

TAKING STOCK /

Stockport Grammar
School Newsletter



Issue 56
Winter 2013/14



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HOME AND AWAY

FIRST YEARS’ FUN IN DERBYSHIRE

Every pupil in the First Year spent three action-packed days on the annual induction residential in the Derbyshire Dales, which helps the children make new friends during their first term in the Senior School.

Staying in the atmospheric Hartington Hall Youth Hostel, the boys and girls learned all about the plague village of Eyam, ascended the Heights of Abraham at Matlock Bath via cable car and found out about the stunning art treasures on show at Chatsworth House. They explored Chatsworth’s beautiful gardens and examined the modern sculptures in the Sotheby’s Beyond Limits exhibition. A walk in Biggin and Wolfscote Dales was challenging but fun, with pupils using GPS equipment to help them find the answers to a quiz on the landscape features in the area.

Meg Taylor said:

“I found Hartington a great experience. It was fun and exciting and I hope each new First Year enjoys it as much as we did.”

Head of Lower School Mrs Helen Lawson was full of praise:

“The boys and girls were excellent – energetic, considerate and great company....They promise to be an excellent year group!”



OUT IN THE ELEMENTS

Geographers from the Sixth Form braved some wild weather when they travelled to the Lakes to examine rivers and investigate flood defences against a beautiful backdrop.

Based at the Blencathra Field Studies Centre, the pupils’ first task was to don their waterproofs and head to Keskadale Beck to collect data for use in their exams later in the year.

The final day of the trip was spent in Keswick, where the geographers

focused on the town’s recently-completed £6m flood protection scheme and used data to create their own maps of areas at a high-risk – another vital skill that they will use in their AS Level exams.



ART OUTSIDE THE STUDIO

Sixth Form artists have benefitted from two trips to enrich their appreciation and technique this term. Lower Sixth Formers spent two days sketching Manchester and Salford’s varied landscapes and gathering source material for their portfolios. The industrial architecture at Castlefield basin proved to be a superb environment in which to draw, and an afternoon spent in the bohemian Northern Quarter let the artists focus on the contrast between old and new Manchester; before they moved on to Salford Quays where the waterfront, combined with the modern architecture, provided plenty of reflected surfaces to challenge the pupils.

The Lower Sixth also joined Upper Sixth Form art students on a trip to London where they visited some of the major galleries: Tate Britain, Tate Modern, The National Gallery and The V&A. The group were able to sketch and gather information from the huge variety of artwork that was on display. The opportunity to see the original works in such auspicious surroundings helped inspire and educate the artists, who spent time studying techniques as well as considering factors such as scale and materials.

Both trips were resounding successes and will no doubt have an impact on the subsequent work that is produced for both AS and A Level.

REMEMBERING WAR HEROES

The battlefields of the First World War were the destination for 80 Third Years on the History department’s annual half term trip to northern France and Belgium. Pupils visited sites and museums including the underground museum in Albert, where they saw artefacts from the Great War; the Lochnagar Crater; Newfoundland Park where they saw the trench system first-hand and learned about the horrors of this warfare; and the memorial to the missing at Thiepval. The girls and boys also visited small cemeteries to commemorate the Pals Battalions, who fought and died on the Somme battlefields.

Over the border in Belgium, they visited Ypres and the In Flanders

Fields Museum, where they learned from the interactive exhibits. The group walked through the muddy preserved trenches in Sanctuary Wood and the underground tunnel systems to gain an idea of the conditions in which the soldiers fought. Tyne Cot, Langemark and Essex Farm cemeteries were also visited, and The Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres saw two SGS pupils lay a wreath in a moving remembrance ceremony. During the trip, several pupils found memorials to their relatives. The trip complemented the work being done currently by all Third Years and served as a timely reminder to all those who went of the importance of remembrance.

Back at school, Old Stopfordians joined pupils on Remembrance Day to commemorate those members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty.

During a moving service in the main hall, hymns were sung, pupils made readings and Ben Carthy played the Last Post to signal the beginning of the two minute silence.



HOSTING GERMAN PARTNERS

In September, 38 German pupils and their teachers from our partner school Städtisches Gymnasium Bad Segeberg came to stay with their Fifth Year SGS partners.

The visitors enjoyed excursions to Old Trafford, the Beatles Museum, the National Football Museum and Chester. They also received a civic welcome with a reception at Stockport Town Hall, followed by a visit to the air raid shelters. Back at school, the group attended classes with their SGS partners and some extra lessons to help improve their English language skills. A highlight of their time in school was the handball taster session where the Germans taught our Fifth Years how to play.

By the end of the week strong friendships had been formed, with some emotional farewells at the airport. The girls and boys are now looking forward to their return visit in February when they get to sample the local life and culture whilst practising their German.

Fifth Year Joe Donnarumma, who is studying French, German and Spanish at GCSE had a brilliant week:

“I was paired with my partner because we share a lot of the same interests – we had loads in common. I was amazed by how a complete stranger can come and settle into a family so quickly and be comfortable straight away! I can’t wait to go over there next year as we all got on so well.”

