hands-on support to help contestants keep their cool.

The celebrity baker was joined by Stockport-based The Cake and Bake Company proprietors Michelle and Tony Paton, and the judging panel reached a unanimous decision placing Third Year

pupils Megan King and Charlotte O'Hara first for their mouth-watering chocolate nest. The overall competition was won by Arden House.





ELECTION FEVER

SGS joined in as the country was in the throes of the General Election. Sixth Formers together with Psychology teacher Mrs Braude, organised a series of events in the run-up to the election date, with pupils volunteering to represent all the main parties.

Tensions built up as posters appeared across school and three key events followed which culminated in voting

during Form Periods: Candidates made lively 'party political broadcasts' during Assembly; the library hosted a party political debate chaired by Anna Madden and Jeremy Dunn; and finally, pupils were invited to forward questions on controversial themes such as the economy, immigration and the NHS. Candidates fielded these questions articulately and confidently.

EXPLORING GERMAN HISTORY

Historians explored pre-war and post-Cold War Germany on a five-day tour of Berlin over Easter.

With the rise of the Nazis being the trip's main focus, a sobering visit to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp taught pupils much about the horrors of the Holocaust. Tours of Haus am Wannsee and the Topography of Terror exhibition also let the historians discover more about the era in preparation for their GCSEs. They later reflected on what they had seen, paying their respects at the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe.

Visits to the DDR Museum and Checkpoint Charlie also helped pupils chart the history of the Berlin Wall. A boat cruise through the Reichstag and into the east allowed the girls and boys to see the amazing changes which had taken place since the fall of the wall. The historians were also taken on a coach trip to Potsdam to learn more about pre-war Germany.

RUNWAY ON THE RUNWAY

Sixth Formers raised an amazing £3,837 for the Teenage Cancer Trust after taking part in the *Runway on the Runway* fashion show at Manchester Airport.

Pupil Ella Burton skilfully choreographed the group's upbeat catwalk routine which saw them dance to popular hit *Uptown Funk* while modelling glamorous Sherri Hill prom wear.

In the run-up to the event, a lunchtime juice bar, cake sales, talent show, nail bar, Valentine's cookies and roses, and a JustGiving page all contributed to their fundraising total.

WE FUNDRAISING

A Valentine-themed Bake Off, fancy dress day and the return of our famous Valentine's pop-up restaurant helped the school community raise money for charity during the Spring Term.

The Bake Off saw Sixth Former Becki Smith take the Star Baker award and Head of Classics Mr Thorley win the staff competition for his Persian legend-inspired biscuits. All the delicious treats were then sold to pupils and staff.

The money raised will be split equally between the Senior School's chosen charities for the year – Reuben's Retreat, the Teenage Cancer Trust and Clic Sargent.



Over the past few years, SGS pupils have raised many thousands of pounds for children's cancer charities in memory of much-loved, inspirational fellow pupil Katie Thorburn who sadly lost her battle with cancer in April 2014.

Sixth Formers Dorothea Christmann and Matilda Plant explained the team's enthusiasm for the project:

"We were eager to get involved in the inspirational and admirable Runway on the Runway 2015. Not only did it offer new and exciting experiences but also the opportunity to raise money for a charity that is close to our hearts."



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



CROSS COUNTRY UPDATES

Cross country runners in the Junior School have been achieving great results in a number of competitions.

Year 6 runner Daisy Keigher finished a brilliant sixth in the Schools Cross Country Championships at Heaton Park. Representing Greater Manchester, she ran alongside William Finnie, who also finished well in a field of over 100 runners.

Daisy was also a member of the Year 6 girls' team who won the Ladybarn House Cross Country Championships at

Bruntwood Park. Daisy's results come alongside a fantastic second-place finish in the final race of the Stockport Harriers Schools Cross Country League. Her time of 10 minutes 33 seconds saw her take the Year 5 and 6 girls' prize over her four best races, while Darcy Breen was also first over four races in the Year 4 and 5 category.

Third place in the girls' Year 5 and 6 team category rounded off the prizes thanks to Talia Zelhof and Amy Jack's outstanding times.



IN SHERWOOD FOREST...

Year 6's final performance before they move up to the Senior School told an alternative story of *Robin Hood*.

Stars of the show Olivia Patton-Lane and Lizzy Griffiths both loved performing in the comedy musical:

"I thoroughly enjoyed it – it is an experience I will never forget!"

"I really enjoyed doing the performance. It helped me gain confidence speaking in front of people."

One audience member, Kerry said:

"Absolutely fantastic.... Well done to all those acting and all those behind the scenes – the show was an absolute credit to you all and the school."

MATHS CHALLENGERS

Brilliant mathematicians, Year 6's Nicholas Othen and Vainavi Trivedi have won medals in the Mathematical Association Primary Maths Challenge national round. Nicholas's silver medal places him in the top 0.3% in the UK, while Vainavi's bronze means she's in the highest 0.7%.

80,000 pupils from over 2,000 schools entered this year's contest, with Nicholas and Vainavi being two of 1,194 high-scorers to qualify for the national round.

Nicholas and Vainavi's successes are their second of the year after they won prizes in the Year 6 House Maths Challenge in February, held in the Senior School and organised by Senior Maths teachers.



CHARITY BEGINS AT SCHOOL

Two Red Nose Day cake sales organised entirely by six year old Abigail Sullivan and nine year old Bella Platt raised plenty of money for Comic Relief. Both girls, with a little help from their parents, baked all the cakes for their sales and sold them to hungry friends at breaktime. The girls made a fantastic £374, with additional donations from those children who wore red to school creating a total of over £520.

