

TAKING STOCK /

Stockport Grammar
School Newsletter



Issue 54
Summer 2013



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LET THE SHOW BEGIN



SHAKESPEARE SELL-OUT

Forty Senior School pupils took to the stage over two nights in March to perform in a breathtaking sell-out production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

Directed by Head of Drama Mrs Moffatt and stage-managed by Mrs Johnson, the production was also supported by twenty five pupils and staff who worked tirelessly as part of costume, props, makeup, lighting, front of house, filming, backstage, set and sound teams.

The lead characters were played brilliantly by Upper and Middle School pupils, including Alex Cosgriff's strong depiction of Prospero and Will Spence's excellent, savage portrayal of Caliban. Younger pupils hauntingly played the spirits and the Ariel Ensemble.

SEVENTIES CLASSIC

Outstanding acting and production made the Classics department's staging of Euripides' Greek tragedy *The Bacchae* a great success.

Performed over three nights, the play retold the 2,500 year-old story, but with a Seventies edge, with outrageous costumes and a catchy soundtrack. Remarkable performances from leads Marcus Hodson and Will Spence were supported by Alex Cosgriff, Nick Dove, Meredith Ellis and a chorus of Katie Goodwin, Maddie Garton, Kim St Clair, Lisa Font and Catherine Whatley. The play also featured teachers Mr Masters and Mr Russell as special guest stars. Off stage, a crew of over 25 pupils and staff joined costume, technical support, lighting, props, make-up, choreography and front of house teams to add a professional finish to the show, while the Maintenance department once again designed and constructed an impressive set – all under the directorship of Head of Classics Mr Thorley.

Classics plays are a regular fixture in the spring calendar, this being the eighth production following *The Persians*, *Medea*, *Agamemnon*, *Oedipus*, *Hippolytus*, *Antigone* and *Trojan Women*.

BRINGING LATIN TO LIFE

In other Classics activities, Fourth Year pupils Ben Adshead, Oliver Nolan, Simon Fraser and Alex Hine represented the school in the local Latin Scrabble tournament. The boys were playing against teams of older students and so did extremely well to finish second and third in their respective games. Second Year pupils Ammar Nassier and Dan Orechhoff won the North West Schools Latin reading competition against nine other schools.





TALENTED BUNCH

The annual Vernon Show took place in April showcasing talented pupils singing, dancing and performing comedy sketches. The boys and girls staged two packed lunchtime shows raising £538 for the House charities. The audience were treated to performances ranging from Lara O'Donoghue and Georgia Burns's beautiful acoustic version of Mumford & Sons' *The Cave* to Fourth Year Shakeel Ahmed's amazing breakdance routine. Leina Warburton's moving version of *The Climb* left the audience dewy-eyed before an expert cover of the Kraftwerk hit *The Model* was played by Alfie Eastwick, Andrew Millar, Ted Booth and Spencer Hewitt.

Mr Ehegartner and Mr Thorley staged a multimedia version of the theme from *Skyfall* before the Upper Sixth Formers' Finale. A superb performance of Stevie Wonder's *Superstition*, fronted by lead singer and bass player Harry Vernon came complete with Seventies costumes, a full backing band and singers and had the audience clapping and singing along.

OH WHAT A KNIGHT!

The Junior School's production of medieval mirth *What a Knight!* played to audiences of family, friends, staff and Governors over two nights. Featuring a strong cast of almost seventy Year 6 pupils, the musical told the story of young squire Watt Cobblers who is expelled from knight school, reluctantly becomes Merlin's new apprentice and the adventures that follow. Directed by Drama teacher Mrs Sullivan, the production's lead characters were brilliantly played by James Nichols, Phoebe Roberts,

Beatrice Bullough, Jack Piper, Emilio Ramirez, Andrew Corcoran and Harry Matthews.

During a week of rehearsals, five of the production's off-stage crew, Ethan Howgate, Lorenzo Di Santo, Jack Buchanan, Sam Dullehan and Harvey Jones were equipped with notepads, cameras and laptops as they reported from behind-the-scenes for a special daily blog which attracted nearly 2,000 hits from all over the world and as far away as Ecuador.



THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

An evening of wonderful music marked the beginning of the Summer Term and entertained another sell-out audience. The string orchestra provided a lively opening to the concert with Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, followed by sparkling performances from the Big Band and the school's two jazz groups. Pergolesi's *Magnificat* and Handel's *Messiah* exhibited the pupils' beautiful choral singing.

Next up on the music calendar was the Leavers' Concert featuring Junior Band, Concert Band, Wind Orchestra, First Orchestra, Junior Singers, Brass Ensemble, Second Orchestra and Leavers' Ensemble. The musicians played to another full house and showcased a wide range of musical styles and exceptional talent, the Wind Orchestra playing *Skyfall* with a captivating solo performance from vocalist Natalie Clarke. There were plenty more film themes to enjoy, with the Concert Band playing John Williams's *Star Wars* theme and the First Orchestra performing the dramatic music from *Lord of the Rings* and *Jurassic Park*.

