

# TakingStock

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## MOUNTAINEERING IN THE ALPS

Nineteen pupils from the Fourth Year to the Lower Sixth ended their summer holidays on a high, when they ventured to the Swiss Alps for five days of climbing with the International School of Mountaineering.

The pupils climbed on the *via ferrata*, a mountain route equipped with fixed cables, stemples, ladders, and bridges, up to the Tour d'Ai above Leysin, taking in stunning views of Lake Geneva en route.

At the Moiry Glacier, they learnt how to walk wearing crampons and how to rope up together for glacier travel. More mountaineering techniques, such as using ice axes, navigating a route across crevasses and using rocks as compasses, were learnt before reaching their mountain hut at 2825m. The group took a walk across the glacier and then a climb up Pigne de la Lé at 3396m before stopping to refuel with a fantastic view of the Matterhorn.

As well as practical exercises, the group received lectures on glaciers and crevasse rescue before learning how to make anchors with ice axes for rescue purposes, practising ice axe arrests and glissading. On their last day, pupils were able to make their own anchors to abseil in to the deep crevasses before ice-climbing out with two axes.



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## MAKING MUSIC IN THE LAKES

Following last year's successful Music Tour to Belgium, forty five pupils and staff spent a fabulous four days in the Borrowdale valley near Keswick in the Lake District.



The group performed at two very different venues, the first being at the *Coniston Water Festival*, followed by the *Theatre by the Lake* in Keswick itself, where music ranged from Mozart to Miles Davis, with performances by the orchestra, big bands and choir as well as smaller ensembles.

The group also spent two half days taking part in outdoor pursuits in this wonderful area of the UK, and a great time was had by all.

# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE WITH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARDS

The school celebrated its twentieth anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme with a presentation evening attended by one of the UK's foremost entrepreneurs and philanthropists, Sir Tom Farmer, the Chairman of the Trustees of the scheme. Sir Tom presented the awards and spoke with humour and wisdom about his experience of growing up in Edinburgh and founding the KwikFit empire.

At the presentation, over a hundred pupils received their Bronze and Silver level Awards and fifteen pupils were awarded Golds. Fifth Year pupil Sofia Jassim was the recipient of the 1000th Award obtained by a Stockport Grammar School pupil.

SGS is the most successful independent school offering the Award in the North West area. This year has seen a record number of enrolments at Bronze level, and over seventy pupils are currently engaged in Silver and Gold.





## CHESHIRE CUP WINNERS

The Under 13 cricket team capped a fine season by retaining their Cheshire Cup title in emphatic style against The King's School Macclesfield. A pleasing performance in the field saw King's restricted to just 92 runs from their 20 overs, with Adam Cawthorn taking 3 wickets for 11 runs from his 4 overs. Captain and player of the season, Luke Wolstenholme, opened the batting and made a fine 36 and, with Tom O'Mahony on 34, guided the team to a superb victory reaching the required total in just 14 overs.





## RECORD GCSE RESULTS

The Fifth Year group of 160 pupils collected another record-breaking set of GCSE results. The boys and girls gained 71% of all grades at A\* and A, with a third of the entire year group being awarded straight A\* and A grades in all ten subjects taken. 92% netted grades between A\* and B and over 98% of all grades were between A\* - C.

Eight pupils were 'All-Star' students, each gaining ten GCSEs at A\* grade: Edward Appleby, Charlotte Bailey, Thomas Coombes, Caitlin Gorman, Rachel Hulme, Alexander Kyrtsoudis, Emily Ralston and Shelby Whyatt.

One pupil, Sarah Hindle, achieved eleven A\* and A grades, and a further 43 pupils gained ten A\* and A grades.

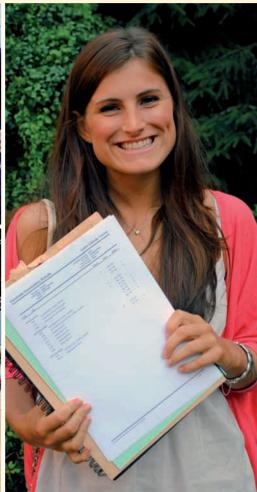
## STAR STUDDED YEAR FOR A LEVELS

Pupils, parents and staff have celebrated another outstanding year of A Level results, where 61% of all grades were awarded at A\* or A, and 98% of all grades were between A\* and C.

The much-discussed A\* grades, designed to recognise the achievements of particularly talented students, were awarded to 47 boys and girls, with four of those gaining all A\* grades: Joshua Holgate, Martin Kent, Charlotte Lennon and Roger Lightwood. A further 43 pupils achieved a clean sweep of A\* and A grades.

