

# TAKING / STOCK

Stockport Grammar  
School Newsletter



**Issue 63**  
Summer 2016



**USA TRIP**  
Page 6



**SENIOR RUGBY**  
Page 8



**BEAUTY AND  
THE BEAST**  
Page 15



**JUNIOR SPORT  
ROUND UP**  
Page 16

*Read more  
about Dance  
Show Delight  
on Page 3*

# ARTS

## MUSICAL MASTERPIECES IMPRESS CONCERT AUDIENCE

The exceptional musical talent throughout the school was showcased at this year's Summer and Leavers' Concerts.

At the Summer Concert, Second Orchestra Guitar Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, First Orchestra, Junior Band, Junior Chamber Choir and String Orchestra performed an array of pieces ranging from Handel's *Water Music* and *Symphony No 1 in C Op. 21* by Beethoven to *Blackbird* by Lennon & McCartney and a medley from the musical *Grease*.

The Leavers' Concert, which marked the departure of the Upper Sixth pupils and the retirement of Music teacher Mrs Taylor, featured performances from a host of bands, soloists, choruses and ensembles.

Highlights included the Concert Band's rousing rendition of *The Final Countdown*, two movements from *Carmina Burana* by the Wind Orchestra and a stunning solo performance from Emily Lyons who sang *Stormy Weather* with the Big Band.

The Senior Percussion Ensemble took the audience by surprise when they started their stint from the back of the hall, banging their drums as they made their way up the aisles to the stage. There were also performances from the Jazz Band, the Flute Ensemble and the Chorus.

Upper Sixth pupils composed their own versions of modern songs, including Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*, for a finale during which they paid tribute to members of the Music department.



## CLASSICS PLAY TRIUMPH

The cast, chorus and crew behind the Classics Play performed to sell-out audiences over three nights.

These productions are now in their eleventh year and 2016 saw pupils stage Sophocles' *Women of Trachis* and Euripides' *Alcestis* from a script re-worked by Head of Classics Mr Thorley.



## ARTISTS DISPLAY THEIR CREATIVITY

Pupils showcased their work at the annual GCSE and A-level Art, Design and Technology Exhibition.

The event marked the culmination of a period of sustained study and, for many of the boys and girls, it was the first time their work had been properly put on public show.

The pupils used a variety of media and techniques for their work including painting and sculpture, drypoint and lino prints, colographs, batik, ceramics, plaster casts, monoprints, woodcuts, photograms and textiles as well as installation and video pieces.

A large number of parents, staff, governors and guests attended the event and feedback from the evening indicated that everyone enjoyed seeing the varied responses and high standard that the pupils had achieved.

Mr Davies, Head of Art, Design and Technology, said:

**“This year, as previously, there has been a high level of diversity evident in the work displayed. Traditional themes such as the still life, portraiture, movement and architecture have all been addressed, along with more unusual subject matter that includes tattooing, microscopic imagery and fairy tales. In every case the boys and girls have developed a significant body of work that explores media and makes references to the work of a wide range of artists.”**

**“The Exhibition was an opportunity for the pupils and their families to be both proud of what they have achieved and to enjoy the moment as they found themselves at the centre of so much attention.”**



## CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

St George's Church was the atmospheric location for an evening of choral and orchestral music which was beautifully performed by Senior School pupils of all ages in celebration of the centenary of the school's move to the Hallam site.

The concert featured a varied repertoire including performances of Albinoni's Oboe Concerto in D Minor with soloist Simon Fraser, who was recently selected for the National Youth Orchestra, and Fauré's *Requiem* with baritone James Holt and soprano Emily Howling.

The evening demonstrated the talents of the Junior Chamber Choir, Chamber Choir, String Orchestra and the 108-strong Chorus.



## DANCE SHOW DELIGHT

Pupils impressed a packed Main Hall as they took part in an electric and eclectic Dance Show.

Around 80 dancers strutted their stuff to street, tap, pop, jazz and ballet music under the expert eye of Dance teacher Mrs Downing.

Twenty songs covering artists such as Beyonce, Justin Beiber, Tchaikovsky and Hozier got the Stockport Grammar School treatment as pupils body-popped, cartwheeled and glided across the dancefloor.

With choreography, costumes, lighting, sound, programmes, backstage and front of house to cover it was a huge undertaking by the staff and pupils to create such a spectacular show.

## EVENTS

### HARD HITTING DRUGS TALK

Sixth Formers learnt how drug misuse can ruin lives when representatives from renowned charity DrugFAM paid a visit.

Elizabeth Burton-Phillips and Sarah Bromfield shared their experiences of how their lives were dramatically affected by drug and alcohol addiction within their families.

The pair ensured pupils were fully informed about the dangers of risk taking and the possible implications of substance abuse. The moving and thought provoking talk was well received by pupils and staff.

DrugFAM's visit was organised to coincide with other work completed by the Sixth Form on keeping safe and making sensible choices.