These concerts were swiftly followed by an entertaining lunchtime Strings Recital in which pupils from across the Senior School performed to parents, friends and music staff.

Musicians then went straight into rehearsals for the summer Music Tour in Barcelona. Read all about it in the next issue...



SPORTING CHANCE



WINNING ATHLETES

Fabulous results in the opening weeks of the season in league events and mid-week competition set the ball rolling for success for SGS in the English Schools Athletics Cup.

A squad of 28 pupils competed in the Greater Manchester round of the competition in a very promising and enjoyable day, which saw both the boys' and girls' squads named outright winners of their section,

with progression to the regional finals. We look forward to reporting on this in our next edition.

Teacher in charge of Athletics, Mrs Wilkinson said:

"We are incredibly proud of their efforts, tenacity and sheer determination in putting Stockport Grammar Athletics on the map."

U14s TOURNAMENT WIN

The U14s netball squad added some more silverware to the school trophy cabinet when they won the Stonyhurst College tournament, beating all seven teams they played against. Rachel Fitzsimmons, Lydia Taylor, Ellen Mobley, Niamh Morgan,

Hannah Hughes, Katie Clarke, Seun Odusanya, Penny Bowring and Olivia Hurst won their games against Sedbergh (10-4), The Grange (5-2), Rossall (14-1), Oakhill (12-0), Stonyhurst (6-4), Cheadle Hulme (10-5) and Giggleswick (13-2).



SABRE STAR

After winning a Gold in the British Youth Fencing Championship Qualifiers in March, First Year pupil Tais Higham went on to compete in the British Youth Fencing Championships in May, coming 15th in her weapon, the sabre. Tais, who only took up the sport last September when she joined the school and attended Fencing Club, is thrilled with her success:

"I always wanted to try Fencing and thought it would be cool to have a go! My coach thinks I should be able to fence for England and has told me I can set my sights on the Olympics – it's great to have something to work towards and it would be amazing if I could get there."



Captain Rachel Fitzsimmons said:

"All the girls have worked hard this season. We played great together and I am so proud of the whole squad."

The U16s and U13s teams also played well on the day, both finishing third in their respective age group competitions.

RUGBY ROUND-UP

U16s REACH FINAL

After a tremendous season, the U16s rugby squad reached the Cheshire Schools Cup Final following a comprehensive 36-0 win against Wirral Grammar in the semi-final.

A hat-trick from Will Hanson as well as tries from Marcus Jones, Ben Stollery and Alex Provan helped secure the big win, with successful conversions from Marcus and Alex adding to the scoreline.

The boys beat Bridgewater High 31-7 and St Ambrose College 67-5 during their campaign in the 25 team competition. They were unable to beat opponents Lymm High in the final but the team were deserving of their prestigious runner-up title in both the Cheshire Cup and the UCLAN Floodlit Cup.

Our thanks go to Beeley & Co Solicitors for their kit sponsorship during the 2012-13 season.



ISLE OF MAN TOUR

The U13s and U14s rugby squads spent a successful weekend playing matches on the Isle of Man, and won all their games. Based at King William's College, both squads played against the hosting team on the Friday and Castle Rushen High on the Saturday.

In their first game, the U13s beat King William's 21-7, then in one of their best performances of the season, the boys beat Castle Rushen 54-0 in glorious sunshine with a hat-trick from George Robinson.

The U14s were outstanding in their first game against King William's, winning 35-12 with a hat-trick from captain George Chatterton.

They had a closer game against Castle Rushen, but Jaimal Brown's hat-trick and another try from George Chatterton finally secured a 20-15 victory against a very competitive home side, with George being awarded Best U14s Player of the Tour.

ENGLAND CALL-UPS

James Gilboy and Tom Morton are the latest SGS Rugby players to have been picked to play for England.

Fifth Year pupil James was selected for England Rugby U16s after he impressed the selectors while playing for Cheshire and the North. Attending a national U16s training camp over February half-term he was selected for the full England squad, playing for his country in their games against Italy and Wales.

Sixth Former Tom's outstanding performances for the North U18s led to him being picked for the England U18 Clubs and Schools squad, which he represented during two training weekends in March before playing for his country against Ireland. He was then selected to play for the U17s in France.



Tom hopes to follow in the footsteps of Old Stopfordian James Flynn, who represented England Clubs and Schools during his last year at school and then went straight on to make his debut for the Sale Sharks first team last November.



Mr Corbett said:

"James and Tom are hugely talented individuals who have shown great commitment and dedication towards their sport. Their selection will hopefully be an inspiration to other rugby players in the school."



HOCKEY HEROES

This year saw some magnificent hockey played across the school.

FIRST XI

The First XI rounded off their season by winning the Greater Manchester Schools U18s tournament.

Storming victories in the early rounds resulted in an amazing superior goal difference of +21 from their five games, leaving them top of the table at the end of the round robin competition. With only one goal conceded across the games, goalkeeper Martha Watson kept an almost clean sheet.

