



Taking Stock

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 50 - WINTER 2011/2012



A TERM OF SPORTING EXCELLENCE

Pupils in the Senior School enjoyed a fabulous run of successes in the Autumn Term. We have selected just a few of the highlights to give you a taste of their outstanding performances.

Hockey

The First XI hockey team had an excellent start to the season, with a string of victories that saw them make it through to the National Schools Under-18s Tournament North Finals, where they were defeated by the narrowest of margins. As runners-up, the team will take part in the play-offs in January for a place in the National Final.

In more good news for the sport, Goalkeeper Martha Watson has been selected to play for England Under-18s. Emily Spencer has also gone through rigorous Under-14s trials and has made it to the final stage, finding out at the end of January whether she has been picked for the national squad.

Netball

The Under-13s netball team ably won the north-west HMC Festival

Tournament at Stonyhurst, remaining unbeaten on the day.

A second victory for SGS netballers followed when the Under-15s lifted the Stockport Schools Tournament trophy. After winning their section and the semi-final they triumphed with a brilliant 9 - 3 win against St James' in the final.

Rugby Representative Honours

A number of SGS boys have also been busy making their mark in County rugby.

First XV captain James Flynn has been playing for Cheshire Under-18s and has trained with the Sale Academy, while Tom Morton and Oliver Woodside represented Cheshire Under-16s in fixtures against Staffordshire and Lancashire.

On the back of their success in school matches and also representing East Cheshire, an impressive nine SGS players have been selected to be part of the full Cheshire Under-15s squad. They are: Adam Cawthorn, Will Hanson, Will Jones, Tom O'Mahony, Mark

Ray, Sam Haley, Mike Solomou, James Gilboy and Adam North.

Rugby Daily Mail Cup

With just one defeat in their first three years of rugby at the school, the Under-15s set out on their biggest challenge to date. The Daily Mail Cup is entered by over 300 of the best rugby playing schools in the country. Wins in the competition included a 50 - 0 win against Cheadle Hulme followed by an unbeaten run that took SGS through to the last 32 teams, before defeat by an impressive Leeds Grammar School side.

All results current at time of going to print, but check the website for the most up-to-date scores and fixtures.

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A TASTE OF SPAIN

Language pupils from the Fifth Year and Lower Sixth Form travelled to Madrid during half-term to practise their Spanish and learn about the country's culture.

The group visited a number of interesting sights in Madrid, including a bull ring, the Royal Palace and Retiro Park, where many hired boats and enjoyed a relaxing afternoon on the lake.

The pupils immersed themselves in Spanish culture when they learnt how to make tapas dishes and had a lesson in flamenco dancing and Spanish music.



Football enthusiasts were delighted with their trip to the Bernabéu stadium, home to Real Madrid, where they enjoyed a behind the scenes tour.

The trip also took them to the Alcázar of Segovia, high in the mountains, which allowed the group to enjoy the beautiful views of the surrounding area before exploring the town. The action packed trip ended with a traditional Spanish breakfast followed by a fun day out at the Parque Warner theme park.

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

The Music department had another busy term, rounded off with the Autumn and Christmas Concerts a week apart. Musicians played to packed houses and showcased the broad range of musical talent across the school, with performances from



the school orchestras, choirs, bands and vocal and instrumental ensembles. Pieces ranged from a Strauss concerto to Randy Newman's *You've got a Friend in Me* showing the versatility in musical styles that is embraced by the department.

Musical highlights for 2012 will include a 525th Anniversary Gala Concert on 25th February at the Royal Northern College of Music. This will be a joint concert with our Chorus and Chamber Choir, Cheshire Sinfonia and Chorale.

The much anticipated production of *Oliver!* takes place from 14th - 17th March, and will involve a cast and musicians from across the Senior School. Tickets will be advertised on the school website as soon as they are available.

INSPIRATION IN LONDON GALLERIES

The Art department's latest trip took Sixth Form pupils to visit some of London's most famous galleries.

Packed into the space of a day, the group visited Tate Modern, The National Gallery and The V&A, as well as The Royal Academy to see the *Degas and the Ballet: Picturing Movement* exhibition.

They returned exhausted but brimming with ideas and inspiration.

GROWING OUR OWN

The new Junior School vegetable garden got off to a flying start with a Halloween pumpkin carving competition to raise awareness and money for the stocking of the garden.

The land was cleared over the summer break, and the children will soon be encouraged to put forward their ideas to develop it and will be able to get involved in working on the garden.



