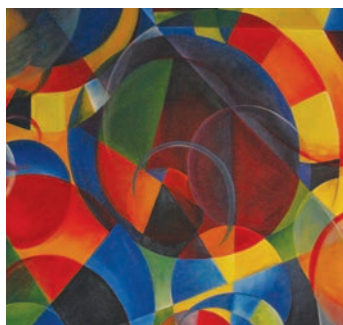


# TAKING STOCK /

Stockport Grammar  
School Newsletter



**Issue 51**  
Spring/Summer 2012



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# PUPILS TAKE CENTRE STAGE

The Spring and Summer Terms have given many opportunities for the school's musicians and performers to shine.



## CAN WE HAVE SOME MORE?

A fantastic sell-out Senior School production of *Oliver!* which ran over four nights in March showcased the breadth of talent across the school. From cast, chorus and orchestra, to backstage, technical and marketing teams, the production saw 180 pupils from the First Year through to Upper Sixth involved in a seamless and highly energetic show. Notable performances came from Sixth Former Ollie Mills who played a charismatic Fagin with excellent vocal ability and musicality.

Fellow Sixth Former Natalie Clarke sang a highly emotional *As Long As He Needs Me*, the highlight of her role as Nancy. First Year pupil Alex Grant who played a sweet-voiced Oliver Twist reflected:

"It was a great, new experience which I really enjoyed – I learnt a lot and definitely want to keep the drama up now."

A lively portrayal of *The Artful Dodger* came from Third Year Jack Carter. Jamie Rahman, Sixth Former, gave an extremely menacing performance in his role as Bill Sykes. The cast and chorus were supported by the accomplished show orchestra, conducted by Director of Music, Mr Dow. Pupils were expertly directed by Drama teacher, Mrs Moffatt and the show was produced by Head of ICT, Mr Flaherty.

The cast, orchestra and crew also spent a morning delivering a 'workshop' to Lower School pupils, where they performed several numbers from the show as well as being 'in-conversation' with Co-Curricular Co-ordinator Mrs Muscutt, sharing their experiences and discussing what is involved in putting on a show of this scale.



## IT'S ALL GREEK

The annual Classics play, directed by Head of Classics Mr Thorley, now has a firm slot in the school calendar. The department continued their successful run of Greek tragedies with an impressive production of Aeschylus's *The Persians* over three nights.

The story was portrayed by a brilliant cast of Sixth Formers Sam Allport, Tom Fawcett and Alex Collingwood who all supported lead character Atossa played by Ayoni Medagoda, alongside the chorus led by Toby Jones and comprising Luke Cawthorn, James Earley, Walid Hassoon, Ben Hayes and Will Robinson.

Off stage, a 20-strong crew helped to make the production possible. The show's wonderful costumes were created by staff and pupils in the Textile Technology and Art departments, while pupil Hina Ali was responsible for Atossa's make up.

Each performance of the play was also preceded by a different short drama written by an A Level Classics pupil, who had been asked to consider the extent to which relations have changed between the east and the west since *The Persians* was written nearly 2,500 years ago, with the results providing perfect openers for the main feature.

## RNCM COLLABORATION

In February the school's Chorus and Chamber Choir delighted parents, Governors and music-lovers alike when they performed along with Cheshire Sinfonia and Chorale in a Gala Concert at the Royal Northern College of Music.

The pupils' talent and dedication and their collaboration with such acclaimed classical ensembles resulted in a programme that demonstrated the highest quality of musicianship and was a fitting start to the year's 525th anniversary celebrations.



## A TALENTED BUNCH

The hotly anticipated annual Vernon Show fundraiser showcased a range of talent from all age groups in the school, with two performances over a lunchtime. There was a variety of musical and comic talents, with a strong presence from the Lower School this year, including a unique comedy act from Arisha-Jane Marsh, original music from Lara O'Donoghue, an a cappella duet from Georgia Burns and Molly Royle, as well as a star turn from *Those Four Girls*, a singing and dancing girl group from 1S.

Higher up the school, Vernon House stalwart Ismaeel Ramzan contributed an entertaining act with his regular rapping 'crew' and Ed Robinson stepped in too, before a stellar performance with Jamie Simpson, which had everyone 'hippity-hopping' back to lessons after the show.

Ade Ferguson and Natalie Clarke played an extremely well-received acoustic set and the special guests of the show, teacher ensemble *One Education* provoked a lively amount of audience participation. The two shows raised £334 for the House charities.



## MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Rounding off a year of musical excellence, the annual Summer and Leavers' Concerts once again exhibited not only the talent and hard work of the pupils and staff but also the quality and diversity of music enjoyed by pupils of all ages at Stockport Grammar School.

The programmes featured excellent performances from the Junior Band, Concert Band, Wind Orchestra, Senior Big Band, Junior Big Band, Jazz Band, String Orchestra, First Orchestra, Brass Ensemble, Junior Singers, Chamber Choir and Chorus.

Look out for coverage of the end of term Music Festival and the summer Music Tour in the next issue of *Taking Stock*.



# ARTISTIC DIFFERENCES

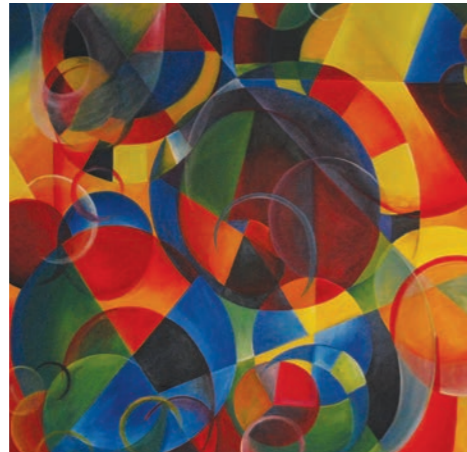
## EXHIBITING AT THE LOWRY

Three of the school's top artists have had their artwork displayed at The Lowry in Salford Quays as part of Living Edge magazine's School Arts Competition.

Rebecca Hosfield (under-14s), Gwen Harris (under-16s) and Jessica Hadfield (under-18s) all had their work hung in the gallery before it was judged by some of the north-west's leading artists, with Jessica's entry being chosen as a runner-up in her category.

Mr Davies, Head of Art, said: "This year saw a record number of entries from many of the best schools from across the north-west, and so the fact that all three of our entrants were accepted was very pleasing."

SGS has a rich history in the competition with Sophie Watson being chosen as a winner in 2010, and Jenny McLoughlin, Ellie Broster and Simon Howard all having their work highly commended in recent years.



Jessica Hadfield

"It has been fantastic to have a creative output whilst the rest of my subjects have been essay based."

Pupils have been encouraged to be inspired by the landscape and architecture around them as well as drawing on school trips to inform their work – such as Kate Mitchell's paintings of the Namibian children she worked with last summer. The groups have also been looking at established artists (both contemporary and from the past), resulting in very varied and individual work.

AS Level pupil Abigail Saunders has been fortunate enough to spend time in acclaimed artist Liam Spencer's studio and A Level pupil Helen Topham's work has been selected for the prestigious Royal Academy A Level Summer Exhibition. A number of the A Level students hope to go on to study courses such as Architecture, Fashion and Photography at University.



Kate Mitchell

Helen Topham

## A VISUAL TREAT

This year's GCSE and A Level art exhibitions opened to a private viewing for parents, staff, Governors and donors who were impressed by the high standard of work presented.

At all levels, pupils have embraced a range of media in their practice. A Level student Arran Mackay who, as well as painting, has experimented to fantastic effect with various textile techniques such as batik and felting, commented:



## IN THE TOP THREE

The Under-13s hockey squad have finished in the top three in England with an impressive performance in the National Schools' Mini Hockey Championships Final.

After progressing through the Greater Manchester, North-West and North rounds of the competition earlier in the year, the team travelled to Cannock Hockey Club as the first ever Stockport Grammar hockey team to reach a national final in the Under-13s age group.

After losing the first match, the squad quickly turned things round and took control to win the next three matches before a third place playoff against Hymers College, who had defeated the girls in the North finals.

Revenge was sweet as Lauren Hunt, Lily Wolstenholme and captain Francesca Bailey scored the goals to secure their hugely impressive finish.

Francesca said of the day:

"We were really nervous, playing against the teams we had lost to in the third and fourth rounds, but we beat them and ended up coming third in England so we were really proud of ourselves. It's been a great season!"