Games teacher in charge of hockey, Miss Withington said:

"The girls were truly magnificent Lily Harrison led by example as captain and Lara Knowles, Emily Spencer and Sophie Hall also made massive contributions. Hannah Keegan and Ellen McPherson can take credit for a large number of the goals."

ENGLAND CALL-UPS

Following a tough selection process, Fifth Year pupil Emily Spencer has been chosen to play for the England U18s later this year. Emily has been attending training camps and played in tournaments already, and follows school First XI goalkeeper Martha Watson who represented England U18s last year and has gone on to attend an U21s training camp.

Lauren Hunt, a member of the SGS U14s National Finals squad, was selected for an England U15s training camp in May. Lauren can look for inspiration from her older sister Holly, who has also been picked for the England U16s this year.

TOP FIVE FINISH

A third-place finish in the National Hockey Championships means that the U14s can lay claim to being fifth-best in their age group in the country, and the very best in the north of England. Congratulations to captain Georgina Dare and the rest of the team on what was a memorable run to the finals and an experience which will help drive the team onto further success in future years.

CHAMPION OF THE FUTURE

Fifth Year pupil Meghan Myers has been officially recognised as a 'champion of the future' by Hockey for Life Leisure. Meghan has been chosen for her achievements, her dedication and commitment to the sport and for being a great role model.

CRICKET

Last year's U14s County Cup winners represented Cheshire in the second round of the Lord's Taverners National U15s Cup after a comprehensive 82-run win away at Yorkshire champions, Driffield School.

The boys scored 218 for five in their 30 overs against Driffield with impressive innings from George Francis and Ned Barlow supporting captain Mark Orpen's outstanding 111.

Ned also took three vital wickets and was supported by accurate bowling from Simon Fraser and Alfie Earith to restrict the home side to 136.

Speaking about the boys' campaign, U15s coach Mr Moore said:

"Mark's was a superb captain's innings. A century is a rare event in schools' cricket and he is already making an impact in the First XI this season. The way that the boys made the step up to national competition was a credit to them."

Mark isn't our only recent centurion – Second Year pupil Ben Jones notched 110 runs for our U13s XI in a 51-run win against King's Macclesfield at the end of April.



GETTING CREATIVE



ARTISTS EXHIBIT...

On a lovely sunny evening in May, the Mayor of Stockport, Councillor Wendy Meikle was joined by staff, Governors and Bursary Fund donors for a preview of the GCSE, AS and A2 Art exhibitions. These exhibitions are the culmination of the pupils' coursework and controlled tests and the amount of work they put into the subject was very much in evidence. The standard of work was universally high, with every pupil showing understanding of their chosen media, development of their own personal style and a strong foundation in draughtsmanship. Pupils across the year groups are encouraged to draw on personal experience and the environment around them as well as looking at established artists, resulting in very varied and individual work.



The pupils have also been able to use various trips as source material, from the Religious Studies visit to Auschwitz, the Art tour in the United States to London gallery visits and architectural drawing trips around Manchester.

Beyond the school exhibition rooms, three pupils were selected to have their work displayed at The Lowry for this year's Living Edge Schools Art Competition; William Robinson (U18), Martha Vernon (U16) and Bryn Rogers (U14). Some of the school's finest artists, Katherine Weeks, Arabella Kasler and William Robinson, also had their work displayed on the Saatchi Gallery website.



SGS DOES MASTERCHEF

Fourth Year pupil Francesca Bailey was named SGS Masterchef 2013 Champion by judges from top Cheshire restaurant *The Grill on the Edge*.

Francesca also won the Middle School trophy for her salmon dish followed by a chocolate pot dessert. She took home a £75 voucher for *The Grill on the Edge* where her dish will be featured on the specials board on the day of her visit.

Last year's winner Emma Winder was chosen as the Lower School winner for her Moroccan lamb steaks served with roasted vegetables and chickpea mash, followed by pear and toffee sponge with toffee sauce.

As well as Francesca and Emma's winning plates, other contenders on the menu of 16 delicious dishes included teriyaki duck, chilli chocolate cake and basil gnocchi. After the winners were announced, Head of Food Technology Mrs Groves said:

"The standard of food really does keep getting better and better – and that's why we're already really looking forward to next year's competition!"

JUNIOR SCHOOL



CHARITY HELICOPTER JETS IN

The boys and girls from the Junior School had a thrilling morning, when they were part of Key 103's *Cash for Kids Day*. A week of fundraising activities for Wythenshawe Hospital's Starlight Unit culminated with a helicopter visit from *Key 103* DJ Mike Toolan, *Coronation Street's* Georgia May Foote and pop star Shayne Ward. Landing on the school's playing fields, the special guests were greeted by all the children, from the Nursery right through to Year 6. Each of the visitors answered questions from the pupils, before signing autographs and whizzing off to continue their day of fundraising.

