

TAKING / STOCK

Stockport Grammar
School Newsletter



Issue 70
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Headmaster
Dr Paul Owen said:
"I am absolutely delighted by the exceptional success of our students. These fantastic grades are the result of a huge amount of work by students and staff at a time when the syllabuses and exams are changing significantly. I congratulate all our students."

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

The Upper Sixth had cause for celebration when they collected their A Level results, with over 52% of all grades awarded at A* and A and 80% of results at A* to B. 22% of all grades awarded were A*.

Their excellent results will see them heading for courses at the country's most highly respected institutions, including 10 places at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Pupils also achieved highly in the Extended Project Qualification with 80% gaining A* and A grades. Projects covered a wide range of topics, from designing and building a drone, through the Japanese invasion of Manchuria to the debate over whether wolves

should be reintroduced to Scotland. The Extended Project Qualification demonstrates true independent learning and excellent research skills.

Among the success stories were Head Boy Sam Howard who is heading for Oxford to study Maths after achieving A*s in Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Further Maths. Sam was part of the school team which won the National Cipher Challenge, a code breaking competition which saw the team defeat over 3,500 teams and travel to Bletchley Park to collect their prize.

Talented dancer Laura Welch is off to Leeds University to study Psychology after getting a hat trick of As in Biology, Chemistry and Maths. Laura played the

role of Grace in last year's production of *Annie*.

Head Girl Emma Crook will study Philosophy at Cambridge after she gained A*s in Geography, Maths and Philosophy as well as an A* in her Philosophy Extended Project Qualification. Beatrice Asquith achieved A*s in Biology, Chemistry and Maths and an A in Physics. She is heading for Cambridge to study Natural Sciences.

Maths maestro Paarbrahm Singh was over the moon with his four A*s in Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Further Maths. He will continue his love of Maths at Cambridge. To secure his place, Paarbrahm was required to sit three notoriously tough STEP papers.

He secured top marks on all three. He hopes to explore a career in research in the future.

After achieving A*s in Maths, Further Maths and Music and an A in Physics, Elsa Shah is heading for Oxford to study Music. Nathan Kingsley, who was also part of the team that won the National Cipher Challenge, secured A*s in Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Physics and will study Natural Sciences at Cambridge.

Millie Johnson is heading for Cambridge to study Architecture after achieving A*s in Art and Maths and an A in Biology. Vishal Krishnani will embark on a Medicine degree at University College London thanks to his A*s in

Biology, Chemistry and Psychology and an A in Maths.

Our GCSE students secured a set of outstanding results with 58% of grades awarded at A* to A and 59% at 9, 8 and 7. Thirty pupils achieved nine or more of these top grades.

Amongst the success stories were Lauryn Howard, Pippa Brown, Zahra Butt and Phoebe Micklefield, who won first place in the national Alan Turing Cryptography Competition organised by Manchester University. Between them, the quartet achieved 27 A*s (including one with distinction), nine 9s, an A, two Bs and a 7.

Keen sportsman Sameer Javid worked

hard for his seven A*s, two 9s and an 8 and is looking forward to starting A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Physics. Thomas Cope was "made up" with his three A*s, an A, two Bs and three 8s. Thomas, who enjoys cricket and playing the piano, will go on to study Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Economics.

GCSE Examinations are partway through a reform by the Government, which means some grades are awarded as numbers from 9 (the highest grade) to 1 (the lowest grade), whilst other subjects remain graded from A* to G. The examinations reforms were designed to return GCSE to linear subjects and to increase the rigour of the examinations.



EVENTS

FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS HONE THEIR BUSINESS SKILLS

Second Year pupils demonstrated their commercial acumen as they took part in an Enterprise Day.

The competition, which saw the winners reach the final of The National Enterprise Challenge, tasked the pupils to come up with a new attraction at KidZania.

They were asked to pitch a proposal to a real life business. The boys and girls demonstrated teamwork, creativity and problem solving as they produced an advert for their idea, with some teams creating dances, songs and raps! The groups also had to design posters, a website banner and social media campaign.



CONFERENCE GIVES SIXTH FORMERS A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

Lower Sixth students attended a two-day Higher Education conference at school to help them with applications for University, Higher and Degree level apprenticeships and the world of work.