### TRIO OF AUTHORS GIVE PUPILS FASCINATING INSIGHTS

Historian and filmmaker Professor Michael Wood spoke to pupils about his recent BBC series *The Story of China*, which he is still working on. Pupils enjoyed watching clips from his many series and also hearing anecdotes about helicopter rides in Peru and how to get a large crane into a small Chinese shrine.

Crime writer Val McDermid visited to speak about her life as an author. She explained how she comes up with ideas for her books and talked pupils through the writing process. She also joined GCSE and A-Level pupils to discuss her rewrite of Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*.

Matt Dickinson, an award winning novelist and film-maker, talked about his mountaineering experiences and offered advice on what it takes to be a writer.

Matt, who was one of the climbers caught in the 1996 Mount Everest disaster, described his experiences on reaching the summit via the treacherous North Face.

Since then he has worked on documentaries for National Geographic Television, Discovery Channel and the BBC and has now concentrated on producing fiction for teenagers. He is writing a trilogy of books focusing on the central character of Ryan Hart and has released *The Everest Files* and *North Face* with the third and final title – *Killer Storm* – on its way.



### LIFE LESSONS FROM FORMER PRO GOLFER

Former pro golfer John Hoskison paid a visit to the school to share his life experiences with Sixth Form pupils.

John, who competed against Sir Nick Faldo, Seve Ballesteros and Ian Woosnam at the 1979 European Tour, saw his career go from strength to strength. In 1992 he won the club pros grand slam, including the British PGA Professional Championships.

But in 1994, he ran over and killed a cyclist when he drove home from a golf match after staying behind for a drink. He was sentenced to three years in prison.

John wrote a book – *Inside: One Man's Experience of Prison* – detailing his period in jail and now spends his time giving talks at schools and young offenders' institutes across the country.

### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JUNIOR DOCTORS

Pupils in the Fourth and Fifth Years and Sixth Formers had the opportunity to hear first-hand about life as a medic when a group of junior doctors visited school.

Talks were given by Matthew Jackson, who specialises in Intensive Care and Anaesthesia; Rachel England, who works in Paediatrics; Nadia Manhood, who specialises in Respiratory Medicine and Intensive Care; Surgeon Kate Hamlett and Rajit Khosla who is a Foundation Years Doctor.



## BRINGING BLAKE TO LIFE

Hip Hop artist and Beatbox champion Testament helped pupils throughout the school bring the words of William Blake to life.

The London-born rapper, who released top 10 album *No Freedom Without Sacrifice* in 2009, visits schools across the country to better their understanding of Blake by breaking down his words and putting them to a Hip Hop beat.

Testament told pupils about the birth of Hip Hop in the Bronx in New York before treating them to a performance of one of his hits inspired by a William Blake poem.

Second, Third and Fourth Years were then challenged to use Blake's work to create their own Hip Hop tracks which they performed in Hallam Hall to delighted pupils and staff.



## ANNUAL ART COMPETITION

Eighty four pupils from 12 primary schools took part in the annual Year Five art competition sponsored by Brewin Dolphin.

The children's work, with the theme of portraits, was displayed at school and judged by renowned figurative artist Mark Demstader and Head of Art, Design and Technology, Mr Davies.

Congratulations to Lana Byrne from St Winifred's RC Primary, who claimed first prize.



## FAMOUS FACE JUDGES ANNUAL BAKE OFF

Great British Bake Off finalist Luis Troyano paid a visit to judge the annual House baking contest.

Luis chose Third Year pupils Lucy Snell and Sana Ahmed, representing Vernon, as overall winners, saying:

**"The flavours on the winning cake were incredible. The chocolate orange cream is the best I've ever tasted. When it comes to baking, design is one thing but it is great flavour that sells."**

Luis also spent time helping pupils with some of the more complex baking techniques, such as decorative icing, using chocolate to put different parts of the cake together and creating caramel shards for a volcano cake.



## WESTMINSTER CALLS FOR CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Head Girl Ella Burton and Head Boy Charles Longson joined 200 Old Stopfordians for a tour of the Houses of Parliament as part of the school's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the move to the Hallam site.



The evening, which featured a celebratory drinks reception, was sponsored by Old Stopfordian Gordon Marsden, who is MP for Blackpool South. Chairman of Governors, Christopher Dunn, addressed the assembled guests. The Headmaster then spoke of the legacy of the school's Founder, Sir Edmond Shaa, and highlighted the importance of the centenary bursary fundraising initiative to Shaa's vision of a school for the children of his home town. The generosity of Old Stopfordians, parents and The Zochonis Trust means that over 120 of the school's pupils are able to benefit from means-tested assistance but, as in previous years, the number of bursary applications is far greater than the number of places available.

Speaking of the impact that a bursary place can have, the Headmaster said:

**"For some it may even provide them with what Pablo Casals, the great cellist, described as the golden seed – the uniquely precious opportunity, the expression of confidence which fortifies self-belief and helps a child to develop his or her own very special talents – whether in academic study, in music, in art, in drama, in sport – so that they can realise and fulfil the promise which lies in each of us. Bursaries do change children's lives."**

# OUT AND ABOUT



## AMERICAN TOUR IS AN EYE-OPENER FOR HISTORY PUPILS

Pupils travelled to New York taking in Times Square, Upper Manhattan and the theatre district. They also took a ferry to Ellis Island giving them a stunning view of the Statue of Liberty.