Year 1 pupil Finn was "really excited to meet someone from the radio and see a helicopter in school!" and all the children enjoyed demonstrating their dancing skills as the guests arrived. After fundraising activities during a week which included a 'medical dress-up' walk, first-aid relay races, jam selling and a disco, the children were proud to have raised £1082

to help transform the outdoor area at Wythenshawe Hospital's Starlight Unit into a green oasis of calm for young patients. As this was the largest amount raised by a school, five Year 5 children, along with Mr Milnes and Mrs Hampson were invited to the Key 103 studios. The children presented a cheque to Breakfast Show DJs Mike and Chelsea before being allowed to pick some songs for airplay and watch the DJs in action. They even had a go at recording some links and had a full tour of the Castlefield studios before returning to school armed with goodies and happy memories.

Kitt Henderson had a fantastic time:

"I really enjoyed selling the jam for the charity – it was a pleasure, especially getting rewarded like that! Watching the DJs, getting to try out the headphones and meeting everyone was just brilliant. I'd do anything to go back there!"

BACK IN TIME

Year 4 enjoyed a residential visit to Murton Park, the Living History Viking and Tudor Village, to further develop their topic work on invaders and settlers.

The children, dressed up as Vikings, were divided into 'families' and were given an insight into Viking life. They were taught about defence alongside the daily chores. Then, as dusk settled, in true Viking style, the boys and girls gathered around the open fire in the Longhouse to listen to Lief, the Lord of the village, telling the story of Thor.

The following day, the children became Tudors, visiting the Tudor house where they dressed up and made candles and pomanders before learning about the origins of some modern-day English phrases such as 'sleep tight, mind the bugs don't bite', 'costs an arm and a leg' and 'toddler'.

The boys and girls enjoyed their experience:

"It was amazing how they reconstructed the Viking village"

Isabel Marshall

"We learnt all about Tudors and Vikings in a fun way"

Sam Carr



ON YOUR MARKS...

Manchester Velodrome's cycling coaches paid a visit to the children in Year 6 to introduce them to racing and inspire them to become cycling stars of the future. Delivered as part of British Cycling's *Go-Ride* initiative, the session focused on how to race, rather than just ride a bicycle.

The coaches set up a course on the playing field and used a series of drills to teach the children how to beat their competitors, ending with races and time trials to leave them all itching to try the sport again.

Adam Gillespie said:

"I thought it was great, with interesting challenges. I like the fact that we were racing and not just pottering around on bikes!"

Daniyal Behiyat was another big fan of the activity:

"I learned a great deal during the session... The races were fast, fun and exciting!"



CROSS COUNTRY

The Junior School runners had plenty to celebrate as the Woodbank Park cross country series came to an end, with ten year old Joe Davidson winning the series and the Year 5 and 6 boys' teams finishing second in team placings. The Year 5 and 6 girls' team ended well too, finishing third,

with the individuals and teams being awarded medals and trophies after the final race. The races took place on a tough, muddy course on Saturdays throughout the winter months, and the committed boys and girls always rose to the challenge.

UP AT THE MILL

Children from Year 1 spent an interesting day at Quarry Bank Mill where they learnt all about natural materials. As well as having a fascinating tour of the cotton mill, the children also explored the woods to find out about the materials which grow there. All the boys and girls took part in tree-rubbing, making collages and weaving.

Conor Hallworth told us what he enjoyed most about the day:

"My favourite part was when we saw how cotton was made in the olden days. It was really interesting."

GOING SWIMMINGLY

After success in the ESSA NW regional heat where the boys' teams came away with silver and bronze in the freestyle and medley races, they went on to compete against 23 other teams in the National Final. The boys did very well with the freestyle team coming 9th and the medley team coming 14th.



COMPETITIVE POETRY

Entertaining and adventurous poetry performances from children in every year group provided a perfect end to Book Week. From the Reception classes' group recitals through to the older pupils' animated tales, the children all performed their pieces with confidence in front of a packed hall.

Year 6 Phoebe Roberts self-written poem about her teachers being aliens from outer-space won the Upper Juniors category, as judged

by Senior School English teacher and Head of First Year Mrs Lawson, who was tasked with the difficult job of picking the winners.

Year 3 pupil Kate Horsley's articulate rendition of Richard Edward's *Uncle Ted's Tea* saw her win the Lower Juniors category; and William McCluggage in 2RS won the Infants prize after performing Charles Thomson's *A Dragon in the Classroom*, a particularly impressive recital due to its length!



WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN

Year 3 enjoyed a day of ancient Egyptian activities, which came as part of the year group's work on ancient Egypt. With fancy dress, lots of imagination and activities based around crafts, hieroglyphics and mathematics, this added to the work they had been doing in class during the term.

A competition to build the highest pyramid and an 'archaeological dig' added plenty of fun to an already-exciting day, best summarised by Talia Zelhof:

"We made scarab beetles out of shining paper and we coloured Tutankhamun's mask. I really enjoyed it when we mummified dolls and when we were detectives and explored a tomb."

