



Taking Stock

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

JUNIOR MAYOR FOR THE DAY

Last term three Senior School pupils experienced life at the heart of local democracy when they were crowned Junior Mayors for the day. Barney Moorhouse, Liza Vul and Elizabeth Worthington won the 'Junior Mayor for the Day' competition with their responses to the question "If I were Junior Mayor for the day I would make Stockport greener, cleaner and safer by..."

On the day, Barney, Liza and Elizabeth were presented with their Mayoral chains and collected from school in the Mayor's chauffeur-driven Jaguar. Their first stop of the day was to the Mayor's chosen charity, The Furniture Station, where they presented a donation that had been raised by the competition.

Their next stop was the TA Centre where they took part in a Crucial Crew event involving the emergency services. After lunch in the Mayor's Dining Room, the Junior Mayors rounded off their day with a tour of the Town Hall where they were presented with gifts and certificates in the Mayor's Parlour.



MIKADO



In March Year 6 pupils in the Junior School put on their biggest theatrical challenge ever, Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. Set in Japan, *The Mikado* tells the story of Nanki-Poo, son of the Mikado and heir to the throne of Japan, Ko-Ko, a cheap tailor who has been appointed Lord High Executioner, and Yum-Yum, the love interest of both Nanki-Poo and Ko-Ko.

Dressed in traditional Japanese clothes, pupils wowed audiences with famous songs such as *Three Little Maids* and *Willow, Tit-Willow*. All of the lead performers gave outstanding performances, with Matthew Taylor (Y6M), Simon Fraser (Y6T) and Ella Burton (Y6T) shining in their roles of Ko-Ko, Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum. The chorus and dancers also excelled.



OLYMPIAN VISITS NEW CANOE CLUB

Not only have SGJS pupils got an exciting new Canoe Club on offer, but at their second session they were visited by two times Olympian Lucy Wainwright. Lucy, who came seventh in flat-water canoeing at the Beijing Olympic Games, passed on her expertise and took part in a game of canoe polo. Charlie Ellis (Y6H) said: "I enjoyed it. It was good to have Lucy there to give us tips and see how it's really done. She helped us to improve our forward paddling."



Moscow and St. Petersburg were the destinations for 35 History pupils from the Third Year to the Upper Sixth. On their guided tour of Moscow they visited the Kremlin, the Moscow Underground, Red Square and the Armoury Museum. Pupils then took an overnight train journey to St. Petersburg where they visited the Winter Palace, Hermitage Museum, Aurora Cruiser and the Peter and Paul Fortress where the Tsars are buried.

HISTORY TRIP TO RUSSIA



MUN CONFERENCE

The recent Model United Nations Conference held in Genoa, Italy was attended by twenty SGS pupils. Representing Italy, Switzerland, Japan, Germany, Cyprus and Serbia, pupils spent the four night trip discussing topics such as linguistic diversity, the impact of global warming on the Mediterranean, Turkey's entry into the EU, nuclear disarmament and sustainable tourism. At the conference SGS won three out of the five 'Best Delegate' awards, which went to Lower Sixth pupil Martin Kent (Switzerland, Disarmament), Lower Sixth pupil Charlotte Lennon (Japan, Economic Committee) and Upper Sixth pupil James Toole (Italy, Security Council).

PUPILS IMPRESS AT FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Edward Greaves, Karol Jaworski, Arran Mackay, Jamie Simpson and Kim St Clair recently represented SGS at the Public Schools' Fencing Championships in Nottingham. All five showed tremendous sportsmanship throughout the competition and performed outstandingly. It is expected that when the positions are announced SGS will once again have improved their ranking.



EXHIBITION AT THE LOWRY ART GALLERY

Three of SGS's most talented artists had their work exhibited at the Lowry Art Gallery, as part of the annual Living Edge Art Competition. Simon Howard (1P), Laura Potter (5M) and Jenny McLoughlin (U9) were selected to represent SGS in the three age ranges. Among strong competition both Matthew and Jenny were awarded highly commended/runner-up certificates, presented to them by noted artist Geoffrey Key.