Fourth Year pupil Janna Wong was really impressed with the scenery: **"The views were amazing, especially at night since the area was so brightly lit that it felt like there was still daylight outside. I guess it's true what people say, New York is the city that never sleeps."**

Next they went to Washington DC via Philadelphia where they visited the town hall to learn more about the history of the Declaration of Independence.

Upon getting to Washington the group were taken on a coach tour, visiting the memorials of many different presidents and inspirational speakers such as Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King. They also saw the White House and visited several museums.



## PUPILS TAKE A FANCY TO FRENCH LIFE ON WORK EXPERIENCE TRIP

Sixth Form pupils immersed themselves in local culture on a trip to northern France during the Easter break.

The pupils put their language and interpersonal skills to excellent use as they were encouraged to eat French and think French on the week-long trip.

The travellers visited Armentières in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region in northern France where they worked in local businesses and stayed with French families.

The majority of the pupils worked in primary and secondary schools whilst Simon Fraser worked in a restaurant, David Ward used his language skills in a shop and Koye Lijadu helped deliver drinks to cafes and restaurants. Pupils also spent a day visiting Lille which included a trip to the beautiful Musée des Beaux Arts.

French teacher Mr David Lorentz organised the trip and was really pleased with how it went:

**"The pupils completely threw themselves into French life and had many great opportunities to use and improve their vocabulary. It was a challenging experience but one that was ultimately rewarding and one that the pupils won't forget."**



## SIXTH FORMERS VISIT BERLIN

Sixth Formers travelled to Berlin for a weekend of historical and cultural discovery to complement their A-level German studies on the Cold War.

The trip began with a visit to the Story of Berlin, an interactive attraction which explained the history of the city. The group also enjoyed various other trips and excursions, with German speaking guides, including a visit to Checkpoint Charlie on the Berlin Wall.

They also saw the Tränenpalast (Palace of Tears) where families split by the wall said their good-byes and the East Side Gallery, a remaining section of the wall now covered in poignant graffiti. Pupils spent their last night watching a German film at the cinema before stocking up on goodies at the Ritter Schokowelt chocolate emporium.

## EUROPEAN ADVENTURE

A trip to the famous Christmas markets in the German town of Aachen gave Second Year pupils the ideal opportunity to practise their language skills and to experience the unique festive atmosphere.

After a tour of the Aachen Old Town, pupils put their language skills to the test on a treasure hunt which involved buying food and drink and interviewing local people in a street survey.

The rest of the afternoon was spent in the markets, sampling delights such as wurst, heiße schokolade and kinderglühwein.

Our linguists then furthered their language studies when they crossed the Belgian border for food and a game of bowling.

They all returned to Stockport tired but laden with Christmas gifts, having had a brilliant – and linguistically enriching – weekend.



## ART INSPIRATION

Fifth Year pupils visited Tate Liverpool and The Walker Art Gallery to gather source material for their forthcoming GCSE Art exam.

The Tate's current exhibition *An Imagined Museum*, drew together work from its own collection as well as from The Pompidou centre in Paris and the MMK Foundation in Frankfurt. The Walker provided the group with an excellent range of source material from the early part of the 14th century.

The value of spending time at both galleries was seen in the Annual Art Exhibition that took place on 18th May.

In a further opportunity to showcase their work, 16 pupils from our Fifth Year and Sixth Form have also been chosen to submit work to this year's Saatchi Art Prize for Schools competition.

## INTERNATIONAL DEBATE

Pupils from across the school represented Lebanon, Mexico and the UK at the Model United Nations (MUN) conference.

The event covered international issues, such as urban development; use of torture; the future of the UN; food security; leaving planet earth and freedom of the media.

After a fierce weekend of debating, Tom Pearse was Highly Commended while Murray Jallands, Jacob Lockett and Muhammad Ali were Commended.



## TRIPS OUT BOOST STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE

Lower Sixth Psychology students attended a conference at Manchester University to hear from experts about the application of their research and the benefits to society. They also spoke to undergraduate and postgraduate students about studying Psychology at a higher level.

Upper Sixth Biology pupils travelled to Manchester University to learn more about Polymerase Chain Reaction and Gel Electrophoresis. They spent a full day using professional labs and equipment. The experience also gave them the opportunity to work with PhD students and university staff.

Sixth Form Physicists got the chance to learn more about advances in cancer treatment and diagnostics when they visited The Christie hospital in Manchester. The group received talks on The History of X-Rays, Nuclear Medicine Imaging and Proton Beam Therapy. Pupils were also able to explore the radiotherapy treatment room.

## EXPLORING GREECE

Classics and Latin pupils had a memorable trip to Greece over the Easter break as they visited archaeological sites and museums.

