

TAKING / STOCK

Stockport Grammar
School Newsletter



Issue 65
Winter 2016/17



**RUGBY TRIP
TO ITALY**
Page 5



**FIRST YEAR PUPILS
GET ACTIVE IN ILAM**
Page 7



ROALD DAHL DAY
Page 14



**NURSERY
FIRST TERM**
Page 16

**FOURTH TIME IN
THE NATIONAL
HOCKEY FINALS**
Page 12

EVENTS

SIXTH FORM GAIN INSIGHT INTO THE LIFE OF A PATHOLOGIST

Dr Roger Hunt of the University Hospital of South Manchester paid a visit to the school to tell Sixth Formers about his career in pathology.

Dr Hunt's talk gave attendees a great insight into a very intriguing profession.



DRAMA PRODUCTION EXPLORES THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

Created to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, *Still Life* looked back to the events of 1916 alongside scenes set in the fictional Elysian Fields Care Home in 2016. The cast were outstanding in their portrayal of young officers experiencing the trenches and as the feisty residents of a care home who refused, even as they contemplated death and ageing, to 'go gently into that good night'.

Written and produced by Senior Deputy Headmaster Mr Howson, the thought provoking play drew on the works of the famous war poets such as Owen, Rosenberg and Sassoon; less familiar words from many other wartime diaries, memoirs and novels; and information from the school's archives on the Old Stopfordians who died in the Battle of the Somme.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Old Stopfordians and Cheadle MP Mary Robinson visited the school to take part in the annual Remembrance Day Service.

Fifty two former pupils died during the First World War and a further 60 were killed during the Second World War.

The Old Stops, who attended the school between 1934 and 1969, received a talk from current pupils who had recently returned from the battlefields trip.

Headmaster Andrew Chicken opened the service and pupils gave readings before wreaths were laid by Mrs Robinson and Head Boy George Chatterton and Head Girl Georgia Burns. Fifth Year pupil Niamh Johnson sounded *The Last Post*.



AUTHOR VISIT SPARKS PUPILS' IMAGINATIONS

Shane Hegarty, author of the *Darkmouth* series, spoke to pupils from the Junior and Senior Schools, telling them that he first discovered his love of writing when he was seven years old and wrote a poem about a white bunny.

Speaking first in the Main Hall to First Years and then in the Library to Year 6 pupils, Shane said that it took him 30 years to write his first book. In humorous and interactive sessions which took in discussion of bottle flips, dad dancing and motor biking, Shane encouraged the pupils to think about what they enjoy doing. He told pupils where he got his ideas for *Darkmouth*, his monster legend series, and signed copies of his latest book, *Chaos Descends*.

TASTY TREATS FOR CHARITY

Warren House organised a cake sale to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Pupils eagerly piled into the Sports Hall to take their pick from cupcakes, doughnuts, biscuits and flapjacks.



DANCE DELIGHT

Professional coaches from the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance visited the school to host a masterclass for pupils of all ages.

The school, which is in Twickenham, was opened in 1920 by Polish dancer Marie Rambert. Students follow a degree course that is accredited by the University of Kent and covers all aspects of dance, choreography and technical study.

Our pupils spent the day with the coaches and learnt a series of moves that they put together to form a performance piece.

To complete their experience, pupils visited the Lowry Theatre in Salford to watch a performance by Rambert's ballet students.

ACTIVITIES FAIR SHOWS PUPILS WHAT'S ON OFFER

Lower School pupils were invited to the annual Activities Fair in the Hallam Hall to find out more about the clubs, societies and groups they could join.

As well as a host of music and sports sessions, there are lots of extra-curricular activities on offer, ranging from fencing to debating and animal club to jewellery making.





LEARNING MORE ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Former police officer Simon Snell gave Sixth Formers a stark warning about the potential dangers of the internet.

Mr Snell, who was Senior Investigating Officer with Devon and Cornwall Police, worked on a number of high profile cases involving the dark side of the internet and Child Sexual Exploitation. He currently works with children's charities including Barnardo's and the NSPCC as well as the Football Association and various police forces. He has also been a member of a House of Commons Safeguarding Inquiry.

