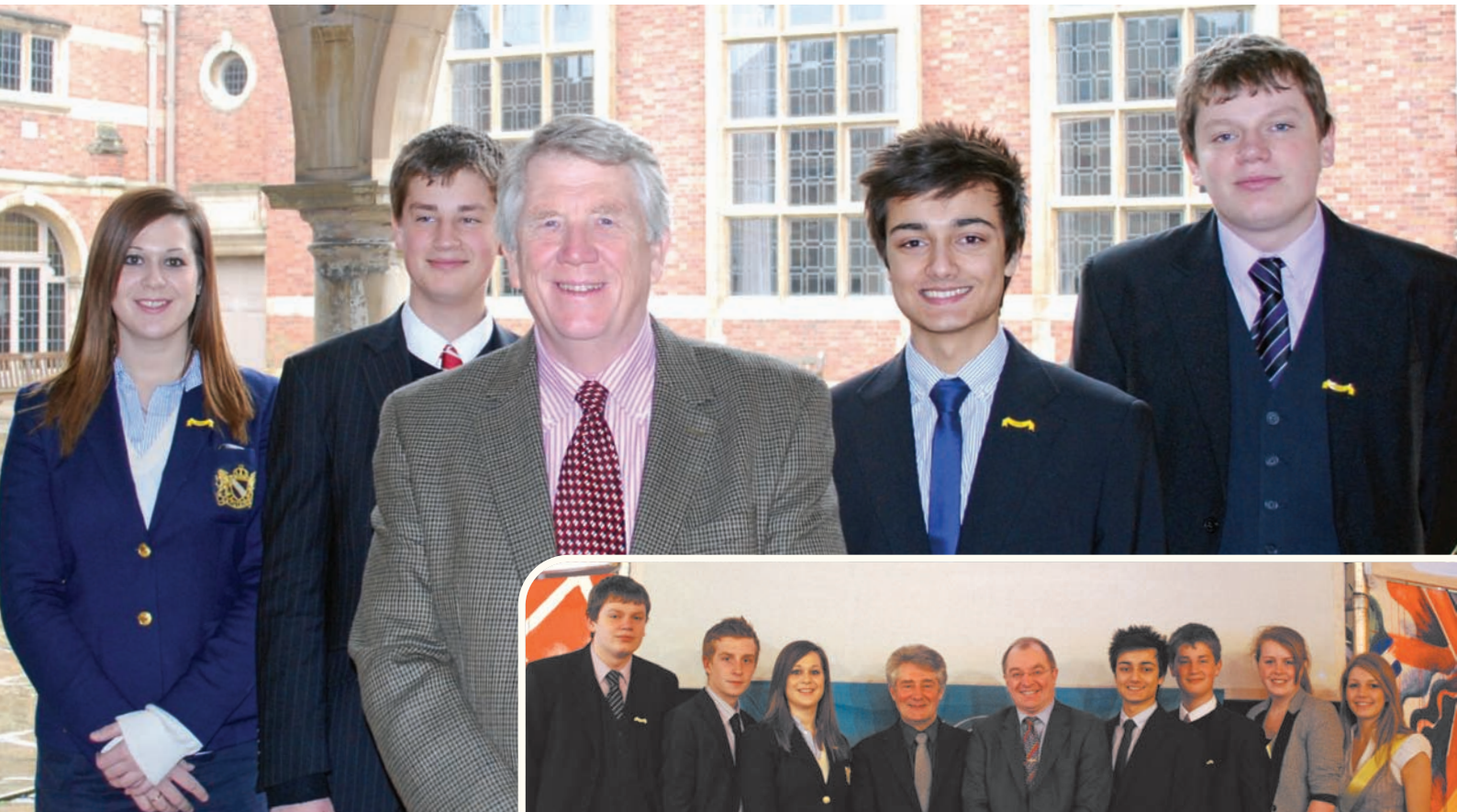




Taking Stock

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 45 - SUMMER 2010



SGS ON THE WORLD STAGE

Over 350 budding diplomats gathered at SGS for the third Model United Nations Conference hosted by the school. Guest speakers Tony Lloyd, Labour MP, and former pupil Martin Bourke (pictured above), previously Deputy High Commissioner for New Zealand, captivated and inspired the audience, setting the tone for a successful weekend of stimulating debate.

Months of planning, led by a large student team of committee chairs and pupil secretaries, and masterminded by Sixth Formers Martin Kent and Nina Rawlings, paid off with a smoothly run conference. Classrooms were transformed into hotbeds of debate, while the Dining Hall played host to the General Assembly.

Young people from schools across the UK and as far away as Cyprus attended the conference to debate world issues and propose UN policy changes. Pupils pitted their wits against each other after undertaking months of extensive research on their assigned country. Intellectually challenging committee debates and a surprise political crisis scenario tested the pupils' knowledge at every turn. There was also an opportunity for the delegates to unwind at organised social events where they formed new friendships.