BIG BUSINESS

Lower Sixth Form Business Studies pupils spent a day learning from some of the country’s most exciting young business talents at the Entrepreneur Live event in Salford Quays.

Activities, question and answer sessions and lectures gave pupils a real appreciation of the steps and risks some young entrepreneurs have taken to make their businesses a success.

As well as linking in with the pupils’ work back in the classroom on generating and protecting business ideas, the entrepreneurs’ insights also provided plenty of inspiration to the SGS Young Enterprise participants who will be looking to replicate the success of last year’s group Kaizen, who won the prestigious Best Presentation award at the Young Enterprise National Young Innovators Final.

ARTS & CULTURE

250 CLUB FUNDS BANNERS

The school’s musicians are extremely grateful to the Old Stopfordians’ Association for their generous donation of 40 embroidered music stand banners.

The smart new banners had their first outing during the summer music tour to Barcelona, taking the Stockport Grammar name to various concert locations around the city.

The donation came via the Old Stopfordians’ Association’s 250 Club, which provides a great opportunity to win a cash prize while contributing towards special purchases for the school.



POETIC TREASURE HUNT

Pupils in the Lower School celebrated National Poetry Day by embarking on a quest for gold in the English department’s Poetry Treasure Hunt. Pupils had to seek out poems hidden around school and answer all the questions relating to them – with a bounty of ‘poetry gold’ waiting for them at the end of the trail.

As well as the treasure hunt, pupils learnt about Japanese Haikus in their lessons and, following the Poetry Day’s theme of water, they created their own haiku droplets which cascaded down the English department walls.

Adventurers across the school who wished to join in with the hunt were also able to download the map and take part.



LE THÉÂTRE

A play performed entirely in French gave Third and Fourth Year languages pupils the opportunity to practise their listening skills, while some were also invited to join the actors onstage to show off their French speaking.

The play, *Mon Père Ne Me Comprend Pas*, was performed by actors from the visiting Onatti Productions theatre group and told the story of a girl who thinks her dad treats her like a child, which ties in with the pupils’ current topic work on family and relationships. During the hour-long show, two

pupils volunteered to play small parts in the play, while the rest of the audience also had the chance to practise their French during the in-character question-and-answer session with the actors.

Head of Languages Miss Gibson was impressed with our pupils as much as she was with the actors:

“It was an excellent play – very entertaining and enjoyed by all – and the pupils understood everything that was happening.”

OPEN ART EXHIBITION

The Independent Schools Art and Design Association selected submissions by two A Level Art students, Joe Ganley-Yates and Jenny Muellenbach, alongside Head of Art and Design Mr Davies and Art teacher Miss Upton, for inclusion in the 2013 Pupil Open Art Exhibition currently showing at Sidcot School in Somerset. The work on display is of a very high standard and has been selected from the staff and pupils of some of the most prestigious independent schools in the country, among them St. Paul’s, Bryanston and Millfield.

Mr Davies said: **“It is very interesting to see the work of staff and pupils displayed alongside each other.”**

Fourth Year pupil Natasha Hurst entered Glossop competition, Art in the Window during the summer and her picture was selected as the winner in the 13-16 category, where her watercolour was judged alongside GCSE level work.

SPELLBINDING PREPARATIONS

Rehearsals are under way for a fantastic production of the hit Broadway musical *Godspell* which will involve over 70 pupils from across the Senior School. The cast are busy with dance and singing rehearsals and the main characters are working hard at bringing the script to life. Staff and pupils are also busy with the backstage preparations: props are being sourced, lighting is being organised and ambitious set-building is in progress.

The show promises the usual SGS high standard of drama, music and visual spectacle. Tickets, priced at £10 / £5 concessions go on sale from February. The production runs from 19th – 22nd March.



SPOOKY ANIMATION

Girls and boys in the ICT department’s Animation Club used specialist software to film their own stop-motion monster movies this Halloween. Having used modelling clay to mould creepy characters and sculpt spooky sets, the film-makers shot and edited their films frame by frame.

Their next task will be to fine-tune the Keyframe skills they’ve been

learning in the club to help prepare for Manchester University’s UK Schools Computer Animation Competition.

Pupils from SGS Animation Club have tasted success in the annual competition every year since first entering in 2010, with Christian Anderson winning a prize for the third consecutive year in the 2013 contest.

MUSICAL END TO TERM

Musicians and vocalists treated parents, Governors and staff to a sparkling Winter Concert, which demonstrated both the range and quality of music at SGS. Highlights included the atmospheric performance of Bruch’s *Kol Nidrei* featuring Ben Oldfield as an outstanding cello soloist with the First Orchestra. The Junior Singers sang their repertoire with great enthusiasm, and there was

a stunning end to the concert with a couple of lively Herbie Hancock numbers performed by the Jazz Band.