In his talk on online safety, Mr Snell gave sound advice and guidance on a number of prevalent issues and challenges relating to the internet and social media. His interactive presentation left the pupils to consider their online footprints and how behaviour on the internet as opposed to the internet itself is at the root of many of the challenges new technologies present.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Pupils in Fourth Year, Fifth Year and the Sixth Form were invited to the Careers and Higher Education Evening to help them plan for their future.

Representatives from a wide range of professions, industries, universities and the services were on hand to offer advice and information to pupils and their parents concerning possible choices of career and Higher Education courses.

FASCINATING INSIGHT

Dr Sarah-Jane Clelland, from the University of Manchester's School of Materials, visited the school to deliver a talk about x-ray imaging.



She spoke about how x-rays work, how they are used as a research tool and how they create a digital record. She also showed attendees some great 3D images of a spider in amber and a bird's skull.

A video was played demonstrating how you could x-ray a Kinder Surprise Egg to see what toy was inside and the pupils got to use a touchscreen to find out more about the subject.

OUT AND ABOUT



ITALIAN RUGBY TOUR TRIUMPH

Our 1st and 2nd XV Rugby teams - made up of players from the Fifth Year and Sixth Form - had a successful and action packed time on their tour of Italy.

The boys landed at Marco Polo Airport in Venice before heading to their home for the week - Getur Sports Village in Lignano Sabbiadoro.

Pordenone were the opening opposition and it was a positive start for both our teams as they recorded strong victories.

After exploring St Mark's Square in Venice, the 2nd XV delivered another impressive victory against Portogruaro.

The boys enjoyed watching the European Rugby Challenge Cup game between Benetton Treviso and La Rochelle before travelling to Verona where they had a tour of the city and visited Romeo and Juliet's balcony.

The last games were against Udine and both teams signed off in style with two comprehensive wins.

1st XV captain and Head Boy George Chatterton enjoyed the experience of playing abroad. He said: **"The tour was really good and it was a great team bonding opportunity. Spending a week away together made the players become tighter knit and this showed with performances on the pitch improving as the week went on. It was also good to play teams with a different style of rugby. The Italian teams we faced focussed more on set pieces and this was a good challenge for us."**



INSPIRATION FOR ARTISTIC PUPILS

Lower Sixth Art and Design students paid a visit to Castlefield Basin and the Northern Quarter to complete a series of sketches that will form the basis of their A Level coursework portfolio.

Mr Richard Davies, Head of Art and Design, said: **"The opportunity to work on site is invaluable in learning how to cope with space and scale and offers a very different challenge to that faced from the relative comfort of the art room. The initial studies, and the outcomes that they prompt, will be seen later at the end of year show."**

First Year pupils also worked on their art away from school on their residential trip to Ilam.

The group visited Chatsworth House where they took inspiration from the sculptures on display as part of the Sotheby's Beyond Limits show, as well as the permanent collection, to complete some sketches.

They were also invited to take part in a photography competition entitled An Unusual View and the winners were Matthew Harbridge, Oscar Davies and Bella Platt.



BON APPETIT

Second Year pupils travelled to Bistrot Pierre in Sheffield to beef up their French as they had been studying the topic of food and restaurants in lessons.

Pupils ordered their meals in French, tucking into authentic delicacies such as poulet aux lentilles, tarte flambée and steak-frites. Desserts on offer included fondant au chocolat, crème caramel and plateau de fromages.

AWESOME AUTUMN CONCERT

The annual Autumn concert delighted the audience with a programme that had something for everyone. Whether it was the lively rhythms of the tango performed by the String Orchestra, soloist Alex Jones's performance of the 1st Movement of the *Bottesini Double Bass Concerto* or the classic *Teddy Bears' Picnic* performed by Brass Ensemble, pupils from across all years delivered some exciting performances.





FRIENDSHIPS FORMED AND MEMORIES MADE

Fifth Year and Lower Sixth pupils welcomed visitors from Bad Segeberg in Germany to give them a taste of life at Stockport Grammar School.