A series of talks, workshops and seminars led by our partners at leading universities, school staff and recent Old Stopfordians were organised to provide pupils with all the information they need in preparation for the application process.

Guest speakers included social entrepreneur Duncan McCombe, founder of Network Young, who addressed pupils on the theme of 'Personal Branding and Reverse Engineering'; Jose Puello from the University of Manchester, who gave an insight on choosing the right subject and university; Matt Leigh from the Greater Manchester Learning Provider Network, who ran a workshop session introducing pupils to Higher and Degree level apprenticeships; Ania Partyka, from Liverpool John Moores University

discussed student life; and Jonathan Bailey from the University of Nottingham ran a workshop on what universities are looking for from personal statements.

Alongside our guest speakers, our 2017 leavers also joined Sixth Formers to give talks on their experience of the application process, their subjects of study, gap years and the joys of university life. This enabled Sixth Formers to ask lots of questions about life beyond school.

In reflecting on the success of this year's conference, Head of Sixth Form Mr David Stone, said: **"The conference changes slightly every year in response to the evolving nature of the Higher Education market and, thanks to the valued contributions of our guests, the positive engagement of the pupils, and expertise of the staff involved, our pupils are well set to move forward with confidence to the next stages of preparing for life after school."**

THIRD YEAR WRITERS GET CREATIVE

Third Year pupils were delighted to receive some expert advice on creative writing from published novelist and poet Paul Morris.

Paul was able to offer them a unique insight into the writing process, whilst allowing pupils to find their collective voices using a range of visual stimulus, based on his own work.



CAPTURING THE SNITCH

Arden were the worthy winners of the First Year House Quidditch Tournament.

Teams took to the field in glorious sunshine to earn valuable house points during the game, which was made famous in the Harry Potter books. Contestants earned 10 points for a goal and 30 points for capturing the snitch.

EXPLORING LITERATURE

The Lower Sixth welcomed Professor Alison Findlay and Dr Mark Knight from Lancaster University for lectures on *Othello* and *The Great Gatsby* as part of their A Level course.

These thought-provoking sessions inspired pupils to consider texts from new perspectives and saw much discussion of ideas and viewpoints. It was a very welcome insight into the experience of studying English at university.

EMBRACING SCHOOL LIFE

First, Second and Third Year pupils relished the opportunity to see what clubs and groups are on offer at the Lower School Activities Fair.

The school has an active and comprehensive co-curricular programme and the range of activities on offer means that whether a pupil is sporty, musical, dramatic, thoughtful, competitive, curious, caring or creative, there is something to inspire.



OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST INSPIRES SPEECH DAY CELEBRATIONS

Former England Hockey Captain and Olympic Gold Medallist Kate Richardson-Walsh OBE returned to her home town of Stockport as guest speaker at the annual prize giving event held at The Plaza.

Kate visited the school in the morning to join a coaching session for some of our keen hockey players, including our U13 team who this year took part in the National Hockey Finals in Nottingham.

In the afternoon, Kate presented prizes to pupils who had excelled themselves throughout the school year. Speaking to the packed audience of pupils, teachers, parents and governors, Kate's inspirational address encouraged the children to aim high, to be true to themselves and to support each other.





MUSIC FESTIVAL WINNERS

Talented pupils were able to demonstrate their abilities at the annual Music Festival.

The event was adjudicated by accomplished violinist and conductor Alex Laing, who is the Artistic Director at King's High School Warwick.

Lower School solo contests were won by First Year Sam Burrows on the euphonium, Second Year Ben Wood on the clarinet and Third Year Daniel Vincent on the euphonium.

The Junior Ensemble class was won by the Junior Jazz Band (Emily Edwards, trumpet; Gabriel Keeble, vocals; Will Insley, guitar; Oscar Williams, piano and drums; Daniel Vincent, piano and drums).

Lucy Grundy won the Junior Vocal section with an emotionally charged performance of *She Used To Be Mine* by Bareilles.

Clarinetist Sarah Callow won the Fourth Year prize and was awarded the Adjudicator's Cup for performance of the day.

