

# TAKING STOCK /

Stockport Grammar  
School Newsletter



**Issue 52**  
Autumn 2012



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# RECORD BREAKERS

**Plenty of hard work and commitment paid off for the 140 pupils who took their GCSE examinations this summer as they celebrated record-breaking levels of success.**

99% of results were at A\* – C, and 73% of all grades were awarded A\* – A. Almost one third of the year group achieved a clean sweep of A\* and A grades. 35% of results were A\* and an impressive 92% of all grades were awarded A\* – B grades, up from 89% last year.

As well as achieving record results, pupils across the year have managed to combine dedication to their studies with varied extra-curricular activities from sport to music, volunteering and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Portia Hunt sat 12 GCSEs, having studied Latin and Further Mathematics as additional subjects after school, and gained an amazing 11 A\*s, one A and a distinction. Portia also plays drums in the school's Big Band.

Five all-star pupils were particularly delighted with their achievements: Ryan Jude gaining 11 A\*s and Jed Holloway, Matty Hughes, Jenny Johnson and Ben Oldfield with 10 A\*s.

Jenny Johnson was "very happy and a bit surprised" by the fantastic results which she says she worked very hard to achieve. Jenny also plays netball for the school team and will be working towards her D of E Gold Award in the Sixth Form.

Matty Hughes described getting his 10 A\*s as "the best feeling in my whole life." Matty is now studying Maths, Further Maths and Chemistry at A Level and continues to be a key player in the school cricket team.

Meredith Ellis, with 10 A\*s and one A, was grateful to her "supportive teachers" and is taking A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and German. As well as playing French Horn in the school Big Band, Meredith teaches Karate at her local Karate Club.

The school has also pioneered a new Further Mathematics International GCSE course this year. Around 22 pupils took the after-school course for enjoyment, with 15 opting to take the final examination. Eight pupils gained A\*s, with a further five gaining a Distinction, taking their level of skill beyond that of an A\*.

# A LEVEL STARS

**The Upper Sixth had much to celebrate in another star-studded year which saw 41 pupils achieving all A\* or A grades, and two pupils gaining a clean sweep of four A\*s apiece.**

58% of results were awarded an A\* or A grade and with an overall pass rate of 100%, the strength and depth of achievement from this large year group of 128 was shown by a new record of 98% of all grades at A\* – C.

The girls and boys have embarked on a range of courses at the country's most competitive institutions, with nine at Oxford and Cambridge universities. The school's excellent reputation for enabling pupils to gain entry to top universities was recognised earlier in the year by the Sutton Trust, which identified Stockport Grammar as one of ten schools nationally having a significantly higher acceptance rate to university than other institutions with similar A Level results.

All-star pupil Shelby Whyatt was delighted with her four A\*s in Economics, English Literature, German and History and is now at Selwyn College, Cambridge studying English Literature. Chloe Withers also celebrated four A\*s in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics and has taken her place at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, where she is reading Medicine.

Suzy Eames, with 3A\*s and an A is now studying Law at Downing College, Cambridge. This follows a summer placement at a law firm in Shanghai. Suzy contributed wholeheartedly to the school's extra-curricular programme, playing violin in the school orchestra, as well as singing in the school choirs and playing the piano. Suzy also played a vital part in the school's MUN team and was involved in organising the conference when it was hosted by SGS last year. Suzy has "particularly valued the special relationship with (her) teachers and the support they have given".

Ed Greaves turned 18 on Results Day and had double the reason to celebrate with his 3A\*s and an A, meaning that he has gone on to study Maths at Cardiff. Ed was able to wind down from academic work through his involvement in music and drama, which took up almost every lunchtime and afterschool slot. Ed said, "the music staff really helped me to unwind. I have felt so at home in the music department – it's like a big family."





# SCHOOL NEWS

During the school's 525th year, life at SGS has been as busy as ever. Here is a selection of events which occurred during the final weeks of the Summer Term and the start of the Autumn Term.