During the week-long trip, the party of seven boys, seven girls and two teachers visited the Etihad Stadium; Lyme Park; the Imperial War Museum North, Media City at Salford Quays and quirky shopping centre Affleck's Palace in Manchester's Northern Quarter.

They also spent a day in school where they took part in a range of lessons

including Life Studies and Languages. They played water polo, enjoyed a kayaking session in the school pool and attended a demonstration by the Glossop Mountain Rescue team.

Städtisches Gymnasium pupils Katharina Westerhaus and Mariella Rose enjoyed their time in Greater Manchester:

"We really enjoyed speaking in English all day every day and we think that our language skills are much better now. We liked Affleck's Palace, it is cool and interesting and

there is nothing like it in Hamburg. Being with the whole group, the German and English pupils, was really good too and it was great spending time together."

The exchange between the school and the Städtisches Gymnasium, which is for pupils in Fifth Year and above who are studying German, is now in its 25th year and many friendships have been formed during this time. Stockport Grammar School pupils will pay a visit to Bad Segeberg next month.

ANNUAL BATTLEFIELDS TOUR HELPS PUPILS REMEMBER

Third Year pupils travelled to France and Belgium to visit areas of historical importance and learn more about World War One.

In the French Somme area, the travelling group visited the underground museum in Albert where they saw artefacts from the Great War and learnt about the weapons used by both sides. They also saw the Lochnagar crater, created when British mines exploded and marked the start of the Battle of the Somme at 7.20am on 1 July 1916. Pupils experienced the trench system first-hand when they visited Newfoundland Park.

When the group crossed the border into Belgium, they saw the devastation

caused by the war in Ypres, a town that was completely flattened during the conflict but has since been rebuilt. They also visited the interactive Passchendaele Museum and explored its vast collection of artefacts and photographs.

On the last day, the group visited three cemeteries to understand the scale of lives lost during the conflict and they learnt about John McCrae who worked as a medic and wrote the poem In Flanders Fields.

The trip culminated with the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres where wreaths were laid by Caitlin Cutts and Ethan Jones. A wreath was also laid by Georgia Sykes and Cam

Wylie at Thiepval in memory of Old Stopfordians who lost their lives in battle.

Zoe Jones said: **"The trip gave us a better perspective of what it was like fighting in the Great War. We were lucky enough to visit Thiepval where we saw all the names of missing soldiers from the French and English armies and the names of two of our own Old Stops. We also attended a Remembrance Service where two students got the honour of laying a wreath along with pupils from other schools. The trip touched us all and is something we will never forget."**



PUPILS BRAVE THE COLD TO BOOST THEIR SNOW SKILLS

Manchester's Chill Factor was the venue for the inaugural outing of the Winter Sports Club. The club, run as part of the school's outdoor education programme, is aimed at helping pupils improve their skiing and snowboarding. The First and Second Year pupils taking part will complete a six week course.



PSYCHOLOGISTS PUT THEIR SKILLS INTO PRACTICE

Lower Sixth pupils went to the Science, Pseudoscience and Psychology conference at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

The focus of the day was research in Psychology and pupils heard from a variety of thought provoking and entertaining speakers including Dr Peter Lovatt who explained the role of dance in cognitive processes; Oliver Meech, who explored the Psychology of Magic and world famous hypnotist Andrew Newton.



FIRST YEAR PUPILS GET ACTIVE IN ILAM

Pupils travelled to Ilam in Derbyshire as part of a residential trip to get to know their classmates.

The groups spent two days taking part in a mixture of tours and activities, including a guided visit to Poole's Cavern.

The adventurers also went for a walk through the stunning countryside surrounding Ilam Hall, taking them alongside the River Manifold and the River Dove, before crossing over the Dovedale Stepping Stones and climbing to the summit of Thorpe Cloud.

The trip also included a visit to Chatsworth House.

Mr Adam Hughes, the school's new Outdoor Education Co-ordinator, said: **"For me personally, being new to the school, it was a great way to meet lots of the pupils. The children were fantastic and they had a great time. The trip allows them to build relationships with their peers and that will help them throughout their time at the school."**



SCHOOL LIFE

ROSE QUEEN RAISES REGAL SUM FOR CHARITY

Fifth Year pupil Lucy Howling raised over £11,000 for charity during her time as Rose Queen at St Thomas' Mellor Church.