# GOOD SPORTS

## CALL UPS TO NATIONAL SIDES

Rugby First XV captain James Flynn is now playing for his country after being selected for the England Under-18s Clubs and Schools Rugby Squad. James impressed the selectors during his excellent performances for the North at the Under-18s Divisional Festival which saw the Prop score the winning try in a 7-5 victory against the Midlands. James has also played for Sale Sharks' second team in the Aviva A League this season, further demonstrating what a promising future he has in the game...

...and Sixth Former Jamie Simpson has enjoyed continued success in his fencing with the captaincy of the Northern Ireland squad for the UKSG and a bronze medal in the men's team Épée.



## HOCKEY TRIUMPHS

The First XI have capped a tremendous season by winning the Greater Manchester Schools' Under-18s tournament.

The team, led by captain Charlotte Bailey, played four games without a rest, but the girls took that extra challenge in their stride by opening with a 4 – 0 win against Withington followed by a late 1 – 0 victory against Altrincham Grammar. Their next game was a real end-to-end battle, with Martha Watson, who is also goalkeeper for the England Under-18s team, pulling off a triple save against Cheadle Hulme. A 1 – 0 win secured the trophy and despite their tired legs, the girls took to the pitch once again to score a 2 – 0 victory against St Bede's to round off the day's achievements.

## HOUSE RUNNERS COMPETE

There were some impressive performances from First and Second Year pupils in the House cross country events at the end of the Spring Term. Winners of gold medals in the First Year were Daniel Woodside and Georgia Bourke, with Liam Sorah and Molly Tinker taking silver and bronze going to Sam Howard and

Morgan Hanson. Nicholson was the winning House.

In the Second Year competition, Warren House won, with Patrick Magner and Juliet Downs winning gold, Joshua Foran and Lauren Hunt taking silver, and Ciaran Collins and Sarah Stretton claiming bronze.

## 7 UP

The Under-15s rugby boys lifted the prestigious King's Macclesfield Myles Marshall Rugby Sevens trophy to round off another impressive season. The quarter and semi-finals saw the boys beat Solihull and Warwick 36 – 7 and 24 – 7 respectively before they avenged an earlier defeat to Lymm by beating them 20 – 12 to secure the tournament win. With just a handful of defeats in their first three years of rugby at the school, the team also made their mark on this season's Daily Mail Cup, reaching the sixth round of the competition.





# HERE THERE AND EVERYWHERE

School trips have once again taken pupils far and wide...



## CONQUERING SNOWDONIA

Thirty two pupils spent their Easter breaks on the peaks of Snowdonia on the annual mountaineering trip to the Welsh mountains.

Despite the fog, rain and sleet, all of the Third Year pupils managed to tackle the Tryfan scramble, and also take part in climbing and abseiling. Most of the group also conquered Snowdon via its various routes, assisted by four Sixth Form helpers who joined the trip for the first time this year.

Based at the Llanberis Youth Hostel, the climbers headed out each evening for activities to support the day's climbing. Pupils learnt basic first aid, role-played rescue scenarios and practised bushcraft skills.

Although the weather on the last day prevented the climbers from going up into the hills, the group were able to learn more about mountain rescue and the role of the Police in the area with visits to the Ogwen Rescue Base and the Cheshire Air Support Unit.



## A FAIR EXCHANGE

Twenty four Fifth Year pupils travelled to Bad Segeberg over Spring Half Term for the return half of their German exchange.

The new friendships made when the German pupils were at Stockport Grammar the previous term had been maintained, and pupils were very excited to be reunited with their partners.

SGS pupils sampled life in a German classroom, spent a weekend with their host families and enjoyed trips to Hamburg's centre where they skated, socialised and were taken to dinner.

As well as getting a first-hand insight in to German culture from their host families, the pupils got to see some of the area's most famous sights including the picturesque town of Lübeck and Miniaturwelt, the world's largest miniature railway.

The highlight of the trip for many was a VIP visit to the Reichstag. A guided tour was followed by a visit to the glass dome at the top, where panoramic views of the German capital were enjoyed.

With friendships cemented, language improved and German culture explored, this was a tremendously successful exchange.

## ON THE PISTES

Mayrhofen in Austria was the destination for the February Half-Term ski trip, with thirty one pupils from across the Senior School taking to the slopes.

Skiers varied from beginners to the experienced, but all found their feet on the resort's wide range of runs. High winds and poor visibility at times helped teach the pupils important lessons about skiing in tougher conditions, a challenge which they all embraced.