Just one week later, the audience enjoyed a rich variety of seasonal favourites at the Christmas Concert, including almost 140 pupils singing a medley from *The Phantom of the Opera* and the traditional Wind Orchestra rendition of *Sleigh Ride*.



ENCOURAGING BUDDING ARTISTS

The Art and Design department invited local primary schools to submit work by their Year 5 pupils on the theme of Portraits. The children, along with their families and teachers, enjoyed a special presentation evening, where, before the winners were announced, the 9 and 10 year olds took part in a practical print-making session.

Joining the judging panel was figurative artist Mark Demstader, who told the children:

“Your work shows real talent and promise.”

Every child took home a goodie bag filled with art supplies and the winners were treated to professional artists’ sets as well as vouchers for their school Art departments. The competition was kindly sponsored by Brewin Dolphin.

SPORTING CHANCE



FOOTBALL AT WESTMINSTER

Only a penalty shootout prevented our First XI footballers from pulling off another Boodles ISFA Cup upset as they held Westminster School to an impressive 2-2 draw in central London.

In an exciting match, Aaron McRoberts’s penalty after Michael Schofield was brought down in the box gave SGS the lead before the hosts scored two quick goals to turn the game on its head.

Once again, the team exhibited the same never-say-die attitude that

had seen them come from behind to beat Bedford Modern in the second round as Will Hanson poked home a corner to equalise and send the tie to extra-time.

Despite the resulting defeat in the shootout, our First XI leave the competition with plenty of pride following a fantastic run in the school’s debut season in the competition, with an emphatic 5-1 victory at Box Hill (Surrey) and the last-gasp 4-3 win against Bedford putting Stockport Grammar on the Independent Schools Football Association map.

GO PUMAS!

Sophie Hall, Holly Hunt, Emily Spencer and Meghan Myers were selected to play for northern squad, the Pennine Pumas in the England Hockey Futures Cup in Cannock. They played a round robin competition over three days, against the south, east and west squads and the girls all came home with Bronze medals. Following their outstanding performances, Holly and Emily have been invited to England U18 trials and Holly’s younger sister Lauren Hunt was also invited for U16 trials over Christmas.

NORTHERN CHAMPIONS

The First XI Hockey squad have qualified for the national finals of the Schools Championships for Girls after a magnificent performance saw them win the north of England title in Leeds. The girls’ win means that Stockport Grammar will represent the north in February’s national finals, where they will face the other winners of the regional qualifiers for the title of Champions of England.

Head of Hockey Miss Sharon Withington was rightly proud of the girls after they won all five games without conceding a goal:

“It’s like a dream come true for the girls and, of course, myself! I knew that we were a side to be reckoned with this year, but we have exceeded all expectations. It was a magnificent performance from the girls and I’m looking forward to watching them play in the national finals.”

First XI captain Sophie Hall said:

“I have loved playing hockey for the school. Miss Withington and Mr Stanhope have been totally committed with our training and in getting us through to the national finals.”

The U14s also did extremely well to make it to the north west finals of the competition.



RUGBY

HEAD BOY PLAYS FOR ENGLAND

Head Boy Tom Morton played for the England U18s and U19s Rugby squad as they defeated Australia 23-3 at the prestigious venue of Harrow School. Tom, who scored three penalties in the match, started playing the game at the age of seven when he joined Stockport Rugby Club. While studying for A Levels in Chemistry, Biology and PE Tom finds time to play for the school’s First XV and for Sale Sharks in the Aviva Premiership U18s league. He is keen to take his rugby further and is looking forward to a South Africa tour next summer with the England squad.

Fly-half Tom said:

“Since being selected for the England teams, my self-belief has definitely grown and I am really enjoying playing. The support from school has been brilliant all the way through – I get lots of encouragement from everyone at SGS.”



U15s

The U15 boys beat Stonyhurst College in Round 4 of the NatWest Vase (formerly The Daily Mail Vase). They played extremely well leading 29-0 at half-time and going on to win 43-24.

Captain George Chatterton gave us this report:

“Defending from the start, we weathered the storm and soon managed to break away to score five tries in quick succession. We went into the second half with a clean sheet but the momentum shifted as Stonyhurst started to score. It was a great team effort though, so we managed to get back on top and just kept scoring.”

Scrum half Alex Jones commented:

“We’re excited to play our next match, but they are a big Yorkshire team so we are practising hard!”

At the time of going to press, the great news has just come in that the boys beat Brighouse High School 15-5, meaning that the team go on to play Altrincham Grammar School in the 6th round.

COUNTY CALL-UPS

Some of our best rugby players have also been picked to represent their county following excellent performances with the school teams so far this year: Tom O’Mahony and James Gilboy attended a north U16s assessment weekend in early December.

James and Tom also play for the Sale Sharks Academy, the elite player development group, alongside Fifth Years Tom Power and Louis Jones.

Old Stops James Webster and Andrew Ward have been selected alongside Tom Morton for the Cheshire U18s this season, with Tom O’Mahony and James Gilboy representing the county U16s.