SPRING ROLLS, MARTIAL ARTS AND A CHINESE DRAGON – IT’S ALL IN A WEEK’S WORK AT SGS

Following on from last year’s successful Moon Week, the theme for this year’s National Book Day was China.

To celebrate, pupils had the opportunity to take part in martial arts sessions, calligraphy lessons and Chinese language taster sessions, organised by the library in collaboration with the Confucius Institute at The University of Manchester.

The theme also ran through into lessons, with pupils looking at magic squares in Maths and taking part in quizzes about China. In the library, a whole host of different books about China were on display, along with a Chinese dragon and examples of traditional Chinese dress. Not to be left out, the school dining room joined in by serving Chinese food which pupils ate using chopsticks.



PUPILS PUT TO THE TEST ON A SNOWY KINDER SCOUT



Kinder Scout in the Dark Peak was the location for a Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver navigation training day. Pupils spent the morning completing a compass bearing task, where in parts the snow reached

up to their waists. After lunch, pupils climbed the vertical face of Kinder, before deciding that there was only one way back down – to sledge it! Once at the bottom, pupils took a moment to catch their breath and marvel at Mermaid’s Pool.

SPA UPDATE

The SPA have had a busy year of fundraising including the Christmas Fair, Christmas Raffle, Quiz Night and Easter Bag decorating. As a result they have been able to purchase additional equipment to benefit pupils taking part in a variety of activities from music and the performing arts to sport and outdoor pursuits. They have also donated £2,000 to the Stopfordian Trust, and £685 was raised for Comic Relief through the sale of joke books put together by pupils in the Junior School.



RUGBY ROUND-UP

Last term brought to an end a very successful season for SGS rugby. The U13, U16 and U18 teams travelled to the world’s biggest rugby tournament, the National Schools Sevens Tournament at Rosslyn Park. The U18 team performed superbly, progressing to the last 16 in the country before unfortunately losing to Henley College.



The U18 team ended the season with a trip to the Youth Rugby Festival in Portugal. Enjoying the warm weather and excellent playing facilities, the squad again performed impressively finishing fourth overall, after losing to Bath RFC in the semi finals.

The U12 team have also had a very successful season, losing only one game all season. All of the Junior sides had a good season so the future is bright for SGS rugby.

SKIING IN TONALE

Sixty Senior School pupils and seven members of staff enjoyed some of the best snow conditions for years on their ski trip to Tonale, Italy. Pupils ranged from beginners to advanced and enjoyed the expertise of instructors for five hours a day. Evenings were just as fun filled, with activities including karaoke, ice skating, bingo and even watching the Manchester United match with an Italian commentary!



SPANISH PLAY TESTS PUPILS' SKILLS

Last term SGS played host to five local schools who visited to enjoy a production of "Bienvenidos a Barcelona" (Welcome to Barcelona). The play was created and performed by the London Production Company for pupils studying Spanish in school. Featuring a variety of interesting characters, the play told the story of a surprise visit to Barcelona, using audience participation to test the Spanish skills of members of the audience.

VISIT TO SEVILLA



The end of the Spring Term saw 15 pupils heading off to Sevilla for a busy five day Spanish trip. On their first day they visited

Sevilla's most famous attractions, including the cathedral, Casa de Pilatos and Alcazar. After a guided tour of a flamenco museum, pupils finished their day enjoying traditional Spanish tapas and watching a flamenco show. The next stop was Cadiz, where a guide showed the group the town's attractions and the celebrations for 200 years of Spanish independence. After a visit to a local school to participate in an English lesson, time was also found for a trip to the cinema to watch a film in Spanish and to enjoy a typical Spanish snack of churros and hot chocolate.

PUPILS DRESS UP FOR CHARITY WEEK

During Charity Week pupils in the Junior School raised over £700 for Stepping Hill Hospital. The money raised will go towards purchasing a special bed for elderly patients.