There was plenty of time for fun away from the pistes too. As well as the excellent accommodation, pupils enjoyed ice skating, bowling, an ice cream evening and a trip to a water park, while a glorious final day of sunshine offered the group fantastic views from the mountains.



## COMING TO AMERICA

New York, Philadelphia and Washington were visited by History and Art A Level and GCSE students during the Easter break on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the east coast of the USA.

Starting their trip in New York, the Art department visited some of the world's most famous galleries and art collections including MoMA and The Guggenheim, while historians took in some of the city's most recognisable sights on foot, including the Empire State building, Rockefeller Centre and Times Square, while a boat trip took them to Liberty Island to see the Statue of Liberty.

The next stage of the tour took the pupils to Philadelphia where historians learnt more about the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

The group then travelled to Washington DC for the final stage of the trip, where the artists took in The Phillips Collection, The Smithsonian Museum of American Art and the National Gallery of Art, where they were presented with an extraordinary display of major pieces by many of the greatest artists from both America and Europe. Staff and pupils alike were impressed by the sheer scale of the galleries and benefited from the opportunities to learn about and appreciate the art they were viewing.

The History students took in all the major sights, as well as the more sombre visits to Arlington National Cemetery, the city's numerous war memorials and the Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The tour's museums and sights were of particular importance to Sixth Form pupils and their A2 work on American civil rights, as well as the GCSE classes who have been able to use their experiences to support the international relations element of their course.







## MASTERCHEF AT SGS

First Year Emma Winder was crowned 2012 SGS Masterchef champion after her Thai green curry with sticky coconut rice followed by a chocolate torte wowed chefs from Alderley Edge's *Grill on the Edge* who were judging the competition.

The chefs critiqued the eight finalists' dishes on taste, presentation, skill and preparation, with Emma's meal just beating runners-up Natasha Hurst (Second Year) and Ellie Goldstein (First Year).

Having progressed through the competition's earlier rounds, finalists had just 60 minutes to cook their choice of menu, with the chefs from the *Grill on the Edge* keeping a close eye on the preparation skills, speaking to the pupils about the dishes and offering professional advice.

As well as the *Masterchef* trophy, and a £75 voucher for the restaurant where her winning dish will be featured on the specials board, Emma ended the day with great memories:

"I enjoyed the competition so much. I love to cook and can't wait to try my dish at the restaurant."

# RISING TO THE CHALLENGE



## CHEMISTRY AWARDS ALL ROUND

The school's Chemistry Olympiad entrants have achieved some outstanding results in this year's competition, with Sixth Formers Alastair Watts and Miranda Cupit finishing among the top 7% in the UK to take gold awards and other pupils receiving silver and bronze awards.

Organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Olympiad is a challenging written test of chemical knowledge which stimulates much debate on, and enthusiasm for, the subject.

Lower down the school, the Chemquiz team, Georgia Burns, Daniel Jones, Ali Khattab and Ana Krywonos, were placed third in the regional heat of the Royal Society of Chemistry's annual Chemistry Quiz – a great result as 41 schools entered the competition. The team finished top in the chemical knowledge and multimedia sections of the quiz and also performed brilliantly in the practical element.

Third Year pupils who attend Crest Award Club also achieved their Bronze Crest Awards after undertaking a research project in groups, examining the efficacy of various household washing powder brands.

## CREATIVE ANIMATION

For the third year running, pupils from the ICT department's Animation Club have been nominated for a prize in Manchester University's UK Schools Animation Competition.

Christian Anderson's *War with Mathematics* and his joint entry with Yusuf Ahmed, *The Inspiration*, are amongst just 35 nominees from a nationwide field of over 900 entries.

This is Christian's second consecutive year as a prizewinner after he was highly commended for his animation on staying safe online, *FaceJournal* last year. Fourth Years Christian and Yusuf will both be guests at the Animation12 Awards Festival and Computer Science Day at Manchester University in July, where they find out which prizes their creations have won.

**The animations can be viewed on the school website.**



## BUDDING DIPLOMATS

Two hundred pupils from fifteen schools across the country gathered at Stockport Grammar for two days of political debate, when the school played host to the Model United Nations conference.

The conference, where delegates research a nation and take on roles as that country's diplomats, was a roaring success and was run entirely by Sixth Form pupils under the guidance of English teacher Miss Spence and Psychology teacher Mr Browne.