More Stockport Grammar boys represented their district earlier in the school year when Tom Power, Jaime Sanchez-Capuchino, Ned Barlow, Louis Jones and Max Lederwerg were all picked by East Cheshire U15s.

Stockport Grammar First XV coach Mr Hugo Corbett said:

“Congratulations to all of the boys who have won representative honours over the past month. Every one of them has deserved to have been picked for their hard work on and off the pitch. It’s always a proud moment when our boys represent the school at a higher level and it really inspires our other players when they see what their teammates have achieved.”

FELL RUNNING
DOUBLE ACT

Ellen Downs and her sister Juliet successfully represented SGS in the English Schools Fell Running Championships on a sunny but breezy day out on the hills above Kendal. The large-scale event involved over 500 runners from 100 schools over four age group categories. Both girls were in the lower year of their age groups and faced tough hilly courses with the senior race stretching to almost 7k including 1000ft of ascent. Fourth Year pupil Juliet came fourth in her race behind some international runners from the year above her.

Lower Sixth Former Ellen, again competing against runners a year older than her, won the Senior Girls race, earning her first national title. Congratulations go to the sisters for their fantastic achievements. During the summer, Ellen ran for England in the mountain running championships in the French Alps, which was a tough, challenging course. Speaking about her love of running, Ellen said:

“I particularly enjoy running in places like Lyme Park where the views are amazing. It’s great to be able to cover so much ground on a run and I enjoy training in a group because it spurs you on.”



PERFECT PADDLING

Two of our Canoe Club’s top young paddlers performed brilliantly as they raced on the white water of the fierce Wagon Lane slalom near Bradford.

It was only the second competitive outing for First Year Alex Curwen, while Third Year David Paterson also found time to help behind-the-scenes with the organisation of the event.



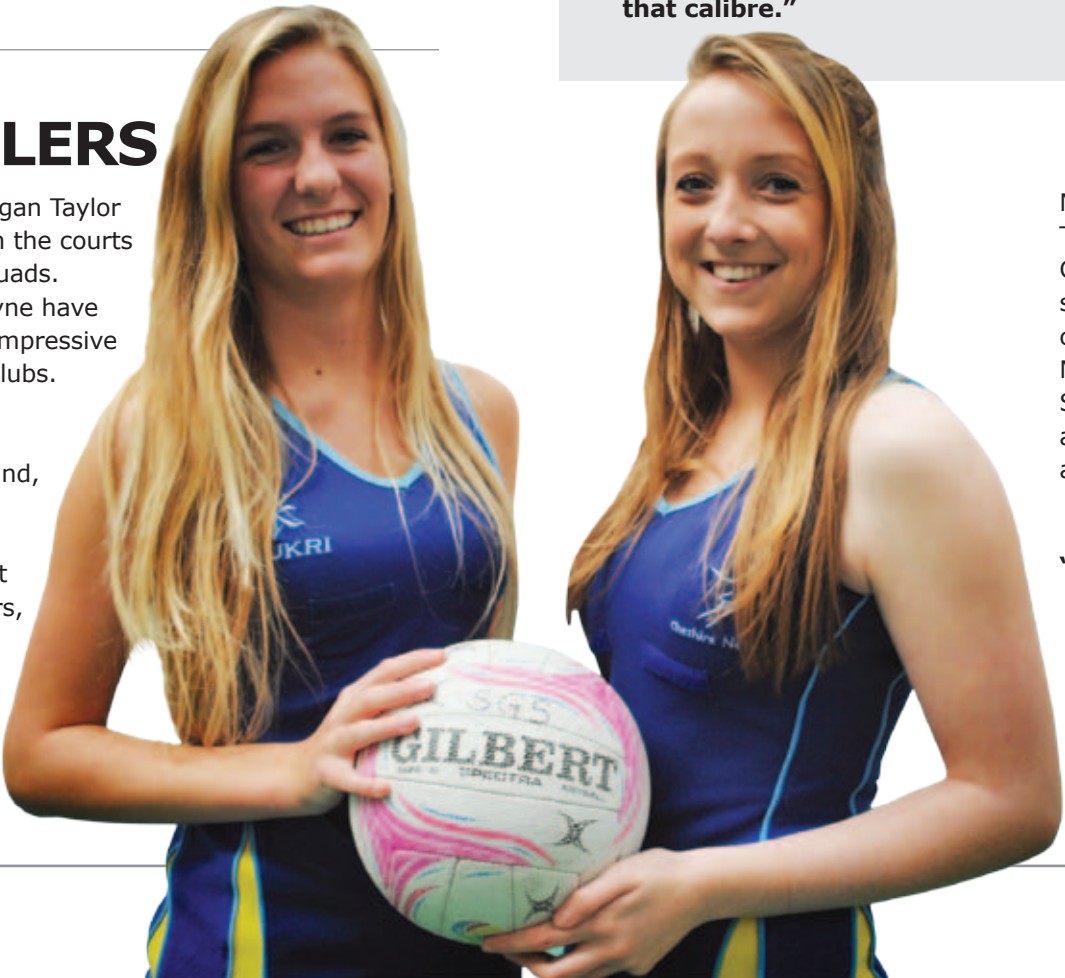
Both boys receive expert guidance at SGS Canoe Club from Junior School teacher Mr Johnson, a former flat water professional with experience of competing in world championships, world cups and European championships, and he was full of praise for both competitors:

“Alex placed well inside the top half of the paddlers and is destined to move up through the divisions. He certainly has time as many of his competitors are twice his age... and David stormed down the course just behind some of the best young paddlers in the north of England.”