Lucy held a number of fundraising events – including a fashion show, a German-themed musical night, a Beatles tribute night, a talent show, a toy sale and a children's Frozen-themed party – resulting in her raising an amazing £11,533 for EducAid, a charity the school has also supported for many years.

EducAid provides schools, teacher training and tertiary programmes in Sierra Leone.

Speaking about why she chose her nominated charity, Lucy said: **"I picked EducAid as I know the workers Miriam and Kofi and i think it is an inspirational charity. I have seen the fantastic work they do and I feel privileged to have supported them."**



BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ACCOMPLISHED MUSICIANS

A quintet of talented pupils have been accepted to become members of Manchester's most prestigious Youth Choir and Orchestra.

Violinists Elsa Shah and Zoe Shah successfully passed auditions to join the Hallé Youth Orchestra and singers Olivia White, Georgia Curwen and Joshua Furtado-Mendes secured places in the Hallé Youth Choir.

All five pupils are members of several of the school's choirs, orchestras and ensembles and they are now looking forward to embracing their new challenge. Joshua is also a long serving member of the National Youth Choir.

Hallé Youth Orchestra offers talented young instrumentalists the chance to experience playing in a full symphony orchestra supported by professional musicians. Since it was set up in 2002, the Orchestra has performed at venues such as the Royal Opera House in London, Manchester Opera House and Manchester's Bridgewater Hall. They also go on regular tours around the UK and Europe.

Hallé Youth Choir, established in 2003, is recognised as one of the leading mixed-voice youth choirs in the country.

Members regularly get the chance to sing with the Hallé Choir and have performed at the *BBC Proms* and appeared on programmes such as *Later with Jools Holland*.

Michael Dow, the school's Director of Music, said: **"Many congratulations to Elsa, Zoe, Georgia, Olivia and Joshua on these wonderful achievements. Membership of the Hallé Youth Choir and Orchestra is very prestigious. I am sure they will all gain a huge amount from this opportunity."**



PUPILS BOOST THEIR PERFORMANCE SKILLS

Our budding musicians have been able to gain valuable performance experience at regular recital sessions open to the public.

The series of shows were organised by our new Assistant Director of Music Mr Philip Kennedy and are in addition to the programme of music concerts. Pupils were invited to perform solo or small group pieces.



FANTASTIC FENCERS MAKE THEIR TV DEBUT

Members of our Fencing club were asked to demonstrate their skills in the first episode of hit ITV show *Cold Feet*.

When the filming was over, pupils found time for a chat and a photograph with actor James Nesbitt who plays Adam in the show.

FUNNY AND FASCINATING LECTURE GRIPS PUPILS

Sixth Formers pupils welcomed inspirational speaker Emma Cole for the second Shaa lecture.

Emma, who was diagnosed HIV positive in 1991, spends time speaking to schools and groups via her *Positive Voice* talks which document how she lives with the condition and how it changed her life. In the 25 years since her diagnosis she has raised awareness of HIV/AIDS and challenged many preconceptions, alongside reinforcing the importance of safety in sex and relationships education.

HELPING THE COMMUNITY

Pupils from across the Senior and Junior Schools supported those in need as they donated food and raised money for a number of charities.

Nursery and Junior School children were asked to donate food parcels as part of the Harvest celebrations. These were delivered to retirement and sheltered housing scheme Queen's Garden in Cheadle and The Wellspring, a resource centre for homeless and disadvantaged people.

Senior School pupils followed their younger peers' lead by also filling a minivan full of food that they then delivered to The Wellspring.

Senior and Junior pupils held a number of fundraising activities as part of the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Cake sales were held in both sections, with pupils and staff alike satisfying their sweet teeth with plentiful donations, whilst the Junior School also held a raffle in the staff room with prizes kindly donated by Gresty's Florists and La Mafille Maison in Great Moor.





SHARK DAY ADDS BITE TO PUPILS' LESSONS

Second Year pupils spent a day learning about sharks while the Junior School enjoyed a special presentation as part of the inaugural Shark Day.