Delegates debated complex issues such as stem cell research and justice for war criminals. The level of debate was consistently high, and the pupils' knowledge was boosted thanks to guest speeches from local MP Andrew Stunell OBE on international politics and Paul Smith from PricewaterhouseCoopers, who spoke about the internet and its impact on international relations.

## SELL, SELL, SELL!

Economists and Business Studies pupils from the Sixth Form spent a morning buying, selling and trading shares with representatives from the Bank of New York Mellon in a game of Fundopoly.

Joined by members of the Fourth Year Share and Investment Club, pupils were divided into teams and given a budget to buy and sell shares, commodities, currencies and bonds

Delegates followed Paul's talk by debating issues relating to technology and its impact on the international community, before gathering for General Assembly where they debated a surprise crisis issue set up by the school's organising committee.

Earlier in the term, at the Dublin conference, SGS delegates picked up some top awards in recognition of outstanding performances. Sam Allport and Zoe Harris were commended and Ali Watts and Jo Boon were highly commended, while Tom Fawcett won the prize for the best delegate in the security council, which has the highest level of debaters. Most impressive, though, was the team's award for best delegation in general assembly, the equivalent of finishing second in the competition.

over a five-day cycle, with their success or failure dependent on the day's real-life trading news.

This game certainly challenged pupils' economic knowledge, understanding of data and their decision-making skills, with the team of Sixth Formers Chris Marshall, Chris Robinson, James Collins and Fourth Year Jaimin Lakhani being named as the winners at the end of what was an enjoyable and rewarding morning.

## ARTERIAL ROUTE

Upper Sixth Formers, Chloe Withers and Andrew Prossor made it to the final of the National Science and Engineering Competition, being nominated for the prize after carrying out research at Manchester Royal Infirmary on the effect of diabetes on small arteries. They had already won one of the British Science Association's prestigious Gold Crest Awards for the project, which was partly funded by Andrew's Nuffield bursary. Chloe and Andrew were given stand space on the main exhibition floor at the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham in March where they explained their project in person to thousands of visitors.

It is the second consecutive year that a Stockport Grammar pupil has been nominated for the prize after Lauren Fowler completed a similar project in 2011.

## YOUNG CONSUMERS

The school's *Young Consumers of the Year* team finished as runners-up in the north-west final at the Trafford Centre.

Jaimin Lakhani, alongside fellow Fourth Year pupils Fergus Bell, James Longbottom and Anand Thalava, represented SGS after scoring 86 out of 100 in the competition's previous round.

Despite being up against much older teams of Sixth Form pupils from across the region, the boys excelled and finished second, narrowly missing out on a place in the national final.



# JUNIOR SCHOOL

Pupils have enjoyed a fantastic spring with trips, drama, sporting achievements, academic highs and fun-filled activity days...



## REPRESENTING THE COUNTY

Four girls from the Under-11s hockey team have matched their Senior School counterparts by being selected to represent their county.

Dora Barlow, Isobel Croft, Kitty Taylor and Annabel Tordoff attended six Cheshire training sessions and were all successful in being selected for the Under-12s development squad.

## MUSICAL MURDER MYSTERY



Year 6 production *Clusical the Musical*, the first ever full length original musical to be performed at the school, played to a packed house in March, with a wonderful musical score of extravagant chorus numbers, romantic duets and amusing solos.

A comedic murder-mystery, scripted by Drama teacher Mrs Sullivan, with music and lyrics by Upper Sixth Form pupil Oliver Mills, (who played Fagin in

*Oliver!*) was born following their collaboration on some of the songs in last year's Year 6 play, *Trolls*. Musical direction came from Mrs Cole.

Full of eccentric characters and set in the 1920s, the show boasted polished performances from over fifty Year 6 pupils, who will surely go on to star in the Senior School productions in years to come.



## MAKE DO AND MEND

Pupils in Year 5 arrived at school dressed as evacuees for a special World War II Day.

The day began with the children listening to the announcement of the start of the war and finding out from Mrs Pinkerton-Smythe (Mrs Flint) and Mrs Pinches-Hooper (Mrs Sullivan) where they would be spending the next few months.

The morning's activities ranged from emergency first aid to repairing old clothes and making their rations last. After a packed lunch (with plenty of Spam and corned beef on the menu) pupils were rushed off to the air raid shelter having heard the familiar siren. Once there, they worked together to put out the fires from the bombs.

