



# Taking Stock

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## GIVING A VOICE TO THE PAST

The innovative promenade-style Lower School production, *We'll Meet Again* proved a hit, with both evening performances drawing sell-out crowds. A new experience for SGS, the play created an emotive atmosphere with the audience literally following the children as they were evacuated from their homes. The idea for the play was developed from scratch to stage by the pupils, guided by Drama teacher Mrs Moffatt and assisted by Sixth Form Drama Ambassadors and the English department. The inspiration for the play was taken from the experience of real life evacuees commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the British child evacuation programme during World War II.

The play evolved in a series of workshops designed to inspire and engage the pupils to gain a sense of how it would feel to be an evacuee. Improvisation techniques were used to write a script, which was then refined and structured by Mrs Moffatt. An extract from the play was also performed for an audience of over 90 Old Stops who gathered at SGS for the annual Remembrance Day Reunion.

Enthused by the success of *We'll Meet Again*, the Drama group are currently working on a production of *Theseus and the Minotaur* directed by the Drama Ambassadors to be performed on Wednesday 3rd March at 7.30pm. Keep an eye out around school and on the website [www.stockportgrammar.co.uk](http://www.stockportgrammar.co.uk) for further details.



# BATTLEFIELDS TRIP 2009

Over Autumn Half Term Third Year pupils headed off on the annual Battlefields Trip. Their first stop took them to Northern France, visiting the area of the Somme Battlefields, followed by a visit to Le Grande Mine, the Newfoundland Memorial and the



Albert Museum (an underground museum portraying life in the trenches during the war).

The pupils then travelled to Ypres in Belgium, where they laid a wreath at Tyne Cot, the largest Commonwealth cemetery. They also visited the German Cemetery, Langemarck, as well as visiting Hill 60, In Flanders Field Museum and Essex Farm Cemetery. During the trip the children wrote their own messages on wooden sticks with poppies on, laying them wherever they felt appropriate.

The most poignant moment was felt on the last night when pupils attended the Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate, a tradition carried out nightly since 1928. Max Hadfield and Lauren Winder laid a wreath on behalf of SGS in remembrance of all who fought for their countries.



## A SEASON OF MUSICAL DELIGHT

The Music department organised a spectacular array of concerts throughout the Autumn Term. To start the year off in an appropriate fashion, Old Stop and world renowned recorderist, John Turner arranged a Serenade Concert with special guest counter-tenor James Bowman in aid of the May Turner Music Scholarship Fund.

The Chamber Choir were once again honoured to take part in BBC Radio 4's Daily Service following last year's stunning performance.

Pupils were extremely professional in their rehearsal and conduct and sang beautifully during the service, with the highlight arguably being the choir's rendition of Wesley's lyrical anthem *Lead me, Lord*.

Pupils continued to delight audiences throughout the term with an Evening of Light Music and the Autumn Concert, before creating a fabulous festive atmosphere with the Christmas Concert.

## LANGUAGES ACHIEVEMENTS

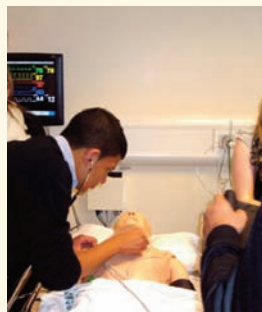
Competitors from SGS performed excellently, speaking energetically and enthusiastically in their respective foreign languages at November's Northern Schools' Modern Foreign Languages Debating Competition. Sixth Form pupils Laurence Heijbroek and Guy Sephton of the German

team, fared best. They reached the semi-finals, beating Bury and Manchester Grammar Schools in the first round, before losing narrowly to Bolton School. Mrs Christmann described Laurence and Guy as "Excellent language ambassadors who showed that they could think on their feet in German."

A busy month in the Languages department also involved a Third Year trip to a German day in Manchester, organised by Phillip Alan Updates, where pupils took part in a variety of interactive activities such as word games and grammar workshops.

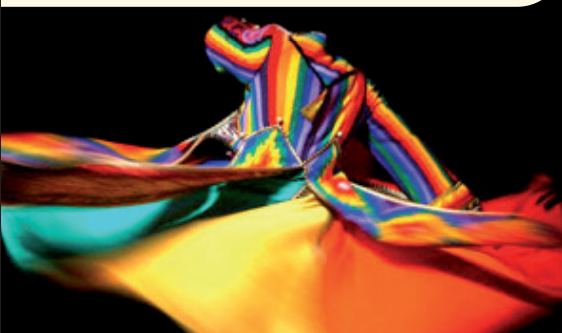


## SIXTH FORMERS GET AN INSIGHT INTO MEDICINE



Lower Sixth Formers recently attended a Taster in Medicine Course at Stepping Hill Hospital. The

children benefited from the experience of junior and senior doctors who told pupils about the life of a doctor. There were also a series of practical sessions in the Trust's training facilities, including how to take blood and give life-saving CPR. Pupils were even let loose on the high-tech 'Sim' man who exhibits a range of symptoms and complains about how he is feeling. A tour of the labs and an explanation of some of the science involved provided a behind the scenes view of the workings of a large hospital. The day gave all participants an invaluable insight into medicine as a career.



## INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR PROJECT SIERRA LEONE

Project Sierra Leone is an opportunity for Stockport schools to work together and help provide an education to less fortunate children. Mr Ehegartner, Head of Life Studies at SGS, has been leading the project which has recently been awarded an International School Award by the Global Gateway and the British Council. Our link with EducAid allows pupils to see the difference their money has made and to learn about global citizenship through active learning, charity work and social networking between schools.



The first charity project 'Hand-in-Hand' raised £1,000 through pupils making a donation to add their finger print to a Sierra Leonean flag. Mr Ehegartner then took this small piece of Stockport to Sierra Leone where he visited some of the EducAid primary schools and taught classes, learning more about their life, culture and what the project means to them. For the unabridged and fascinating account of his trip and for more information about the EducAid project, visit the news section on the website [www.stockportgrammar.co.uk](http://www.stockportgrammar.co.uk)

## JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSICAL SET TO HIT THE STAGE

Following on from the sell-out success of *The Mikado*, rehearsals are underway for the Junior School's next theatrical challenge, an adaptation of the smash hit musical *Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat*.

Performances will be on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Tickets are priced at £3 for adults and free for children. For more information keep an eye on the website [www.stockportgrammar.co.uk](http://www.stockportgrammar.co.uk)

## 1ST XI CRICKET TRIP TO LORD'S

The 1st XI Cricket team took a trip to the home of cricket in December, testing their bowling and batting skills in the indoor performance analysis suite at Lord's and taking a private tour around the historic grounds.

Under the watchful eye of Lord's coaching staff, each team member bowled with Hawkeye Analysis and was filmed batting to assess their skills in minute detail to learn how to improve their game, a technique and facilities used by county and international stars.

Following the training session, pupils were treated to a private tour of the grounds and behind the scenes areas, including the changing room seats of some of England's finest cricketers.

# EUROTALK JUNIOR LANGUAGE CHALLENGE FINAL

During Half Term Daniel Jones and Wolodymyr Krywonos took part in the national final of the Eurotalk Junior Language Challenge in London. Having practised Swahili for about five weeks they each took part in separate heats on the day. Daniel, with a score of 229 points, came 6th in his heat and Wolodymyr, with a score of 224 points, came 9th in his heat. The highest mark at this stage was 236 points, but unfortunately only 12 children were able to take part in the final round. Nevertheless, the boys should both be very proud of their achievements, which earn the school Eurotalk language resources to the value of £200, as well as a small individual prize each.



## MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Fifteen Sixth Formers enjoyed taking on the challenge of trying cases as barristers before professional judges, as well as dressing up and acting out the roles of witnesses at November's Sir Rhys Davies Mock Trial



Competition at Manchester Crown Court. SGS won one of the three trials, barristers Will Sheard and Jamie Webb being amongst the top scorers in the competition, whilst narrowly losing the other two. Catriona Lammas and Tom Ozel were praised by the judges for their convincing witness performances, and Elliot Ashworth was particularly impressive in his role as MacBeth, a politically devious Scotsman, complete with crown, kilt and tam-o'-shanter. The team had an enjoyable experience and gained a taste of the legal profession.

## GALLERY INSPIRATION FOR SIXTH FORM ARTISTS

Sixth Form artists have been on the road over the Autumn Term with a variety of gallery visits to inspire the art senses. In October, The Whitworth Art Gallery provided a visit with a difference as pupils were allowed to touch exhibits during a special textile arts workshop, 'Tactile', thus giving a greater insight into the skills involved in creating such works. November 13th saw an early start

for a trip to London's art galleries. The day provided a wealth of research material to help pupils develop their own work.



## NATIVITY STARS

The Junior School's annual Nativity productions were once again a wonderful success. The Nursery and Reception children performed *Born in a Barn*, whilst the Infants opted for *The Fidgety Star*. Dressed in fabulous costumes, delivering their lines like true professionals and singing songs such as *This is the Moment* and *You Silly Star*, children impressed audiences of parents, staff and friends, leaving all in no doubt that the festive season had arrived.