COUNTY NETBALLERS

Netballers Olivia Ronnie, Alice Payne and Megan Taylor have all been rewarded for their fine form on the courts by being chosen to play for their regional squads. Sixteen year olds Olivia Ronnie and Alice Payne have been selected for the U19s after a string of impressive performances for both the school and their clubs.

Olivia and Alice play for the SGS first team and, outside of school, are members of Cheshire League side Didsbury and Northern League club Tameside respectively. They have recent experience of impressing the county selectors, having both represented Cheshire U16s last year.



LEARNING FROM THE MASTERS IN JAPAN

Four SGS pupils travelled to Osaka in Japan to an international karate competition during the half term holiday. Sisters First Year Shivalika and Sixth Former Niyati Takiar, along with Fourth Year pupil Lilia Sebouai and Sixth Former Tom Allport spent a week competing against high level Japanese martial artists as well as fitting in plenty of sightseeing. All of the competitors from SGS were inspired by the skill of the Japanese entrants and plan to return in five years’ time to compete again. Tom Allport said:

“The Japanese were on a different level. It was an honour to be competing against martial artists of that calibre.”

Lilia has already decided that next time she will spend two months in Japan and will make the most of the training available to her. In the meantime she plans to enter as many practice competitions in the UK as possible. Shivalika said:

“I really enjoyed the experience and I even learned a whole new Kata (set piece) while I was there.”

Niyati, who won two bronze medals in the last England World Championships got through to the Quarter Finals in Osaka and said:

“It was an amazing experience.”

Meanwhile, Second Year pupil Megan Taylor has been picked to join the Greater Manchester U14s Academy squad and has also successfully completed trials to play for the Manchester Thunder U14s Academy. Speaking about our netballers’ achievements, Head of Girls’ PE and Games Miss Laura Topping said:

“Congratulations to all the girls who’ve been picked to play for the squads. They thoroughly deserve their places after all the hard work they’ve put into their netball in and out of school, and we’re really looking forward to seeing how they get on!”

GREAT GOLF

Third Year pupil Elliott Galloway’s playoff win secured a brilliant victory for the SGS golf team in their opening match of this year’s Independent Schools Golf Association area plate. Up against North Cestrian in a scratch match play competition, the team needed two wins from three matches to reach the second round.

After Sixth Former Tom Allport beat his opponent to finish one-up after 18 holes, fellow Sixth Former Matthew Hughes was unfortunate to narrowly lose his game. The decider was left to Elliott Galloway who, finishing all-square after eighteen holes, was forced into a playoff back down the first hole, with his long tee-shot straight down the middle and a fantastic chip from the front edge of the green securing his par and a win for the SGS team.

Mr Ehegartner, who coaches the team, said:

“This is a huge win for the newly-reformed golf programme. Our lowest handicapper is 10 and we were facing boys that play off two, three and four, so for us to win a scratch competition is very encouraging and shows that anything can happen on the day.”



CHARITY



A STAND AGAINST BULLYING

This year’s National Anti-Bullying Week saw girls and boys across the school involved in special assemblies, debates and lessons. The pupils came to school accessorised in blue to show solidarity to the cause, and to illustrate that words can be just as harmful as actions the week was brought to a close with a performance from our Rugby First XV of the New Zealand national team’s Haka, the All Blacks’ traditional pre-match dance, complete with fierce expressions and blood-curdling chanting to end the myth that “sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.”

YOUNG LEADER

Sixth Former Fasih Shahid is a member of the Save the Children Young Leaders Programme, where he has been trained in leadership, media, fundraising, campaigning, advocacy and programme development.

Having worked on several projects and events for the charity, Fasih said:

“This has given me great experience and has helped to develop my research and communication skills. I am keen to continue with charity work once I’ve finished on this programme.”

Fasih has also volunteered in Oxfam shops and was a member of their Youth Board before joining the Save the Children programme.



COIN CREST

Pupils raised funds for this year’s House charities by taking their spare change along to the Quad and recreating the Stockport Grammar crest in coins. The total will be added to the money raised throughout the school year for the pupils’ nominated international, national and local causes including L’Esperance Orphanage, Rwanda; Teenage Cancer Trust; the Christie; Help for Heroes; Macmillan Cancer Support and St Ann’s Hospice.