The afternoon was spent decorating, cleaning the courtyard and sampling food before celebrating the end of the war with songs and games.

Reflecting on the day, Jake Thorley said:

"I liked the activities we did. I was surprised about the food. I thought it would be a bit like Victorian gruel but it turned out to be nice, sweet, tasty food! Yum!"



## MAD SCIENTISTS

Children from the Nursery up to Year 6 enjoyed a day of experiments and craft when the Junior School held a Science Day.

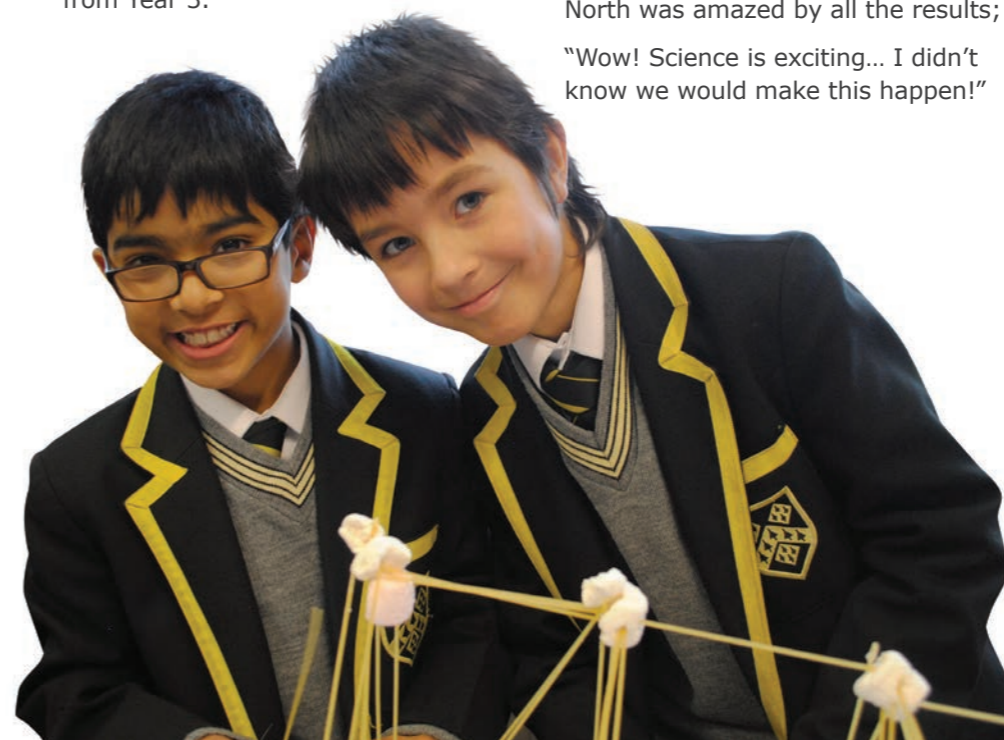
Over a dozen different activities took place during the day, varying from creative crafting in the Nursery and Infants to lectures and microscope work further up the school, as well as exciting experiments conducted by the visiting *Science Boffins* company. Creative Chemistry Club in the Senior School also got involved, with a performance of *Legend of the Dragon* written by the club as a special showcase of scientific tricks, amazing the audience of visiting children from Year 3.

Year 5 conducted experiments in the school swimming pool to learn about aerodynamics using push and glide techniques.

Finally, the whole school gathered around the field to witness the *Science Boffins* launch a rocket high into the Stockport sky to signal the end of a memorable day.

Continuing the science theme, the following morning Senior School Chemistry teacher Dr Pitts visited the Infants to help them create chemical reactions, erupting mini volcanoes and conducting the classic diet cola and Mentos explosion. Year 1 pupil, Amaya North was amazed by all the results;

"Wow! Science is exciting... I didn't know we would make this happen!"



## VISITING THE TOWN HALL

The Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Stockport have been regular guests of the Junior School during their year in office, and it was their turn to play hosts when some of the pupils were invited to the Town Hall.

Twelve former and current House Captains were given a guided tour of Stockport's grandest building, including the Mayor's rooms and the iconic marble staircase, and were allowed to sit at the chairs and tables usually reserved for important dignitaries.

As well as inspecting the Mayor's robes, hat and chain, the pupils also viewed the stained glass window inscribed with the name of Sir Edmund Shaa, former Lord Mayor of London and founder of Stockport Grammar School.

