

TAKING STOCK /

Stockport Grammar
School Newsletter



Issue 57
Summer 2014



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ARTS AND CULTURE



BROADWAY SHOW WOWS AUDIENCE

Girls and boys from across the Senior School enjoyed months of energetic rehearsals to bring the production of *Godspell* right up to date with a fresh and contemporary feel. The enthusiasm came across in the performances, with dynamic dance routines, catchy songs and plenty of moving drama – all of which resulted in a sell-out run across four nights and rave reviews on the school’s Facebook and Twitter pages.

Sam Gilliat’s powerful portrayal of Jesus was compelling. Alex Cosgriff’s Judas stood out as did Jenny Kent’s strong vocal performances. The full cast remained on stage, in character for the entire show – an achievement in itself. The production involved 99 pupils both onstage and behind the scenes.

Head of Drama Mrs Moffatt said: **“It was important that the show focused on community and what connects us as human beings. This has truly been realised through our months of working together.”**



SUMMERTIME MUSIC

The Music department began the busy Summer Term with a concert in the first week back, followed swiftly by the Leavers’ Concert a week later.

Highlights from the Summer Concert included the Junior Band’s rendition of the *Theme from Superman* which got the concert underway and the String Orchestra’s performance of Bartók’s challenging *Rumanian Folk Dances*, with impressive solos from Sixth Form violinists Alex Smith, Eilidh Pollard and Elsa Shah and a stirring performance from lead cellist Ben Oldfield in their final piece, *Fujiko*. First and Second Year ensemble *The Golden Keys* improvised together in a true jazz style; Chamber Choir sang beautifully the complicated song *Lay a Garland* which showed off the formidable talents of this 45-strong choral ensemble; older jazz group *The Good Vibes* treated the audience to foot-tapping music with their slick renditions of some popular jazz classics; and Chorus, consisting of 120 pupils, brought the evening to a close with the dramatic eight-movement vocal piece about war, *The Armed Man*.



Mrs Cotter, mother of Upper Sixth Former Ruby said: **“The Music department is like a nucleus – there is a real family feel and Ruby’s participation in music at SGS has opened up so many more opportunities for her.”**

Wrapping up the evening, Headmaster Mr Chicken paid tribute to the collective effort of the music staff, the pupils and their parents and talked about the enthusiasm and skill evident in all the performances.

The competitive all-day Music Festival takes place towards the end of the Summer Term and will be reported on in the next issue.

CHARITY TALENT SHOWCASE

Two sell-out audiences watched the annual lunchtime Vernon Show, which raised almost £600 for the school’s chosen charities. This fantastic showcase of the pupils’ diverse talents included Second Year Katie Fairfax and Fifth Year Leina Warburton’s stirring vocal solos. First Years also demonstrated their musical talents with a great performance from band *Inside Joke* and a duet from Pippa Brown and Lauren Suddards.

Sixth Former Lydia O’Donoghue exhibited her circus skills; Fourth Year Shakeel Ahmed performed a distinctive breakdance sequence and girls from the First Year formed a group to produce an energetic streetdance routine.

The finale came from accomplished Sixth Form dancer Emily Banks, joined on stage by Luke Berry, Tom O’Mahony and Ciaran Johnson, rounding off the show on a high.



CLASSICAL DRAMA

A Level Classics students Craig Bowie and Tom O’Mahony both excelled in this year’s Classics play *HisTroy* alongside a strong supporting cast. The production was a re-interpretation of two of Sophocles’ plays staged by Head of Classics Mr Thorley to include excerpts from the First World War poetry of Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen.

The play dealt with the Trojan War and its parallels with the “war to end all wars”. Performing across three nights in the Hallam Hall, the cast rose to the challenge of the demanding material, with atmospheric and note-perfect accompaniment from the Chorus. An exhibition of pupils’ work to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of the First World War ran alongside the production.

Lower Sixth Textiles Technology students designed the costumes for the play and exhibited their preparatory work in the exhibition.



TALENTED ARTISTS

A number of pupils have had work selected this year for the Summer Exhibition at Manchester Metropolitan University as well as the Independent Schools Art and Design Association Staff and Pupil Show at Sidcot School. A level students also have work in both the prestigious Royal Academy Summer A Level Show and The Saatchi Online Schools Exhibition.



Ella Burton (U16s)



Nicola Ellwood (U18s)

Three of the school’s top young artists also had their work selected for display at The Lowry as part of this year’s Living Edge Magazine Schools Art Competition. Work by Upper Sixth Former, Nicola Ellwood (U18s category), Ella Burton (U16s) and Kitty Grant (U14s) was on show alongside art from other schools across the north west.