Almost all of the leavers gained places at their preferred universities. Destinations include Bath, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Hull, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Sheffield and Warwick.







#### **OUTWARD BOUND IN GRASMERE**

Eighty Second Year pupils marked the start of their summer break by travelling to Grasmere for five days of activities and fun in the picturesque Lake District village. With exclusive use of the local Youth Hostel, pupils enjoyed kayaking on Derwentwater, rock climbing, walking and ghyll scrambling in Stickle Ghyll. Many chose to spend their pocket money on Grasmere's famous gingerbread.

# ARTISTS ON ANGLESEY

# INSPIRATIONAL WORDS AT SPEECH DAY

Nigel Banister, Chief Global Officer of Manchester Business School, addressed pupils at the Senior School Speech Day. He drew on his own international experience to talk about the many exciting global opportunities that lie ahead in the world of education and work. But he also cautioned that with these



opportunities came responsibility, telling them 'even though you are inheriting a world shaped by generations who have gone before you, you must take clear responsibility for what you make of it... as future leaders you must treat everyone with respect'.

Nigel encouraged the pupils to look forward to their university life as a time to enjoy new social experiences as well as to develop their academic potential.

The return to school after the AS exams was greeted enthusiastically by the Lower Sixth artists who spent a week on Anglesey gathering source material that will be used in the development of their work this year.

Based on the west coast of the island in Rhoscolyn, the group were blessed with sunny weather and were able to take advantage of long summer evenings giving them plenty of daylight hours in which to work.

As well as drawing the landscape, the group took in exhibitions of the work of acclaimed Anglesey artist Kyffin Williams and the quilter Bethan Ash.



## GRANDPARENTS GO BACK TO SCHOOL

The Infants and Nursery welcomed many of the children's grandparents into the classroom when the Junior School held their annual Grandparents' Day. Grandparents and grandchildren played games in the hall, watched musical performances and maypole dancing and worked together in the classrooms.

In Year 1, activities included making clay hand prints and painting tiles together, while Year 2 grandparents used the ICT facilities to research family trees with their grandchildren. In the Nursery, children performed a *High School Musical* dance for their audience. The Stopfordian Parents' Association provided well-earned refreshments for the grandparents.

#### **UNDER CANVAS IN WASDALE**

Year 6 Junior School pupils enjoyed their annual fun-packed camping trip to Wasdale, where they pitched their own tents, went for long walks, made their own packed lunches and learnt about nature. They visited local places of interest including St Olaf's Church and Wastwater - the deepest lake in Britain. The children had a wonderful time and arrived home energised from their outdoor pursuits.

## SIXTH FORM PLAY

The annual Sixth Form play is traditionally rehearsed from scratch and performed in just a week. Pupils from the Lower Sixth returned to school after their AS Level examinations and performed the hilarious farce, See How They Run to an audience of parents, teachers, governors and friends on a summer's evening in the Sixth Form Quad. The amazingly polished performance was accompanied by a group of Lower Sixth musicians.

## MALTA CRICKET TRIP

Soon after the Summer Term drew to a close, the 1st XI cricket team jetted off to Malta for their tenth annual cricket tour where they faced a series against local side Marsa. The tour provided a mixture of competitive cricket and off-field fun with banana boating, poolside volleyball and cultural evenings alongside four tough matches. The final day saw the team grab a crucial end of tour win with Tom Isherwood 37



and David Wright 38 not out. This game also featured an amazing triple wicket maiden from Josh Cheyne, playing in his very last game for the school. Oliver Hall, having been absent all year with injury, showed much promise with the bat and Jamie Butler confirmed his form as a very effective wicket keeper batsman.

## OFF TO WORK THEY GO



At the end of the Summer Term, most of the Fifth Years and some Lower Sixth Formers undertook work experience placements with 105 different employers. Both pupils and employers gave hugely positive feedback. Whilst most placements were fairly local, Lower Sixth Former, Juwhan Han was fortunate enough to gain his experience in Korea.

#### THE ITALIAN JOB

At the start of the summer holidays, Third Year pupils departed for Italy to enjoy a five day joint Geography and Classics trip to Sorrento.

On the tour, the pupils took in the sights of the ancient ruins of Pompeii, climbed to the crater of Mount Vesuvius, explored the Roman town of Herculaneum, sailed to the Isle of Capri and enjoyed a museum visit in Naples. After finding time to cool off in a local water park and shop for souvenirs in Sorrento, pupils returned to England culturally richer, geographically more aware and physically exhausted!