Over the past few years SGS's MUN team have attended conferences hosted by schools in Belfast, Dublin, Bath, Paris, Genoa, Yale University and St. Petersburg.



LEADING THE WAY FOR LONDON 2012



The P.E. department got straight to work after the Christmas break on preparations for the London 2012 Olympic Games, but the mysteriously named *Project X* has had to be kept strictly under wraps until now. The commitment by the organising committee, LOGOC, to increase children's participation in sport led to SGS being selected to help devise and trial a series of sports challenges that involved First, Second and Fourth Year pupils. As the only school in the UK to be involved in this initial stage, staff and pupils will have the satisfaction of seeing the project rolled out across the country. The sports participation project is organised by McCann Erickson, the marketing services provider to the Games, and Adidas, the official sportswear sponsor.

THESEUS IS A MONSTER HIT

Pupils recently brought up to date the Ancient Greek myth of *Theseus and the Minotaur*. A tale of bravery, love, fear and betrayal, the play which was directed by Drama Ambassadors and Sixth Form pupils, tells the story of a desperate deal struck with the King of Minos. Audiences of the show were left impressed, not only by the absorbing acting of pupils on stage, but by the work behind the scenes. Under the guidance of producer and Drama teacher Mrs Alison Moffatt, boys and girls also took responsibility for providing the music, sound, lighting, props and costumes for the production.

JUNIOR SCHOOL SCIENCE WEEK GOES OFF WITH A BANG

National Science Week 2010 exploded into life when teachers dressed up as mad scientists to open the week's festivities by demonstrating the erupting effect of Diet Coke and Mentos.

From blowing bubbles in the Nursery and flying kites in the Infants to visits from the Macclesfield Astronomical Society and making fireworks, the activities were enjoyed by children of all ages.



CHESHIRE RUGBY CHAMPIONS

The U13 Rugby team (pictured right) ended their season with an appearance in the Cheshire Cup final played at Wilmslow Rugby Club.

Having already beaten three rivals in the earlier rounds (St Ambrose College 61-7; Wilmslow High School 44 - 0; and St Anselm's College 62 - 0),

the final paired them with the highly rated Lymm High School side. There was, however, only going to be one winner as the Stockport side dismantled Lymm in all areas of the game. The final score of 31 - 5 was a fitting reflection of SGS's dominance. An outstanding result to end a memorable season.

Three members of SGS's U15 rugby squad also had the honour of representing their county. Andrew Ward and James Webster were selected for Cheshire U15, while Mark Cox was chosen to captain the Cheshire A squad.



MUSICAL TRIUMPHS HERALD THE START OF SUMMER

The Music department had a very busy start to the Summer Term with both the Summer and Leavers' concerts. All the major musical ensembles performed - the three wind bands, two big bands, two jazz bands, First Orchestra, the two string ensembles, Junior Singers and Chorus. The Upper Sixth rounded off the Leavers' Concert with an entertaining vocal compilation by Karol Jaworski. Both evenings were hugely enjoyable for audience and performers alike.



DAVID HORNER BRINGS POETIC INSPIRATION

Years 5 and 6 recently spent two fascinating and fun-filled days with the poet David Horner, when he came to visit the Junior School. David, who has written poetry books such as *Happy to be Here* and *Talking with your Mouth Full*, ran workshops with each class which aimed to get boys and girls to celebrate language in its variety and in its ability to take on many different forms. This work culminated in a poetry evening where the children performed their poems to the audience of parents packed into the Junior School hall.



PARISIAN LIFE

Fourth Year pupils enjoyed a busy, fun-packed week in Paris. Boys and girls stayed with families in the suburb of Brétigny-sur-Orge where they were able to immerse themselves fully in French culture and language. They attended lessons in a local school in the morning and spent the afternoons in Paris, visiting sights such as the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Arc de Triomphe and Sacré Coeur. There was also time for a boat trip along the Seine, a guided tour of the Louvre and a full day at Disneyland Paris. The trip was a great success, with pupils' abilities improving every day as they spoke more and more French.



Pupils also excelled in an outstanding performance of Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas*, interspersed with readings from Virgil's *Aeneid*. Members of Chamber Choir were accompanied by a professional string ensemble and made the most of the delightful acoustics in the Hallam Hall. The evening was greatly enriched by the projection of images relating to the story on a screen behind the performers. Particular credit should go to all of the soloists and readers.



JUNIOR JOSEPH LIGHTS UP THE STAGE

The Junior School adaptation of the smash hit musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* dazzled audiences over two nights during the Spring Term. All of the Year 6 children who took part performed superbly. Oliver Sheard played the lead role of Joseph to perfection and even the King himself, Elvis, played by William Wicks, made an appearance to make the show a memorable evening. Senior School pupils Will Aldridge and Rob Sumner assisted with the sound and backstage.