HOCKEY SELECTION

Three of Stockport Grammar Junior School's best Year 6 hockey players, Pippa Brown, Francesca Cooke and Sophie Douglas, have been selected for the prestigious Greater Manchester U12s Development Squad.

Speaking about the girls' achievements, Junior School PE and Games teacher Mrs Nicholls said:

"We congratulate the girls for their success in being selected. It's a great achievement to have gained a place on the Greater Manchester squad."



Before the Christmas break, Francesca Cooke, along with fellow pupils Shivalika Takiar and Milly Cowell also attended the Greater Manchester U11s Hockey Development Course where, on the final day of their training, they were lucky enough to meet Team GB's Olympic Bronze Medallist Nicola White.



SAFETY FIRST

The children in the Nursery spent the morning learning about fire safety when they were visited by the local Fire Service. They were also able to climb aboard the fire engine and look around the cabin, before having the opportunity to squirt the hose across the school fields. The children learnt some important lessons as well as having lots of fun!

BUILDING IN THE SNOW

The boys and girls in Year 6 had been learning about shelters in their Design Technology lessons so were thrilled to put their knowledge to the test, when they managed to build a fantastic igloo from a sudden snowfall.

The strong construction remained long after the snow on the ground had melted and parent George Murray said:

“It looked very impressive and it was funny watching the children queue in line to go inside.”



INSPIRING AUTHOR

Christopher William Hill became the latest author to entertain the children when he dropped by to talk to pupils in Years 5 and 6 about storylining and character development.

After introducing his book *Osbert the Avenger*, his first in a series of four dark and grisly *Tales from Schwartzgarten*, Christopher revealed some of the methods he uses to help dream up such imaginative characters and storylines.

An award-winning playwright and radio dramatist as well as author, Christopher came well-equipped with all the tricks of the trade to help his audience collaborate on creating a weird and wonderful story about teacher Mr Taylor’s camelback journey to a graveyard – inspiring the children to let their imaginations run wild.

LONDON CALLING

A group of sixty Stockport Grammar Year 6 pupils headed to London for a packed two days of Shakespeare, *Shrek* and sightseeing.

The journey back up north took them via Stratford-upon-Avon for more Shakespearian fact-finding before returning home for a well-deserved half-term break.

A workshop at the Globe Theatre was their first stop, before seeing more of the capital’s most famous landmarks en-route to *Shrek the Musical* on Drury Lane.

The adventure continued with dinner in Covent Garden before they retired to their Wembley hotel for the night. Before setting off in the morning, the sports fans in the group were able to walk up Wembley Way to see the stadium.



INSPIRATIONAL VISITORS



BOB AND FRIENDS

World-renowned author-illustrator Curtis Jobling, best known for creating *Bob the Builder*, visited SGS again for a day of workshops, inspiring and entertaining pupils while he discussed everything from his novels to drawing.

Jobling spoke to Second Years about the fantasy world in his *Wereworld* series, discussing his ideas, the fantasy-horror genre, character development and his influences.

He also spent time talking about his work as an illustrator and animator as the man behind the likes of *Bob the Builder*, *Frankenstein's Cat* and *Raa Raa the Noisy Lion*. Then, armed with a flipchart and a marker pen, he showed the classes how his characters are created and explained the inspiration behind them.

He then spent the afternoon in the Art department, sharing with the boys and girls some of the secrets behind his impressive portfolio of world-famous characters.

English teacher Mrs Moore enthused:

"He was lively, articulate, humorous and clearly a talented man and an engaging speaker... He talked to the pupils about the importance of hobbies, extra-curricular activities and how crucial it is not to give up on things you really enjoy."

PRIME TIME

The Upper House of UK Parliament was the focus of a Sixth Form lecture when crossbench member of the House of Lords and Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company Lord Sutherland of Houndwood visited school.

Lord Sutherland explained the work of the House of Lords and its structure, and discussed with the group whether it should be wholly elected in future. He then took questions from the floor before enjoying lunch and a tour of the school with Head Boy Mark Cox and Head Girl Zoe Harris, with Zoe commenting:

"It was a real honour to give Lord Sutherland a tour of the school – I have had some wonderful opportunities and privileges during my time as Head Girl and that was a highlight."

SGS was founded in 1487 under the terms of the will of Sir Edmund Shaa, Mayor of London and Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company.



REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST

Dr Peter Kurer helped the school mark Holocaust Memorial Day by speaking to Second Year pupils about his family's experiences during the Second World War and the role of the Quakers in their survival. The Kurer family were forced to flee their home in Vienna in 1938, but were fortunate enough to be 'guaranteed' by the Quakers and given a start in the UK.

Dr Kurer talked to the children about the lessons we can learn from the Quakers, such as being a good citizen and looking after our fellow man during conflict. He also spoke to them about the importance of education and emphasised the privileges they all have – being able to learn freely and observe whatever religion or culture they wish to. At the end of his talk, pupils were able to ask Dr Kurer questions about his experiences and outlook on life.