LET'S GET PHYSICAL

In October, five Sixth Formers travelled to the University of Liverpool to take part in a competition of physics challenges. They were competing against thirty other schools from all over the north of England. The tasks awaiting them included working out the size of tracks on a CD, finding the location of a gamma source and hunting for the Higgs Boson. They came fourth overall, narrowly missing out on a third place medal by one point, but the SGS team won the *Fermi Quiz*, which clearly proved their great understanding of the subject and they were awarded t-shirts for their endeavours.

In November, School Governor, Professor Dainton from the University of Liverpool was the guest speaker at the lunchtime *Café Sci* event, inspiring pupils and staff as he spoke about the pursuit of Truth in science, the dedication required and rewards gained from a life in science. During an interactive session, pupils asked questions and were challenged to think about the current hot debate in physics: the measurement of the speed of neutrinos. He ended the talk with his stimulating reflection on String Theory.



LEGAL EAGLES BATTLE IT OUT IN COURT

Aspiring Sixth Form lawyers were finalists in the Sir Rhys Davies Mock Trial Competition in Manchester Crown Court, where they took on the roles of barristers and witnesses and tried cases in front of Manchester's judges in actual court rooms, gaining a real taste of the judicial system.

Defeating St Bede's and Bolton Grammar comfortably in the group stage, the SGS team made it through to the final, which they lost by just 2 points, despite their thorough preparation and determination. The judges commended the SGS team on their accomplished performances.

...AND BUDDING JOURNALIST WINS PRIZE

In further success at the Mock Trial competition, Lower Sixth Former Charlotte Rowe won the Manchester Evening News Law Reporting Prize, for which she had to watch a trial and compose a 350 word report to a strict deadline. The judge, a legal reporter for the M.E.N., commended her for her accuracy, clarity and ability to convey the drama of the courtroom.

CELEBRATING 525 YEARS

2012 represents an important milestone in the life of SGS as we celebrate 525 years since the School's foundation by Sir Edmond Shaa, Mayor of London and Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company. A year of festivities will commence with February's Gala Concert at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Events for the rest of the year include a 525th Anniversary Reception at Goldsmiths' Hall in London in May, and an open house History Day in September. This special year will also be marked with a fundraising initiative in support of the continuing bursary campaign to help bright children from all backgrounds fulfil their potential.



Chamber Choir in rehearsal

COOKING FOR JAMES MARTIN

Fourth Year pupil, Jaina Mistry is celebrating after being named the *Simply Beef and Lamb Young Chef Challenge* Regional Winner 2011 for the North West.

Head of Food Technology, Mrs Groves, submitted Jaina's entry, competing with hundreds more from all over the country and 47 youngsters were selected to represent their regions at six cook-off events judged by TV chef, James Martin.

After wowing the judges with her innovative meatball curry with salad and naan, Jaina was declared regional winner, with fellow SGS students Ed Robinson and Katy Bacon also being highly commended by James Martin. Jaina is now pitted against five other Regional Winners in the race to be crowned the overall National Champion.



In the week following her win, Jaina even got a taste of the life of a celebrity chef with a series of radio and newspaper interviews.

EXAMINING ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS



The Upper Sixth Form biologists spent four days on the Island of Anglesey in Wales, working on marine rocky shore ecology. The work carried out supports their A2 level studies where they are learning techniques of sampling ecosystems. Activities included random sampling, and line and belt transects to obtain quantitative data on the distribution of organisms found on the shore. Pupils then learned how to statistically analyse their data.

JUNIOR NETBALL

The Under 10s netball 'A' team has made an outstanding start to the season by winning every game played since September. For most of the girls this has been their first experience of representing their school in competitive netball and they have already shown that they have the determination and commitment to continue their winning ways.

The team have accumulated wins against The Grange, Ladybarn Preparatory School, Alderley Edge School for Girls, Manchester High School for Girls and Escourt. Francesca Cooke, Milly Cowell, Daisy Hanson, Emma Coghlan, Pippa Brown and Shivalika Takiar deserve commendation for their competence in the sport.



HARVEST GIVING

Pupils in the Junior School celebrated their harvest festival with a special assembly led by the Head Boy and Girl. Children performed plays *The Little Red Hen* and *The Enormous Turnip* in front of a backdrop of food parcels donated by pupils and their parents. Rev Liz Leaver, the school chaplain, then led the children in prayer to remind them of those in the world who have to go without food and water.

Later that day, the Year 3 classes delivered the parcels to elderly people's homes in Stockport, with the remainder being donated to local homeless charity, The Wellspring.



DRAMA PRODUCTION IS TEAMWORK

For two evenings the Main Hall was transformed in to a football pitch complete with line markings and goal posts as *cityUNITED* played to enthusiastic audiences who had come dressed in their team colours. A footballing love story, the production took *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet*, crossed them with football's tribalism and launched them twenty years into the future. Each performance included an unscripted football match between



'City' and 'United'. Sam Arrowsmith as 'The Referee', Cyrus Bulsara as 'Jack' and Liza Vul as 'Wendy' led a cast that excelled as they both entertained and explored a dystopian vision that saw football used as a means of repression. The play was written and directed by Senior Tutor, Mr Howson.