Pupils took part in a variety of activities to raise the money. They started the week off with a game of 'Who wants to be a mathonaire?' hosted by Year 6 teacher Mr Taylor. Next boys and girls in the Nursery dressed up as their favourite character for the Character Ball, while Year 6 pupils took part in the annual Black and White assembly. Later in the week other activities included a cake sale and a toy tombola. The week ended with a Prince and Princesses' ball for Reception Class pupils.

Carrying on with their charity work, pupils also presented cheques to Kidney Research UK and Barnardo's for money raised through a bounce-a-thon and selling wrapping paper.



SENIOR SCHOOL MASTERCHEF



As Taking Stock went to print things were hotting up in the Masterchef 2009 competition, which is open to all Lower and Middle School pupils. After an initial food identification and tasting session, and submission of their chosen two course meal, pupils were selected to go through to the semi final cook-offs, where they cooked up

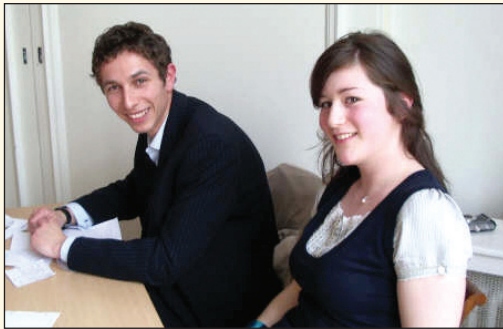
delicious treats such as pan seared scallops with broccoli and spring salmon. The final of the competition will be judged by Head Chef Laurence Tottingham and General Manager Chris Buckley from Heathcotes London Road Restaurant in Alderley Edge. The winner will have a meal at the restaurant with their family and their winning recipe will be displayed on the specials board.

YEAR 5 STEP BACK IN TIME

Last term Year 5 pupils found themselves travelling back in time to the 19th century for a unique day of activities to round off their latest History topic on the Victorians. Wearing traditional Victorian dress, boys and girls were seated in separate rows, referred to only by their surnames and had their exercise books and whiteboards swapped for lead, slate and chalk. After a morning of lessons in arithmetic, handwriting and singing, pupils ate their lunch in silence before playing with hoops and marbles in the courtyard. The afternoon was spent singing Victorian songs and taking part in a Victorian games lesson.



Pictures: Stockport Express



SUCCESS AT FRENCH DEBATING COMPETITION

Upper Sixth pupils Caroline Tanner and Mark Tomlinson took part in a French Debating Competition held at Sevenoaks School in London. Caroline and Mark had to debate in French on topics such as surrogate mothers and the freedom of the press. Both Caroline and Mark spoke confidently and fluently, reaching the finals where they beat Wycombe Abbey School but narrowly lost out to Sevenoaks. However, they still managed to secure SGS's place amongst the top six schools in the country.

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTING TRIUMPHS



Last term saw both hockey and cross country successes for SGJS. The hockey team were victorious at the Yazoo Mini Hockey Championships, beating Cheadle Hulme School 1-0 to be awarded the trophy as Cheshire Mini Hockey Champions. At the TSB cross country League SGJS girls came an impressive 1st and 3rd in the team event and Year 6 pupil Ellen McPherson was the overall winner in the individual event.

PUPILS GET ACTIVE AT ROBINWOOD



Junior School pupils started last term with a visit to Robinwood Activity Centre in Alston, Cumbria. They packed in fifteen activities in total, including some new high wire ones. Hashim Munir (Y5P) said: "My biggest challenge was the Giant Swing because on the first swing I thought I was going to hit the tree!"

CLASSICS HIGHLIGHTS



It was a busy Spring term for the Classics Department. Firstly, they welcomed eight secondary schools to enjoy a Greek Tragedy Day. Guest speakers from Leeds University, Liverpool University, Manchester University and SGS's own Head of Classics Mr Thorley spoke on topics such as 'Women in Greek Tragedy', 'Staging Greek Tragedy' and 'Gods in Tragedy'.

Next was the long awaited production of *Hippolytus*. The Greek tragedy, a 'story of unrequited love, unconquerable passion and unrestrained anger' enthralled audiences over three nights, with Peter Fendall performing well in the lead role of Hippolytus.