OUTREACH IN AFRICA

As part of a strong relationship between SGS and Educaid who are working to improve schooling provision in Africa, Chemistry teacher Mr Heyes and Head of Life Studies Mr Ehegartner visited Sierra Leone during the October half term. Mr Heyes worked with science staff to improve the delivery of the Chemistry syllabus as they rely heavily on junior staff. Eight teaching volunteers from across the globe came to Rolal in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone to a school which has 700 pupils, most of whom live on site.

Mr Heyes said:

“Over the week we went through the various topics on the syllabus. Their energy and enthusiasm never waned, despite the 30°C heat, accompanying humidity and sporadic meals of plain rice.”

Mr Ehegartner, accompanied by professional photographer Dan Vernon, spent time developing educational resources for Life Studies lessons back at SGS, creating photojournalism stories that provide insight to a day in the life of a Sierra Leonean child. Video-linked lessons, shared resources and a visit by one of Educaid’s former pupils to SGS are just some of the other ways in which children at both schools have gained a deeper understanding of each other’s lives over the past seven years.

During the summer holiday, a group of Sixth Formers travelled to Rwanda for a month where they combined volunteering at L’Esperance Orphanage with adventure and exploration. The next such trip will take pupils to Bolivia and Peru in 2015.

JUNIOR SCHOOL



FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

The U11 footballers are IAPS north-west five-a-side champions after a stunning comeback in the final of the tournament at Manchester City’s Platt Lane complex.

Despite trailing 2-0 at half-time, captain Chester Bowden’s second-half hat-trick turned the game on its head and helped secure the trophy for teammates Reece Linney, Tommie Blashill, Tom McDonald and Ben Higgins.

The boys reached the final after finishing top of their table in the competition’s first stage, competed by three pools of four teams, with each table-topper and one best-placed runner-up progressing. An exciting 3-1 extra-time win against Rydal Penrhos followed in the semis. Stockport Grammar Juniors B team also played in the tournament and only narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-finals.

AUTUMN GIVING

The Junior School had a great start to their fundraising efforts in the Autumn Term. The Harvest Festival collection in October gave pupils the opportunity to deliver parcels to two local residential homes as well as continuing the school’s support for The Wellspring homeless charity in Stockport.

On Children in Need day, the pupils had a great time coming to school in their pyjamas and onesies, raising a total of £702.

In the run up to Christmas the girls and boys supported Francis House by selling pocket money gifts at break times. The Junior and Senior Schools also joined forces to donate stacks of gifts which went under the tree in the Junior School reception area before being shared between The Salvation Army and Key 103’s *Mission Christmas*.

Collecting up all the parcels, teacher in charge of charities, Mrs Turner said:

“I am always moved by the generosity and enthusiasm of our children and their parents.”

Twelve girls and boys from Year 6 visited the *Mission Christmas* headquarters to take part in a Key 103 Breakfast Show, where they were interviewed live on air and sang *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.

The charitable term was wrapped up with a hugely successful Christmas Fair organised by the Stopfordian Parents’ Association, which raised over £7000, to be split between school projects and the SPA’s nominated charities.

Uniform supplier Badged by Davenports has donated 107 SGS infant polo shirts no longer required by the school, to a school in the Philippines. Lisa from Badged told us:


“They loved them and they were greatly appreciated.”



A VICTORIAN SCHOOL DAY

The Year 5 children travelled back in time to the 19th century recently when they found out what a school day in Victorian times would have been like.

After paying a penny for their schooling on arrival, the children, dressed in Victorian costume, had lessons in art, scripture, maths and handwriting. They also took part in drama activities based around the Dr Barnardo story, and gave recitals of Victorian poems, all under the watchful eyes of their teachers, who remained in strict character all day.



Hoopla, marbles and hopscotch were among the traditional games on offer in the courtyard and the girls and boys were treated to a traditional Victorian school lunch.

Singing and drill practice finished off the day, and there was also time for austere portraits to be taken of the children.

After returning to 2013, Isabella Byrne said:

“I enjoyed the whole day. It was really fun because everyone involved acted out just how things would have been.”



INFANTS’ GALLERY VISIT

Infants learning about history’s greatest artists spent a day at The Lowry’s galleries in Salford Quays to discover more about the area’s most famous painter, LS Lowry. A session in the centre’s classrooms introduced our pupils to different pencil techniques and drawing styles before they went on to explore the galleries to take inspiration from the artist’s original portraits.

The children have used their newly acquired techniques and skills in their Art classes back at school, where their work on artists such as Lowry and Picasso made stunning displays on the walls of the Infant department.

EUREKA!

Year 1 children visited EUREKA! The National Children’s Museum in Halifax, which has hundreds of interactive, hands-on exhibits designed to inspire children to learn about themselves and the world around them through play and discovery.

Lily Cook enjoyed the day:
“We went there because we were learning about our body. I went in the teeth.”

Lauren Storey remembers:
“We measured how far we could step. We had lunch on a train. We measured how tall we are.”

And William Gillespie said:
“My trip to Eureka was good. I liked the robot. It spoke to us. I had lunch in a train. It was good. It was yum!”