Elsa Shah won the Sixth Form Instrumental Solo and the String Cup while Niamh Johnson won the Sixth Form Vocal contest.

Elsa and Zoe Shah with Olivia Dow won the Senior Ensemble after wowing the judging panel with their superb performances on the violin.

George Zelhof won the Pianoforte Cup and Lauryn Howard won the Flute Cup.

THE FRUITFUL FIVE

Character education is a crucial component of a good education. A large research study of good repute looked for the character traits that correlate most highly with success in life; success in its broadest sense in terms of relationships, well-being and achievements as well as the easily measured financial aspects. The study identified the top twenty-four traits. Twenty-four is too many to remember for most people, however, so at SGS we have looked at the top few and summarised them into five headings:

- 1. Enthusiasm: approaching activities or tasks with optimism, energy and excitement.**
- 2. Grit: persevering with things when they are difficult and picking yourself up after set-backs.**
- 3. Curiosity: being interested in things for their own sake and noticing patterns and anomalies and asking great questions.**
- 4. Community Ethos: being grateful, being interested in the achievements of others and in serving others.**
- 5. Social Intelligence: being aware of the feelings and motivations of others and using these insights to cooperate and to navigate social situations.**

I have talked about these character strengths in assembly, particularly enthusiasm or zest; the phrase 'not apathy but zest' has already become familiar enough to SGS pupils that it provokes a smile every time I use it! The 'amazon' logo with the 'a to z arrow' is another reminder of this phrase. Posters displaying the five character strengths are all around the school as an encouragement to the pupils to display the strengths and, crucially, to grow in them.

Visit the website to read Headmaster Dr Paul Owen's full blog.



SUPER SCIENTISTS

After winning a school science competition, Second Year pupil Talia Zelhof and First Year Joseph O'Neill competed against other schools in the Science Fair final at The University of Manchester.

They both did very well and huge congratulations go to Talia who won the competition with her project on kidneys and the treatment of kidney stones.

SCHOOL LIFE

NEW HEADMASTER

Dr Paul Owen has become Head of Stockport Grammar School following the retirement of Andrew Chicken.

Paul joins the school from Birkdale School in Sheffield where he was Head Master from 2010. He studied Physics at Cambridge University and stayed on to gain a PhD in Low Temperature Physics.

Paul and his wife Gail have three children, his daughter has recently graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music, his eldest son is studying at Cambridge University and his youngest son is at Stockport Grammar School.

Paul says, **"I am delighted to be joining such a successful school with a holistic approach to education. The keen academic ambition, the warmth of the community and the huge range of co-curricular opportunities really impressed me. Stockport Grammar School is clearly committed to educating the whole person, so that the pupils gain excellent examination grades as well as growing in character, fully prepared to flourish in adult life."**



YOUNGER PUPILS SHOWCASE THEIR TALENT

Glorious weather and a light-hearted programme allowed younger musicians in the Senior School the opportunity to showcase their musical prowess at the Lower School Concert.

The fun and relaxed show kicked off with Junior Band providing a lively rendition of *Thriller* before performing the aptly named *Costa del Sol*. Matthew Howling gave an excellent performance of *Over The Hills And Far Away* on the clarinet.

Next up were the String Orchestra. Oscar Williams had transcribed a version of *Eleanor Rigby* for the group with Gabriel Keeble singing the solo line and the superb performance was much appreciated by the audience. The group also played three traditional English Ayres.

Daniel Vincent, who has just passed his Grade 8 with distinction, performed a solo piece on the drum kit, impressing everyone with his technical virtuosity and flair.

The Beginner Brass Group then took to the stage with performances of *Ready to Rock* and *Joshua Fit The Battle Of Jericho* before Talia Zelhof, who has a Grade 6 oboe distinction, performed the hauntingly beautiful *Second Movement of Saint Saëns Oboe Sonata*.

The concert then came to a spectacular conclusion with the Junior Chamber Choir performing three songs from *The Greatest Showman*, demonstrating that the Music Department is equally adept at providing both modern and classic musical options for our talented musicians to perform.



FABULOUS PHYSICIANS

Well done to the 24 Fourth Year pupils who picked up certificates at this year's Physics Challenge.