Finally they played host to 140 pupils, from 14 schools, for the Latin and Greek Reading Competition, in association with the Manchester Classical Association. Pupils taking part were judged by representatives from Manchester University and Liverpool University. Upper Sixth pupil Jake Barlow achieved second place and was highly commended.

MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS



During the February half term break the Music Department played host to the 2009 Stockport Wind, Brass and Percussion Day, welcoming over 140 young musicians from across the region. The day was held in association with the Stockport Music Service, Hallé Education and the British Association of Symphonic Bands and Wind Ensembles.

During March a similar Strings Workshop conducted by Ewa Strusinska, Assistant Conductor of the Hallé orchestra, was held at SGS. March also saw the Chamber Choir appear on the BBC Radio 4 LW Daily Service for the second time this school year.

In April the school welcomed the Manchester Chorale, who joined with the SGS Chorus in a magnificent performance of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* (pupils rehearsing pictured left). This year also saw a new addition to the regular programme of concerts; an Evening of Solo & Chamber Music. This featured a superb range of music, including a movement from Brahms' *Horn Trio*.

PUPILS PUT THEIR GERMAN TO THE TEST



On their recent German exchange trip pupils spent a day experiencing life at a German School. They practised their German out and about with their exchange partners, heading off to Berlin, the North Frisian Island and Schwerin. Pupils also managed to squeeze in a treasure hunt in Lübeck and a shopping trip to Hamburg.

TATE TRIP PROVIDES INSPIRATION



Fifth Year Art pupils enjoyed a day out at Liverpool's Albert Dock to provide them with inspiration for their GCSE work. After spending the morning gathering visual information from the diverse range of works on display at the Tate Liverpool gallery, pupils spent the afternoon drawing around the dock.

STAFF SHOW PUPILS HOW IT'S DONE

Last term Food Technology welcomed Mrs Turner from the German Department to present the first of many food awareness demonstrations by SGS staff. Titled 'A lot of garlic', Mrs Turner's demonstration showed an audience of peckish pupils how to cook a delicious roasted garlic, thyme and mascarpone risotto. Other demonstrations included Dr Metivier's 'Tales of a humble meatball', Mrs Perkin's 'Dessert Heaven' and Mr Masters' 'Masters' Meals in Minutes'.



HISTORIANS TAKE A TRIP TO PARLIAMENT



Twenty Lower Sixth Historians, along with Mr Russell, Miss Bamborough and Mr Ehegartner, visited the Palace of Westminster to consolidate their studies of British

Political History. After a walk through Whitehall taking in significant political sites such as the Liberal Club, Horse Guards Parade and Downing Street, the group embarked on a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster. The highlight of the visit was the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of so many British Prime Ministers and stand at the House of Commons' dispatch box.

EDMOND SHAA SOCIETY LUNCH

Last term saw 54 supporters of the school attend the annual Edmond Shaa Society Lunch. Old Stopfordians who generously pledge a legacy to SGS become Shaa Society Members and are invited along to the event every year. Much has been achieved through the support of the Society, including allowing SGS to offer a number of bursaries and music scholarships at 11+ and 16+. The Bursary Fund enables pupils from a wide range of backgrounds to benefit from the academic education and wider preparation for life that the school offers.



VISIT TO AUSCHWITZ



A trip to Krakow in Poland brought home the atrocities of the Holocaust for 32 Fifth Year Religious Studies pupils. On the trip, which built on the work they have done on prejudice and discrimination, pupils had the opportunity to visit

Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp, where they saw the gas chambers and barracks where Jews were imprisoned.

YEAR 5 VISIT SPACE



Ever wondered what it is like in space? Year 5 pupils in the Junior School got the chance to find out when a mobile planetarium came to school to help them learn about the constellations and planets. Poppy Boronat (Y5T) said: "The

Planetarium was really good. We got to look at all the constellations and all of the planets. It felt like we actually went on a school trip to space! It was great."