Boys and girls from Fourth Year to Upper Sixth travelled to mainland Greece and the Peloponnese as they embarked on a packed but rewarding schedule of activities.

During the expedition the tour group visited 11 sites and eight museums with trips to the Acropolis in Athens and the magnificent sanctuary at Delphi wowing pupils. The museum

highlight for many was at Olympia where they saw some of the finest examples of ancient sculpture.

Lower Sixth pupil Elicia Wilson loved the trip:

**"I enjoyed every moment! Around each corner there's something interesting and beautiful. It is an experience I will never forget."**

Fellow classmate Jess Carroll agreed:

**"I've never been so excited to walk into a museum! It was a very educational and fun trip."**



# SPORTS



The U12s were lucky enough to get their hands on the RBS 6 Nations trophy when they were competing in a tournament.



## RUGBY

Our rugby boys have had a great year with George Chatterton (pictured above right) being selected for the North U18 Clubs and Schools and Louis Jones, Tom Power and Michael Sidebottom being chosen for the North Lambs U18 squad.

Jenson Cullen and Andrew Goodwin were picked to play in the Lancashire v Yorkshire U15s game at New Brighton RFC in Wirral and Andrew was also chosen to play for

Lancashire U15s in their game against Yorkshire at Wilmslow RUFC.

In the NatWest Schools Cup the 1st XV recorded a superb win in Round Three against QEGS Ashbourne, winning 12-10 with the last play of the match – a terrific solo try by Louis Jones converted by Max Lederweg. George Chatterton also scored. The cup run came to an end in the next round however as QEGS Wakefield saw off our determined challenge.

## HOCKEY

The First XI Hockey team produced a determined defence of their National Schools Championship crown but it was not to be as they came away without the trophy but full of pride at having reached the National Finals for the third consecutive year.

The girls travelled to Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre in London where they faced Clifton College, Kingston Grammar School and Repton School in Pool E. They won one game and lost two in the group stages.



Congratulations to Lauren Hunt and Lily Wolstenholme (pictured below) who have been selected for the England U18s Squad.

Back at school, Vernon were the victors of the House hockey tournament, winning all of their three matches. Warren were runners up followed by Arden and Nicholson.





## FOOTBALL

Fifth Year boys took to the field for a fiercely fought House football tournament. Vernon were the overall winners followed by runners up Nicholson, Arden in third place and Warren in fourth place.



## CROSS COUNTRY

Several of our pupils were selected to represent Stockport Schools in the Greater Manchester Cross Country Championships. Daisy Keigher finished first in the Minor Girls event and Patrick Magner came third in the Senior Boys event. Both were picked to represent Greater Manchester in the English Schools Cross Country Championships.

Congratulations to Sixth Former Juliet Downs who came first in the U17 Lancashire Cross Country Championships in Bolton in January. Second Year pupil Georgia Fazakerley won the U13 race.

Sam Shilton represented Stockport Harriers at the South Yorkshire Indoor Open Series, winning a Bronze medal. Sam competed against boys from across

the North of England. He will also run in a guest 4x100m relay race at the London Anniversary Games in July.

First Years enjoyed glorious sunshine as they took part in a House cross country race – Vernon were the overall winners followed by Warren, then Arden and Nicholson. The winning boys were Harry Flaherty, Tobin Rose and Joseph Farrelly while Daisy Keigher won the girls' race followed by Libby Wolstenholme and Hannah Sullivan.

The Second Year race was also won by Vernon. Matt Cooper, Sam Lavender and Henry Davies claimed first, second and third respectively while Georgia Fazakerley won the girls' race followed by Megan Callaghan and Lily Rathore.

## NETBALL

The U15s team won the National Smile Independent Schools Netball Plate Competition after beating Brentwood School 45-31 in the final.

The U14s won the Stockport Schools Netball Tournament after powering their way through the knockout rounds to beat Cheadle Hulme in the final.

The U12s were runners up in both the Stockport Schools Netball Tournament and the Greater Manchester County Tournament.

Head of Girls' Games Mrs Goddard said:

**"The girls are very talented and it has been encouraging to see so many players attending training every week. Many have even attended extra coaching sessions which has been particularly impressive. They take on board advice given and really want to improve their playing ability."**



# SCHOOL LIFE

## OUTDOOR PHYSICS

First and Third Year pupils had the opportunity to apply their Physics knowledge during an outdoor lesson that involved a tug of war, den building and infrared cameras.

Physics teacher, Miss Aspinall, arranged for six University of Derby students to help her deliver some practical activities outside that would test the pupils' knowledge of recently covered Physics concepts.

The First Year pupils demonstrated their understanding of light, energy and forces by participating in an energy circuit, measuring the lengths of their shadows and a tug of war activity.

Third Year pupils had the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of heat transfer processes by measuring their body temperature with an infrared camera and building energy efficient dens.



## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Third Year pupils took part in the national BBC School Report project which challenged them to use their journalistic skills to seek out the top local, national and international stories.

