

# TAKING STOCK /

Stockport Grammar  
School Newsletter



**Issue 61**  
Autumn 2015



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# CELEBRATING EXAM SUCCESSES

## GCSES

GCSE pupils opened their exam results to find that their hard work and commitment had brought plenty of success. A third of all grades were awarded at A\* and forty pupils gained at least ten A\* and A grades, including 14 who gained ten or more A\*s.



Georgia Burns, who gained 10 A\*s plus an A\* with Distinction in Further Maths was thrilled:

**"I worked my socks off... I was hoping for good grades, but I am in shock! I was immediately made to feel welcome here. There is a great atmosphere and I have made friends for life."**

Ben Hicks, with his 5 A\*s and 6 As (one of which was in Astronomy – a co-curricular subject) said:

**"I found the extra revision sessions in some of my subjects really helpful and I'm looking forward to Sixth Form life."**



## A LEVELS

The Upper Sixth achieved a 100% pass rate, with over 96% of results awarded at A\* to C and over 84% at A\* to B.

These excellent results see them heading for courses at the country's most competitive institutions.

Head Girl Liza Vul said:

**"I can't imagine how I'd have done this anywhere else. I've always had such useful feedback from my teachers who have encouraged me every step of the way."**

Headmaster Mr Chicken said:

**"Congratulations to our girls and boys, I am delighted that their hard work has brought them such success. With the support of their parents and teachers they have attained excellent results, while their outstanding contribution to wider school life has made them role models for younger pupils. I am sure that with talent and commitment their future will hold many exciting opportunities."**



Animit Kulkarni, who has gone on to read Chemical Engineering at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge University said:

**"My teachers have really supported me and pushed me to achieve my best."**



# PARENTS' SURVEY REVEALS

## HAPPY PARENTS AND PUPILS

Parents have given exceptionally high ratings to the Senior and Junior Schools in an independent survey carried out by RSAcademics. The most popular words chosen to describe the Senior School were: *'Academic, welcoming, rounded, supported'*.

An impressive 97% of parents rated the Senior School's academic results in the top two categories of very good and good, with 91% rating the quality of teaching at this level. 90% rated the provision of clubs, the extra-curricular programme and sporting opportunities as very good or good, as did 90% for the leadership of the school and its day-to-day running.

The Senior School received responses placing it in the top three out of 54 senior schools surveyed by RSAcademics for:

- the range of academic subjects on offer and the arrangements for homework
- provision of extra-curricular clubs and sports opportunities
- feedback on a child's progress, general communication of news and events and the approachability of staff
- site security, school's state of repair and appearance, the academic facilities and equipment and the quality of the food provided
- the administration and day-to-day running of the school and the way parents' specific concerns are handled

The Senior School also exceeded RSAcademics' benchmarks for a further 13 features of the school.

RS Academics noted that:

**"Parents are impressed with the school, feeling it delivers strong academic standards whilst providing support to pupils by caring staff. The extra-curricular opportunities on offer ensure pupils experience a balanced education."**



The survey results for the Junior School were also outstanding, with 93% of parents happy to recommend the school to others. Parents identified many high-performing features:

Providing a *'welcoming, family atmosphere'* together with the *'behaviour and manners of pupils'* and *'pupils' appearance'* which 90% or more of parents rated as *'very good'* or *'good'*.

Academic provision – the *'quality of teaching'*, *'teachers' ability to inspire your child'*, the *'range of academic subjects on offer'* and the *'teaching of literacy and numeracy skills'* were each given the top ratings by more than 88% of parents.

Communication and the relationship between parents and the school was also highly rated. For example, *'communication with the Class Teacher'* was highly regarded by 89% of parents as was the *'approachability of staff'* and *'general communication of news and events'* which was considered to be *'very good'* or *'good'* by 86% of parents.