## A DIFFERENT CLASS

Pupils and teachers returning to school in September were delighted to make their first use of the new state-of-the-art Woodsmoor teaching block, which is the latest stage of the school's development programme and was completed during the summer. With 22 new classrooms for English, Drama, History, Classics, Psychology, Business Studies and Economics, it has already had a major impact on the life of the school.

Teaching for these subjects is now in purpose built rooms designed to high specifications for energy efficiency in a carefully monitored and controlled environment. Brand new ICT equipment and furniture has also been installed in all classrooms.

## GOLFERS RAISE FUNDS

The school's annual Golf Day at Stockport Golf Club in June, in aid of the school Bursary Fund and in association with Vernon Building Society, was a great success.

Despite the miserable weather forecast and a drizzly morning, the rain stopped and the sun came out just in time for the 17 teams to take to the greens for a highly competitive round of golf on Stockport's fantastic course. The competition was won by the team from Bluefin with a score of 86 points.

Platinum Advertising & Design came a close second with 84 points and Lockton Companies LLP came third with 82 points.

The day was rounded off by a dinner with speeches and a raffle in the Club. The proceeds from the day go directly to the Bursary Fund which helps bright children from all backgrounds attend SGS and fulfil their potential.



## SCHOOL GOVERNORS

We welcome the new Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr Ron Astles, who has served as a Governor since 1993 and has been Vice Chairman since 2002. Ron was formerly Chief Superintendent of GMP prior to his retirement and is a past parent at the school.



## BEHIND THE GATES

On Saturday 8th September, the school opened its doors to the public for a historic tour of the buildings and grounds, as part of the national programme of Heritage Open Days. Around 70 local residents, Old Stopfordians, families of current pupils and history enthusiasts were treated to a 'behind-the-gates' tour of the oldest school in the north of England.

## CHAIRMAN'S FAREWELL AT SPEECH DAY

The Plaza Theatre was once again the venue for Speech Day in June when pupils, parents, Governors and staff celebrated the school year.

Chairman of Governors, Mr Richard Rimmington, opened the programme with his final address before retiring after ten years as Chairman and two decades as a Governor, having left the school as a pupil over fifty years ago. Mr Chicken paid tribute to Mr Rimmington, thanking him for his service, saying he "has been at the forefront of the successful development of Stockport Grammar School for the last two decades."

As well as stunning musical performances from the Chamber Choir and Big Band, the audience was also treated to a pair of superb ten minute videos created by Lower Sixth Form pupils Alex Longson, Chris Holleworth and Will Byrne, which provided an insight into the great diversity of co-curricular activities and opportunities for personal development at SGS. The day's performances and speeches showcased all that is positive about the school before Mr Rimmington awarded prizes to the pupils who excelled in their subjects or made outstanding contributions to school life last year.

Earlier in the day, the Chairman also awarded the prizes at Junior School Speech Day, held at the school, to the children who had achieved in their subjects or helped make a difference during the past nine months.

After the Senior School ceremony, prize winners, their parents and Sixth Form leavers returned to the school for a reception in the recently-opened new Woodsmoor building – the first time many of our pupils and Governors had been inside the impressive new facility.





# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Opportunities to enter competitions, visit exhibitions and work in real laboratories have been a-plenty over the summer...

## IN SEARCH OF THE HIGGS BOSON

In July, soon after the announcement of the discovery of a particle "with behaviour consistent with the Higgs Boson", 21 of the Sixth Form physicists travelled to Geneva to visit CERN, the world's largest particle physics laboratory. This is the place where engineers have created conditions colder than outer space, hotter than the interior of stars and can accelerate particles to over 99.99% light speed.

The trip included visits to CERN's interactive Globe and Microcosm exhibitions where pupils learned about how the particle accelerators work and

the areas of particle physics that are currently being investigated there. A guided tour of CERN involved visits to the centre where the superconducting electromagnets were assembled and tested and to the ATLAS detector visitor centre and control room. As the Large Hadron Collider was running at the time, the group were unable to visit the detector itself.