Head of Classics Mr Alastair Thorley invited Nick and Caroline Robertson-Brown from Frogfish Photography into the school so that pupils could find out about the conservation, behaviour and anatomy of sharks.

The pupils looked at the biological make-up of five different species: blue, hammerhead, great white, basking and whale and at how the animals have been portrayed in the movie industry.

A number of departments got involved in the day with English and Music helping pupils devise scripts and musical pieces for presentations on each of the species and Psychology looking at why people are scared of sharks.



DAZZLING DANCE

Dancers from the Middle and Upper School left the audience in awe of their mind-blowing moves as they demonstrated a range of styles and techniques at the Through the Seasons show.

From the stunning opening group number, performed to pop hit *Umbrella*, to the Brazilian Beats finale, the dancers put on a show to remember.

Solo performances from Ellie Rasheed, who put on an acrobatic ballet display; Cam Wylie, who danced expressively to *Winter Struggles* by Birdy; Shakeel Ahmed, who dazzled with his unique Hip Hop freestyle routine; and Amy Earith's street dance to Justin Bieber's *Cold Water* were met with rapturous applause.

The tempo was upped when Imogen Belshaw, Natasha Hurst, Grace Patterson and Laura Welch channelled their inner Beyonce to perform a street dance routine to *Spring Fling* and then again when Natasha and Grace teamed up with Molly Clark and Harriet Lambon-Ralph for a rousing Latin American number.

Lilli Ashton, Emily Daniels and Ellie Rasheed slowed things down with their beautiful piece entitled *The Ocean* and a group dance to Lily Allen's version of the Keane hit *Somewhere Only We Know* got everyone into the Christmas mood.

Molly Clark and Harriet Lambon-Ralph laced up their tap shoes for an energetic routine to Peggy Lee's *Winter Weather* while Olivia Clark and Lucy Snell slowed the pace for their contemporary dance piece to Ed Sheeran's *Autumn Leaves*.

A ballet style dance by Molly Burrows and Maddy Evans and a group contemporary dance entitled *Waves* were met with mass approval by the parents, pupils and staff in the audience.

One of the show's more memorable routines was the Fourth Year Games group's performance to Michael Jackson classic *Thriller*. With their ripped clothes, messy hair and scary make up, the dancers crawled onto the stage before leaping up and giving it their all.

The show was led by Dance teacher Mrs Abi Downing with help from the PE department. A Level and GCSE Textiles pupils helped to make the costumes.

SPORTS

CUP FINAL COUNTDOWN

Well done to our 1st XV Rugby team who beat The King's School in Macclesfield 18-15 in a closely fought Cheshire Cup semi-final tie, earning them a place in the final against Lymm High School to be played at the AJ Bell Stadium as a curtain raiser to the Sale Sharks v Saracens match in the European Rugby Champions Cup.

The U14s have also reached the Cheshire Cup final after beating Wirral Grammar School 26-20 in the semi-final.

In addition, our U15s will face Wirral Grammar School for Boys in the Nat West Vase North A Final after beating Wilmslow High School 48-24.



SUPER START TO THE SEASON

It was a very successful start to the season for our Netball girls as they picked up silverware at a tournament at Condoover Hall.

The U13 team were undefeated and won the cup competition after beating Alsager School 6-3 in the final.

The U14s also had reason to celebrate as they came runners-up in the plate competition.

Congratulations to Channell Brown, who was selected for Cheshire's U14 satellite squad, and Libby Wolstenholme who has joined Cheshire's U14 development pod.



UNDEFEATED CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the U15 Netball team who won the Stockport Schools' tournament. They went through the competition undefeated and beat hosts Bramhall High School 9-4 in the final.

GAME, SET AND MATCH

After winning the Second Year Division 2 LTA Team Tennis for Schools in the Summer Term, the girls' team of Natasha Witts, Eleanor Merrifield, Emily Edwards and Katie Hewetson played in the North Regional Finals at the John Charles Sports Centre in Leeds where they beat Queen Mary's School 10-2 and then went on to defeat AKS Lytham 12-0 in the final.