Ten budding scientists received gold certificates, 11 pupils obtained silver and three physicists got bronze. Special mention goes to Katie Collier who came top of the year.

SPORTS

WELCOMING CRICKET FRIENDS

We were delighted to welcome Mayo College from India to school as part of their 'Cricket and Football England Tour'.

The visitors faced our U15 cricket team, who are coached by former England player Mr Jimmy Ormond, in beautiful sunshine and a keenly contested match saw our boys emerge victorious.

SUPER SWIMMER

Second Year pupil Eliza Pinkstone proudly shows off her hugely impressive haul of medals that she has picked up swimming this year.

In January she won an amazing 14 gold medals at the Cheshire County Championships and she followed this up with three gold, three silver and one bronze at the North West Summer Championships in May. She also qualified for both the English and British Summer National Finals.



OUT AND ABOUT



FORENSIC SCIENCE

Second Year pupils Hayley Collins, Ella Glazier, Daniel Wood and Hubert Zelazny enjoyed themselves at The Salters' Company Festival of Chemistry at The University of Manchester.

The scientists took part in two laboratory exercises – a forensic practical to identify a 'criminal' and a practical challenge to design an experiment that would take one minute. They then watched a lecture on chemical explosions that produced some fiery results.

DAY AT THE ZOO

Second Year pupils enjoyed their outing to Chester Zoo as they went on a 'Variety of Life' trip.

During the day at the UK's most visited zoo they spotted a host of animals including giraffes, elephants and camels, took pictures and videos to make a documentary and used their research skills to find out more about their chosen animal, after which they informed their peers about the animal's history and traits.

GEOGRAPHERS EXPLORE THE AZORES

Keen geographers turned up the heat with an exciting trip to the Azores Islands in the Atlantic Ocean, 1500 miles west of Portugal.

The islands, all formed by volcanic activity along the mid-ocean ridge, are awash with hot pools, lakes, waterfalls and green areas that our group explored throughout their journey. After a visit to the local geothermal power station and Lagoa de Fogo Lake, the pupils enjoyed a relaxing swim in a hot pool under a waterfall.

Next, they admired the Baroque architecture in the town of Ribeira Grande, followed by an afternoon on Santa Barbara black sand beach.

The travelling party learned about the geological activity in the area by visiting Furnas Valley which is full of hot springs, sulphuric lakes and the smell of sulphur from the active undergrounds.

In Terra Nostra botanical gardens, pupils enjoyed a swim in a hot, bright yellow swimming pool that is discoloured by the iron in the water, followed by a visit to Gorreana tea plantation – the only place in Europe that grows tea.

The next day was spent on the sea, whale and dolphin spotting. A whole pod of dolphins swam gleefully beside the boat, and to everyone's excitement a sperm whale was spotted, despite their elusiveness.

On the last day the group visited a lava tube that formed during a previous volcanic eruption in the area, walking through two miles of underground tunnels.

PICKING UP TIPS

Pupils from the Fourth Year and Lower Sixth took part in the Quilter Kids First Refereeing Children course where they picked up many valuable tips from England Rugby Community Coach Julian Gilding.

The aim of the course, which is provided in conjunction with the Cheshire RFU, is to grow the game across the community and show that playing is not the only way to be involved in the game – other options include coaching and refereeing.

Lower Sixth pupil George Crompton said: **"The course was in-depth and gave a real insight into refereeing. It showed how hard it is to be a referee and taught us the significance of being vocal and the importance of respect."**



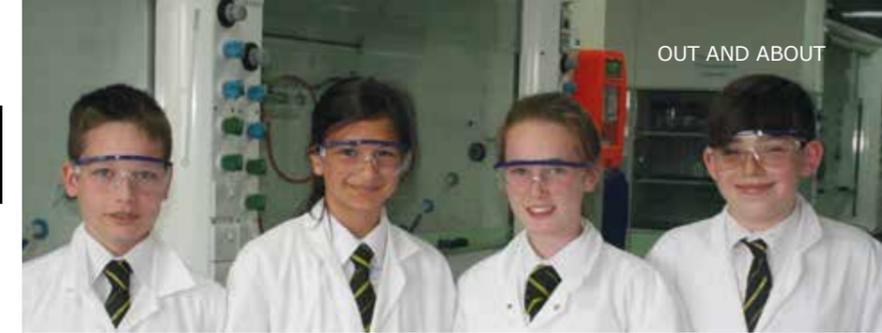
WELL DONE DAISY

Following on from the Regional Championships in the summer, Fourth Year pupil Daisy Keigher was selected for the Greater Manchester team and competed in the English Schools Combined Events Championship Finals.