Nicola Ellwood commented: **“It was so exciting to have our work on display in such a well-known gallery.”**

FINAL EXHIBITIONS

The annual Art Exhibition, which marks the end of the Art & Design GCSE and A Level courses, opened with a preview evening for parents, Governors and distinguished guests. Head of Art Mr Davies said: “For many of the pupils, it is the first time their work has been properly displayed in public. They are proud of what they have achieved, and perhaps a little nervous to find themselves at the centre of so much attention.”



Dan Thorburn

Among the wide range of media and techniques used in the work, as well as painting and sculpture, pupils created drypoint and lino prints, colographs, batik, ceramics, plaster casts, monoprints, woodcuts, photograms and textiles, plus installation and video pieces. A diverse programme of study and thorough development of each student’s own personal style was universally evident in the work on display.

Of the eleven A Level Art students, six are going on to Art Colleges in Manchester, Leeds and Central St Martins in London and one pupil will go on to study Industrial Design.



HOME AND AWAY



COMING TO AMERICA

Art and History GCSE and A Level students enjoyed a fascinating trip to New York, Philadelphia and Washington during the Easter break.

The historians visited numerous sites of historical interest such as Ellis Island Immigration Museum and Ground Zero in New York, plus the famous monuments in Washington, which all linked in with the GCSE pupils’ work on the Cold War and the Upper Sixths’ work on American civil rights.

In New York, the art group took advantage of the many world-class galleries and museums such as The Guggenheim and the Whitney Museum of Modern Art, viewing Italian Futurists, post-WWII American art and avant-garde work.

Whilst in Washington, they visited the National Museum of Art, the National Museum of American Art and The Hirshhorn Museum. Pupils and teachers alike were inspired by much of the work on show and they took advantage of having time together outside of the studio, discussing the art they had seen along with their own ideas.

GERMAN EXCHANGE

Almost forty Fifth Years and Upper Sixth Formers travelled to Bad Segeberg in northern Germany for the return leg of their German Exchange with partner school Städtisches Gymnasium.

As well as joining in with lessons at school, SGS pupils explored the cities of Lübeck and Hamburg, where they enjoyed some popular tourist attractions. There was also time for ice skating and a visit to the beaches of the Baltic Sea.

The trip gave the girls and boys the chance to embrace German culture and practise their linguistic skills ahead of their oral IGCSE exams, as well as solidifying the great friendships that

were formed on the Stockport leg of the exchange.

Fifth Year Olivia Marsden enjoyed the visit: **“It really helped to improve our German and we have made some great friends.”**

Fellow Fifth Year Leina Warburton said: **“It was a very interesting experience living with a German family and seeing all the differences, especially in terms of the different foods eaten.”**



MEDICAL PHYSICS

A fascinating talk by Professor Richard Lawson at The Christie on nuclear medicine showed Sixth Form Physicists how it can enhance the information obtained from X-rays and allow doctors to see how effectively parts of the body are actually functioning.

The students were taken to see a linear accelerator used to create the high energy X-rays and electrons for teletherapy (external beam radiotherapy) which target malignant cancer tumours with increasing precision. They also attended various workshops which included a look at a pioneering technique to use optical sensors to help patients to keep still while being treated with teletherapy.

Sixth Former Christian Anderson said: **“Through the evening it became clear that Physics is vital in the continuing improvement of cancer treatments: the use of technology in the medical world was inspiring.”**

Both girls are going on to study A Level German and have their partners coming back over to visit during the summer holiday.

CLIMBING IN SNOWDONIA

This year’s Snowdonia trip brought rain and howling winds, nevertheless, the intrepid group didn’t let it dampen their spirits.

On a scramble up Moel Siabod amidst thick cloud on day one, everybody kept up well and had a great time. A walk from Capel Curig up to Crimpiau, then down to Llyn Crafnant and back through the forests kept them relatively sheltered on day two. The following day, keen climbers stayed dry at the Beacon Climbing Centre in Caernafon, whilst the others found sunshine on Anglesey, where they walked along the cliffs and climbed Holyhead Mountain. On the final day, the weather finally allowed the group to tackle the classic routes, with a scramble up Tryfan North Ridge for some, and a climb up Snowdon via the Pyg Track for others, about which Morgan Hanson said: **“This was my favourite day. Some of us got to map the route and lead the group, and we got a real sense of accomplishment when we reached the top. It was hard work but great fun!”**

Mrs Muscutt, Co-Curricular Co-ordinator told us: **“Despite the conditions, everyone remained cheerful and learnt how to take care of themselves in a mountain environment, making for a memorable trip for all.”**

OOH LÀ LÀ IT’S OFF TO WORK WE GO...

A Level French students spent part of their Easter break on work experience in northern France. They stayed with local families in the town of Armentières on the Belgian border, so that they could immerse themselves in French culture as much as possible, even when they were away from their workplace.