UNDER THE SEA

We are delighted to announce that this year’s Year 6 production will be the Broadway musical, Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*. An exciting project for staff and pupils alike, the production includes well known favourites such as *Part of Your World* and *Under the Sea*, along with a number of songs written specially for the stage show.

Drama teacher Mrs Sullivan is full of enthusiasm:

“This is a big challenge for us.... we’re thrilled to have the licence to perform it. The children are really enjoying rehearsals so far and the standard is great.”

Tickets go on sale in February. Keep an eye on Twitter for details...



FIRST PLACE RUNNERS

Cross country runners Georgia Fazakerley and Daisy Keigher both finished in first place in their races at the AJIS championships in challenging weather conditions on the Fylde coast.

Head of PE Mrs Nichols was very pleased with the outcome:

“Although our boys finished a little further down the places in their races, all of our runners, many of whom were competing in a cross country event for the first time, can be proud of their performances on such a tough circuit.”

SEASONAL TRADITIONS

A pair of magical nativity plays helped the children celebrate Christmas. Every child in the Infant department had a part in the plays which were both performed to halls full of families, friends, staff and Governors, as well as Mayor of Stockport Councillor Chris Murphy.

In *Whoops-a-Daisy Angel*, the girls and boys from Nursery and Reception told the story of a disorganised but lovable angel. Featuring angels, snowflakes, shepherds, wise men and Mary and Joseph in their colourful costumes, the play was backed by catchy songs and mini musicians on percussion.

Year 1 and 2’s Nativity *The Stars Come Out for Christmas* was set at an awards ceremony in “Tinseltown” and was a musical reminder of everybody’s favourite parts of Christmas. Nominees for the Outstanding Contribution to Christmas Award included Santa, but a late entry telling the story of a baby being born in a stable scooped the first prize.



IT'S GOOD TO TALK

A DAY OF PSYCHOLOGY

A group of 36 Upper and Lower Sixth Formers visited Lancashire Cricket Club in November for a Science and Pseudoscience in Psychology event. It was a fascinating day that included a number of guest speakers. The pupils very much enjoyed Dr Peter Lovatt, aka 'Doctor Dance's' talk, exploring different styles of dance and their relationship with thinking and confidence. He even got the students up to dance. Dr Lovatt is a Principal Lecturer and a Reader in the Psychology of Dance at the University of Hertfordshire and he set up the Dance Psychology Lab in 2008.

Next came a talk on The Psychology of Laughter which was also extremely interesting, and the day finished with the hypnotist Andrew Newton demonstrating hypnosis which Psychology teacher Mr Browne said:

"Amazed and intrigued everyone, even the sceptics amongst us!"

Everyone came away from the day with renewed interest in Psychology and the range of behaviours that can be explained psychologically.



NEVER FORGET

Old Stopfordian Professor David Lupton (OS 1963), along with his wife Gail and Joan Chantrell visited the school over two days to speak to Fourth Year Religious Studies classes as well as giving a lunchtime talk which was open to pupils from the Fourth Year to Upper Sixth Form.

Professor Lupton recently received the Federal Service Cross from the President of Germany for his work in the Stolperstein project, commemorating Nazi victims in Gelnhausen, where he has lived since 1980. As a long-time resident of the town, David felt strongly that he wanted to help commemorate those who perished at the hands of the Nazis during WWII. Previously a town inhabited by a large number of Jewish people, Gelnhausen no longer has any Jewish residents, so artist

Gunter Demnig was commissioned to cast bronze stones ('Stolpersteine'), engraved with the names and details of every victim of the Nazis including Joan Chantrell's family and they were laid outside their former residences. This project is now spread across hundreds of European cities.

Fourth Year pupil Seun Odusanya found his talk very interesting:

"I knew about the historic side of the Holocaust but he really gave us the people's point of view. I like that the Stolpersteins represent every victim as an individual and it is interesting how this project has become global and they are finding people all over the world who had relatives that died in the Holocaust."

FASCINATING PHYSICS

Physics students have been fortunate enough to attend several lectures by professors from the University of Manchester during the Autumn Term. Professor Patrick Gaydecki, Professor of Digital Signal Processing at the University of Manchester, visited school to educate the girls and boys on the computing side of Physics.



Georgina Plant was intrigued by his theories:

"The idea that we could one day (perhaps a few hundred years away yet) download our brain, or at least the information in it, was a fascinating idea, and he used some popular music tracks to demonstrate how computer programs can be used to manipulate data."

The other two lectures took place at the University of Manchester, with an enlightening talk from Professor Brian Cox where he discussed the prediction and discovery of the Higgs boson or 'God Particle'. Professor Jeff Forshaw gave a lecture on the weird and wonderful world of Quantum Physics. The Sixth Formers have been introduced to many interesting and complex concepts during these lectures and inspired by enthusiastic experts in their field.

KITEBOARDER DROPS IN

Kiteboarder, filmmaker and Old Stopfordian James Boulding (OS 2003) returned to school to speak to pupils about his exhilarating lifestyle during a careers talk with a difference.