## PIANOFORTE

Year 6 pupil, Isobel Croft, was selected to represent the school at the AJIS Piano Festival in May. Children from fourteen schools throughout the north west enjoyed an afternoon master class with Mr Nicholas Oliver from Chetham's School of Music in preparation for the evening concert. Isobel was the only child to have composed her own music and Mr Oliver commented:

"I thought it was an evocative and imaginative sounding piece which could have easily been a soundtrack to a scene from a movie."





## POETRY IN MOTION

The third annual Poetry Competition final was held with boys and girls from Reception through to Year 6 reciting their favourite poems in front of a packed hall of children. The exciting atmosphere in the hall was added to by the Infants who were dressed as their favourite book characters as part of the school's Book Week.

Judge, Mrs Lawson, Head of First Year in the Senior School, was impressed by the Reception classes' entertaining group recitals of *I Had A Little Turtle* and *Our Bog Baby*. For the Infant prize, Kate Horsley beat off strong competition from George Brown,

Scarlett Sim and Annabel Mobley with her confident delivery of her poem, while Daniel Grant's dramatic performance took the Lower Junior prize of a signed Gervase Phinn book. Kia Gerami, Charlie Hallows and Isabelle Barratt were also commended for their confident deliveries.

The Upper Junior round provided stiff competition, with Hannah Nolan taking home the first prize, but Jenson Cullen's moving recital of a poem about the death of an airman ended the competition on a reflective note, with Lauren Suddards, Lukas Amstutz and Nathan Eckersley all coming close too.

Speaking after the competition, Mrs Lawson said:

"The standard achieved by all the competitors was excellent and choosing a winner was particularly difficult this year. Although he didn't win his category, I have to offer special congratulations to Jenson for his moving recital of a poem about the death of an airman. He spoke the words with real passion and showed everyone the power of poetry."

## ACTIVE IN CUMBRIA

A three day residential trip at Cumbria's Robinwood activity centre provided the Year 5 children with the perfect end to the Spring half term.

Teamwork, motivation, setting personal challenges and lots of fun are the main aims of the annual trip which sees the boys and girls take part in dozens of activities including climbing, archery, tunnelling and zip wiring.

The children all returned to school with plenty of new stories to tell about their adventures, and everybody had their own favourite challenges.

Charlotte Gover was a big fan of the giant swing:

"I felt scared yet excited at the top of the swing – I felt like I was hanging on the edge of oblivion!"

The 'piranha pool', which puts teamwork to the test, was another favourite, particularly of Toby Jones:

"I was the second person to run through it. I felt quite scared but my team encouraged and helped me. The water was so cold!"



## A GOOD CAUSE

Cheadle Hulme-based charity The Seashell Trust was presented with a cheque for £385 by children from the Junior School who had raised the money during the annual charity week.

The charity, formerly known as Royal Schools for the Deaf, helps people with sensory impairment and learning and communication difficulties.

The money was raised thanks to the enthusiastic participation of the children, from the Nursery through to Year 6, in a number of fundraising events, including dressing up, quizzes, a toy raffle and a cake sale.



## GOING BACK IN TIME

An overnight stay in York didn't just take the Year 4 children to the other side of the Pennines – it transported them back to the Dark Ages and Tudor times after they visited a living history village.

There was no time to relax after arriving at Murton Park's Danelaw Dark Age Village; the children were whisked off by a Viking, dressed up in tunics, gowns and headscarves and were put straight to work, trying out pottery, fieldwork and housework as well as carrying out training as Viking soldiers. Later, children gathered around the fire for stories, before heading back to their accommodation in the city.

Speaking about the atmospheric storytelling, Ali Chaudury said:

"I really enjoyed the evening story about Thor's hammer. We were sitting in the Lord of the Village's Long House. It was going dark and the fire was right in the middle of the room..."

The following day, pupils visited Jorvik Dig, an archaeological centre where they were able to excavate artefacts from four different historical ages, including the one they had spent the previous day living in. A working archaeologist showed the children a selection of bones and other finds which they learned to identify.

The pupils completed their journey into the past with a visit to Murton Park, spending half a day living as Tudors, where activities included writing with quill and ink, candle dipping and making pomanders, before their adventure finally came to an end.





# INSPIRATION

Pupils have been fortunate to count authors, a news correspondent and athletes amongst the many guest speakers this year...