Daisy took part in five events: 75m hurdles, shot put, high jump, long jump and the 800m, finishing in 15th position overall and second from the North of England.

BIKING IN THE MOUNTAINS

Mountain biking pupils spent the day at Oneplanet Adventure in Llandegla Forest, taking on the dry dusty trails. The bikers focussed on improving their technique and riding style as they hit all of the sections.



CHEMISTRY COMPETITION WINNERS

Well done to our Chemistry pupils who picked up a number of accolades at the Chemquiz at Manchester Metropolitan University.

The team of Second Years, Peter Walker and Talia Zelhof, Third Year Harry Brown and Fourth Year George Zelhof won the academic quiz section – winning books about the periodic table – and finished fourth overall.

Meanwhile, Second Year Elisabeth Horsnell's creation won the mug design competition and will feature on next year's mug.



ENJOYABLE ENGINEERING

First and Second Year girls went on a trip to Jacobs Engineering in Cheadle for a Women in Engineering Day.

They learnt about the range of engineering roles in the company and spent time working in groups to design and build a wind turbine. The girls had a great morning and were keen to see which turbine generated the most power.



WESTMINSTER TRIP PROVIDES REAL INSIGHT

A group of 15 Lower Sixth and Fourth Year pupils, each with a keen interest in Politics, International Relations and Law, took a fascinating visit to Westminster.

Their first stop was the Foreign Office, where they were able to quiz a diplomat on the opportunities and experiences of working in the interests of Britain at home and abroad and the rise of cybercrime and fake news.

Sixth Former Aidan Hall, who wants to study Politics, Philosophy and Economics at university, commented: **"The opportunity to ask a diplomat about routes into the Foreign Office was helpful to me in terms of a career path I might like to pursue."**

The second stop was the Houses of Parliament. An absorbing tour of the House of Lords, which concluded with the Speaker's procession, was followed by an opportunity to watch Business Secretary Greg Clark and his team being quizzed by MPs in the Commons from the public gallery.

The final stop took the group to the Supreme Court, where an interactive session saw them asked to consider a number of challenging decisions on points of law from the perspectives of the Justices. Heated debate followed amongst the group as they grappled with the dilemmas faced in the highest court in the land, from the very seats in which the Justices hear evidence from appellants and respondents before reaching their judgements.

Lower Sixth pupil Megan Barton, who is interested in studying Law at university, said: **"I really enjoyed discussing cases and considering different people's opinions on this within our group. It is difficult to imagine removing feeling from decision making, but that is what the Justices have to do on a daily basis."**



ACTION PACKED ADVENTURE IN WONDERFUL WALES

Seventy two Second Year pupils enjoyed a sun-filled, action-packed week of exhilarating activities in Wales.

The week at The Outward Bound Trust Aberdovey saw the girls and boys embark on a two day expedition during which they camped by a lake at the foot of a mountain.

The girls and boys were split into different teams and given a route to follow to test their orienteering skills. Challenging walks over rough terrain and with steep climbs to tackle meant the pupils were rightfully proud when they reached their camp spot.

One group set up base for the night at the foot of Cadair Idris and were able to take in the stunning sunset after they pitched their tents.

At the centre, the travelling party were able to enjoy the outdoor facilities on offer including the Jacob's Ladder climbing frame which required communication and team work.

On the last day, the groups tried their hand at a range of adrenaline-charged activities such as commando crawling and jetty jumps on the pier.

Other teams travelled around the coast and returned via kayak, whilst some used canoes to cross the estuary.

Outdoor Education Co-Ordinator Adam Hughes said: **"It was great to see how pupils supported each other, they stuck with the mission and they all got a lot out of it."**

COASTAL TRIP BOOSTS GEOGRAPHERS' KNOWLEDGE

Lower Sixth Geography pupils attended a residential on the East Yorkshire coast in order to collect data for their A-level field work.