During the daytime the girls and boys worked in the town’s florists, nurseries, primary schools and restaurants, where they all faced and dealt with the challenges of interacting with the public and children in French.



A day out in nearby Lille provided an opportunity to relax before the group returned home on the Eurostar, having picked up some invaluable new language skills first-hand.



CLASSICAL TOUR OF ITALY

During the Easter holiday, GCSE and A Level Classics pupils travelled to Rome and the Bay of Naples for some historic sightseeing. Making the most of their brief time in Rome, they visited Vatican City, The Colosseum, Circus Maximus and Hadrian’s Villa amongst other memorable locations. Evenings were spent soaking up the atmosphere, eating ice cream around the Trevi Fountain and haggling for souvenirs in the Piazza Navona. The pupils then moved onto their base in the beautiful town of Sorrento, from where the group visited the iconic ruins in Pompeii and Herculaneum and walked around the crater rim of the volcano.

Head of Classics Mr Thorley said: **“The pupils were a pleasure to be with throughout the trip, showing great stamina and interest.”**

LIVERPOOL ART TRIP

The GCSE Art group spent a day studying original artworks at Liverpool’s Walker Art Gallery. This annual trip to Liverpool gave pupils the opportunity to see the inspirational work in The Walker’s extensive and varied collection as well as visiting *Early Reflections*, an exhibition of David Hockney’s early paintings and prints.

Pupil Spencer Hewitt reflected on how he could link Hockney’s work from the 1960s to his own examination work after having seen the show.

The group also managed to squeeze in a visit to the natural history collection at Liverpool’s World Museum, which provided rich source material for the artists’ drawings.



COMPETITIONS

MASTERCHEF

The school’s annual Masterchef competition saw the usual high level of entries battling it out in the kitchen in front of professional chefs.

Third Year Chris Corcoran’s two courses of oven-roasted pork tenderloin in a creamy truffle sauce followed by treacle sponge with custard were chosen as the winning dishes in the Middle School category. This earned Chris the coveted trophy and a £75 voucher for a meal at The Grill on The Edge, where his main course will feature on the specials board for a day.



First Year Felix Roland won the Lower School prize for his pecan-crusted salmon with sweet potato and sunblush tomato mash followed by a summer fruit crumble. Head Chef from The Grill on The Edge, Stuart praised his “inspired” use of marzipan in the fruit crumble, saying that it was a technique he might use himself in future!

Felix thoroughly enjoyed his introduction to SGS Masterchef, saying: **“I love cooking and baking and do lots of it at home, but I have never entered a competition before, so it was fantastic to win first time.”**

Our thanks once again to both chefs from The Grill on the Edge and the Grill on the Alley for judging the competition and giving the children such positive feedback.

EASY AS 1,2,3...

Stockport Grammar mathematicians swept up the big prizes at Manchester Metropolitan University’s Pop Maths Quiz. The Third and Fifth Year teams won both age categories after working together to solve twenty problems which tested their knowledge of algebra, statistics, probability and other branches of mathematics. After an hour of intense quizzing, both triumphant teams went home with book vouchers and trophies.

Maths teacher Mr Cheslett was very proud: **“Most importantly, everybody had a lot of fun taking part in the competition. The questions were tough but our pupils really enjoyed solving**

LATIN SPEAKERS

SGS hosted this year’s Manchester Classical Association’s Latin and Greek Reading Competition with Second Year pupils Sophia Boar and Cornelia Kolusi Dehghanpuor winning the beginners’ category on home ground.

The girls’ word-perfect and evocative reading of a short passage about the eruption of Vesuvius earned them first prize against 34 competitors from ten other local schools.



them. To win both categories is fantastic!”

In another competition, the Further Mathematics Support Programme Team Maths Challenge, our team of Fourth Year pupils finished second out of 23 schools in the regional heat and went through to the north-west final at Manchester University where they finished fifth out of 16 teams.

GCSE Latin pupils also took part, reciting Virgil’s *Aeneid XII* and the A-level pupils read Cicero’s *In Verrem II* and Virgil’s *Aeneid IV*. Despite not taking home any prizes, they were all congratulated for performing so well in front of a panel of expert judges and a hall full of pupils and teachers from across Greater Manchester.

FRENCH POETRY

Third Year French pupils were given the challenge to learn and recite Jacques Prévert’s poem *Le Cancre*, with Ammar Nassier’s word-perfect recital earning him first prize and Ruby Wright finishing as runner-up.

The French teachers, along with French Assistant Mlle Besseyre, judged the performances on voice and articulation, physical presence and evidence of understanding. The competition was extremely close, with the highest and lowest scorers only separated by a few points.