HISTORY TRIP TAKES IN NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA AND WASHINGTON

This year's History trip saw 55 students and staff travel to the USA to take in the historic sites of New York, Philadelphia and Washington. In New York, pupils were able to consolidate their understanding of the Boom and Bust period of the 1920's, while in Philadelphia they were able to see the birthplace of the modern America, visit the original Supreme Court and view the Liberty Bell.

In the sweltering heat of Washington, pupils stood in the shadow of many great Presidents from Lincoln to JFK. The opportunity to see the site where Dr Martin Luther King made his famous *I Have a Dream* speech was the perfect culmination for the Sixth Form's study of American Civil Rights.



HOCKEY AND EXPERT COACHING IN THE SPANISH SUN

Players from the U15, U16 and U18 Hockey squads travelled to Barcelona during the Easter break to play matches against local club sides Egara, Athletic Terrassa and Castelldefels on magnificent water based pitches. They also enjoyed a coaching session with Maria Romagosa who represented Spain in the Beijing Olympic Games.

The sun shone for the duration of their stay and, in addition to the hockey, pupils enjoyed sightseeing in Barcelona, a day at a theme park and archery and canoeing at Canal Olimpic, where the rowing events for the Olympic Games were staged.

PUPILS SHOWCASE THEIR ARTISTIC TALENTS

Once again the annual GCSE and A Level Art Exhibition proved to be an enjoyable evening. The event provided the opportunity for parents, pupils and friends of the school to admire the work on display and to see the broad range of media used in its development.

Earlier in the Summer term, Sophie Watson, Chloe Withers and Liza Vul were selected to represent SGS at the annual Living Edge Schools' Art Competition. Their artwork was displayed at The Lowry in Salford Quays and particular congratulations should go to Sophie Watson who was chosen as winner of the U18 category.

(Sophie's work is pictured right.)



PUPILS EXCEL AT BOTH BIOLOGY AND PHYSICS OLYMPIADS

Four SGS pupils have been awarded prizes at the highly prestigious Biology and Physics Olympiads. Both the British Biology Olympiad and the British Physics Olympiad are annual national competitions for pupils aged 16 plus. Both competitions regularly attract over 1,000 entrants from all types of schools across the UK.

At the British Biology Olympiad Abbigail Howson was Highly Commended and Daniel Livingstone was awarded a Bronze, whilst at the British Physics Olympiad Martin Kent was awarded a Silver and Roger Lightwood a Gold. The awards complete an exciting year that also saw Martin and Roger, along with Joshua Holgate and Mr Giblin visit CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research), the home of the Large Hadron Collider, in a visit organised by School Governor Professor John Dainton.



YEAR 5 EXPERIENCE LIFE AS AN EVACUEE

As part of their History project about World War II, Year 5 classes from the Junior School visited the air raid shelters at Stockport Story Museum. Boys and girls arrived wearing authentic clothes from the Second World War period, complete with a gas mask box and name tag. The local warden showed them around and they got to experience the three layer bunk beds and extremely basic cooking and toilet facilities. After a ration packed lunch of spam or corned beef sandwiches and water, pupils learnt about incendiary bombs and how to "make do and mend" their clothes. To end their day, children enjoyed a wartime treat of sugar sandwiches.

ATHLETICS 2010



The Athletics season got off to a dynamic start with some fabulous performances in both Track and Field. Over 200 children participated in the annual inter-form competition and the SGS team has gone from strength to strength, winning the Kings Relay Competition and being placed first and second in all age groups at the Stockport Schools' Championships. Eighteen pupils have now been selected to represent Stockport in the Greater Manchester Athletics Championships. A full list of names and positions is on the website www.stockportgrammar.co.uk

This season, pupils and staff have also been lucky enough to enjoy some training sessions with Old Stopfordian Jessica Coulson. Jessica, who has represented Great Britain in athletics at international level, has been training with Dame Kelly Holmes and was in school to pass on her knowledge and expertise.



HELP FOR HAITI

SGS pupils raised a grand total of £3,891 to help victims of the Haiti earthquake. Boys and girls raised £2,497 through a non-uniform day and £266 through a concert held at lunchtime. 'Hats for Haiti', where Junior School pupils came to school wearing silly hats, raised a further £522. First Year Form 1Q (representatives pictured above) also raised £606 through a 'Sponsored Anything', which included taking part in a three legged race, holding a chilli eating contest and organising a sponsored run.



PUPILS COOK UP A TREAT FOR HEATHCOTE'S CHEFS

Emily Banks has been named SGS Lower School Masterchef 2010 after wowing judges with her sea bass in lemon salt followed by caramelised peaches with Marsala wine.