They studied coastal geology, erosion, management and wave processes. The pupils applied themselves very effectively throughout the trip and worked with enthusiasm and good humour.



ART IN THE WILD

Fourth Year and Lower Sixth Form Art pupils enjoyed a sun-filled Walk, Talk and Make Workshop at Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

The girls and boys were able to interact with the sculptures and discuss ideas and insights about the pieces on display.

Practical tasks using clay, wool and blind drawing techniques were also completed and will help pupils to develop their coursework pieces back in the classroom.

Work by well-known British artists Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore were on display alongside more contemporary pieces by Anthony Caro, Julian Opie, Niki De Saint Phalle, Ai Wei Wei, Chihara Shiota and Sophie Ryder.



CULTURAL EXPLORATION

First Year pupils received a really warm welcome as they visited the Sri Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara Educational and Cultural Centre.

During the visit the pupils learnt about Sikhism, tasted a mouth-watering rice dish and met some Indian priests. The trip allowed the boys and girls to learn about different cultures and religions.

SUPPORTING SPECTROSCOPY

Lower Sixth pupils took part in a Spectroscopy Day with the Royal Society of Chemistry and The University of Manchester where they made paracetamol and then analysed it using infrared and thin-layer chromatography. Spectroscopy is the study of the interaction of electromagnetic radiation in all its forms with matter.



PHYSICS PRIZE HAUL

Our Third Year Physics pupils produced a strong performance at an Olympiad at King's School, Chester with one of our two teams picking up the top prize.

Team 'Zeeman', made up of Alex Patsias, Yicheng Xia, Luke Atkinson and Isobel Gardner beat teams from a number of independent schools. During the competition they had to complete a variety of different Physics tasks such as building rockets and using moments to determine mass.

Jessica Barraclough, Libby Wolstenholme, Katie Hewetson and Lois McCarthy made up Team 'Rutherford' and did really well to secure eighth spot.

INVESTIGATING REGENERATION

Lower Sixth Geography pupils enjoyed the sunshine as they walked around East Manchester to look at the effects of regeneration in the area. During the expedition they collected data from locations such as the Etihad Stadium, East Manchester Leisure Centre, Riverside Gardens, Cotton Square, Islington Square and Stevenson Square.



ADVENTURES IN THE ALPS

The French Alps was the destination of choice for our keen kayakers who spent a week honing their skills in beautiful surroundings.

The first day on the water saw pupils paddle a section of the Durance river to help settle their nerves and they ended the day at the St. Clement slalom course where they did a practice swim.

The next day saw the kayakers work on their skills on the 2+ section of the Durance from Briançon down to the barrage. The 18km 'Sun Run' on the Durance was next up for the touring party and they had a very enjoyable day as the trail challenged their breaking in and out technique. The following day saw them focus on working on travelling as a team as they paddled the Lower Guil.

After a chilled session on Embrun Lake, trips to the spectacular gorge section of the Upper Guil and the race course section of the Ubaye river tested the pupils' effort and ability to new levels.

A return to the 'Sun Run' on the Durance was enhanced due to recent rainfall making some of the features bigger, and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the challenge as they used their skills on some big wave trains.

The penultimate day in the French Alps saw them have a focused session at the St. Clement slalom site where they had the chance to self-rescue, get some throwline practice and have a surf.

PRIMATE PSYCHOLOGY

Lower Sixth Psychology pupils had the opportunity to observe primate behaviour at close range as they visited Chester Zoo.

They took part in an interactive workshop on courtship behaviour and the evolution of intelligence and listened to a talk on sexual selection – a topic that they study as part of their syllabus.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



GRASMERE EXPLORERS

Year 3 pupils enjoyed putting their studies into practice when they visited Grasmere after learning about the Lake District location in Humanities lessons.

The boys and girls embarked on a cruise along Lake Windermere before visiting the Lakes Aquarium where they came face-to-face with British sharks, inquisitive rays, piranhas, blind cave fish, paca, a pigmy marmoset and a red eyed tree frog. They also watched the mischievous and playful otters at feeding time.