MURDEROUS MATHS

Murderous Maths author and TV presenter Kjartan Poskitt returned to Stockport Grammar to entertain the younger pupils with an energetic and humorous performance of his clever mathematical tricks and to talk about his books.

Kjartan started his day by speaking to First Years about the development of his *Murderous Maths* series. The wacky author performed some mathematical trickery and used references to *X Factor* and *Angry Birds* to

engage with the children, much to the enjoyment of the pupils and volunteers from the audience.

Then, at lunchtime in the library, Kjartan talked to pupils from all years about his series of fiction books and his protagonist *Agatha Parrot* and answered questions about his inspirations.

He ended the day by signing copies of his books, remarking on what a fantastic school and bright pupils we have here!

CONGRATULATIONS



TOP UNIVERSITY OFFERS

Six Upper Sixth Formers, along with Naomi Clarke (OS 2012) have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge and many more have offers for prestigious institutions including Durham, Bristol, King's College London and Warwick.

This year's students have applied for competitive courses such as Law, Medicine, Politics, English, Languages and Economics.

Head of Sixth Form Mrs White is very happy with the offers that have been made:

"Our students have applied to some of the country's most competitive universities. They have all worked incredibly hard on their applications and have been given individual guidance by their UCAS Advisor."

Those pupils with Oxbridge offers were invited to join Old Stopfordians, Governors and staff for the annual Oxbridge Dinner, held this year at Downing College, Cambridge.

COMPETING IN GERMAN

Languages pupils Tamoor Zahid and Ammar Nassier won the First and Second Year German Reading Competitions in February. All the children in the First and Second Years took part in the contest in which they read a *Hansel and Gretel* poem. The overall standard of pronunciation and recitation was very high and impressed the judges, Dr Kampelmann, Ms Wiedenhofer and bilingual pupil Katharina Sandall.

CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

The Chemistry Olympiad entrants achieved some outstanding results in this year's competition, with Zoe Harris achieving a gold award to finish among the top 7% in the UK. Silver awards were achieved by James Brett, Jake Bradshaw, Rosie Broadbent, Alex McCann, Heather Tallents and Walid Hassoon and bronze awards by Ismaeel Ramzan and Charlie Smith.

MATHS CHALLENGERS

Lower School mathematicians took part in the UK Mathematics Trust Team Mathematical Challenge and came second out of seventeen teams. Congratulations go to Second Years Maximillian Mather-Harding and Sam Howard and Third Years Daniel Jones and Natalie Ho for a superb performance. In the Junior Maths Challenge Sam also scored an incredible 130 out of 135 and has beaten off stiff competition to win third prize in national maths competition, The Mathematics on Merseyside Senior Challenge. The competition, which is actually aimed at Fifth Year pupils, had over 600 entries, so to have come third at his age is quite incredible. Sam has been invited to Liverpool University to receive his prize along with the other winners.

Following outstanding performances in the Intermediate Mathematical Challenges, Sam Howard, Third Years Emily Howling and Joanna Brown and Fourth Year Amy Bradley were invited to take part in the International Maths Olympiad Kangaroo competition, a tough one hour test of mathematical ability, from which Emily and Sam took home merits. Sixth Formers Zoe Harris, Phil Hanson, Jake Bradshaw and James Brett took part in the Senior Kangaroo competition, with Zoe and Phil also gaining merit awards.

Maths teacher Mrs Marshall said:

"Sam Howard deserves a special mention as he is performing extraordinarily well. To get such a high score in the Junior Challenge is unheard of."

HERE THERE AND EVERYWHERE

VIVA ESPAÑA

Twenty eight Second Year pupils travelled to Spain to explore the physical and human geography of the north, an area characterised by green pastoral lowlands, a beautiful coastline and imposing snow-capped mountains. In a packed few days, they endeavoured to see it all, as well as visit the historic villages and industrial cities of the area.

First stop was Bilbao, where the group took in the main sights and attractions which included the Guggenheim Museum and a ride on the funicular railway. On the journey to Picos de Europa, the group admired the breathtaking scenery against the backdrop of the mountains. A ride in the cable car took them up 1000m, where snow was several feet deep.



A DAY IN PARLIAMENT

Sixth Form historians studying Britain between 1846 and 1894 were given a unique tour of Westminster Palace thanks to local Liberal Democrat MP Mark Hunter on what turned out to be a typically dramatic day in Parliament. Mr Hunter gave the pupils not only the chance to see the working life of Parliament but also to walk in the footsteps of the likes of Palmerston, Gladstone and Disraeli. To stand at the dispatch box where generations of British Prime Ministers had stood and created their own history was a thrilling and unique experience.

The pupils also witnessed parliamentary drama first-hand on a

A short stop at the pretty village of Potes for some sightseeing finished the day and that night was spent in Santillana del Mar, reputedly the most beautiful town in Spain.