RS Academics commented that:

**"Parents value Stockport Grammar Junior School for the friendly atmosphere and individual support that it provides to pupils, together with the balanced education, including academic provision, and high standards of behaviour. The communication with parents and the physical resources of the school are also highly regarded by parents."**

A selection of the comments reveals just how happy parents are with their children's education at Stockport Grammar School:

### SENIOR SCHOOL PARENTS

**"I can't say enough good things about SGS. I don't know if all independent schools are so good, but you have exceeded our expectations and justified our choice."**

**"Both of our children have really enjoyed being at Stockport Grammar and we look forward to many more happy years as proud parents."**

### JUNIOR SCHOOL PARENTS

**"I would have liked to have had the opportunity to go to SGJS when I was at school, my children love school, they love learning, their teachers and their friends."**

**"As our daughter is about to leave SGJS we would like to thank all the staff for their hard work, commitment and dedication in teaching her and helping her to become the confident, happy child that she is."**



# OUT AND ABOUT

## BOLIVIA AND PERU

Sixth Formers had the opportunity to undergo a 28 day expedition to Bolivia and Peru during the summer break with Outlook Expeditions. The 38 pupils and six staff spent the trip learning about the different cultures whilst taking in the breath-taking sights. Trekking through the Andes, helping a local community build a large greenhouse and sandboarding in the desert were one-off experiences contributing to the positive impact the trip had on the pupils.

A trip of this nature is a life changing experience which helps to prepare pupils for adult life. It is they who set the itinerary, they are given the opportunity to learn about other cultures, basic travel skills, independence, budgeting and a chance to push themselves to the limit.

Head of Life Studies, Mr Ehegartner said:

**"I am extremely proud of this group of individuals and they were a pleasure to work with."**

Chemistry teacher Mr Heyes, who led the trip said:

**"The expedition was a great success, from which both pupils and teachers gained a fantastic understanding of the countries. Pupils had to think on their feet from the moment we landed, and soon became very assertive and confident."**

Sixth Former Jordon Kong returned feeling inspired:

**"Spending a month travelling with a group gave me the unique chance to bond with friends. Being able to share our adventure with one-another made it more enjoyable and memorable. We played football with the local children and, despite not being able to communicate in their language, we connected through our shared passion. I now feel more confident to travel independently and I have developed my co-operative skills by working in a team throughout this trip."**



## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Almost seventy Second Year pupils stayed at Butharlyp Howe Youth Hostel in Grasmere for several days of adventure at the start of the summer holiday. The girls and boys sailed and kayaked on Derwentwater as well as ghyll scrambling in Stoneycroft Ghyll, where they experienced many waterfalls and slides. There was also climbing at Upper Shepherds' Crag in Borrowdale and several long walks with high ascents around the area. Despite the wet weather, a great time was had by all and everyone was keen to try the varied activities. Maths teacher Mr Cheslett was pleased with how well everyone managed:

**"For all the walks there was plenty of enthusiasm and everyone got stuck into the tougher bits such as the steep and rocky climbs."**

## VISITING THE HOME OF THE HADRON COLLIDER

Twenty Sixth Formers travelled on the annual trip to Geneva to visit CERN, home of the Large Hadron Collider. A member of the CERN community showed the group around, speaking also about their personal contribution to the research programme.

Head of Physics Mrs Fenton is always impressed by the visit:

**"The scale of the science and technology at CERN is simply awe-inspiring. Pupils were able to understand the history of particle accelerators and gain an appreciation of the technical and engineering challenges that the multinational experimental collaborations at CERN face now and in the future."**

The group also enjoyed a fascinating guided tour of the UN building.





## ARTISTS ON ANGLESEY

At the end of the Summer Term, after the completion of their AS exams, Lower Sixth artists visited Anglesey for a three day residential trip.

The students were based at Trearddur Bay on the west coast of the island, where they were able to sit on the beach and sketch the inspirational landscape.

The great weather gave them plenty of opportunity to work outside and take advantage of the long summer evenings.