Whilst in Grasmere, the group visited the Wordsworth daffodil garden, the graves of the Wordsworth family and followed a trail around the village itself to find out all about the facilities and sample the now famous gingerbread!

During the expedition, the spectacular waterfall, scenery and unusual 'money trees' at the National Trust Park, Aira Force, amazed our travellers.



POETRY IS PERFECT FOR PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY

Held on a beautifully warm evening and followed by a reception in the Quad, the Junior School Prize Giving was a happy celebration of the school year. The audience enjoyed performances by the School Orchestra and the Junior Choir; and speeches by Headmaster Tim Wheeler, Head Girl Molly Parnell and Head Boy William Daniels focused on the life of the school.

Guest speaker Matt Goodfellow, a renowned poet, put his previous experience as a primary school teacher to good use, with increasingly energetic audience participation throughout a series of poems. Prizes were presented for achievement and contribution to school life as well as books for every Year 6 pupil as they make the transition to Senior School.

BOOSTING THEIR BALL SKILLS

Year 1 and 2 pupils participated in a football coaching session with Coach Right UK.

The session consisted of a fun warm up where the children played 'Stuck in the Mud' and they then learned how to use the inside and outside of their foot to control the ball and practised dribbling.

The session culminated in a mini-tournament which pupils Dylan Zhao and Reese Appleton described as "very exciting"!



THE SUN SHINES ON OUR YOUNG SPORTING STARS

Glorious weather accompanied the sporting triumphs of the Junior School's sports days.

Divided into two events, first to take to the field were Pre-Reception to Year 2 who came out to show their families the skills they had acquired through the Summer Term.

Vernon House were the overall victors with Arden in second, Warren third and Nicholson fourth.

Next up, Years 3 to 6 demonstrated their sporting skills with a fun filled day of running, jumping and throwing activities.

Scores were close with Nicholson House in first place, Warren in second, Vernon third and Arden fourth.

Assistant Head, Mrs Claire Nichols praised the children's "beautiful behaviour" and was impressed with all the pupils for trying their best and supporting their houses.





MOTIVATION FROM ADVERSITY

Former footballer Regan Walker spoke to pupils about how his life changed when he was diagnosed with an extremely rare form of cancer.

Striker Regan had signed a professional contract with Bury following a stint at Manchester City and made several first team appearances when he started to feel pain in his right leg.

Following a series of scans, the 22-year-old was told he had Ewing's Sarcoma and was facing a year of intense chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery to remove the tumour, femur, knee and surrounding muscle tissue. Although Regan recovered, his injuries meant that his footballing dream was over so he had to completely re-evaluate his future.

He told pupils in assembly that, as football had always been his dream, he had not concentrated fully when he was at school but he encouraged them to embrace every opportunity that came their way.

Regan is currently doing his coaching badges and hopes to compete in a future Paralympics as a rower.

BUDDING PERFORMERS TAKE TO THE STAGE

The Year 5 class ensemble pieces echoed the bright summer weather with each piece having 'yellow' in the title.

Pupils wowed the audience with performances of *Yellow Submarine*, *Yellow Bird* and *Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round The Old Oak Tree*, which, though familiar tunes, were complex and demanding.

Alongside the class pieces, nine soloists entertained the crowd on a variety of instruments.

Commenting on the show, one parent said: **"What a joy it was to have the opportunity to see the class piece. The children were superb, each clearly passionate to try their best to connect with the music and their commitment shone through."**

SENSATIONAL SHOWCASE

A host of the Junior School's LAMDA pupils took part in a showcase where they performed poems and scenes from a selection they are due to present for their examinations at the end of term.

The boys and girls recited their poems beautifully and the young actors showed off their burgeoning talents. They performed as famous characters, celebrating great writers including Astrid Lindgrens, J.K. Rowling and Lewis Carroll.



ENTERPRISING ENTREPRENEURS

Year 6 pupils exercised their creative and commercial skills as they took part in an Enterprise Day.

The boys and girls were tasked with coming up with a brand new design for a kit in the sport of their choice. They were presented with a range of tasks to complete which included designing a logo and slogan and they also had to identify the cost, selling price and profit of their sport kit.

The pupils came up with some very creative ideas and each team presented in front of their class, where an overall winner was selected for each class.