Pupils attended weekly co-curricular sessions to help generate their story ideas before they got to grips with interviewing techniques and filming to complete their news packages.

Along the way, they received expert advice from BBC Health Correspondent Dominic Hughes, commercial film

producer Paul Kearton, TV presenter Samina Khan, actor & comedian Mani Liaqat and actor & filmmaker Zafar Iqbal.

The exciting project culminated in a national news day in March when our pupils' work was uploaded to the school website and linked to the BBC School Report website, allowing the stories to be seen by viewers around the world.

See their work at [www.stockportgrammar.co.uk/2016/03/bbc-school-report-2016/](http://www.stockportgrammar.co.uk/2016/03/bbc-school-report-2016/)

## SIXTH FORMERS DEVELOP THEIR KAYAKING SKILLS

Four Lower Sixth pupils hit the seas as part of their gold Duke of Edinburgh training.

Charlie Beischer, Fergus Ustianowski, Ben Hicks and Will Johnson opted for sea kayaking instead of walking and took to it like ducks to water.

They learnt about boat loading, paddling, handling skills, self-rescue and safety issues as well as the importance of wind, tides and weather when sea kayaking.

After a day's training near Trearddur Bay in March, the group went on a three day expedition – which included wild camping – during the Easter break. After starting off in Benllech they paddled round Red Wharf Bay and then round the

headland towards Penmon. On the second day the intrepid participants covered over 20km, paddling past the lighthouse at Penmon in very choppy waters and then down the Menai Straits to Britannia Bridge using the tides to help.

Charlie said: **"Kayaking is a very different experience to walking, it involves a very different set of skills that are learnt on the training days. The weekend was very interesting and the weather was at both extremes – day two was cold and rainy but day three was very hot and I even got a bit sunburnt!"**

In mid-July the boys will sea kayak 80km for their qualifying expedition.



## FINANCE FUN

The thrills and spills of the Stock Exchange came to Stockport Grammar as seven teams of four pupils, made up of the Upper Sixth Economics and Business classes, together with members of the Fourth Year Share and Investment Club, took on the Fundopoly Challenge.

Staff from the Bank of New York Mellon run the activity as part of the global firm's graduate training programme.

For over three hours, they traded stocks, currencies and commodities, using source material. The keenly fought competition ran for six rounds before Ali Drabu, Matty Taylor, Luke Bills and Jake Humphreys were crowned winners.

The game tested pupils' ability to forecast and manipulate data. It also gave them opportunity to extend their leadership, communication and team work skills.

## HITTING THE HIGH NOTES

The Junior Chamber Choir hit all the right notes at this year's Heaton Mersey Youth Festival.

They performed two songs in the 'Own Choice Programme' category and achieved a mark of 87 (Distinction) for an excellent display. The blend between

the boys and girls' voices was noted and the judge was impressed with the choir's enthusiasm and confident delivery.

In another category the choir achieved a mark of 84 (Commended) for a convincing performance of John Rutter's *A Flower Remembered*.



## UCAS SUCCESSES FOR UPPER SIXTH FORM PUPILS

Upper Sixth pupils had reason to celebrate as they received offers from prestigious institutions across the country, including seven places at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Cambridge offers include 2015 leaver Henry Brearley (Natural Sciences), Simon Fraser (Music), Chris Hewetson (Chemical Engineering), Charles Longson (Medicine) and Jacob Schafheutle-Evans (English Literature) while Oxford offers have been made to Hayley Birks (Law) and Philippa Slattery (Engineering Science).

Head of Sixth Form Mr Stone said:

**"Yet again, our pupils have had a fantastic set of university offers, not just those for Oxbridge but many more for prestigious institutions across the country including UCL, King's College London, Bristol, Durham and Warwick for courses such as Veterinary Science, Natural Sciences, Law, Medicine, English, Languages and Economics.**

**"They benefit from a dedicated UCAS Advisor who personally oversees their application and offers help with admissions tests.**

**Extra-curricular activities such as Symposium, Model United Nations, Young Enterprise, Debating Society and Café Sci help equip girls and boys with the vital skills and knowledge required for the next stage of their academic life. Teaching staff offer extension sessions and mock interviews, bringing in professionals such as academics, medics and lawyers to provide invaluable expertise."**

## SIGN LANGUAGE SUCCESS

Upper Sixth pupils spent six weeks learning more about British Sign Language as part of the enrichment programme.

Participants also discussed the challenges faced by deaf people and future careers in which it would be beneficial for them to know BSL.

Pupils received certificates on completion of the course and were invited to move on to study BSL in more depth with help from the Deaf Education Advocacy Fellowship, which is based in Sharston.

## EXCELLENT ESSAY SKILLS

Upper Sixth Form pupil Laura Cooper secured the runners up prize in a prestigious competition designed to celebrate the life of Gregor Mendel, widely thought of as the father of modern genetics.

The Galton Institute set budding biologists the challenge of writing an essay on any aspect of Mendel's life, work or legacy.