Mr Davies and Dr Kampelmann accompanied the group and commented that the opportunity to work within the landscape will prove invaluable as their course continues. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip and were able to source materials that will be used in the development of their work this year.



## SUMMER IN PARIS

At the start of the summer holidays, 29 Fourth Year pupils set off to Paris with the aim of improving their language skills, while broadening their cultural appreciation. Pupils stayed in a group of two or three with French families, all of whom commented on how polite and enthusiastic their guests had been and, on two mornings, attended lessons at a local lycée.



The rest of the time was spent visiting famous historical attractions, including the Eiffel Tower, Sacré Cœur, the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame and the Catacombes, although the highlight for many was undoubtedly the day spent at Disneyland Paris. Pupils returned with a renewed confidence in their ability to communicate in French and to put into practice the material covered in class.

## PERFORMING IN ST MARK'S

At the end of the Summer Term, 64 pupils and 8 staff spent an amazing week performing and enjoying excursions in the beautiful location of Lake Garda, Italy.

The week was action packed but centred around five concerts - three in churches and two outdoors. Each venue was magnificent but perhaps the most stunning and memorable was the performance in St Mark's Cathedral in Venice as part of the daily Mass. Trips included a cable car ride to the top of Monte Baldo in Malcesine, a boat trip on Lake Garda and a very enjoyable day at a waterpark. The pupils were a great credit to the school and staff were very proud of them.

Fifth Year pupil Sarah Stretton remembers:

**"Performing in St Mark's was really special – something I will never forget."**



## GOING FOR GOLD

Twenty six pupils headed to the Lake District to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition during the summer break. Split into four groups, they spent four days camping and hiking in Borrowdale and the Conistone area.

The Lower Sixth Formers were self-sufficient for the duration of the expedition, planning their own routes and organising their campsites. Mr Pownall, D of E Co-ordinator was pleased that they all rose to the challenge presented by difficult walking conditions due to the heavy rainfall each night.



Ben Slater enjoyed the experience:

**"Camping with my team mates is an experience that will last with me forever. I never thought I could enjoy the outdoors so much, especially when it rains the majority of the time. By having your friends with you, you are able to overcome almost anything."**

## VIVA ESPAÑA!

Fourth Year pupils studying Spanish enjoyed an evening of tapas at Manchester's La Viña restaurant. Celebrating the completion of the first year of their GCSE Spanish course, they successfully put their 'food and drink' knowledge to the test. Mrs Christmann was pleased that the pupils were able to hold a conversation with the Spanish waiters. The Lower Sixth also enjoyed a farewell meal with teacher Miss Reynolds at El Rincón.

Miss Reynolds told us:

**"I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching the Lower Sixths. They have all improved immensely. I am really proud of what they are capable of doing now."**





# GOOD SPORTS



## SPORTS DAYS

### Junior Athletes

The morning session started with Years 5 and 6 completing six stations of running, jumping and other athletic activities. The pupils took part in some tough challenges but thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The morning came to a climax with the relay event and some very close scores between all the Houses.

Years 3 and 4 had an equally enjoyable afternoon of events. After competing in hurdles, 150m sprint, ball throwing, long jump, 600 or 400m races and target throwing the children were understandably tired but satisfied that they had all done their absolute best.

Congratulations to Arden House who came first from all points won in the Infant and Junior events. Thank you to the SPA who once again provided delicious refreshments for both events.

### Senior Sports Stars

Everyone put in their greatest efforts in spite of the heat as the morning started with athletic field events. High jump, long jump, javelin and shot put appeared to be the most popular events with a large crowd of pupils gathering around the events to cheer on their peers. The afternoon included track events such as the 1500m and 100m races. The pupils took part in some very challenging events but with the support of their friends, they achieved fantastic results.

Congratulations to Vernon House who were the winners of the Athletics Challenge Bowl. They were also the proud winners of the T.J.Anderson Trophy for the most Athletics Standards points.