During the annual charity week earlier in February, the girls and boys also raised over £800.

A chocolate tombola, dance-athon and prince and princess parties all helped them reach their total to be donated to Blind Children UK, Agricultural and Rural Centre (ARC CIC), The Christie and Clic Sargent.

IN AT THE DEEP END

Year 5 swimmers won six individual medals and a team bronze on a proud day for SGJS in the Association of Junior Independent Schools (AJIS) gala at Darwen. Medal winners were:

25M BACKSTROKE

Colleen Devlin, gold

100M INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Sam Foster, silver

25M BUTTERFLY

Amy Jack, silver

Sebastian Quayle-Storey, silver

25M BREASTSTROKE

Harry Hulme, bronze

25M FRONT CRAWL

Tammy Huang, bronze

GIRLS' MEDLEY TEAM

Colleen Devlin, Amy Jack, Tammy Huang, Libby Goodman

Patrick Wilkinson also reached the final of his event.

Swimming teacher Ms Pepper was delighted:

"I'm really proud of all our swimmers – they all swam and conducted themselves extremely well. They were a true pleasure to watch and a credit to Stockport Grammar Junior School!"



POETRY BY HEART

This year's Poetry by Heart competition saw children from Reception to Year 6 learning and reciting their favourite poems. With each class holding its own competition, a winner was selected to represent them in the grand final judged by Senior School Head of Lower School and English teacher Mrs Lawson.

The overall Infants, Lower Juniors and Upper Juniors winners were:

Finn Haisley with *Silly Old Baboon* by Spike Milligan

Blake Weedon with *Mutinous Jack in the Box* by John Cunliffe

Adam Murray with *Cecil the Caterpillar*

Mrs Lawson was very impressed:

"The standard of the competitors was as high as ever this year. The children impressed me with their ability to learn the text, deliver it with great expression, and command the stage in front of the whole Junior School – no mean feat for anyone, let alone a young person."

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

£5,000 of new books have been purchased for the girls and boys to enjoy, thanks to an incredible donation by the Stopfordian Parents' Association (SPA) after they raised over £10,000 at the Christmas Fair.

Children in Years 3-6 visited Bramhall independent bookshop Simply Books to buy the books from their wish lists.

The SPA explained:

"We are delighted to help enhance the existing library available to our children... We wanted to make a sizeable donation to the school and what better way to do this than by giving the children access to some wonderful new books? A love of reading is something we all want our children to develop, and through the generous donations of our parents, we can help our teachers ignite this passion."



READ ALL ABOUT IT

World Book Day was celebrated by every child in the Junior School with a day of activities based on John Hegley's book *Stanley's Stick*, following his visit to the school during the library's *Litfest*. A morning of literacy-based lessons was followed by an afternoon of fun cross-curricular activities, explained by Will Gould and George Elvin from class 6B:

"World Book Day was fantastic! We composed some amazing poems using as many 'st' words as we could. We had a competition to see who could build the best stick structure. We worked in Houses and Nicholson won. The day was brilliant and we can't wait for next year!"



CUT TO THE CHASE

Year 5 pupils Talia Zelfhof and Lily Amet have had their hair cut so that they could donate it to the Little Princess Trust, a charity that provides real hair wigs to children who lose their hair through cancer treatment.

The girls told us why they wanted to help:

"It's sad that children are losing their hair when they're so ill, so we thought it'd be nice to help. We're proud that we're able to help children by doing something so simple!"

Talia and Lily raised an incredible £1,145 sponsorship as well as donating their hair.



FANTASTIC FOOTBALLERS

The U11 squad made it to the national finals of the Independent Schools Football Association (ISFA) U11 Seven-a-Side competition at England's St George's Park.

Despite the final results not going our boys' way, the team were great sports and relished the experience of playing on the state-of-the-art pitches used by all of England's national squads.

The footballers' road to the final saw them come second in the north west tournament. And in other competitions during the year the team have lifted two trophies - winning the Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) North West tournament and sharing the King's Macclesfield seven-a-side shield.

UP AT THE MILL

Year 1 pupils visited Quarry Bank Mill as part of their science topic on natural materials. A walk around the mill's surrounding woodland allowed them to investigate the naturally-occurring materials they had been learning about.

After a fascinating tour of the working cotton mill, they created collages, wove with leaves and made tree-rubbings with all their found woodland items.

Erin Roberts enjoyed the day out:

"I liked carrying the cans of cotton from one place to another, pretending I was working in the mill."



Headmaster Mr Wheeler, the charity's Chair of Trustees, became involved when the Trust was founded in memory of a child at his previous school in Hereford, who fought a brave battle against cancer. Mr Wheeler ran the London Marathon, dressed as 'LPT Man', raising £941.

On his return from London, Mr Wheeler told us:

"This was about raising awareness and letting as many people as possible know what the charity does. It was definitely worthwhile wearing such a ridiculous costume as it certainly got me noticed!"

The children at school have been really supportive and I have talked with them about the importance of supporting charities."

BLUE PETER BADGE

Since joining the Junior School last September, Luke Constantine-Williams has won a Blue Peter badge for writing about how his new friends look after each other. Eight year old Luke joined SGJS after his old school closed and wrote to the programme in the hope that his story might help other children who are worried about moving schools.

Excerpts from Luke's letter include:

"I was very scared about going to my new school... I told my mum that I wouldn't know anyone there... I was worried that I would not make any friends or they would not like me. My mum told me that if I felt scared, lonely or unhappy that I must tell a teacher and tell her, and they would help. After a few weeks I started to make new friends and enjoy myself. There really wasn't any reason to worry... The teachers are very nice and I have made new friends. We help and look after each other."