The Fourth Year boys - Liam Campbell, Toby Jones, Harry Hallisey and Fraser Curran - who also won Division 2 in the summer, followed in the girls' footsteps and beat Baines School after an exciting tie break. They triumphed over Ripon Grammar School, winning 8-4 in the final.

Both teams were crowned Division 2 North Region Winners 2016.





FOOTBALLING FUN

Our Girls' Football Team are revved up and ready to start the new season. The squad – made up of pupils in First, Second and Third Year – will tackle teams from other schools in the area as the season progresses.

FOURTH TIME NATIONAL FINALISTS

The 1st XI Hockey team have reached the National Finals for the fourth successive year after coming through the qualifying rounds unbeaten and scoring 60 goals.

The girls defeated Altrincham Grammar (6-1), Cheadle Hulme (2-1), Withington Girls (8-0) and Loreto Grammar (5-1) in the Greater Manchester Round before facing Kirkham Grammar (1-1), Queen Elizabeth Grammar (4-0), Merchant Taylors (16-0) and Kings Chester (5-1) in the North West Round.

In the group stage of the North Final the squad beat Hymers College 1-0 in a close opening game before finding their rhythm and the back of the net more often against Pocklington (4-0) and Sedburgh (3-0).

In the semi-final the girls defeated Altrincham Grammar 3-0 which meant that they would face The Grammar School at Leeds in the final.

As full time drew near, the score was 1-1 but the SGS girls found one last burst of adrenaline and managed to score the goal that confirmed their place in the National Finals which will take place at the Lee Valley Hockey Stadium on the 1st and 2nd March.

Captain Georgina Dare said:

"We faced some really tough games against good opposition but we dealt with the pressure well by working as a team."

"The final was quite nerve-wracking but to win it with a last minute goal was the best way to end it. We are really looking forward to the National Finals in March and will be putting in the hard work on the training ground and in the upcoming games."

The team will be bidding to emulate their 2015 success when they beat Cranleigh 1-0 to be crowned National Champions.



WELL DONE BOYS

Sixth Form pupils Alex Jones, Tom Travis and Alex Brooks played for Cheshire RFU U18s team.

The boys were part of the squad that faced Yorkshire and Lancashire, emerging victorious from both encounters.

Other rugby selections include Bradley Boyd, Freddie Rimmer, Henry Davies and Max Crompton (Sale Sharks' Cheshire East U14s Developing Player Pathway); Harry Brown, Harry Reeder-Hirst and Ewan Curran (Sale Sharks' Cheshire East U13s Developing Player Pathway); Seb Walker (Cheshire RFU's U15s); Zac Sebouai and Oscar Elvin (Lancashire U15s).

Max Keigher has been selected for the England Independent Schools Football Association U16 squad and Sam Carr and Daniel Billington-Boateng have been picked for the ISFA North West U13 team.



1ST XV SHOW THE OLD STOPS HOW IT'S DONE

An excellent display from our 1st XV saw them beat a team of Old Stops 59-5 in their annual rugby match.

Both captains are pictured (above) with the referee.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



PUPILS ENJOY 'ROMAN' AROUND YORK

Year 4 boys and girls spent two days exploring the past during their residential trip to York.

On their first day, they visited Murton Park for a living history day where they dressed as Romans and learnt how the Roman Army lived and worked. They also wrote in Latin, found their way around a fort and made clay oil lamps.

The next day, the group visited York Castle Museum where they explored Victorian streets and found out what life was like in the slums. Their last activity was to gain an insight into the criminal justice system. Some pupils acted as judges and others as criminals as they found out how trials work.

FOOTBALLERS MAKE A FINE START TO THE SEASON

Fancy footwork from our under 11 Football team saw them sweep aside all-comers at The King's School, Macclesfield's 7-a-side competition.

The boys won all five of their games, scoring 15 goals in the process to take home the shield and medals.

They beat Altrincham Preparatory School 2-1, Bolton School 3-1, The King's School in Macclesfield 3-1, Cheadle Hulme School 1-0 and Terra Nova School 6-0.