## ON YOUR BIKE

Olympic cycling legend and former World Champion Rob Hayles was a guest of the Junior School when he came in to talk to pupils about his career.

During assembly, the three-time Olympic medalist spoke about his progression from getting into cycling at the age of 12 through to competing in the sport at the very highest level. As well as being captivated by his story, the children were thrilled to be able to examine his bike, and even more excited to see his silver and bronze medals.

Rob Hayles also visited the Nursery and Infant classes before spending time with Year 6 pupils, where a question and answer session gave them a unique insight into the life of an Olympic athlete.

Year 6 pupil Shaun Zizinga-Jones was inspired by the visit:

"I loved the fact that we could ask questions that you would never normally get the chance to ask. It was really interesting to hear how an Olympic athlete trains."

Rob will be commentating on the cycling in this summer's London Olympics for BBC Radio 5 Live.



### WORLD OF NORM

Author Jonathan Meres treated the Juniors to an entertaining talk about his latest book in the World of Norm series before the half-term break. Jonathan, a former stand-up comedian, spent most of the hour making his audience of Year 2 to Year 6 boys and girls laugh before reading a chapter from *May Cause Irritation*. Afterwards the children had the chance to get their own copies of the book signed.

Charlie Hallows, in Year 3 became a fan of Jonathan's books after the talk:

"*The World of Norm* is a very, very, very funny story about a boy who dreams he goes to the supermarket naked. I can't wait to read it properly!"

### CHILLING TALES

Award-winning author Bryony Pearce visited the Senior School library to talk about her debut book, *Angel's Fury*, and later joined in with an English lesson. Bryony shared her experiences of writing and discussed the themes and influences behind the book, partly inspired by her own vivid dreams.

After speaking to keen readers and signing books at lunchtime, Bryony captivated two Third Year English classes with an experiment which looked into the pupils' consciences, following a key theme in her novel, which is packed with symbolism and puzzles.



## HORROR STORIES

Author and "master of horror" Darren Shan visited the Senior School to shock and surprise an audience of First and Second Year pupils and meet a legion of fans from all age groups. Shan read from his *Demonata* series of books, making the audience jump and finishing on a cliffhanger.

As well as discussing his other projects, Darren took a closer

look at the *Saga of Larten Crepsley* series before taking questions from the floor during a varied question and answer session.

Darren spent lunchtime meeting his fans, signing books and answering questions – and still had time to be interviewed by the school's young journalists for *SignPost* newspaper.

### HOLDING COURT

Old Stopfordian John Amaechi OBE, who is an organisational consultant, high performance coach, best-selling author and former NBA basketball player, returned to Stockport Grammar to talk to pupils from across the whole school.

In a series of sessions he spoke to Junior School Year 6 and Senior School First Years, A Level and GCSE PE pupils, as well as a captivated lunchtime audience of pupils and staff in the library.

During the talks, John discussed a wide range of topics including sport and social responsibility, London 2012, his journey to and experiences in the NBA, and the inspiration behind his decision to become a psychologist. John also encouraged pupils to think about their aspirations and how they may go about reaching their goals.



John is currently a director for the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games Board and reported on human rights issues in China during the Beijing Games as a sporting ambassador for Amnesty International.



### TALES FROM THE RED CARPET

Old Stopfordian Lucy Cotter, Sky News Arts and Entertainment Correspondent, returned to school to speak to pupils about journalism and held a workshop with the First Year school newspaper team.

Lucy talked about covering the key award ceremonies and red carpet events including The Oscars, Baftas and Brits where she regularly secures interviews with A list celebrities as well as her work covering major new exhibitions and shows.

Joining Senior Tutor, Mr Howson and the school newspaper team, Lucy used the day's papers to help give pupils writing tips, as well as taking a look at the team's editorial process.

Later on in the afternoon, Lucy held a more careers-orientated discussion with older pupils who are thinking about a future in the profession.

In what was an invaluable session for those involved, Lucy took questions on everything from her news team's morning meetings to the challenges of 24 hour news.



A selection of artwork produced by GCSE, AS and A2 pupils.



Sophie Harnett GCSE



William Robinson AS



Daniel Thorburn GCSE



Kate Mitchell A2



Sarah Hammond GCSE



Yasmeen Elturkie A2



Elly Cramer GCSE



Arabella Kasler AS



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