Pupils also experienced a fascinating guided tour of the UN building, as well as exploring the city itself and, of course, sampling fondue in a traditional Swiss restaurant.

## WINNING ANIMATION

Animation Club's Christian Anderson has won a top prize in Animation12, Manchester University's UK Schools Animation Competition. Christian's animation *War with Mathematics* along with *The Inspiration*, his joint entry with fellow pupil Yusuf Ahmed were whittled down from a nationwide field of over 900 entries into *Animation12*.

As well as being highly commended in the Key Stage 4 individual entry group, *War with Mathematics* won first prize in the Turing category for animations which celebrated the work of Alan Turing. Joint entry *The Inspiration*, saw the boys win another award after it too was commended in the Key Stage 4 group entry category.

This is Christian's second consecutive year as a prizewinner after being highly commended

in 2011 for his animation about staying safe online. What's more, Christian says, "I am already planning my entry for 2013!" The boys' winning animations are available to view on the school website. Animation Club is one of over 200 extra-curricular activities run at SGS.



### SCIENTISTS INSPIRED

The Royal Society's annual summer science exhibition showcases the most exciting cutting-edge research, and ten of our Fourth Year pupils were lucky enough to go along during the last week of term.

From football-playing robots to exhibits outlining recent medical advances, the exhibition provided a unique opportunity for our pupils to interact with scientists and gain a deeper understanding of what they do and how it affects us all.

All of our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and left London enthused to continue studying science to a higher level.

### GOING FOR GOLD

Three engineers from the Lower Sixth Form have been awarded Gold British Science Association Creativity in Science and Technology Awards after working with United Utilities to help solve a problem at their water treatment works.

The project was part of the Engineering Education scheme and saw Olivia Briggs, Quintus Carr and Laura Chitty paired with United Utilities' Whaley Bridge plant to design a new waste-water screening system.

During the project which lasted six months, the pupils visited the Treatment Works to see the current system in action and also spent three days using the facilities at Liverpool University's Engineering Department before working as a group on their solutions.

The team received praise from the Board of senior engineers who judged the project based on their final report, design, costings, presentation and questioning.

As well as completing the scheme and receiving the Gold Crest awards, the pupils involved also developed a range of new skills, from specific engineering techniques to the experience of working on a formal long-term project, as explained by Quintus: "I enjoyed working in the EES team to a great extent. I had not had the experience of working on an extended project before, and found it to be very beneficial. It highlighted the importance of teamwork to me, and gave me a chance to develop my skills in areas such as design, practical work, team organisation and written accounts."

### THE ICING ON THE CAKE

Twelve Third Year pupils working towards their D of E Bronze level have been attending a twelve week Cake Decorating Club after school with Food Technology teacher, Mrs Groves. The group have been taught various techniques from how to work with chocolate and fondant icing to creating illustrations from icing and making gateaux. Visitors have come in to demonstrate different skills to pupils, and parent Carol Smith shared her cupcake ideas and designs with the children.

The club culminated in pupils designing and creating their own cakes. Pictured is Rebecca Smith putting the finishing touches on her make-up bag cake.





# HERE THERE AND EVERYWHERE

Pupils have travelled at home and abroad, extending their knowledge and experience beyond the classroom...



## ADVENTURES IN GRASMERE

A packed four days of outdoor pursuits in and around Grasmere ensured Second Year pupils had an adventurous start to their summer break.

69 children were led by ten members of staff on the trip. Mr Cheslett led his "4 pikes challenge", and Mr Killey accompanied the climbing at Keswick climbing wall, Shepherds Crag and Scout Crag. Other teachers offered their outdoor expertise to help make for a brilliant few days in perfect weather.

Based at Grasmere's Butharlp Howe youth hostel, the pupils also spent time climbing up waterfalls, pool-jumping and traversing rocks in Stickle Ghyll, kayaking on Derwentwater and walking up to Easedale Tarn, as well as enjoying playing football and rounders in the village which gave them the valuable chance to bond with fellow pupils and staff outside of the school environment.