## MORE MEDALS FOR MADDIE

After winning four silvers and a bronze for Team GB at the Four Nations International meet, Maddie Crompton went on to compete in the Baku European Championship Games where she took home even more medals: A silver in the mixed 4x100m freestyle relay and two bronze medals in the women's 4x100m freestyle relay. Maddie is proud of her continued success in swimming for her country:

**"I really enjoy the competitions and meeting up with my friends."**



## DANCE SHOWCASE

In an evening dedicated to celebrating the talent of young dancers from Stockport's secondary schools and colleges, Stockport Grammar was chosen to perform two dance routines at the Showcase of Dance at The Plaza.

Having studied Matthew Bourne's famous interpretation of Swan Lake, the Third Years worked with Dance teacher Mrs Downing, learning motifs from Bourne's choreography and creating sequences of their own to reflect his style.

Dancers from First Year through to Sixth Form then choreographed and performed a lively tap routine to Gershwin's *I Got Rhythm*. The evening was a fantastic showcase for our talented, dedicated and enthusiastic dancers.



## PLAYING FOR ENGLAND

Sixth Former Lily Wolstenholme, who plays hockey for National Champions SGS's First XI also played for England U16s during the last school year. Over the summer Lily was selected to represent her country twice – first against Belgium, winning the series, and then in the Six Nations Tournament in Bremen, where the standard of hockey being played was so high that Lily described it as the **"highlight of my international career so far."**

Lily is patiently waiting to see if she makes selection for the U17s and is spending this year attending training camps and trials in preparation. Lily tells us:

**"It is such a great experience and an honour to play for England."**

# THE ARTS

## SIXTH FORM SWANSONG

Musicians from the Upper Sixth performed for a final time at the Leavers' Concert, which came just one week after a Summer Concert that brought together musicians from across the Senior School.

Concert Band performed *Happy* by Pharrell Williams and three movements from Mussorgsky's *Pictures at An Exhibition* to open the event, before the Sixth Form girls, Junior Percussion Group and Big Band performed up to the interval.

The Leavers' Ensemble closed their concert with an imaginative medley arranged by Ben Carthy and Eilidh Pollard. As well as *Uptown Funk* by Bruno Mars, the finale featured *Get "Dow" on It* as a tribute to Director of Music Mr Dow and a clever reworking of Eric Clapton's *Layla* dedicated to Music teacher Mrs Taylor.



The Flute Ensemble, Wind Orchestra's *Where No Man Has Gone Before* and Senior Percussion Group's drum rendition of *Africa* also featured as the curtain came down on another magnificent musical year.

## ARTIST WINS NATIONAL COMPETITION

Fourth Year artist Nancy Davis is the national winner of the Sunrise Portrait Competition.

In conjunction with Care England's art themed National Care Home Open Day, 27 Sunrise communities across England held an art competition. SGS was chosen to represent the Sunrise Care Home in Bramhall and submitted many high quality entries from the pupils. Nancy's portrait of her grandmother was chosen as the winning entry from a large number of submissions from across the country.

The talented artist visited the care home to view the exhibition where Sunrise's Director of Communications, Dawn Williams, said:

**"The artwork was absolutely fantastic, you would think they were all professional artists."**



## ART ON SHOW

Artists studying at GCSE and A-level had their work proudly displayed at the annual exhibition which marks the culmination of a period of sustained study for our pupils at GCSE, AS and A2 level.