# FROM ALCATRAZ TO VENICE BEACH



Over Half Term, thirty one children and four staff took part in a ten day Geography tour to the west coast of the USA, a trip which encompassed the major world cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles, along with breathtaking scenery. After sampling the joys of the famous cable car system in San Francisco, the day culminated in an atmospheric evening visit to Alcatraz, the former high security penitentiary. A major inland road trip over the following days took in the awe inspiring sights of Yosemite National Park, Death Valley and the Grand Canyon with an overnight stop at Las Vegas. The group then boarded the overnight train from Flagstaff to Los Angeles where a guided tour of the city was coupled with a highly popular visit to Universal Studios. The group's last memory of California was that of the sun setting over the palm-fringed horizon at Venice Beach. Hopefully it is an image that will sustain them over the depths of winter.

## FANTASTIC FUNDRAISING FOR GENESIS

Pupils have been working hard to raise money for this year's chosen charity, Wythenshawe based Genesis, a UK charity dedicated to preventing breast cancer. Activities have included a lunchtime concert where pupils paid a donation to watch Third Year band Head Shot and a headline act, featuring Mrs Fenton on vocals and Mr Thorley on drums. The Brass Ensemble also visited Handforth Dean to delight shoppers with some festive Christmas music to raise additional funds. Further fundraising activities are set to follow.



## DOUBLE AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY WORK

Upper Sixth pupil Afshan Lodhi recently received a Regional Bridge Award for Community Cohesion from Vinspired, and a Silver Arts Award for her voluntary community work with Greater Manchester Police Authority, GMPA. Afshan has been working with GMPA in her own time to help develop their counterterrorism strategy, and to create a schools' DVD resource pack to assist teachers with discussion about extremism and terrorism. The Vinspired awards were presented at a ceremony at the Indigo2 in London where Afshan's voluntary work was recognised. To add to a memorable evening she met a host of celebrities including *Dragons' Den* tycoon, James Caan.



## INSPIRATION FROM MICHAEL FOREMAN

Junior School Year 6 eagerly welcomed author and illustrator Michael Foreman to talk about his books. Having read and discussed Michael's work, the children were excited to hear an explanation of how he came to write *War Boy*, his autobiographical account of his childhood during the Second World War. They were intrigued to see the diagram of how an incendiary bomb narrowly missed his bed (with him in it) as well as his beautiful

illustrations of his everyday life. Michael spoke for an hour, keeping his audience captivated and inspiring everyone to read more.



# IAPS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT



The Junior School Year 6 girls played brilliantly in a tough day of hockey at the IAPS North round, beating Fairfield and drawing with Foremarke (Repton) to go through to the National Finals at Queenswood School, Hertfordshire.

At the National Finals, the girls made it through the group stages and into the quarter final draw where they played Foremarke again.

The team defended the Foremarke attack closely, and made valiant efforts to invade the opponents' defence, coming close on three occasions. SGS went out at 2 – 0. Well done to the squad who played such high quality hockey to compete at National level.

# SIXTH FORM GEOGRAPHERS HEAD FOR THE HILLS

At the end of Half Term fourteen Lower Sixth geographers headed off to Keswick in the Lake District for two days of AS Level Physical Geography fieldwork in the surrounding rivers and mountains. Staying at the Blencathra Field Centre, pupils spent their first morning investigating the rivers of the Newlands Valley, before moving into Keswick where they reviewed the town's flood defences and discussed prevention strategies.

# DEBATE TEAM SET HIGH STANDARDS

Two teams of SGS debaters fought off strong competition to secure first round wins in the ESU Schools Mace 2009-10 debating competition. The debates featured a range of topics from 'whether exams are getting easier' to 'random testing for illegal drugs' and were adjudicated by judges from the Manchester Debating Union and chaired by the highly effective Harvey Owen and Amanda Ormston. Will Sheard and Jamie Webb successfully opposed the motion 'This house would randomly test school pupils for illegal drugs'. Martin Kent and Jack Maclaren then had the difficult task of proposing a cut in government spending and a rise in taxes; meticulous research by them led to a persuasive win. Overall the standard of the debates was outstanding.



# CHARACTERS COME TO LIFE DURING BOOK WEEK

The Junior School celebrated National Children's Book Week and National Poetry Day, with pupils from the Nursery to Year 6 all getting involved in a variety of activities. Throughout the week, the older children were introduced to books by a range of authors, the Nursery hosted a Teddy Bears' Picnic, a book exchange day was held, Headmaster's Secretary Mrs

Cheyne and Receptionist Mrs Worne demonstrated their skills as storytellers and Mr Davies from the Senior School taught the children how to draw animals to illustrate their stories. The week rounded off in fine style with some wonderful costumes as the Infants, and their teachers, dressed up as their favourite book characters. Year 3 joined the fun by coming to school as their favourite Roald Dahl character.