The challenge was set by Senior School Business Studies and Economics teachers Miss Curl and Mr Phillips with assistance from Lower Sixth pupils.

BUBBLING WITH EXCITEMENT

Pre-Reception children were extremely excited as they ventured outside for a special bubble morning.

Mr Sheard, a current parent, was kind enough to come in to demonstrate how to make large bubbles and to let the pupils explore using an array of bubble wands.

The weather was perfect and the boys and girls loved having a go at doing it on their own. They also had lots of fun chasing and popping the bubbles.



MAKING FRIENDS ABROAD

Following on from German club pupils receiving letters from their penfriends from the Jules Verne Campus School, the group had an opportunity to see what their penfriends looked like by taking part in a Skype session.

The pupils had a great conversation and it was a good example of using different kinds of communication tools to stay in touch.



VISITING LOCAL LANDMARKS

Year 6 pupils made the short journey to Stockport town centre to visit two famous landmarks.

On the trip, which the pupils rated as 5*, the boys and girls headed to Stockport Museum where they learnt how hats were made and that in olden times the workers wore flat caps, the boss wore a bowler hat and the factory owner would wear a top hat. They even got to try some of the examples on.

They also visited Staircase House which was built in 1460.



DISCOVERING THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION

As part of Clean Air Day pupils learnt about air pollution and the effect it has on our bodies.

They found out that you can't always smell air pollution and it is known as invisible dirt. They also learnt about the damage poor air quality can have on our lungs and how it can affect our ability to breathe.

To demonstrate this, Year 3 boys and girls tried breathing through a straw to simulate reduced lung capacity.

Emily Rogan said: **"I felt out of breath in a short space of time,"** whilst Noah Brandenburg-Roberts commented: **"Breathing out was very difficult."**



GOING GREEK

Year 3 pupils dressed up for the occasion as they took part in Greek Day.

In the classroom they had lessons where they looked at the history and culture of the country before sitting down to a Greek feast, including pitta, houmous and koftas at lunch.

In the afternoon, they got to work off the scrumptious banquet by taking part in a traditional Ancient Greek Olympics.

GETTING CLOSER TO NATURE

Pre-Reception pupils got close to nature as they visited Nest in the Woods Adlington.

In the morning, the boys and girls made nature art by collecting items from the forest to add to string and they sat around the campfire singing songs and toasting marshmallows and chocolate brownies before having a picnic.

In the afternoon, they spent time on the assault course and made large dens or fairy houses by working together to collect leaves, twigs and logs.



SPOTTING THE SIGNS OF DIABETES

Pupils raised funds for Diabetes UK with a sale of healthy homemade bakes including reduced sugar cookies, fruity flapjacks and skinny popcorn.

The sale was organised by Year 4 pupil Rayaan Ullah and his mother to raise funds and awareness for the charity and Diabetes Week.



Mrs Ullah said: **"Thank you to everyone who helped support our charity bake sale. When Rayaan was diagnosed with diabetes two years ago it was knowing the symptoms – toilet, thirsty, tiredness and thinner, also known as the 4T's for Type 1 Diabetes – that helped us save Rayaan from getting dangerously ill. We hope that with better research and understanding, more can be done to prevent and cure this illness."**

STEP BACK IN TIME

Pupils in Year 5 learnt about the Reformation as they spent a lesson going through the story and carrying out a role play as they went along.

Harrison Wilson played Henry VIII as he received the title of 'Defender of the Faith' from the Pope.

Pupil Darcey Appleton said: **"I enjoyed doing the play, it was fascinating learning about the Tudor times when Henry VIII ruled. Most of the scenes were about Henry VIII trying to divorce Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn. I enjoyed this lesson, it was really fun."**

PARK LIFE

Year 1 pupils travelled to Lyme Park where they went on a nature walk and learnt about animal habitats.

The boys and girls created wild art from found natural materials and many of them chose to make hedgehogs as they have been reading 'The Hodgehog' by Dick King-Smith at school.

They also had a look around the Hall to learn about the family that lived there, they imagined what it would have been like to have the Hall as their home, and they saw the William Caxton prayer book they have heard about in Humanities lessons.