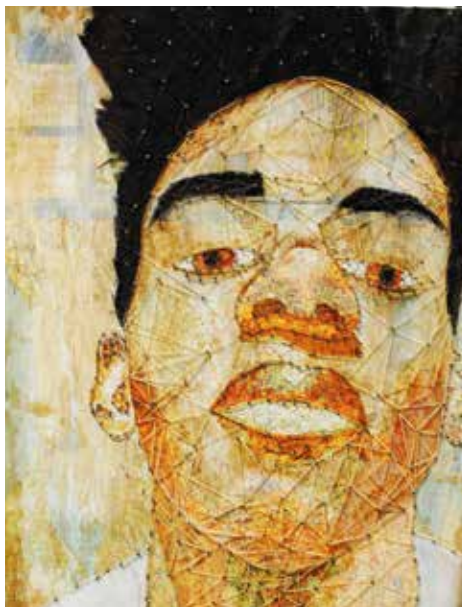
Speaking at the opening night, Head of Art, Design and Technology Mr Davies spoke about the work the pupils had produced:

**"At the core of this exhibition is evidence of the ability to record accurately observations in visual form – in other words, drawing. And it is drawing that is at the root of all we do."**

GCSE work



A Level work



## A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC

This year's annual Music Festival once again showcased the school's very best instrumentalists and vocalists during a wonderful day of entertainment.



Musicians from the First Year to Sixth Form played a competitive series of recitals and short pieces of music to an enthusiastic audience of fellow pupils. The very best were chosen to perform again in the evening in front of a Hallam Hall packed with parents, pupils, staff and Governors.

Prizes were awarded for performances in individual musical families and instruments.



# SCHOOL LIFE

## BUDDING CHEFS

Lucy Snell in the Second Year was named Stockport Grammar Masterchef 2015 by guest judges from the Grill on the Edge, who praised her food for its great flavour and presentation.

In the annual competition, Lucy cooked a starter of piedmont roasted peppers followed by her main course of baked fish with a chorizo crust, lightly roasted new potatoes and asparagus wrapped in ham.

The six finalists had just one hour to cook their two-course meal while

the judges and 2014 winner Chris Corcoran kept a close eye on their preparation skills. As well as her trophy, Lucy took home a £100 voucher for the Grill on the Edge.

Second place went to Asha Mistry for her Gujarati-style prawn curry served with lemon rice and salad followed by an individual lemon meringue pie.

Isabella Elms took third place for a garlic and avocado tagliatelle followed by Moroccan spring lamb with coconut rice.



## MATHS CHALLENGERS

The annual Year 5 Maths Challenge welcomed 41 teams from local primary schools over the course of the day, for a competition bursting with fun maths activities organised by Mr Cheslett.

The Maths department were highly impressed with the standard of maths and with the children's enthusiasm for the subject. All teams achieved brilliantly and did their schools proud, with Prestbury C of E Primary School taking first prize in the morning and Springfield Primary School in the afternoon.

SGS Senior Deputy Head Mr Howson pictured above with Prestbury C of E Primary School

## MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Twenty pupils attended the latest Model United Nations Conference which was designed for inexperienced debaters and gave them the opportunity to familiarise themselves with MUN debating. With most of our participants being first time debaters, they still managed to enjoy themselves and get involved.

SGS represented Brazil, Iraq and Venezuela discussing issues such as the Right to Arms, The Rights of Indigenous People, Automated Warfare, Cyber Terrorism and Universal Education.

Awards received on the day included:  
**Murray Jallands** – Outstanding Delegate

**Georgie Blears** – Commended  
**James Pickup** – Commended  
**Muhammad Ali** – Commended  
**Jamie Carson** – Commended

Delegates also won the joint committees for Iraq in Political and CyberSci and Disarmament and the Middle East.

Well done to all those pupils who competed.

## GERMAN DEBATING

In a competition adjudicated by Lower Sixth Formers studying German, Fourth Year German linguists debated the advantages and disadvantages of a school uniform, a longer school day and holidays abroad, showing impressive linguistic and debating skills. Alex Grant and Noa van de Riet's team fared best in their heat, going through to the final, where they met the winners of the other group stage, Sam Howard and Bethany Carter. With just ten minutes to prepare an unseen title, both teams gave an outstanding performance and debated convincingly, but Alex and Noa lost narrowly to Sam and Beth.