They went on to visit the replica prehistoric caves with their amazing paintings at Altamira, where the hands-on exhibition taught the boys and girls about the ancient settlers to the region. They then explored the coastline, basking in the Spanish sun and enjoying the views, before moving on to Santander and finally returning to their hotel in Santillana where some played football against the locals in the square while the rest of the group visited the typically Spanish shops and cafes.



PHYSICS AT THE CHRISTIE

Students and staff members with an interest in the applications of physics in the medical world had the opportunity to visit The Christie Hospital in Manchester in order to learn how the worlds of physics and medicine intertwine. They were taken on a fascinating tour of the hospital's departments, including the PET scanner, which is on the A-level curriculum. They witnessed how physics in action was helping to diagnose and treat patients with various forms of cancer and the little-known field of Brachytherapy was explained to them in detail. Sixth Former Catherine Latus was inspired by the experience:

“The trip to The Christie showed us that although treatments and procedures have developed enormously, it is still an ever-developing and ever-changing field. This trip has the potential to inspire students to pursue a medical or medical-physics related career.”

STARGAZING FOR ASTRONOMERS

The world-famous Jodrell Bank observatory was the ideal venue for 17 GCSE astronomers to attend a lecture on exploding stars.

The lecture, delivered by Associate Director and contributor to the BBC's Stargazing Live series Dr Tim O'Brien, explored novae and supernovae, and looked at how stars are born and how they die.

The session covered much of the second year of the GCSE Astronomy course, a popular co-curricular activity for Third and Fourth Year pupils.



PARIS IN THE SPRING

Over 30 Fourth Year pupils travelled to Paris for five nights during the Easter break to improve their language skills and broaden their cultural appreciation.

Pupils stayed with French families and attended lessons at a local lycée for two mornings. The rest of the time was spent visiting the historical attractions they have learned about in lessons, including the Eiffel Tower, the Sacré Cœur, the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame and the Orangerie to view Monet's *Water Lilies*.

The group were able to let their hair down on the day they spent at *Disneyland*, which is always the highlight of any Paris trip. The group returned to school with a renewed confidence in their spoken French and they enjoyed the opportunity to put the material they had covered in class into practice while they were away.

The First Years also enjoyed a four day trip to Paris, where they enjoyed many of the same sights as the Fourth Years and tried out their newly-acquired French.

WORLD ISSUES IN EDINBURGH

Hot on the heels of a successful conference in Dublin, the Model United Nations debating team headed to Edinburgh before the Easter break to debate world issues with hundreds of others, returning with a host of awards for their performances.



After enjoying a fascinating tour of the Scottish Parliament and spending some time exploring the city, the pupils, who were representing Spain, headed to George Watson's College to discuss social and political world issues. The team also took part in an emergency meeting when the entire conference formulated a response to the scenario of an armed invasion of Kuwait.

Everyone on the team debated well throughout the weekend and for the Upper Sixth pupils this was a fitting and challenging way to finish their MUN career.

GERMANY BOUND

GCSE German pupils travelled to Bad Segeberg for the return leg of their cultural exchange. The 28 pupils were reunited with the friends they had made during the first half of the exchange in September, and joined them for lessons at school.

As well as attending lessons, the boys and girls visited the 'marzipan' city of Lübeck, the magnificent castle in Schwerin and the stadium and Town Hall in Hamburg, while

back in Bad Segeberg they were officially welcomed to the town by the Mayor and were interviewed in German by journalists from the local newspaper. Pupils returned having learned a great deal more about the German language and culture and having made plenty of new friends on what was a really enjoyable and memorable trip for both sides of the exchange.



ON THE PISTES

Axamer Lizum in Austria was the base for this year's February half-term ski trip, with the boys and girls enjoying an amazing six days of Alpine adventure.

Thirty-two skiers from the Second Year through to Sixth Form, ranging from beginners to experienced, all enjoyed the superb conditions which offered magnificent views of the Alps. Away from the slopes, après ski activities included swimming, ice skating, quizzes and watching ice hockey.