Mr Lorentz was full of praise: **“For the pupils to stand up and recite poetry in French in front of their peers is so impressive.”**



REGIONAL QUIZ CHAMPS

Stockport Grammar made it through to the last eight of the University Challenge-style Schools’ Challenge competition after winning the Manchester and Merseyside round of the UK-wide general knowledge competition.

The team made up of Will Johnson, Will Spence, Emily Howling and Sam Howard – from the Third Year through to Sixth Form - finished as runners-up in the Plate competition, just missing out to King Edward’s School, Birmingham.

Head of Mathematics Mr Frankland, who accompanied the team, said: **“This is the first time that we have entered and to finish sixth in the country is a fantastic achievement. I was amazed by their level of general knowledge and their ability to recall it under pressure. They worked so well as a team and all had strengths in different areas.”**

POETRY BY HEART

Sixth Formers Will Spence and Leah Allcock made it through to the Manchester Final of the National Poetry By Heart Competition held at the historic Portico Library, having learnt and recited one pre and one post-1914 poem to mark the centenary of WW1.

Will’s fierce recitals of *Ozymandias* and *The Arrest of Oscar Wilde* had seen him win the previous round which was judged on voice, understanding, difficulty, performance and accuracy, with Leah being named runner-up.



PARENTS’ QUIZ NIGHT

The school community enjoyed a fun evening raising funds for the school at the annual Stopfordian Parents’ Association Quiz Night in March, with teams of parents and teachers pitting their wits against those of legendary Quizmaster Mr Wallington.

Delicious cheese platters helped to sustain the quizzers through rounds covering geography, sport, general knowledge, history, TV and film, while liquid refreshments, provided by the SPA-staffed bar, helped lubricate the cogs! Over £600 was raised on the evening, adding to £2,100 which has been spent this year on school projects funded by the SPA.

BIOLOGY MEDALS

Five Sixth Formers entered the British Biology Olympiad with three being awarded medals. Joseph Brook and Hannah Gardiner were awarded Bronze and Flossie Eastwood was awarded Silver.

The girls and boys competed against some of the best Biology students in the country in this annual national competition, and achieved at the highest levels to attain their awards.

ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

Animit Kulkarni, Will Jones, Nikesh Patel and Jessica Black from the Lower Sixth have completed the Engineering Education Scheme in conjunction with local company Senior Aerospace BWT. During this time they produced countless components as their ideas developed. The team worked in conjunction with Andrew Jackson and Tim Wright at Senior Aerospace BWT.

At the end of the scheme the team produced an industry standard report supporting their design proposal which the company is now looking at investigating further. As a result of their innovative work they have not only been awarded the EES Award but have also attained the British Scientific Association’s CREST Award Gold level.

SPORTS NEWS

For the most up-to-date results and information on progression in cups and leagues, please visit the website.

HOCKEY STARS

With the First XI winning the Schools Championships North of England title, the U15s winning the Greater Manchester Tournament and the Cheadle 7s and the U13s progressing in a national championship, it's been a fine year for hockey at SGS. And several players being picked for England squads and training programmes is the icing on the cake.

Sixth Former Holly Hunt has been selected for England U21s, playing in the European championships, while Emily Spencer has been picked for England U18s. Holly's younger sister, 15 year old Lauren, has also been selected for England U16s.

Proud of Stockport Award winner Meghan Myers has been selected for England Hockey's Advanced Apprenticeship in Sport Excellence programme along with fellow SGS pupils Maya Gordon and Lily Wolstenholme. The scheme aims to



ensure that potential international players of the future are supported, motivated and inspired to maximise their talent and development.

The U13s squad got as far as the north-west final of the National Schools Mini Hockey Championships after they finished second in the competition's Greater Manchester round. Teacher in charge of Hockey, Miss Withington is extremely proud: **"They deserve every success as the teams are showing real determination and skill and are going from strength to strength."**



HOWZAT GIRLS!

The U15s girls' cricket team, who are coached by former England bowler James Ormond, won the Stockport round of the Lady Taverners indoor cricket competition. Captain Georgina Dare said: **"It's the first tournament we've played in as a school team and we've all really enjoyed it which is the most important thing!"**

GIRLS FOOTBALL STAR

Fifteen year old Alice Coombes has been picked for the first ever Independent Schools Football Association (ISFA) North U18s squad, a doubly impressive achievement given that she is playing alongside girls three years her senior. She has, additionally, been selected to attend the ISFA U18s England development camp during the summer holidays.

Alice, who also plays hockey for the school's 2nd XI, told us that she's excited: **"I'm really looking forward to playing in a team with other girls and hopefully the ISFA will think I'm good enough for their England squad."**

DIFFERENT STROKES

Maddie Crompton has been selected to represent England, swimming for the National Youth Team in the Portuguese National Swimming Championships in July. The Third Year pupil's selection is based on her current rankings in freestyle, placing her top in the country (for her age) in 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres and 800 metres.