Having progressed through two earlier rounds, pupils in the final were given just 60 minutes to prepare, cook and present their choice of dishes to Adam Wright and Marco Ficini, Head Chef and General Manager at Heathcote's London Road Restaurant, and members of SGS staff.

As well as lifting the Lower School Masterchef trophy, Second Year pupil Emily wins a meal for two at the restaurant, where her winning menu will feature on the day's specials board. Runners-up Luke Berry and Ben Carthy both took home signed Paul Heathcote recipe books.

JUNIOR SCHOOL GIRLS COMPETE TO BE CROWNED AJIS TENNIS CHAMPION

The AJIS Girls' Tennis tournament at Birkenhead School culminated with an all Stockport Grammar Junior School final as Francesca Bailey and Georgina Dare (both Y6H) competed against each other for the winner's plate. Francesca's route to the final saw her win two and lose one of her box matches before comfortably defeating her semi-final opponent 4 - 0, while one win was enough to see Georgina into the semis where, after falling behind, a fine comeback ended in a 4 - 3 victory. In the final, a 6 - 2 win for Francesca saw her finish as champion, while Georgina took the runner-up place. Congratulations must go to both girls for their fine performances in such a tough tournament.



VERNON SHOWCASE

This year's annual Vernon Show demonstrated the best of SGS's talent. Pupils from Vernon, Arden, Nicholson and Warren Houses raised £400 for Cancer Research and the Etherow Riding Centre. The show, introduced by Ismaeel Ramzan, including seven acts including a performance by Sarah Hindle, who sang and played on acoustic guitar a song she had composed herself. Emily Haughton, Will Robinson, Harry Vernon and Richard Owen performed a cover version of *Seven Nation Army* with their band *Stolen Smile*.

Next year will be the 10th anniversary of the show and the organisers, Mr Thorley and Mrs Fenton, would like to invite Old Stopfordians to come back to watch or perform in next year's show. There have been many memorable performances over the years and it would be fantastic to see some of these again. So if you have sung, danced, played or even just watched and would like to do so again please email Mr Thorley at thorleya@stockportgrammar.co.uk.



FOOTBALL SUCCESS



SGS reached the final of the Barry Burns Northern Eights football tournament - a significant achievement considering that the school only recently joined the Independent Schools Football Association.

The team qualified as winners of their group in fine style beating Repton School 2 - 1, Merchant Taylors' 5 - 0 and Bury Grammar 2 - 0, as well as securing a 0 - 0 draw against Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn. Facing St Bede's College in the semi-finals, a fine defensive display resulted in another goalless draw. With penalties required to determine who would take their place in the final, SGS won the shootout 5 - 4.

Although the boys went down to a late goal against Manchester Grammar School in the final, finishing as runners-up was a fine accomplishment.

ACTIVITY AND ADVENTURE IN NORTH WALES

Second Year pupils enjoyed an action packed trip to Kingswood Activity Centre in North Wales. The centre, which is set in an area of outstanding natural beauty, provides boys and girls with the opportunity to test their nerve and skill with activities such as climbing, caving, aeroball and the zipwire. Through the trip pupils gain new motivation, enhance their teamwork skills and increase their self confidence, giving them a valuable sense of personal achievement.



OXBRIDGE OFFERS



Six students in the Upper Sixth are celebrating after receiving conditional places at the prestigious universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Congratulations to Daniel Bailey (Economics and Management, Exeter College, Oxford), Nicholas Eames (Mathematics, Magdalene College, Cambridge), Joshua Holgate (Natural Sciences, Queens' College, Cambridge), Karol Jaworski (Engineering, Queens' College, Cambridge), Martin Kent (Natural Sciences, Homerton College, Cambridge) and Roger Lightwood (Chemical Engineering, Pembroke College, Cambridge).



Photographs: P. T. Moylan

OLD STOPFORDIAN COMPETES IN MONGOL RALLY TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY

This month Olly Britland (OS 2006) will be leading a team of six University of Bristol students who plan to drive over 10,000 miles from London to the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator in a 1955 Bedford Green Goddess Fire Engine. Raising money for Help for Heroes and The Christina Noble Children's Foundation, the drive is part of the Mongol Rally, described as 'The greatest adventure in the world'. Competitors' vehicles must be deliberately inappropriate for the task by either having an engine displacement of less than 1000cc or be an emergency or public service machine. The competition organisers do not provide a support team or accommodation, so Olly (pictured second left) and his team will have to fend for themselves for the estimated four weeks it will take them to drive to their destination. Olly, who is studying History, is a member of Bristol University Officer Training Corps and is hoping to go to Sandhurst in 2011.

To find out more about their trip or to make a donation please contact bristolsandclub@googlemail.co.uk or visit www.justgiving.com

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



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STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Buxton Road, Stockport SK2 7AF
Email: externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk
Website: www.stockportgrammar.co.uk
Telephone: 0161 456 9000