The team has been easy to spot in their new distinctive yellow and black kit thanks to sponsorship from C&C Insurance Brokers Ltd.



YEAR 5 HAVE A CRACKING TIME IN CASTLETON

Pupils had a fantastic time in the great outdoors as they took part in an action-packed residential trip to Castleton.

The three day expedition saw the excited group board coaches outside school as they made their way to Losehill Hall, a Victorian gothic mansion set in 27 acres of parkland in the heart of the Peak District National Park.

Pupils explored the beautiful gardens, woods and streams and quickly got into their fun-filled programme of activities as they panned for gold and learnt how to build dens and light fires with flint and steel, before baking some bread.

The next day saw them embark on a five and a half mile walk and a visit to Treak Cliff Cavern to see stalactites and the famous Blue John stone.

On the final day, the travellers went orienteering, launched egg rockets and honed their den-building skills.

Speaking about the trip, William Copeland said: **"I loved having the freedom to explore the gardens and climb trees. Being outside so much was fun and even bedtime was enjoyable as I got to chat with my friends. It was a brilliant trip."**





EXTRA SPECIAL CINEMA TRIP FOR AIMEE

A trip to the cinema is always exciting, but Year 6 pupil Aimee Reynolds had a special reason to cherish the occasion when she starred as an extra in a blockbuster.

Aimee was chosen out of thousands of children to feature alongside Eva Green and Samuel L. Jackson in Tim Burton's new movie *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*.

PUPILS GET INTO CHARACTER TO CELEBRATE ROALD DAHL DAY

An array of colourful and creative costumes were on display as pupils marked 100 years since the birth of author and poet Roald Dahl.

Pupils were encouraged to come to school as a character from one of Roald Dahl's many books or wear yellow as it was the British writer's favourite colour.

Pupils did not disappoint with a number of Oompa Loompas, Matildas, Enormous Crocodiles and Fantastic Mr (and Mrs) Foxes making an appearance.

Nathan Hopley, who dressed up as an Oompa Loompa, said: **"I like the book and film of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and I really wanted to come to school as an Oompa Loompa. My mum helped put the costume together and the green hair she knitted looks really good."**

Year 6 pupil Holly Williams came to school as Miss Trunchbull, the headmistress from *Matilda*. She said: **"I like dressing up as Miss Trunchbull as she gets to be mean. *Matilda* is a great book and I enjoyed picking out the costume and the big eyebrows."**



THE SUPERSTRINGS GO ON A FACT FINDING MISSION

The Superstrings, consisting of 12 Year 3 and 4 pupils, ventured over to the Senior School's Music department to further their knowledge of string instruments. Pupils were very excited to get their hands on violins, cellos and even the double bass.



HOWZAT...JOSH KNOCKS THEM FOR SIX



In the last edition of Taking Stock, we told you about Josh Patel being selected to represent the Cheshire Youth Cricket U11 County side.

Josh had a successful summer as he was selected for every game and opened the bowling in most of the matches. He took his first wicket for the county against Lancashire in his second game for the team and with the bat he broke the 20 run mark in games against Yorkshire and Buckinghamshire.

The highlight of his season was at the Taunton Festival as he opened the batting against Lancashire and scored an unbeaten 84 - the highest individual score of the season in his age group.

At the end of season County awards ceremony Josh picked up the Most Improved Player award to round off a memorable season.



MUSICAL MAYHEM

Educational theatre company Artful Playground paid a visit to the Junior School to kickstart the pupils' day with a session of energetic music, dancing and acting.

Pupils were tasked with pretending to be bears, seagulls, giraffes and trees as they ran, skipped, jumped and leapt around the hall.

OVER THE MOON FOR SPACE WEEK

Junior School and Nursery pupils had an out of this world experience as they celebrated Space Week.

In Year 3, pupils embraced an intergalactic theme. Girls and boys played with space doh which they moulded into moon rocks and asteroids and they also made a frieze of the planets and learnt their order in the solar system.