## A DAY OF MUSIC

The annual Music Festival marked the end of a very busy period in the music calendar. This year's festival was



### **DOUBLE TENNIS SUCCESS**

The U13 and U15 Tennis teams both won their categories in the Stockport Schools Tennis Tournaments.

The U13s, made up of Emily Spencer, Holly Hunt, Niyati Takiar, Victoria Mowat and Faye Holleworth, were crowned champions after drawing 4 - 4 and winning 6 - 0 against Bramhall, as well as beating Cheadle Hulme 10 - 0 and 4 - 3. Jessica Cowell, Lara Knowles, Sadie Akhtar and Pippa Simons who made up the U15s, were just as successful and became champions after a 4 - 2 win and 4 - 4 draw against Cheadle Hulme.

adjudicated by Dr Sam King, Head of Music in the Curriculum at Chetham's School of Music. Dr King had an extremely difficult job judging ten categories showcasing all instruments from recorder to voice.

This year's winners included Second Year pupil Eilidh Pollard for the Most Promising Lower School Musician and Fifth Year pupil Naomi Clarke, who won the Adjudicator's Cup.



## COMPUTER ANIMATORS OF THE FUTURE

Alex Longson, Daniel Paigge,
Matthew Holgate, Milan Lakhani
and the ICT Department's
Animation Club had reason to
celebrate after their creation Andy's Electrostatics - earned them
the runners-up place in the group
category at the 2010 UK Schools
Computer Animation Competition.

#### IT'S ALL GREEK

Junior School pupils dressed in togas, sampled some tasty Mediterranean dishes and competed in ancient Olympic Games for Greek Day.

The event took place as part of Year 3's project on Ancient Greece, with the children enjoying Classical History lessons, making masks, performing plays of Greek myths and having a 'smashing' time breaking plates. After the Olympic Games opening ceremony, pupils participated in sporting events before the winners took to the podium to receive their medals.

## JUNIORS COMPETE AT SPORTS DAY

On a beautiful summer's day the Junior children enjoyed the big sporting event of the term. Everyone performed to the best of their abilities, competing in the long jump, target throw, 600 metres, ball throw, 150 metres and 60 metres sprint hurdles. Then, after a busy and enjoyable session, the Year 6 pupils entertained everyone with the House relay races. Once again, the SPA provided much needed refreshments. Overall results were; 4th Nicholson, 3rd Vernon, 2nd Arden, 1st Warren.



The boys were invited to the Animation 10 Awards Festival and Computer Science Day, held at The Lowry, Salford Quays, to receive their award for coming in second place from over 1,200 entries.

The boys' winning animation was shown at the event. A talk by Professor Stephen Byram Furber and a hands-on computer workshop gave them techniques that should help them storm the competition



## MADCAP RACES RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY



Pupils competed against Stockport School and Harrytown Catholic High School in 20 Things You Wouldn't Do, an off-the-wall sports event held on the playing fields of SGS.

Six teams from the Stockport schools completed twenty races, from the traditional three-legged race and leapfrog, to the less conventional searching for a grain of rice in a bowl of custard, eating Maltesers with chopsticks and being

mummified in tissue paper. Just over £3,000 was raised on the day, which goes towards helping a school in Sierra Leone, as part of the Educaid Link My Schools initiative.

The project offers an opportunity to learn about global citizenship through active learning, charity work and collaborative working between schools in Stockport.

## POET INSPIRES PUPILS

Mancunian performance poet, Mike Garry visited Stockport Grammar School to encourage pupils to think about the power and wonder of poetry and the relevance it has to their lives.

In four stimulating performances to Third and Fourth Year pupils, as well as an open session at lunchtime, his readings on urban life captivated his audiences.



## SCANDINAVIAN ADVENTURE

During the summer holidays, Upper Sixth Formers Martin Kent and Roger Lightwood, the recipients of the Albert Johnston Travel Award, headed off to Scandinavia for an unforgettable trip. They visited Oslo before heading to the Great Lakes of Northern Varmland, Sweden, for a seven day canoe tour; navigating the lakes, canals and land transports by day and wild camping in the remotest of locations each night, they were equipped with only the contents of a two-man Canadian canoe. This adventure was a fitting end to their time at SGS, before both boys embark on their studies at Cambridge University.

#### **JUNIOR LINGUISTS**



Five pupils from the Junior School competed in the regional semi finals of the Eurotalk Junior Language Challenge, where twenty six competitors were challenged in Japanese. Wolodymyr Krywonos, Katarina Sandall and Grace Howson-Reed came fourth, fifth and sixth respectively, with Emma Winder and Hannah Hartas-Pearson being highly commended for their efforts.

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