A GOOD RATE OF EXCHANGE

In September, 23 German students and two teachers from our partner school in Bad Segeberg came to stay with the families of our Fifth Year German students and by the end of their week together, some very strong friendships had been formed.

As well as attending some lessons with the SGS pupils, the visitors were also whisked off on a variety of excursions - touring Old Trafford and shopping in The Lowry Outlet Mall; visiting The Beatles Museum in Liverpool and enjoying a tour of the Roman city of Chester. A reception was held for them at Stockport Town Hall, after which they were given a guided tour of the Air Raid Shelters.

Much of the weekend was spent getting together en masse for parties and shopping trips. The whole group had an enormous amount of fun as well as increasing cultural understanding and improving language skills. Pupils look forward to their return leg in February when they will sample German life and culture and rekindle friendships.

Picture above: Exchange partners working together.



SGS REMEMBERS

The school marked Remembrance Day in several ways:-

Battlefields Tour

The History department's annual battlefields tour in northern France and Belgium took place over the half-term break, with Third Year pupils and staff visiting the sites of the First World War.

The site of the Battle of the Somme was the first destination, where pupils were guided around the trench system at the Newfoundland Memorial and visited the Lochnagar crater. Pupils visited the Thiepval Memorial where they laid a wreath of remembrance.

The trip then crossed the border to Ypres in Belgium, where they were guided through the Ypres Salient to sites such as Essex Farm, Hellfire Corner, Hill Sixty and Tyne Cott, the largest British military cemetery in the world. The group heard the poignant *Last Post* (played every day of the year at the Menin Gate) before laying another wreath at the memorial.

This was a memorable experience for all the pupils involved, who realised that those who had to fight for their country were not much older than them.

Theatre Trip

On the evening before Armistice Day, nearly 100 pupils donned their school uniform and poppies as they visited The Lowry for a performance of *Journey's End*, one of the most moving dramas ever written about the First World War, which some had already studied as a GCSE text.

Fourth Year pupil Amber Reece-Greenhalgh said: "I really wanted to come, even though I have never read the play. It seems appropriate to attend in uniform – it's a mark of respect." English teacher, Mrs Lawson, who organised the trip, said: "I was really proud. The sight of so many Stockport Grammar School pupils in the theatre was really uplifting and I think the experience made them appreciate that Remembrance Day is part of the present as well as the past."

Remembrance Service

On 11th November, over 100 Old Stopfordians, who were at the school between the 1930s and 1950s, joined pupils and staff in a Remembrance Service, before attending a reunion lunch and listening to talks from the children who had visited the battlefields and music from Fourth Year Henry Brearley on the piano.

JUNIOR FOOTBALLERS' WINNING START

Our Under-11 footballers got their season off to a great start after finishing as joint winners of a 7-a-side tournament held at The King's School, Macclesfield.

After losing their opening game 1 – 0 against Terra Nova, the boys showed great spirit, beating both King's



Macclesfield and Bury Grammar 2 – 0, so qualifying for the semi-finals as winners of their group.

In a closely contested semi-final packed with drama, Bolton equalised with moments left, only for Stockport Grammar to score the winner with the last kick of the game.

The boys faced Terra Nova once more in the final, scoring early in a match which ended 1 – 1 after extra-time. With no penalties played, the trophy was shared between the two teams.

MURDEROUS MATHS COMES TO SGS

Inspirational children's author Kjartan Poskitt ran an interactive Maths session with off-the-wall comedy and clever tricks for children in the First Year, when he visited the school as part of National Non-Fiction Day. Pupils were vying for the opportunity to join him on stage to help perform the tricks which had the audience laughing and gasping in amazement - as well as learning a thing or two along the way.

Kjartan also spoke to a group of pupils from across the school in the library, including some of the Sixth Form who came to meet him as he had inspired a love of Maths in them from an early age. He shared his experiences of writing the entertaining and educational *Murderous Maths* series and explained how his writing career had progressed. The author shared his tips for writing successful books and, once again, kept his audience entertained with his fascinating tricks and tales.

On the same day, the author's *Murderous Maths of Everything* won in the age 7-12 Children's Choice category at the SLA Information Book Awards.



BUILDING THE FUTURE

The building of the new Woodsmoor teaching facility is progressing well. The project is nearing its half way point with the full structure in place and work progressing to install windows and some of the interior detail.