## HISTORY LESSONS IN GERMANY

At the end of the Summer Term, 43 Third to Fifth Year pupils travelled to Germany with the History department, where they learnt about Nazi Germany and the Cold War as well as taking in some cultural experiences.

The group learnt much about the Nazis and their acts of persecution on their visits to Dachau and Sachsenhausen Concentration Camps as well as the Nazi rally grounds on the outskirts of Nuremberg. They also visited the courtroom which was the scene of the Nuremberg Trials. A guided visit to the German Democracy Museum gave further background to the pre-Nazi period and explained the politics behind Hitler's gaining power.

Amongst the other places visited during the trip were Checkpoint Charlie, the Jewish Memorial, the Ku Dam and the Brandenburg Gate and the Topography of Terror exhibition at the site of the Gestapo headquarters,



where pupils gained a greater understanding of the German people's perspective of the Third Reich.

The group stayed in former East Berlin with the Soviet television tower in view, so they had the opportunity to extend their knowledge beyond the Nazi period, and into the Cold War and reunification periods.

For relief from some very dark subject matter, they also had a tour of Munich and took to the mountains where they enjoyed the medieval architecture of Neuschwanstein Castle and the area surrounding it. They enjoyed a Berlin-by-night tour and a meal at the city's Hard Rock Cafe as well as visiting the Olympic Stadium.

This was a very packed and worthwhile trip which offered more insight than could ever be conveyed in the classroom.

## WILDLIFE AND WIZARDRY

Forty First Year pupils spent a weekend in Northumberland in June on an educational trip where they explored this beautiful part of England. The boys and girls took a boat trip to the Farne Islands to do some puffin and seal spotting, visited Alnwick Castle – the setting for some of the Harry Potter films, and enjoyed hearing tales of deadly plants in Alnwick's infamous poison garden, before taking part in the Dragon Quest.

In the evening, they had fun acting out the famous Northumbrian legend *The Laidly Worm of Spindletson Heugh*, as well as watching the Alnwick Olympic festival's closing ceremony in the castle grounds.

## WORK... THE FRENCH WAY

A week working in French schools and shops was the perfect way for some of the Sixth Form pupils to improve their speaking and listening skills in the language.

The week of work experience saw pupils staying with families in the northern town of Armentières, near Lille, giving them an insight into the cultural, as well as the working life of the French.

During the day, pupils headed off to their new jobs in primary schools, bakeries, shops and delivery companies, where they had to communicate entirely in French – a tough and daunting challenge at first, but one to which everybody rose and found hugely rewarding.



## CRICKET IN THE SUN

The 12th consecutive Senior cricket tour of Malta took place during the summer break.

The team played four matches against Marsa, the first being a 20/20 played in the more forgiving late afternoon sunshine. The following three matches were 40 overs per side games and were played in extreme heat with temperatures often reaching 37 degrees plus in the shade.

The SGS boys came home with a creditable 2-2 draw overall, a big improvement on the last four years. The final game in particular was a real thriller, with the SGS boys fighting hard to clinch victory by 2 runs to level the series.

The team also relaxed and explored their surroundings in their days off, with a visit to the capital, Valletta and a trip on a speed boat to the idyllic blue lagoon, Comino.

For the Upper Sixth Formers, this was a fitting end to their school careers, and Mr Makinson gives special thanks to David Wright, Matthew Schofield, Oliver Hall and Chris Marshall, for their commitment and loyalty to school cricket over many years adding that "They have been great role models and I wish them all the best in the future."

## MUSICIANS ENTERTAIN IN THE LAKES

SGS musicians spent a weekend in the Lake District before the end of the Summer Term, where they enjoyed two days of musical and outdoor activities.

Based at Glaramara, the String and Wind Orchestras spent a morning rehearsing new material and Head of Chemistry, Dr Glarvey joined the strings on her cello for a fantastic rendition of the *Star Trek* theme while

the Wind Orchestra practised their tribute to the Bee Gees.