STORMING THROUGH

Second Year Megan Taylor is currently playing netball for the Northern Thunder U14s and the Greater Manchester U14s squads and has been selected to represent the North West in a tri-fest.

TOP GOALIE

Second Year goalkeeper Joel Shaw has been named in the ISFA U13s national squad.

Joel was selected after a string of impressive performances for the ISFA North-West squad and will put his goalkeeping skills to the test against professional club academy strikers in an 18-team tournament at Oakham School in August.

Joel is really enjoying his football: **"I'm excited to be playing for a national team this summer and I'm determined to play as well as I did for the north-west. It's an honour to have been picked."**

COUNTY CRICKETERS

Third Year Cricketer Beth Garnett has been picked to play for Cheshire in this summer's ECB (England & Wales Cricket Board) Women's U15s County Championship. It's the 14 year old's second year of representing Cheshire Girls.

Beth, who also plays for the SGS U15s told us about her route to success: **"I've been playing for Stockport Georgians for about five years and it's great that we can play and have coaching at school now too. It's brilliant to be picked for Cheshire again and I'm happy to have the chance to keep playing more games and improving."**

The Cheshire selectors have also picked Lower Sixth Former Niyati Takiar to play for the U17s and Second Year bowler Sophie Gould to play for their U13s for a second consecutive summer. Sophie, who also plays for Broadbottom, will be hoping for a season as spectacular as last year's, which featured her incredible haul of six wickets for five runs in a victory over Durham.



THE NEED FOR SPEED

The girls' athletics squad qualified for the north-west finals of the ESA track and field cup and their progress will be reported on in the next issue.

Meanwhile, sisters Ellen Downs (U17) and Juliet Downs (U15) were selected to run in their respective age groups to represent the north-west in the London mini marathon. The girls have had a successful cross country season, finishing in the top fifty in the English schools, and also doing well in the northern, national and intercounties competitions. Ellen is also representing England in the World Running Championships in Italy this summer.

RUGBY ROUND-UP

U12S

The U12 rugby XV completed their season with a 100% record, having won every single one of their twelve league games this year.

The team's outstanding record has cemented their place at the top of both the SchoolsSports.com U12s UK performance and England country leagues, which rank the nation's school rugby sides by number of wins and win ratios respectively.

Team captain and fly-half James Nichols told us how the squad made it through the final match of the season against King's Macclesfield where they won 33-12: **"We came under a lot of early pressure but our defence**



was amazing and we pulled through."

The powerful team then went on to win the Brian Bason Rugby Sevens tournament, beating local rivals Cheadle Hulme School 10-7 in the final.

RUGBY IN THE MED



The boys enjoyed five days of glorious sunshine in the coastal resort of Estoril, as well as visiting Lisbon and Estádio da Luz, home to the city's football team Benfica. On the pitch, the U15s faced three incredibly tough games against boys older than themselves but secured an impressive win against Cascais, while the U14s played their best rugby of the season, beating CDUL, Belenenses and GD Direito in style.

The U15s and U14s squads had a great time in Portugal on a tour which featured several highlights from both a rugby and cultural perspective.

The tour ended with the prestigious "man of the tour" awards, with Alex Jones winning the U15s prize and Josh Doyle taking the U14s trophy.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

Head Boy Tom Morton has continued to play for the England U18s and U19s squad as well as playing for Sale Sharks in the Aviva Premiership U18s league.

More SGS boys have also represented their district with James Gilboy playing for the North of England U18s and the Cheshire U18s alongside Tom O'Mahony and Mark Ray.

Will Jones has been selected for the Cheshire U17s; Tom Power and Louis Jones play for the U16s; and George Chatterton, Alex Jones and Will Ogden have been selected for the Cheshire U15s.

James, Louis, George and both Toms have all been picked for the Sale Sharks Elite Player Development Group.

BIRDCAM

The Biology department, together with the IT department, have installed a camera in a bird’s nest which the pupils have been able to access online and follow the activities of a mother bird feeding her young.

LOVE LITERATURE

The English department and the Library hosted a month-long SGS *Lit Fest* in February, which got off to an inspired start with National Storytelling Week. Pupils enjoyed taking shelter under the gazebo where they could shut out the outside world and escape into a good story. Throughout the month, pupils had the opportunity to wrack their brains on all things book-related with form quizzes and competitions.

Other highlights included History teacher Mr Moore’s Oliver Cromwell competition and the Lower School Poetry by Heart Competition run by English teacher Miss Spence in which all contestants were complimented on their beautiful readings. Second Year pupil Murray Jallands took the first prize and Katy Brown from the Third Year was named as the runner-up, having both recited John Masefield’s *Sea Fever*.