Sixth Form adjudicator Natasha Lodhi, who won the debate when she was in Fourth Year, commented afterwards:

**"I was very impressed by the confidence and spontaneity of the contestants. It was amazing to see how they could think on their feet in German. Not only did they use good German phrases but they were also witty, which is difficult in a foreign language."**







## FRIENDS REUNITED

Over 200 Old Stops along with current and former staff attended this year's Retirements & Summer Reunion barbecue.

The event marked a 10 year reunion for the Class of 2005, welcomed those marking 30 years since the Class of 1992 joined the school, and gave an opportunity for guests to say goodbye to members of staff set to retire at the end of the school year, including: Classics teacher Mr Bird, Psychology teacher Mrs Braude, Chemistry technician Mrs Lowe, Head of Geography Mr Howarth, Assistant Head Mr Wallington, and longest serving member of staff, Geography teacher Mr Martin. The event welcomed Old Stops and former staff from all generations as far back as 1945. Guests enjoyed fantastic weather and the opportunity to explore the impressive new facilities which have been added to the campus since they left.

## BBC PRESENTER INSPIRES PRIZE WINNERS

Special guest, BBC Breakfast presenter Louise Minchin joined pupils, staff and Governors at The Plaza for the annual SGS Speech Day ceremony.

Louise told the audience that her training to represent Team GB in the triathlon and her high profile career had taught her that:

**"If you put in the work and the extra hours you will achieve much."**

After congratulating the pupils who had taken part in this year's BBC School Report, Louise encouraged the girls and boys to try everything at school. Pupils were delighted to receive their prizes from Louise.

Big Band demonstrated their exceptional musical abilities with two pieces, *Just the Way you Are* and *Here Comes the Sun*.

Speeches by Headmaster Andrew Chicken and Chairman of Governors Christopher Dunn reflected on the school year and the OSA President David Garrett proposed a vote of thanks.



## TIME FOR TEE

Golfers enjoyed a day of sport and fundraising at Stockport Golf Club in aid of the school's Bursary Fund, supported by main sponsor the Vernon Building Society.

A friendly but competitive spirit prevailed as 18 teams took to the course for the annual event. The weather remained favourable giving the players the best opportunity to enjoy their round at Cheshire's premier venue for county golf events and championships.

The eagerly anticipated results were announced at the evening dinner – congratulations to SAS Daniels who were the overall winners of the team event.

Over £6,000 was raised on the day for the Bursary Fund, which provides assistance so that able local children whose families cannot afford the fees can benefit from the education Stockport Grammar offers.



## CANOE DONATIONS

Kayakers in our canoe club have four brand new boats thanks to the generosity of the Stopfordian Parents' Association (SPA).

First Year canoeist Sam Curwen was one of the first to use them in the school swimming pool and he is really pleased with the new kayaks:

**"It's great to have these new boats, they are so much more responsive than the old ones!"**



# JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

## AUTHORS REVEAL TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Towards the end of the Summer Term, three authors visited the Junior School, giving fantastic insights into their lives and what it takes to be a writer.

Author of the *Compton Valance* book series and TV presenter, Matt Brown spoke about his love of writing and his interest in time travel, films and television. He told the children how he had been inspired by books including *Stig of the Dump*, *Tom's Midnight Garden*, *Christmas Carol* and the film *Back to the Future*. He continued by reading extracts from his book and showing the pupils a photograph of his 10 year old self with a trendy backwards bowl haircut which the children found fascinating and hilarious! He then signed books and allowed the pupils to ask plenty of questions.