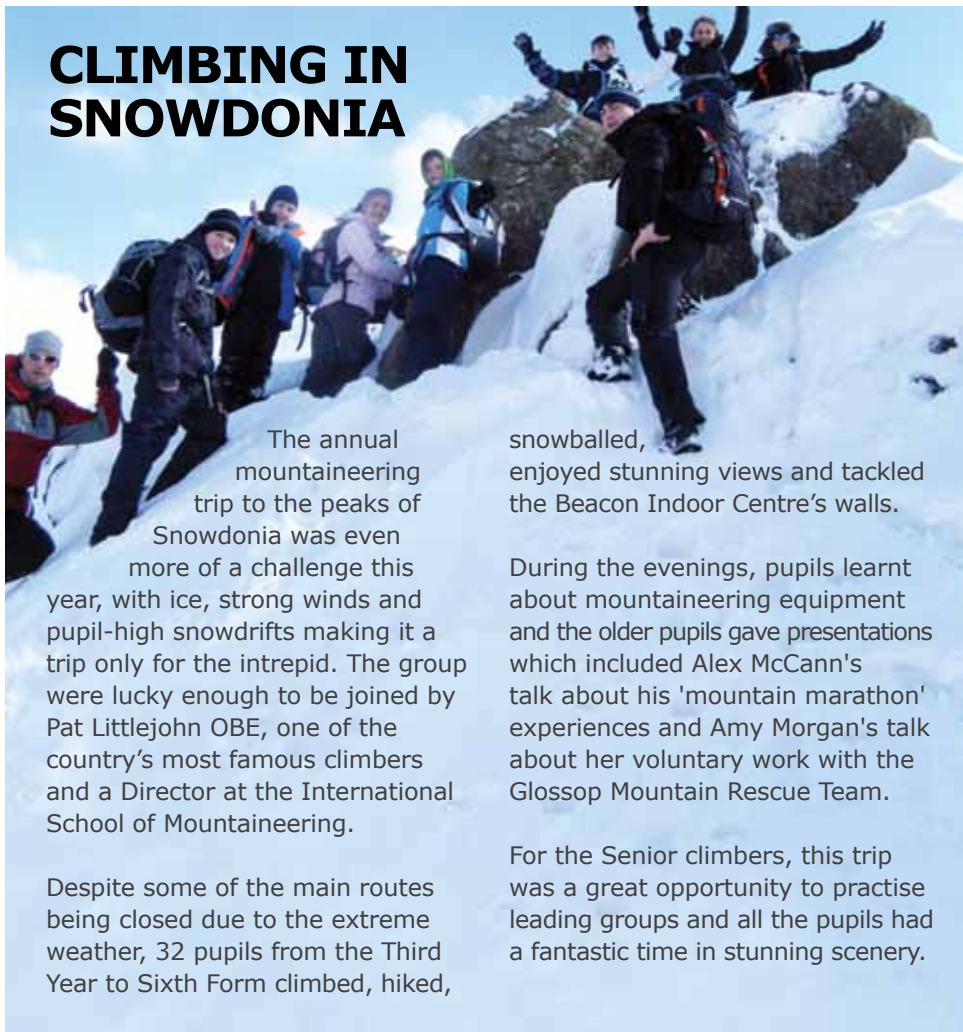
A member of the Beginners' Group summed up what a brilliant week they had:

"I progressed to the red slopes, learning turns, traversing and snow ploughs. Our instructor was really patient, and we could not have got through the week without our supportive, caring teachers and great teamwork – we never left anybody behind! We had a blast!"

The intermediate group made great progress throughout the week, while the advanced skiers spent much of the time hurtling down the slopes and were even making 180-degree jumps and skiing off-piste by the end of the trip.



CLIMBING IN SNOWDONIA



The annual mountaineering trip to the peaks of Snowdonia was even more of a challenge this year, with ice, strong winds and pupil-high snowdrifts making it a trip only for the intrepid. The group were lucky enough to be joined by Pat Littlejohn OBE, one of the country's most famous climbers and a Director at the International School of Mountaineering.

Despite some of the main routes being closed due to the extreme weather, 32 pupils from the Third Year to Sixth Form climbed, hiked,

snowballed, enjoyed stunning views and tackled the Beacon Indoor Centre's walls.

During the evenings, pupils learnt about mountaineering equipment and the older pupils gave presentations which included Alex McCann's talk about his 'mountain marathon' experiences and Amy Morgan's talk about her voluntary work with the Glossop Mountain Rescue Team.

For the Senior climbers, this trip was a great opportunity to practise leading groups and all the pupils had a fantastic time in stunning scenery.

TRAVELLING TALES

A trip to Eastern Europe to discover more about Budapest and Vienna's most famous composers, and a climbing adventure on the world's best bouldering routes are two trips that will be made possible this summer thanks to the school's Albert Johnston Travel Award.

The award, set up in the name of the former History teacher, is offered to Sixth Formers wishing to travel to further their experience and knowledge of a passion or subject. This year's recipients are Fiona Hollin and Natasha Sofla for a trip to Eastern Europe, and Jake Bradshaw, Sam Allport and Alex McCann for their visit to 'climber's Mecca' Fontainebleau.

Natasha, who intends to study music at university, and keen violinist Fiona will attend classical concerts and discover more about Austria and Hungary's most famous composers.

Climbers Jake, Sam and Alex will be tackling the world's most famous bouldering routes in the Forêt Domaniale de Fontainebleau, an area which holds special reverence among climbers. Sam Allport thanked the judging panel:

"We're all incredibly grateful to the trustees of the award for giving us the opportunity to go on these adventures. We're really looking forward to going on our trips in the summer!"



TAPAS Y TEATRO

As part of the extension classes available to the Upper Sixth Spanish students, there was a class trip to see an adaptation of *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* at the Contact Theatre. The evening began with tapas at *La Viña* on Deansgate where the group were able to practise their spoken Spanish before going to see the play. Despite this not being one of the set texts on the syllabus, the students followed the play extremely well and had a good grasp of its themes.