Despite everybody getting thoroughly wet during an afternoon of archery, canoeing, ghyll scrambling and hill walking, the group entertained each other with an evening of cabaret before retiring for the night in anticipation of more activities, a recording session and an informal concert the next day.





# JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Summer Term was filled with many memorable experiences...



## ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

There was never a dull moment at the Stopfordian Parents' Association's medieval summer fair. Opening with a procession of infant knights and princesses, the children enjoyed a whole host of activities including archery, sponging the teachers in the stocks, whittling wands and swords, birds of prey, face painting, bouncy castles and crafts.

The arena held non-stop activity too, this year playing host to the medieval Olympics, hobby horse jousting, sack races and turnip on a spoon relays for parents and children.

Senior School children also took part in the day, especially the Sixth Form pupils who were raising money for their trip to Rwanda next summer.

Profits from the fair were split between SPA funds and the Children's Adventure Farm Trust.

### CLIMBING TO THE TOP

A third place finish in the British Mountaineering Council's Youth Climbing Series marked the end of an outstanding year for Year 4 climber Sam Lavender.

Sam has plenty of experience, as he has been climbing since he was six, is a member of the Senior School Climbing Club and attends Rope Race in Marple. Sam had to progress through three rounds to reach the finals of the youth climbing series, and he did so in impressive style with second-place finishes in Stockport and Preston, before winning the final qualifying round in Liverpool.

As a member of the north-west team, Sam headed up to the national finals at the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena. Over 300 competitors from around the UK took part in the final, and after 12 hours of climbing, Sam was able to celebrate his amazing ranking in his age category.



### FOR QUEEN AND COUNTRY

A huge street party put the Junior School children in a patriotic mood just in time for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend.

Attended by every pupil from the Nursery through to Year 6, the children wore red, white and blue on a day that included plenty of fun classroom activities and a communal sing along as well as a 'street party'. With the help of a mask, a very special royal visitor also came along to join in with the celebrations before the children tucked into their lunch.



## A NIGHT AWAY

The Year 3 children had a wonderful time in the Lake District when they headed up to Grasmere for an overnight trip packed full of adventure and discovery. The first day saw them enjoy a boat trip across Windermere and a visit to the Lakes Aquarium.

Once back at the hostel and fed, the children played outside and watched the crucial England v France Euro 2012 match, before getting a good night's sleep ready for another busy day.

The following day, the children headed off for a morning walk around

Grasmere where they spent their pocket money in the shops on the green, sampled some of the village's famous gingerbread and visited William Wordsworth's grave. They ate lunch in the park, before heading home exhausted, but with plenty of happy memories.

## STORYTELLERS

The Summer Term saw a return visit to the Junior School by pupils in Senior School Form 1S. They originally visited the boys and girls of Infant class 1S back in March, when the children had the chance to tell their new older friends exactly what they liked to read about. So with that in mind, they

set to work in their English classes before returning to read their tales to the Year 1 children.

The Infants also had a nice surprise for the Seniors, as they had written their own stories and made books too, which they all read together.



### JOUSTING WITH THE TUDORS

A jousting tournament held in the Junior School playground was the perfect way for Year 4 to round off the term after learning about the Tudors in their History lessons.

With everybody excited about the Olympics and the children having learnt about Tudor sport, they decided to re-enact one of the tournaments that Henry VIII had so often entered to prove his skill.

After designing and making their own shields, swords and helmets, the children held a tournament on the playground with Reception class RH proving to be an enthusiastic crowd. Following successful jousting through four rounds, the eventual victor was Georgia Sykes, who was knighted on the spot to tumultuous applause!



# LIFE LESSONS

**Pupils have seized opportunities to get involved in extra-curricular activities and gain invaluable experience for life beyond school...**



## PACKING A PUNCH

Having already won the local final and been named winners of the north-west New Media Award, the SGS Young Enterprise team were delighted to discover that their marketing and digital advertising skills had been judged to be the second best in the national competition at the contest's finals in London.