As well as showing pupils his kiting equipment, James explained that it wasn't just the countless outdoor activities at Stockport Grammar that have helped him, but that Mathematics, which he went on to study at Newcastle University, enables him to work out wind directions. James also utilises his English skills writing for magazines about the sport, ensuring that he develops a career outside the water too.

As well as being one of the world's biggest names in kiteboarding, it is James's film-making that helps him make a living from the sport.

The videos he films and edits for kite manufacturers and sponsors receive hundreds of thousands of views online. James stressed to the children the importance of working hard to pursue their dreams and that their subjects and extracurricular activities can take them in all sorts of different directions.



COURTROOM DRAMA

Pupils from the Sixth Form gained a unique insight into the workings of the justice system as they acted as barristers and witnesses in this year's Sir Rhys Davies Mock Trial competition. Held in a courtroom in front of professional judges at Manchester Crown Court, the pupils performed very well, achieving two positive verdicts from the juries in their 'trials' but narrowly missing out on progressing to the final.

This year, the team benefited from the expert advice of Old Stopfordian barristers Jonathan Holt and Nigel Booth (OS 1989) who generously gave up their time to prepare the team before the event and lent our pupils wigs and gowns for their day in court. History teacher Mr Stuart Moore is already looking forward to next year:

"Mock trial is always an exhilarating day and this year was no exception. The team deserve great credit for how they coped under the pressure and I'm sure they enjoyed the experience."

TIME TO RELAX

Stress Coach, Ros Edlin visited Fifth Year Life Studies classes to share tips on coping with exam stress. She showed the girls and boys how to relax and discussed with them the kinds of things which might trigger stress and anxiety and how they can avoid getting overwhelmed by the pressures of teenage life.

CONGRATULATIONS

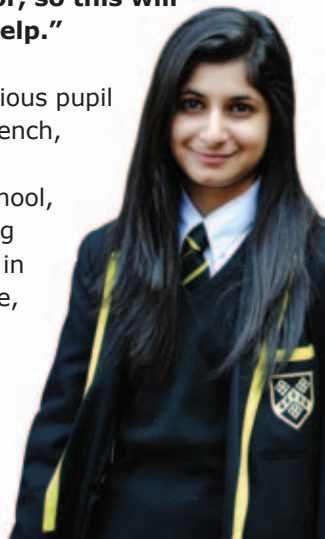
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Fourth Year Natasha Lodhi has beaten hundreds of applicants to be selected as a UK-German Youth Ambassador for 2013-14. The fifteen year old is part of a network of young people in the UK and Germany who are passionate about each other's countries and keen to help promote UK-German relations. Together with the other Ambassadors, Natasha is helping to facilitate contact between the two countries through her own projects which include a German club for SGS pupils, video exchanges and a primary school pen pal scheme. In October half term, the keen linguist attended a conference in London where she discussed ideas with other Youth Ambassadors. Her term will end with a trip to Berlin next summer for evaluation and showcasing of all the projects which have run during the year.

Natasha told us:

"This is such a great experience for me, and is helping to build my confidence. I love languages and hope to become a linguist or translator, so this will definitely help."

The conscientious pupil is studying French, German and Spanish at school, whilst teaching herself Dutch in her spare time, and learning Arabic from her father.



DIPLOMATIC COMMENDATIONS

SGS delegates enjoyed success at a recent Model United Nations conference where our China team and several individuals were all commended for their debating skills.

Representing China, Sudan and Brazil, 27 debaters from SGS took on roles as diplomats of their designated countries and discussed a wide range of complex world issues.

After a full day of debating on the Saturday, and a Sunday spent negotiating aid for a fictional earthquake in Kuwait, the SGS pupils were presented with numerous awards in recognition of the particularly high standard of their contributions.

The biggest prize was won by the Chinese diplomats who were recognised as a commended delegation, a particular honour given that over sixty teams took part in the conference. Natalie Ho, Jeremy Dunn and Catherine Whatley all received special mentions; Liza Vul and Leah Allcock were both commended and Anna Madden, Jonathan Bennett and Ali Drabu were all highly commended.



GERMAN WINNERS

Ryan Jude and Jed Holloway were big winners in the German section of the seventh annual Northern Schools Modern Foreign Languages Debating Competition, while our French and Spanish teams were also outstanding.

After topping their group and progressing through the semi-final, Ryan and Jed lifted the German shield with a convincing win in their final debate on whether or not it's better to go on holiday in your home country.

YOUNG COOKS IMPRESS TV CHEF

Fourth Year Mona Amet finished third in the north-west final of Red Tractor's annual competition after cooking some delicious lamb koftas for TV chef James Martin.

Mona had to devise an original, healthy beef or lamb recipe for under £10, for which she was picked from hundreds of young cooks to make the dish in the final.

Judged by James on taste, originality, nutrition and presentation, Mona's Moroccan koftas, served with a spicy tomato sauce, won her a place among the north-west's very best.