Mr Grant, Head of Biology, said:

**"I am delighted for Laura. This is just one of many Biology activities she has been involved in over the past two years. She has invited guest speakers from Manchester University to come in to school to give presentations and has herself given a superb presentation on Evolution in one of our Café Sci lectures. She has a genuine enthusiasm for Natural History and Biology in general and this prize is very well deserved."**





## SWISS SUCCESS FOR TRAVEL AWARD WINNERS

Every year the school awards a travel bursary to Sixth Formers who want to travel to further their experience and knowledge of a passion or subject.

The Albert Johnston Travel Award panel received detailed applications from pupils and the standard of applications was so high this year that the judging panel decided to give two awards.

First prize of £1,000 went to Sarah Stretton, whose proposal "Scaling New Heights – Leysin, Switzerland" will see her study at the International School of Mountaineering. She will also learn how to ice climb and cross glaciers as well as tackling some of the challenging peaks near the Moiry glacier.

A second prize of £750 was awarded to Jacob Lockett for his project "Observing the Recession of Europe's Largest Glacier, The Aletsch".

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHEMISTRY STARS

David Ward, from The Greater Manchester STEM Centre at The University of Salford, paid a visit to school to give out awards to Chemistry students.

Third Year pupils carried out extended projects on 'Investigating Bath Bombs' - achieving Bronze awards - whilst Fifth Year pupils obtained Silver awards for carrying out an extended project on 'Investigating Paracetamol and Aspirin'.

The awards are part of the British Science Association's CREST Awards which recognise success and enable students to build their skills and demonstrate personal achievement in project work.



## PUPILS EXPLORE THE MAGIC OF BOOKS

J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* novels were the focus of a magical event for pupils from the Senior and Junior Schools when Stockport Grammar took part in the global *Harry Potter Book Night: A Night of Spells*.

Pupils boarded the Hogwarts Express at platform nine and three-quarters and found themselves in the magically transformed, candlelit library.

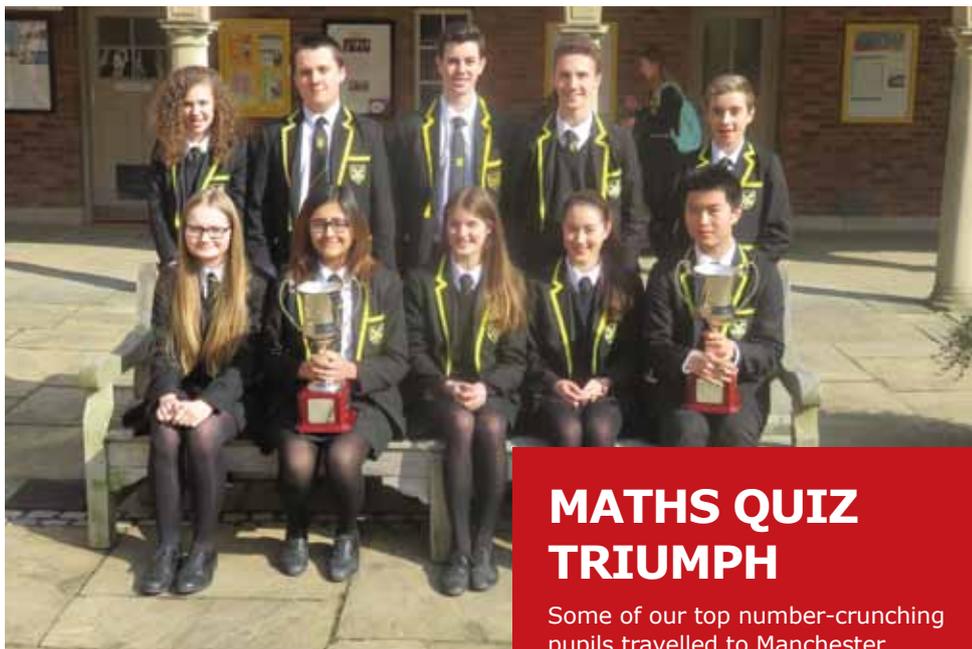
After the sorting hat placed them into either Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw or Slytherin house, pupils sipped butterbeer, pumpkin juice and ate

chocolate frogs while taking part in a treasure hunt and competing against each other in a Harry Potter quiz.

Other Library highlights have included the return of our Valentine's book speed dating.

At book speed dating, pupils spend three minutes at tables of novels from different genres and need to use their time wisely to look at the books' covers and first few pages.

Once the time is up, they have to leave their new love behind and meet a new novel from another genre.



## MATHS QUIZ TRIUMPH

Some of our top number-crunching pupils travelled to Manchester Metropolitan University where they secured a pair of trophies in the annual Pop Maths Quiz.

The winning Third Year team was made up of Naomi Littlewood, Josh Brougham, Ben Foster, Maryam Ghaznavi, Lauryn Howard and Tayyib Shah while the winning Fifth Year team was made up of Sam Howard, Max Mather-Harding, Tony Wang, Christine Bradley, Elsa Shah and James Fleming.

# JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

## FINDING OUT WHERE FOOD COMES FROM

Year 3 paid a visit to Tesco to take part in the Farm to Fork initiative – a nationwide project dedicated to getting children interested in where their food comes from.



The children visited the cheese and fish counters and the bakery and were given the opportunity to try various foods and find out how they are made.

Before their visit ended, pupils got to try exotic fruits such as coconuts, pomelos, persimmon and pomegranates and discussed which countries they are imported from.

## MUSICAL MORNING HITS THE HIGH NOTES

Year 4 spent the morning with some of the Senior School's most experienced musicians and learnt more about the different types of instruments.

Their day started with a concert in Hallam Hall featuring performances by the Wind Orchestra, the First Orchestra and the Big Band.

Then they enjoyed hands-on brass, string and woodwind workshops led by teachers and pupils where they were able to have a go at playing instruments such as the double bass, saxophone and trumpet.

The day was organised to introduce the Juniors to the vast array of music lessons on offer in school and encourage their interest in learning an instrument.

Mr Dow, Director of Music, said:

**"The Junior School pupils were a delight to work with and approached all of the instrumental workshops with great enthusiasm. I hope that the opportunity to work with staff and pupils from the Senior School will have inspired them to consider what they might be able to achieve in the future."**



## AWESOME ART

Visiting artist Penny Aspinall encouraged Year 4 Junior pupils to unleash their creative sides as they made their own 3D designs.

During the sessions, pupils learnt how to transform their sketches with thread before sealing them with plastic. They even had a go at using a sewing machine.



## STORYTIME SURPRISE

Reception pupils enjoyed a pleasant surprise when their afternoon story was read by a pair of very familiar faces.

As the children settled down on the mat in readiness for storytime they were amazed to see the mums of two pupils walk in with books in their hands.

Mrs Carter, mum to Freya, read *The Smartest Giant in Town* while Mrs Delaney, mum to Amelia, read *Dinosaur Rumpus* to widespread approval from the delighted pupils.

Reception teacher Mrs Hampson said: **"We regularly invite parents and grandparents in to the school to read to the children and it's always a huge success."**



## ALL ABOARD FOR A TRIP TO THE CAPITAL

A group of 63 Year 6 pupils spent the weekend in London on a trip led by Headmaster Mr Wheeler.

The group enjoyed a guided tour of The Globe where they witnessed a lively demonstration of stage combat before taking a closer look at Buckingham Palace and Westminster. Their first day culminated with a pizza feast and a performance of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

The next day, pupils visited Wembley Stadium before spending a wonderful three hours at the Harry Potter Experience.



## PUPILS HAVE A ROCKING GOOD TIME

Treak Cliff Cavern was the venue for our junior geologists as they enjoyed a day exploring stalactites, stalagmites, minerals and fossils.

The cavern, which is located in the village of Castleton, is famous for its unique and large deposits of Blue John stone and houses some of the most beautiful cave formations found in the UK.

3H pupil Zahra Raja-Zahid said she was **"really surprised when our guide Tim showed us the stalactites and stalagmites"** whilst Jenson Wilkinson was in awe of what he was looking at as he said that it **"looked like there were sparkling crystals all around me"**. Aimee Dignan summed up the mood of the trip by concluding **"when it was time to leave I didn't want to!"**

## WARREN CLINCH MATHS CHALLENGE VICTORY

This year's Junior School Maths challenge was won by Warren House as they saw off the challenge of Arden (2nd), Vernon (3rd) and Nicholson (4th).

The competition, which was run by Senior School Maths teachers and took place in the Main Hall, tested the pupils' mathematical skills as they competed in fun rounds of quizzes.

There were also prizes for the winning team. Harry Brown, Bella Platt, Harley Haughton and Holly Smith were awarded BrainBox maths games and certificates to mark their achievement.



## QUARRY BANK FUN

Children from Year 1 spent an exciting day at Quarry Bank Mill where they boosted their study of materials, which they have been learning about in Science lessons.

The children enjoyed a tour of the mill and experienced what it would have been like to work there. They completed a textiles session where they used carders, a spinning wheel and even a shuttle. The children felt and described many materials and developed their weaving skills.



## CELEBRATING GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Reception pupils invited some special guests into school to help them with an exciting art project.

The children welcomed their grandparents who were tasked with rolling up their sleeves and getting their hands dirty to help produce an array of artwork.

Working together, the families made colourful paint handprints on canvas before decorating them with glitter and writing their names on to create a treasured keepsake as a memento of their special day.





## PLEASANTLY PUZZLED

The Happy Puzzle Company paid a visit to run their exciting Puzzle Challenge Day.

Each year group took turns to spend an hour in the Junior School's main hall where they were divided into teams and put to the test with a series of fun challenges.

Perilous Penguins was the favourite with its taxing challenge to keep all the penguins balanced at the same time on the iceberg.



## BUDDING ACTORS STAGE A DISNEY CLASSIC

Year 6 pupils wowed the crowds as they put on a number of excellent performances of *Beauty and the Beast*.