*Necessaries*, led by a team of Sixth Form pupils, were up for the Young Enterprise New Media Award, and showcased their product the *Portapunch* (a slimline holepunch that can be stored on the rings of a lever arch file) by presenting a 15-second video advert to a panel of marketing experts.

Marketing co-director Alex Longson explained "Using the facilities in the school Design Technology department, we were able to construct a fully-functioning model of the holepunch which could be demonstrated to prospective buyers."

The team are pictured above at the finals alongside *The Apprentice* contestant Duane Bryan.

## THE HOT TOPIC

The Model United Nations delegation returned from another conference with yet more awards for their performance in debating political issues.

This latest conference, held at Withington Girls' School, was aimed at new debaters and gave some of the younger pupils the chance to join in.

Representing Afghanistan, Sudan and China, the SGS delegation won a trophy for being highly commended, while China were awarded the best delegation in general assembly. Individual pupils picked up the following awards:

**Outstanding delegate award**  
Anna Madden

**Delegates' delegate award**  
Jake Sanders

**Highly commended**  
Alex Mayo, Jonathan Bennett, Jenny Muellenbach and Jenny Kent

**Commended**  
Matthew Denison, Oliver Nolan and Liza Vul



## IN THE ARMY NOW

An afternoon of leadership activities with the army was the highlight of the latest annual UCAS days which help the Lower Sixth Form prepare for the university application process.

Held outside in appropriately drizzly weather conditions, the afternoon of action put our pupils' leadership and teamworking skills to the test with a series of tough mental and physical challenges.

Other activities over the two days included sessions hosted by expert guest speakers from school and both Manchester universities on making the most of your UCAS form, writing personal statements and managing financial issues.

Twenty five recent leavers studying a wide range of different subjects at university also returned to Stockport Grammar to lead presentations and offer advice on their courses and the application process.



## THAT'S THE SPIRIT

Despite having less than a week to learn their lines and stage the show, the Lower Sixth Form's annual 'play-in-a-week', was a resounding success.

This year's choice, Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*, a classic comic tale of an eccentric clairvoyant inadvertently summoning a novelist's ex-wife, was performed outdoors in the Sixth Form Quad by a strong cast including Elle Harper, Tom Fawcett, Sam Allport, Natalie Clarke, Alice Carr, Martha Watson and Jamie Rahman.

Even though the day's earlier thunderstorms threatened to disrupt proceedings, the clouds parted in time for the play with only a swirling wind offering a meteorological threat, which the cast dealt with admirably, ensuring that the show must go on!

The cast put on a brilliant performance which left the audience of pupils, parents, staff and Governors delighted.

## VAMPIRES IN THE LIBRARY

Author Will Hill returned to the school for a second visit to talk about his latest book *The Rising*.

With many fans at the school, his lunchtime session pulled an impressive audience away from the glorious sunshine and into the library for tales of blood and vampires.

As well as answering pupils' questions, Hill shared ideas, illustrations and plans from the series of books before signing fans' copies of *The Rising* and then being whisked off to speak to some Fourth Year classes.

After his visit, the author left for the prestigious Leeds Book Awards ceremony where *Department 19* had been shortlisted for the 14-16 category prize.

Also... in conjunction with the Manchester Children's Book Festival, author Adèle Geras visited Second and Third Year English and Classics classes and a group of pupils saw Philip Pullman at Manchester Metropolitan University.





# OLYMPIC FEVER

As the country prepared for the excitement of London 2012, SGS too embraced the Olympic theme...

## COMPETITIVE READERS

The library also got into the Olympic spirit, with pupils across the Senior School participating in a Reading Olympiad during the Spring and Summer Terms. The boys and girls were encouraged to read at least six books from set categories and asked to post their reviews on the school intranet. At the end, participants were invited to collect their rewards in the library and the top readers were awarded prizes. Lower Sixth Former, Isaac Round, read an amazing 48 books during the period and takes first prize in the challenge, winning an Amazon gift voucher.