The girls and boys also enjoyed visits from captivating writers: Tony Walsh inspired the pupils with his poems, ran workshops with Fourth Years and helped to judge the poetry competition; regular visitor to SGS, author-illustrator-animator and creator of *Bob the Builder*, Curtis Jobling also talked to pupils about his animation and his *Wereworld* series of books.

A love of books was in the air all through the month, but most especially on Valentine’s Day which was devoted to ‘Book Speed Dating’ where pupils were given just three minutes to decide if they’d like to borrow a book before moving on to the next one.



NEVER FORGET

Jewish refugee Dr Peter Kurer helped the school mark Holocaust Memorial Day when he returned to SGS to talk to Second Years about how his family and thousands more were saved from Nazi persecution by the Quakers.

Dr Kurer’s speech reiterated the need to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, to honour the survivors of these regimes and to use the lessons of their experience to inform our lives today.



VALENTINE'S CHARITY WEEK

Pupils from Nicholson house raised over £3,280 for good causes during their Valentine’s Charity Week. Non-uniform day, a sale of chocolate treats made by pupils in the school kitchen, a golf driving range and a lunchtime tray-clearing service were all among the initiatives that helped raise the massive total.

One of the biggest money-raisers of the week was the raffle for the chance to eat lunch in the pop-up Valentine’s restaurant in the Exhibition Room. Winners enjoyed VIP treatment with

aperitifs (non-alcoholic!) and lunch served by teachers and Nicholson House pupils, whilst being entertained by a live band.

Each of the four school houses run a charity week during the school year to raise money for their nominated causes, with the cash raised this year being split equally between: Teenage Cancer Trust, L’Esperance Children’s Aid, The Christie, Help for Heroes, Macmillan Cancer Support, St Ann’s Hospice and EducAid.



STRICTLY SGS

Lower Sixth Form pupils’ dazzling *Strictly Come Dancing* shows raised over £1,500 for Cardiac Risk in the Young.

The two sell-out performances produced two different winning pairs, with Meghan Myers and Harry Griffin chosen as Wednesday’s triumphant dancers, and Tom O’Mahony and Ciara Berragan picked as Thursday’s champions.

The twelve couples were backed by live musicians and singers, with the show running smoothly thanks to the backstage expertise of the year group’s make-up artists and light and sound technicians.

Hosted by Mr Russell and judged by Mrs Fenton, Mr Masters, Mrs Chesterton, Miss Downing and Mr Howson, the performances came after weeks of expert training from Mrs Chesterton and National Junior Ballroom and Latin Dance Champions, pupils Annabel and Mark Tordoff.

THE NEXT STEP

The Upper Sixth have celebrated plentiful offers from prestigious institutions across the country, including seven places at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

The following girls and boys are delighted with their offers from Oxford: Dan Blears, Meredith Ellis, Matty Hughes, Ben Oldfield, Tasmin Ray and Will Spence. Head Girl Jenny Johnson is very pleased with her offer from Cambridge.

Head of Sixth Form, Mrs White said: “We have had a fantastic set of university offers, not just those for Oxbridge but many more for leading institutions including UCL, Imperial College London, LSE, King’s College London, Bristol, Durham and Warwick for courses such as Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Natural Sciences, Law, Medicine, English, Languages and Economics. We are proud to be able to offer pupils extensive advice and support in the application process and I am confident that they go on to the next stage of their education fully prepared for what lies ahead.”

Flossie Eastwood, who has an offer to study Medicine at King’s College London, said: **“Applying for Medicine is so hard but we have had tremendous support throughout the process, with weekly medics meetings, practice scenarios and interviews.”**



MARKING THE CENTENARY

As well as the performance of the Classics play (see page 3) and a week-long exhibition on war with poems in English and German displayed alongside paintings and research work, the centenary of the outbreak of WW1 was marked with a day of activities for children from the First to Third Year.

This included a Model United Nations-style debate based around the Trojan War and a wartime cookery workshop in which the girls and boys produced dishes from classic wartime recipes.

Junior School children worked on research projects on different weapons of war, while Senior School First Year pupils made 3D models and Sixth Formers paired quotes from Homer’s *Iliad* with images of ancient and modern artwork.





KATIE
THORBURN

The entire school community was saddened to learn of Katie’s death at the beginning of the Easter holiday. Her fortitude, wisdom and concern for others throughout her illness made her a source of inspiration for many; she was greatly loved and will be much missed by all who had the privilege to know her.

Katie, who was a member of the current Fifth Year, was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer known as osteosarcoma at the start of her GCSEs two years ago but continued to attend school as often as she could. Katie lived in Heaton Mersey and was a pupil at Tithe Barn Primary School before joining Stockport Grammar School at eleven.