WAR VETERAN VISIT BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE



To end their History topic about World War Two, Form 5P in the Junior School were lucky enough to receive a visit from war veteran Mr Jack Hammond. Mr Hammond who is the great grandfather of Jack Riley in 5P held a question and answer sessions with pupils where they asked questions such as "what army vehicles did you travel in?" and "did you get any serious injuries?"

During the Easter holidays 28 pupils took part in a French Homestay Trip. Pupils stayed with French families, just outside of Paris, where they experienced French family life, culture and cuisine. They spent mornings participating in lessons at a local school, and afternoons visiting sights such as the Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysées, Sacré Coeur and of course, the Eiffel Tower.

PARIS HOMESTAY GIVES PUPILS AN INSIGHT INTO FRENCH LIFE



NURSERY PUPILS WELCOME VISITORS

Boys and girls in the Nursery welcomed several visitors last term as part of their project about 'People who help us'. Their first visitor was School Nurse Pam Ward, who brought along slings and stethoscopes for the children to try out. Fire Fighters from Offerton Fire Station also visited to show children around their Fire Engine and talk about the types of emergencies they are called out to. The final visit was from PC John Morris, who talked to the children about road safety and stranger danger.



OXBRIDGE AWAITS!

The hard work has paid off for seven Upper Sixth pupils who have now received conditional places at the prestigious universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The magnificent seven are; Jake Barlow, Arne Beswick, Adam Rheinberg, Caroline Tanner, Mark Tomlinson, James Toole, and Steven Townend.

Between them they are hoping to study Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), Mathematics, English, Modern Languages and Classics at colleges that include Worcester, Merton, Hertford, The Queen's and Magdalen at Oxford, and Downing and Newnham at Cambridge.



U16 CROWNED CHAMPIONS

In a fantastic season for girls' sports at SGS, both the U16 netball and the U16 hockey teams were crowned Greater Manchester Champions.

The U16 hockey team, captained by Phoebe Broome (pictured left), took part in the Greater Manchester Schools' Tournament where, after defeating Withington 4-1, they went on to play Altrincham in a knife edge final which could have gone either way. With just a minute and a half to go, SGS managed to sneak in another goal to win the final 3-2.

The U16 netball team, captained by Sara Baker, played superbly at the Stockport Schools' tournament. They won the group stages easily, qualifying for the semi finals where they beat Priestnall by one goal in extra time, before defeating Wilmslow School 8-7 in the final.

FROM SGS TO SENEGAL

A report by Richard Rawlings, OS 2007

During my time at SGS I encountered the Model United Nations, allowing me to explore, discuss and question world issues. Likewise, learning A Level French fuelled my interest in Francophone culture, and I found myself teaching English in Senegal, West Africa at the end of my AS Level year after searching projects online.

Whilst it must be said that I learnt more about what international aid does wrong than what it does right, this initial trip was enough to affirm and develop my interest in French, and to allow me to consolidate my own ideas as to how international aid might be provided. I have since returned twice, first as a journalist and then as a project co-ordinator.

In April 2008 I founded Oxford Friends of Senegal (OFS), an association to raise funds for local projects such as street child centres. With the help of funding from St Peter's College Oxford and support from a former UN worker, my team were able to visit Senegal over the summer to perform a viability assessment of a project proposed to me by a local association. Drawing on advice from representatives of various charities in Dakar, notably Save the Children and UNICEF, was a unique and illuminating experience.

Although I founded OFS after leaving SGS, it must be said that the range of opportunities at the school formed a strong bedrock from



which my interest has grown. More information on OFS can be found at www.talibe.info

For more Old Stopfordian news keep an eye on the Old Stopfordian section of our website www.stockportgrammar.co.uk

Taking Stock is edited in school by
The External Relations Department Telephone: 0161 419 2413
We would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition.
Designed & printed by Fine Print (Stockport) Ltd.
STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Buxton Road, Stockport SK2 7AF
Email: externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk
Website: www.stockportgrammar.co.uk Telephone: 0161 456 9000