The adaptation of the Disney favourite saw boys and girls dress up as characters from the fairy-tale and deliver performances beyond their years.

Kate Horsley was the adventurous Belle whilst Xavier Porter played the tortured Beast. Sam Foster (acting) and Toby Witts (singing) delivered strong performances in a splendid

costume as candlestick Lumière whilst Joe Hughes also looked the part as clock Cogsworth. Charlie Harrison was the perfect combination of vain and villainy as the main adversary Gaston.

With a cast of over 80 pupils and backstage crew containing choreographers, costume designers and hair and make-up – the audience were swept away on a magical journey as they listened to well-known songs *Be Our Guest* and title track *Beauty and the Beast*.



## THE DAY THE CRAYONS QUIT

Pupils got creative as part of World Book Day as all the children, from Nursery to Year 6, worked with the same book, *The Day the Crayons Quit*.

Whilst studying the book, which was written by Drew Daywalt and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers, pupils wrote letters, made pencil cases for their crayons and drew pictures alongside a whole raft of other exciting activities.

The drawings were very colourful and the letters, which were written from the perspective of the crayons and addressed to such people as the CEO of Crayola or the President of the USA, were beautifully written and passionately delivered.

Pupils were able to show off their work in morning assemblies – one of which was "gate-crashed" by crayons going on strike. Mason Kitchen of 3H really enjoyed the day saying:

**"This is the best day of my life at this school."**

Pupils were able to build on their literary journey when they attended a visit from children's author Mac Barnett.

Mac, whose books *The Terrible Two* and *The Terrible Two Get Worse* are about child pranksters, let pupils in on his five point plan on *How to be a Prankster*.

## ALL SINGING, ALL DANCING

Educational theatre company Artful Playground encouraged pupils to explore their musical sides when they spent the day at the Junior School.

The group use music, dance and drama to help boost pupils' confidence and increase their social interaction skills.

Pupils in Year 1 explored different stories with accompaniment from an accordion, soprano saxophone and bass guitar.

## CELTIC CAPERS

Pupils brought the Celts to life as part of their Humanities lessons.

Having learnt all about Celts and Romans, Year 4 pupils daubed war paint on their faces and smeared gel on their hair before delivering speeches as the great warrior queen, Boudicca.

Bringing the Celts thoroughly into the modern age, the speeches were recorded on iPads for replaying to the rest of the class.

## LOVE FOR LITERATURE

Poetry was the order of the day for pupils across the Junior School – from Reception right up to Year 6.

A representative was chosen from each class to memorise and perform a poem in assembly before a winner was chosen from Infants, Lower Juniors and Upper Juniors by guest judge Mrs Lawson, who is Head of Lower School and an English teacher in the Senior School.

The Infant winner was Robbie Jack, who performed *A Pirate's Life*. Lauren Storey won the Lower Junior category with her tongue twister *Betty Botter Bought Some Butter* and Anna Wilkinson was crowned Upper Junior winner after performing *Precious Child*. They all received a book token.

Pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 also took part in a competition hosted by BBC Radio 2. They were tasked with writing a 500 word story.

From over 60 entries within the school, the school winners were Kate Horsley (Year 6), Alice Finnie (Year 5), Molly Parnell (Year 4) and Oliver Teehan (Year 3). The national winners will be announced later this year.

Molly made it through to the next round of the national competition – beating nearly 120,000 other writers in the process.

Her story will now be sent to the Reading Agency for another round of judging with the remaining entries being whittled down to a final 50.



## SPORTS ROUND UP

The Rugby team reached the Plate Final of the AJIS Rugby Tournament at Merchant Taylor's School after roaring through their group stage games.

The Year 6 Football team embarked on their annual tour of the North West where they played King's Chester and Westholme School in Blackburn before watching Bolton v Preston at the Macron Stadium.

The U10s Netball team competed in the AJIS Tournament at King's School, Macclesfield and made it all the way to the final.

At the Under 11 AJIS Netball Tournament at Bury, the Year 6 girls came second in the morning round, taking them through to the cup competition in the afternoon with a final position of sixth place.

Pupils are also enjoying their new Lacrosse club which gives children in Years 3 and 4 the opportunity to learn more about the game.

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 travelled to Avondale Leisure Centre to investigate high level sports performance at an event organised by Sky Living and the Youth Sport Trust.

World Champion in-line skater Jenna Downing hosted the event and inspired the children with a demonstration of her speed, tricks and skills.

The children took part in a series of activities focused on healthy eating, reaction and agility, mental toughness, hunger to achieve and people skills with each group led by an international sports person.

Congratulations to brothers Sam and Ben Lavender who are through to the National Final of the British Mountaineering Council's Youth Climbing Series.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL GENERATE POSITIVE IDEAS

Pupils were full of ideas at the latest School Council meeting as they made suggestions on how to improve the lunchtime dining experience, building modifications and the possible introduction of new sports and after school clubs.

Representatives from each class had spoken to their classmates to gather their thoughts.