The project is still scheduled to be completed in the early summer. Detailed planning work has now started with all the teaching departments who will be affected by the move into the new facilities.

Final designs are also being completed for the residual building and landscaping work which will follow from the planned demolition of the Black and White building and Classics block during the summer holiday.

A number of pupils have already visited the site to look at structural design issues as part of the Physics curriculum.

JUNIOR SCHOOL RUNNERS SHOW STAMINA AT STONYHURST

The Under-11s boys' and girls' cross country teams travelled to Stonyhurst School for the annual regional cross country competition.

This course always proves to be a challenge as it takes runners around the outskirts of a golf course with some tough hills and rough ground. All the SGJS entrants did very well, with Joe Davidson finishing 7th out of 90.



FIELD STUDIES IN THE LAKES

Lower Sixth Geography pupils headed to the Blencathra field studies centre in the Lake District to collect river data as part of their A Level syllabus.

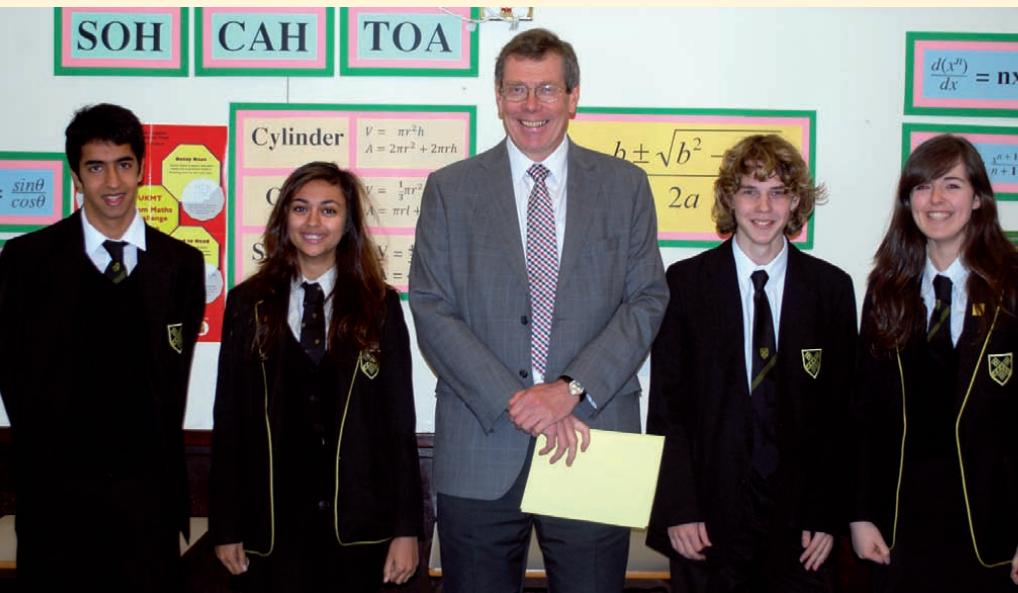
In suitably wet weather, the geographers also examined Keswick's new £6 million flood defence system, built as a result of the town's floods in 2009.

The second day was spent observing the glacial landforms around Easedale Tarn which all helped pupils understand better some of the features they are studying as part of the course.

MATHS TEAM HAS ALL THE ANSWERS

Congratulations to the team of four Sixth Form pupils who won The UK Maths Trust senior team competition at Manchester University in November.

Upper Sixth Formers Suzy Eames and Tristan Kemp, and Lower Sixth Formers Zoe Harris and Milan Lakhani, were expertly prepared for the competition by Maths teacher Mr Cheslett. They beat eight other teams to be crowned regional champions and will go on to compete at the national final in London in February 2012.



A GRAND DAY OUT

Residents from Queens Gardens sheltered housing in Cheadle were treated to a Junior School variety show performed by children in Years 3 and 4.

The boys and girls sang, performed sketches and recited their favourite poems to the visitors, who also enjoyed renditions of Beatles classics played by the Junior School orchestra.

Afterwards, the residents enjoyed a cup of tea and a slice of cake before returning home in the school minibus.



BOLD AND BLUE

Staff and pupils wore blue accessories to school on the Friday of Anti Bullying Week to raise awareness of the national anti-bullying *Bold and Blue* campaign.



The focus of this year's activities was 'stop and think - words can hurt' and pupils across the school were involved in different activities, from organising assemblies, debates and discussions to creating anti-bullying animation for the digital screens around the school.

JUNIOR HOCKEY STARS

The Year 5 hockey teams had a taste of competitive hockey when they visited Queen's Chester, and were supported in their first matches of the season by a few more experienced Year 6 players. The A and B teams gained confidence and strength throughout their matches and both emerged victorious despite a spirited fight by Queen's.



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