A very bright and hard-working pupil, Katie’s enthusiasms extended beyond the classroom and she became a keen and talented member of the U14

and U15 school netball squads and joined her classmates on many school trips including Grasmere and the Battlefields in 2011 and skiing in 2012.

Katie had many friends and enjoyed a 16th birthday party in school in October last year, arranged by School Nurse, Mrs Pam Ward. She remained positive and determined throughout her illness, rallying the rest of her year group before Christmas 2012 to help raise over £1,700 to give presents from “Katie’s Box of Smiles” to the other young people sharing the same ward at the Royal Manchester Children’s hospital. Katie was treated with chemotherapy and radiotherapy, which led to her losing her hair. She nevertheless continued to think of others and even sported a distinctive temporary head tattoo to raise awareness of her condition.

Katie was in the midst of organising Katie’s Ball to raise cash for the

charity CLIC Sargent but sadly died on Saturday 5th April, just a few weeks before the event. The Ball went ahead in recognition of her efforts, raising over £60,000. The organisers would like to thank everyone involved for their support and Katie’s fundraising total to date stands at £75,000.

Her older brother Dan, a member of the current Upper Sixth, is a very talented artist who has been accepted to study Art at Central St. Martin’s College, London in September.

Katie continues to be an inspiration to many pupils and staff at SGS. To make a donation to CLIC Sargent, visit the Katie’s Ball donation page: <http://www.justgiving.com/Jeanette-Warburton>

A fuller account of Katie’s outstanding contribution to the school and the wider community will appear in the next issue of The Stopfordian.

JUNIOR SCHOOL



UNDER THE SEA

The Junior School’s ambitious Year 6 musical production, Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*, was a huge success, playing to sell-out audiences on the Senior School’s main stage over two nights. Featuring a large cast, colourful costumes and well-known songs, the show is an adaptation of Disney’s Broadway production.

The enchanting voice of Holly Buckley as Ariel, Callum Barton’s comedic portrayal of Sebastian and Caitlin Cutts’ accomplished performance as Flounder stood out alongside great performances from all the other children in the cast.

This year group were the first cohort to have joined SGS in the then newly established nursery. Manager Miss

Peake was in the audience: **“What a fantastic production! I’m so proud of the girls and boys – of what they have achieved and how they have grown up. They were a delight to watch.”**

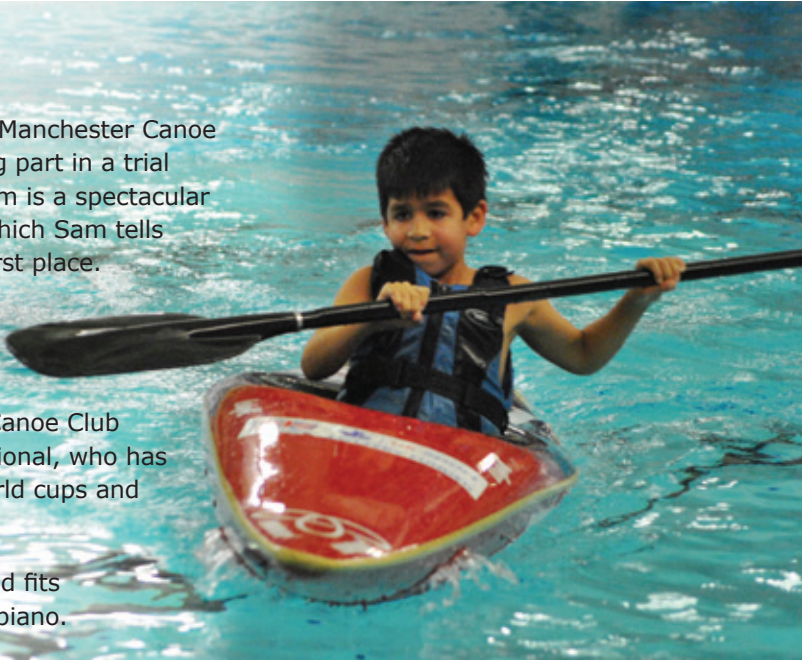
We look forward to seeing the girls and boys in future Senior School productions!

MAKING A SPLASH

Year 5 canoeist Sam Curwen has been picked to join Manchester Canoe Club’s Junior Slalom Squad (The Marlins), after taking part in a trial day at the club based on the River Goyt. Canoe Slalom is a spectacular watersport, demanding skill, stamina and courage, which Sam tells us is exactly what attracted him to the sport in the first place.

He’s also had plenty of encouragement from older brother, Senior School pupil and fellow Marlins paddler Alex, whose success Sam is keen to emulate. Sam also receives expert guidance at Junior School Canoe Club from teacher Mr Johnson, a former flat water professional, who has experience of competing in world championships, world cups and European championships.

Away from the water, Sam is also a keen musician and fits his canoeing around playing the trumpet, guitar and piano.