Pupil Deen Chowdhry said: **"I researched black holes and found out that a star turns red and dies and becomes a supernova,"** whilst Alfie Boler also learned something valuable: **"I discovered a simple way of remembering the order of the planets - my very easy method just speeds up naming planets."**

In Reception, pupils created space stations in the classroom for roleplay. Children had the opportunity to do space writing, take part in a space funky finger challenge and collect as many gemstones as possible. They also created their own rocket, played with moon dust numbers, watched videos of astronaut Tim Peake and took Nellie, the class puppet, into space.

Nursery children played with space slime, donned space helmets, drew space creatures and re-enacted what it would be like to walk on the moon.

To finish the week in style, Mad Science North West visited the Junior School to deliver their unique brand of fun science to the pupils. The energetic presenters talked about waves, sound and particles and conducted demonstrations using smoke and gravity.

Pupil Annie Clarke said: **"The mad scientist made us laugh, he was very entertaining!"** and Thomas Stanton showed how beneficial the visit was: **"The mad scientist made science sound really interesting."**



GEORGE GOES THE EXTRA MILE FOR CHARITY

Year 6 pupil George Hales was named Young Fundraiser of the Year at Key 103's Time to Shine Awards after he completed a gruelling coast to coast bike ride with his father.

His mammoth effort raised £8,000 for the local radio station's charity, Cash For Kids.

George and his dad cycled for seven hours a day for four days as they made their way across the country from Morecambe to Bridlington.

Speaking about his experience, George said: **"The coast to coast bike ride was fun and not as tiring as I thought it would be. I was really surprised but excited to win as there were so many people up for the award."**

"I chose Cash For Kids as the charity because some children are not as fortunate as others and at Christmas they don't get anything. It is a great feeling knowing that these children will now get something because of the money that people donated."

The money raised will be used specifically to buy bikes and helmets for local children who have been identified by the charity and they will be distributed over the festive period by Key 103's Mission Christmas charity.





BRIGHT START FOR NEW NURSERY PUPILS

Our Nursery children had a fun and eventful first term as they made friends and started their learning journey in the Junior School.

To get the children used to their routine, staff taught them catchy songs to help them remember the Nursery's golden rules including how to tidy up, share and look after each other.

The children were encouraged to explore their new environment and resources, find out where to store their belongings and play outside every day with a selection of toys. They also took advantage of the school's own pool with weekly swimming lessons.

In the classroom they had daily phonics and maths sessions; Mrs Carr took them for French lessons; music lessons were delivered by Mrs Matthews and Mrs Nichols got them moving during PE classes. They were also introduced to 'squiggle while you wiggle', learnt how the library works and enthusiastically looked forward to Foundation Stage story time.

KNOCKOUT NETBALLERS BRING HOME THE TROPHY

Rosie Lear, Libby Goodman, Darcy Breen, Anna Wilkinson, Amaya North, Jessica Jones, Annalisa Griffiths and Aimee Reynolds travelled to Rotherham to take part in Saint Pius X Catholic High School's netball tournament.

The girls had a cracking start, winning their first match 18-0 against the hosts and they carried their good form on throughout the group stages, winning all their games.



The knockout rounds were up next and in the quarter final the girls faced Buchan School who had flown in on the morning of the tournament from the Isle of Man! The team saw off this challenge to earn a match against The Grammar School at Leeds in the semi-final. The players continued their fine form, defeating the girls from Yorkshire to secure a place in the final.

In the decider they came up against Grange School. It was a tough game but the girls' battling qualities shone through as they outscored the opposition to secure a 9-3 victory and win the tournament.

There was extra reason for celebration as Anna Wilkinson was chosen as one of the three players of the tournament.



ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

Year 5 pupils put their creative skills to the test when they were tasked with building a fully functioning miniature fairground ride.

Using Kinnex equipment and computer programming, pupils worked in groups of three to construct ferris wheels and rollercoasters.

Their creations had to feature lights, music and movement, last for more than 30 seconds, be safe, easy to get on and off and carry more than 20 miniature people. They were also told they had to build seats and a pay booth.

DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE

Pupils were treated to an energetic and interactive production of *Macbeth* by the Young Shakespeare Company.

The visiting actors, who wore a range of costumes, brought the story to life and the boys and girls enjoyed being right at the heart of the action.