Author Joseph Delaney visited to speak about his popular book series *The Spooks*. First he told the girls and boys about his upbringing and previous working experience. He explained how he would get up before work to sit and write. During his presentation he also spoke in depth about *The Seventh Son*, the film adaptation of his first two books. The author revealed his inspiration behind the books and gave invaluable advice to anyone wishing to become a writer:

**"Write down every idea you have, even the ones you think are really silly. You may only use one out of 100 but you'll never know which one it will be."**

The author of the *Spacejackers* series, Huw Powell also spoke to Years 5 and 6 about his action-packed tales of space pirates. Throughout the presentation he interacted with the children, asking them about their favourite books and what they thought made a good story. He signed books for the children and gave them the chance to ask him questions. The pupils all left excited about what they wanted to read next.

## FAREWELL TO YEAR SIX

Year 6 had a wonderful time performing in front of the Junior School in their Leavers' Assembly. Mr Johnson, Mr Taylor and Miss Baker joined in the fun, performing a comedic scene dressed in school uniform.

The children had worked together to develop and create their own ideas. The acts were entertaining and well prepared, ranging from dance routines and guitar solos to acrobatics – a perfect way for them to round off their time in the Junior School.



## TALENTED MUSICIANS

Musicians put in some fantastic performances earning them second place in their category at the Alderley Edge Festival. The girls and boys played the theme from *Titanic*, extracts from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker Suite* and a ragtime piece for the prestigious competition's adjudicator. Pupils were highly commended for their professional behaviour and discipline, competent playing and musically interesting performances.

Some of the performers also took part in the SGS Junior School House Competition, judged by Senior School Director of Music Mr Michael Dow.

## OPEN AIR TWELFTH NIGHT

After studying the text during the Spring Term, Year 5 pupils had just five hours of rehearsal time for their outdoor production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Drama teacher Mrs Sullivan said:

**"The children were amazing! It was very much a case of just getting on with it! I can't wait to work with them next year as they really did come up trumps."**

On the evening of the performance, they were blessed with great weather which allowed the parents to enjoy a glass of prosecco whilst listening to Elizabethan music, before settling down to watch the performance.





# TOP SPORTS AWARDS

An incredible few months of sporting success saw pupils scoop the top awards at AJIS and IAPS athletics, cricket and tennis tournaments.

## STAR ATHLETES

The athletics team took part in the Association of Junior Independent Schools (AJIS) athletics championships at Robin Park in Wigan. The event saw some incredible wins and personal successes amongst our Year 5 and 6 pupils including:

- Rocky Hinton broke the AJIS U11 High Jump record with a distance of 1.27m
- Annabel Mobley won the 80m sprint final
- Daisy Keigher won the 600m sprint
- George Elvin brought home the silver medal for the U11 150m sprint
- The U10 girls' relay team (Amy Jack, Annabel Mobley, Jenna Kenyon, Libby Bowden) were awarded bronze position
- Amy Jack won 3rd place in the U10s 600m sprint

Mrs Nichols commented:

**"It was a fantastic experience of competition at the highest level for our juniors and the children from SGJS represented us very well."**



## ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

From the circus tent to fairground rides and traditional side stalls, the Stopfordian Parents' Association Summer Fair provided an afternoon of laughter and fun.

Happy children buzzed from the circus shows to the miniature train, onto the traditional swings, down the bouncy slide and off to have a go at circus skills, wellie throwing, face painting and much more.



Delicious cakes, candy floss, ice creams and a tasty barbecue were amongst the treats on offer for the busy crowd of parents and children.

Thank you to the SPA committee, the many helpers and hundreds of children, parents and grandparents who came together to create and support such a fantastic day for the whole school community.



## CRICKET CHAMPIONS

The Year 4 cricket team were crowned champions of the IAPS U9s kwik cricket festival after beating St. Ambrose School in the final at Bowdon Cricket Club.

The team beat Altrincham Prep School's A and B teams and Runnymede in their three group games before meeting St. Ambrose in the final. With St. Ambrose only needing 9 to win off 6 deliveries, Dominic Hanson bowled a great over to take two wickets and conceded only one run.