WORLD POETRY DAY

Children celebrated World Poetry Day by taking part in the school’s annual Poetry Competition.

Pupils representing every class from Reception through to Year 6 recited their favourite poems in front of a packed hall of their friends, with class RT’s tribute to retiring Headmaster Mr Fairclough being one of the competition’s highlights.

Winners were:

Henry Davies (Upper Juniors) reading *If* by Rudyard Kipling

Sam Foster (Lower Juniors) reading *Excuses, Excuses* by Gareth Owen

Joshua Roberts (Infants) reading *The Schoolkids’ Rap* by John Foster

The winners were awarded book tokens and all who took part were complimented on their beautiful recitals, while the audience were encouraged to pick up some poetry the next time they visit the library.



CLIMBING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Sam Lavender from Year 6 is through to the finals of the British Mountaineering Council Youth Climbing Series after finishing third in his category in the north-west heats.

He will represent the north-west in the Grand Final this summer at the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena, the largest indoor climbing centre in the world, where he finished third in his age category in the 2012 competition.

Sam, who has been climbing since the age of six, gets plenty of practice in school too: he is a regular at Climbing Club, using the state-of-the-art climbing wall in the sports hall.

READING CHALLENGE

Pupils in Years 3 - 6 took part in the national Read For My School competition, where they logged a staggering 437 books read in just two months and entered a prize draw to win more books for the school library.

SGJS’s top readers were: Sam Foster from Year 4 with 32 books and Sania Amjed from Year 6 with 26 books. Year 3 pupil Katherine Alexander said: **“We can go in to the school library at lunch time. I love reading. Books make me feel awesome. My family and I love books.”**



NETBALL CHAMPIONS

The U11 netballers added more silverware to the school’s trophy cabinet by winning the North-West IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools) Tournament, hosted this time at SGS.

The girls got off to a flying start in the competition by topping their group to set up a semi-final against Liverpool College. Inspired by some first-class shooting from Jody Peters and Georgia Sykes, the team beat Liverpool 8-4, meaning that they went on to play local rivals, Ladybarn House School, in the final.

Team captain Ruby Mellor talked us through the final: **“We controlled the game in the first half but Ladybarn came out fighting in the second half. Our determination and team spirit kicked in, making the final score 5-2 so we won the tournament!”**



FUNDRAISING FUN

The girls and boys came to school dressed as their favourite superheroes, raising over £550 for Key 103’s *Cash for Kids* campaign, this time in aid of Francis House.

During Charity Week, the children also raised almost £500 for their other chosen charities by holding bake sales, wearing fancy dress and taking part in a Gruffalo Day.

Representatives from the Alzheimer’s Society and the Agricultural and Rural Centre in Romiley visited the school to speak to the children about how their donations will help. The pupils have also been raising money for Stepping Hill Hospital’s neonatal unit and the RSPCA.

FAREWELL TO MR FAIRCLOUGH

The school bid farewell to Mr Larry Fairclough, who retired at the end of the Easter Term after fourteen years as Headmaster of the Junior School. Countless pupils talked of how they will miss his special assemblies and his funny tricks.

Ewan Curran from Year 5 said: **"It's been great having Mr Fairclough as a Headmaster – he has encouraged me to be willing to learn in all lessons."**

Year 2 pupil Aaliyah Khan remembers fondly **"when he used to pretend to pull things out of my ears!"**

Headmaster Mr Chicken said: **"Mr Fairclough's leadership was anchored in a genuine concern for each pupil's educational progress. His kindness, wisdom and tireless commitment to the welfare of every child has created a happy and vibrant school in which the children can achieve great things. He will be missed by us all."**



We look forward to welcoming Mr Tim Wheeler, who joins us as Junior School Headmaster in September. Mr Wheeler, who is currently Headmaster of Hereford Cathedral Junior School commented: **"I am delighted to**

have been appointed. Seeing the happy faces of the children and sensing the purposeful buzz in and around the classrooms, I immediately feel at home here."

BACK IN TIME

Children from Year 4 spent two days in York living as Vikings and Tudors on an exciting overnight trip with the school.

The first day was at Murton Park's Danelaw Dark Age Village where, dressed as Vikings, they faced a day of hard work. After farming, making oil lamps and looking after their houses,

the mini Vikings learned all about how to defend their village.

The next morning was spent at Jorvik Dig where they became archaeological detectives and uncovered the history of the archaeology of York.

Back at Murton Park, the children spent the rest of their day as Tudors, during which they crafted candles, learned calligraphy and made pomanders to

round off an exciting couple of days which really brought what they had been learning in their History lessons to life.

Maya Anderson enjoyed the trip: **"I had a really good time in York. My favourite part was becoming a potter making my own oil lamp – I loved getting messy!"**