The second day was spent exploring the glacial and post glacial landscapes of Easedale, before facing a steep climb up to Easedale Tarn – all enjoyed in fantastic weather. The fieldtrip formed part of pupils' AS Level Physical Geography fieldwork and provided invaluable preparation for next summer's skills examination.



# RUGBY STARS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Rugby continues to thrive throughout the school with excellent results across the teams. A record number of pupils have also gained representative honours. 1st XV prop, James Flynn, has been selected to represent the North U16's and the 1st XV Captain, Rory Bell, has capped an outstanding season by training with the Scottish Exiles U19 squad. Matthew Lister, Rory Bell and Chris DeWeever have all been selected for the North Independent Schools' Barbarians with Rory and Chris progressing to the National squad for the forthcoming matches and a tour to Singapore. James Flynn (1st XV) and Tom

Morton (U14) have both been selected for the Elite Player Development Group at Sale Sharks and attend specialist training sessions every Wednesday night with the premiership club's coaching staff. Overall a record 19 players have been selected to represent their county. For a full list please visit the website.



Image left to right; Rory Bell, Matthew Lister and Chris DeWeever have been selected for the North Independent Schools' Barbarians



# THE CADBURY'S EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE



During the Autumn Term fifteen Upper Sixth Business Studies and Food Technology pupils visited Cadbury's World on an educational visit.

Accompanied by Mr Young and Mrs Samways they attended lectures on Operations Management and Marketing at the world renowned chocolatier's Birmingham factory. After an intense day of learning, pupils took a tour around the factory and stocked up at the shop before returning to school.



# CHEFS SCOOP TOP PRIZES

Aspiring chefs Heather Tallents (pictured left) and Charlotte Biondi from the Fourth Year have taken first and second place in the North West cook-off of the Quality Standard beef and lamb Young Chef Challenge, judged by celebrity chef James Martin.

Competitors were invited to submit an original recipe using beef or lamb mince to be made within a £10 budget. Charlotte's lamb koftas and Heather's bolognese risotto were chosen amongst the best entries and they were invited to the regional cook-off finals where they prepared, cooked and served their dish. They were judged on kitchen etiquette, originality and nutritional value, together with taste and presentation.

# DOUBLE NETBALL SUCCESS

Fifth Year pupils Hannah Jones (pictured top) and Jennifer Logue (pictured bottom) have taken their passion for netball beyond the SGS courts this season.

Jennifer has been scouted to attend the U16's Greater Manchester Training Academy to represent her county during the 2009-2010 season. Hannah, who plays for Trafford Netball Club, passed a series of interview-style tests to be chosen to take part in the opening ceremony of the recent World Netball Series held in Manchester.





# HISTORY DETECTIVES IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

## CHARLOTTE REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Fifth Year pupil Charlotte Garden has been scaling new heights, achieving a number of top climbing accolades this year. Training four times a week has paid off, with first place in the North West British Youth Climbing Series, third nationally, fourth in the British Bouldering Championships and fifth in the British Lead Climbing Championships. She has also been selected to represent the UK at European level. Charlotte's highlight

this year was winning both the women's dyno and bouldering competitions on her 15th birthday during a trip to the fourth Kalymnos International Climbing Festival in Greece. Climbing talent runs in the family with brother James, an Old Stop, also representing Britain on the Men's Bouldering and Lead Climbing teams this year.



Junior School boys and girls travelled back in time for a Living History Day. While Year 3 enjoyed a Roman Day, children in Year 4 spent their Friday learning about the civilization of the Ancient Egyptians. A morning of craft and drama saw pupils making canopic jars and taking part in a 'hieroglyphics detective agency', before an afternoon 'exploring' Tutankhamun's tomb and mask making. The day was wrapped up with the children learning all about mummification - some of the skills they learned were put into practice on toy dolls, and a willing pupil!

## LOUISE ACHIEVES RAF AMBITION

Louise Webster (OS 2008) has achieved her lifelong ambition to become a Royal Air Force officer. After completing her A Levels, Louise went to the University of Liverpool to read History but before finishing her course was successful in being offered the opportunity to train as a commissioned officer. After successfully completing 32 weeks of arduous and challenging Initial Officer Training at RAF College Cranwell, Louise graduated as a commissioned officer. Both of Louise's grandfathers were RAF officers, and it is this family background of service and achievement which has inspired Louise to commence what she hopes will be a long and distinguished career.



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