## OLYMPIC DAY

Second Years enjoyed a day of Olympic-themed activities which covered many different areas of the curriculum, from archery to discussions on the Olympic messages and from scientific testing of sports drinks to designing their own torches.

## JUNIOR OLYMPIANS

Junior Sports Day began with a procession and the lighting of the school's very own Olympic cauldron to officially open the games. During the ceremony Senior School pupil Claudia Thomas brought her Olympic torch for the children to see, and spoke to them about her experience of taking part in the Torch Relay. Once the ceremony was over, pupils enjoyed special Olympic activities before heading out for Sports Day, which included an ancient Olympic-style race complete with chariots.

Earlier in the week the Reception classes were also fortunate enough to get their hands on an authentic Olympic torch which was on loan for the day from Adidas. Each pupil got to have their photograph taken with it.



## TEE TIME

The school's new Golf Society couldn't have wished for a better end to their first year in action after the team won the inaugural North-West Schools' Golf Competition.

The team also boasted two individual winners on the day; James Gaskin took the prize for the best overall score, while Theo Whitley won the nearest the pin competition. First Year Theo has also been selected for the Cheshire Under-14s

county golf squad recently and has an impressive handicap of 10.

Speaking about the win, Mr Ehegartner, Head of Life Studies and teacher responsible for Golf Society, said: "The team played extremely well and I would like to thank them for a great day out! This is the first competition we have entered and we have some fantastic players in school."

## TALES OF A TORCHBEARER

Third Year pupil, Claudia Thomas has spent the last eight years raising thousands of pounds for charity and was rewarded for her hard work with the honour of carrying the Olympic torch.

Claudia started fundraising when she was six and still donates all her birthday money to charity. In addition to this, she fundraises for animal rights and homeless charities and has volunteered at the Wellspring homeless shelter in Stockport, a charity also supported by the school.

Claudia carried the flame on Sunday 24th June surrounded by a sea of spectators. Mrs Samways, Claudia's Form Tutor was thrilled: "We are very proud of Claudia's achievements – she thoroughly deserves to carry the torch."

An overwhelmed Claudia was on cloud nine after the relay; "I was so excited to be selected to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. It was amazing! I do enjoy doing things for charity, but I don't think I do anything that's special really!" Onlookers saw her carrying the torch extremely close to school as she made her way down Buxton Road.



## CHESHIRE CHAMPIONS

At a rain and windswept Broughton Hall CC, Stockport Grammar U-14s defeated Birkenhead School to win the Taverners Cup, making them Cheshire Champions and qualifying for the northern round of the National Championships next season.

A steady opening stand saw SGS in a good position, thanks to an excellent innings from George Francis with 39. Wickets tumbled though as the batsmen tried to add quick runs, meaning SGS would have to turn things around when they bowled.

Seb Croft got things off to a good start with three early wickets, but by the half way stage there was just one run in it. However, Alfie Earith stepped up with a superb four wicket burst, all but guaranteeing SGS victory.

Arjun Takiar then dismissed the final Birkenhead batsman, bowling them out for 70 and ensuring that the celebrations could begin.

History teacher and U14 Team Coach Mr Moore was ecstatic: "This is a deserved victory for the team. They should be proud of their efforts. This was really a season where every member of the team played their part. I am looking forward to further success next season!"

## MUSIC FESTIVAL

The end of another memorable year of music-making was marked by outstanding solo, ensemble, instrumental and vocal performances at the Music Festival in July. Andrew Dean from Chethams School of Music attended as a guest adjudicator

and commended all of the pupils involved for their distinguished contributions. The day was the perfect ending for those musicians who were leaving to go on to university and who have given so much to the musical life of the school.



## BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD

The annual Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Evening took place in July. The evening was for all those pupils who had achieved awards last year. The guest presenter was international rugby referee Karl Kirkpatrick, and the evening gave an opportunity for the school to

celebrate and recognise the efforts and achievements of those pupils in the Scheme as well as the staff who work tirelessly to guide them. A tremendous total of 119 bronze, 41 silver and 20 gold awards were given out.







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