## AND SEMI-FINALISTS

Congratulations to the A and B cricket teams who both reached the semi-finals of the IAPS U11 cricket tournament hosted on home turf. The A team won their semi-final and faced a strong Altrincham Prep School A team. They kept Altrincham's big hitters to 32 runs but on this occasion Altrincham's bowling attack proved too much.

## MATCHPOINT

Year 6 pupil Mason Dace was crowned champion of the AJIS boys' tennis tournament, with fellow pupil Charlie Clarke taking second place.

The tournament was held at King's School in Chester with 18 boys from nine independent schools taking part. Mason and Charlie both won their semi-finals after winning all their matches comfortably and went on to play each other in the final!

As good friends, the boys played their best and represented SGS with enthusiasm with Mason winning 6-1 in what was a final of excellent tennis.

## STOCKLEY FARM

The children in the Nursery thoroughly enjoyed their day out at Stockley Farm where they began the day with a tractor and trailer ride to the animal sheds to see a variety of animals. The girls and boys were particularly excited about visiting pets' corner where they got the chance to hold baby rabbits and stroke the animals although perhaps the highlight of the day was bottle feeding the lambs and goats.

They also watched the birds of prey display, the cows being milked and learnt lots about the animals and the workings of a farm.







## CLIMBING IN THE PEAKS

Adventurers from the Year 4 Climbing Club visited Windgather Rocks in the Peak District where they were able to put their skills learnt on the school climbing wall into practice outside. During the day, pupils were also taught more about the use of equipment and different mountaineering conditions.

Climbing instructor Mr Pinder showed the pupils some technical climbs which they negotiated with confidence. It was a real test of strength, stamina and self-belief to tackle some challenging rocky surfaces. Everyone enjoyed the stunning natural surroundings and returned after a great day very tired but proud of their achievements!

Pupil Alice Finnie said:

**"It was amazing... a great experience and I recommend everyone to have a go!"**

## MUMS AND DADS GET CREATIVE

Year 2 parents went back to school to work with their children in the art studio, taking part in three different activities.

Linking with the pupils' Geography lessons looking at features of the local area, the children studied photographs of their homes and used a variety of utensils to make clay houses.

They also worked on some weaving projects, as well as creating collages of dragons following on from their work on St George's Day.



## DERBYSHIRE DAYS

Castleton became the temporary home for the Year 6 children when they visited the Derbyshire Dales for three days of outdoor activities.

Based at Losehill Hall, the children made the most of the weather and the youth hostel's team-building and puzzle-solving exercises. The nearby village was also perfect for walks in the evening sunshine and a GPS map-reading challenge. Slightly further afield, whittling sticks, starting fires and building dens in the woods was a highlight for pupils and teachers alike. The children were also joined for a talk by Nick Shepherd and Dolly the rescue dog from Kinder mountain rescue team. They were fascinated by the tales of difficult and dangerous rescues as well as the demonstrations of how dogs do their amazing work in the local mountains.



## BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

Year 5 historians made-do-and-mended on the annual World War Two Day, which saw the girls and boys come to school in 1940s costume and learn about what life would have been like for a Second World War evacuee. After learning first aid with Mr "Major Eyes-Water" Johnson and doll-making with Mrs Karen "Pinkerton-Smythe" Wells, the children cooked with rations in Mrs Alison "Peggie Washing-Out" Sullivan's wartime kitchen. Her vegetable pie, corned beef hash and sugar butties proved to be good sustenance ahead of a sing-song in the air-raid shelter.

After hearing the news that war was over, the children returned safely to their history lessons where their experiences from the day will help them further their understanding of the war.

## HEROES RAISE MONEY

Superheroes in the Junior School raised nearly £500 on Key 103's Cash for Kids day for Stockport's Beechwood Cancer Care Centre.



The children (and their teachers!) all made a small donation so that they could come to school dressed as their favourite comic book characters.

Year 3 pupil Jenson Wilkinson said:

**"It was fun to dress up and play with other superheroes. It was good to help the Key 103 charity."**

