# TAKING/ STOCK/

Stockport Grammar School Newsletter



**Issue 58** Autumn 2014





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# THE RESULTS ARE IN

#### **THE CLASS OF 2014**

With a 100% pass rate and over 96% of results awarded at A\* to C, the class of 2014 had good reason to celebrate as they collected their A Level results. Over 83% of grades were at A\* to B, thirty pupils achieved at least three A grades, and eight pupils scored at least four As.

Their excellent results see the girls and boys embarking on courses at the country's most prestigious institutions including seven at Oxbridge.

Headmaster Mr Chicken said: "I am delighted for our girls and boys, through hard work and with the support of their parents and teachers they have achieved excellent results. They have made an outstanding contribution to wider school life,

making them role models for the younger pupils. I am sure that with talent and dedication they will continue to achieve highly as they progress to respected universities. I wish them every success."

Charlie Saunders was delighted with his hard-earned four A\*s in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths, and has now headed off to St Andrews to study Medicine:

"I have been at Stockport
Grammar for 14 years and it has
been the most brilliant experience!
I've made some great friends
and the teachers have been just
amazing. I really enjoyed the
music tours and ski trips too."





#### HARD WORK PAYS OFF

It was an exciting morning for the Fifth Year pupils as they collected their GCSE results. After weeks of waiting, they found that their hard work had brought success. With 90% of their grades at A\* to B, the girls and boys achieved an A\* to C pass rate of over 98%. Two-thirds of their grades were at A\* and A.

Headmaster Mr Chicken said: "The girls and boys thoroughly deserve their excellent results. I hope they

and their families will enjoy this special day as they celebrate their success. They have a bright future and I'm sure they will make the most of the opportunities which lie ahead."

"The whole-school feel of everyone coming together to help you" has been a highlight of SGS for Amy Suddards who joined the school in Reception class. She was thrilled with her results of 11 A\*s including an A\* with Distinction in Further

Maths. Amy has also found time for netball, chemistry clubs, singing in Chorus and piano lessons at school.

Georgie Blears broke the news of her fantastic 10 A\*s and an A live on air on Key 103. Excited and thrilled, Georgie said:

"I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for SGS!"



#### **ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE**

After winning the regional award for engineering excellence at the Big Bang Fair North West, Jessica Black, Animit Kulkarni and Nikesh Patel have been shortlisted for the prestigious National Young Engineers award.

The competition judges were full of praise for their work with Senior Aerospace BWT:

"This is a very innovative and exciting project with possible industrial use once developed."

The team will present their six-month project to judges at the final of the National Science and Engineering Competition.



#### **MATHEMATICIANS** JUST KEEP WINNING

Third Years Sam Howard, Elsa Shah, Tony Wang, Katy Brown, Seth Morley and Max Mather-Harding beat contenders from three other top Manchester schools to win yet another Maths Challenge trophy for the department. Working individually and as a team, they had to solve three rounds of maths problems, alongside separate iPad challenges, and the SGS pupils were rewarded for their fine work when they finished in first place.

Teacher Mrs Marshall was very pleased:

"The challenges were all demanding. The department and the school are really proud of them."



#### CREATIVE LINGUISTS

Under the guidance of Dr Kampelmann, a group of talented First Years and members of the Lower School Art Club scooped first prize in a national competition run by the Goethe Institute in London.

Triumphing over 1200 entries, they went the extra mile, combining their language and IT skills with creativity in the animation script and audio category. They were selected as the best entry and awarded a cash prize of £100. The jury was suitably impressed:

"The idea for your students' entry was judged to be unique and creative at the same time demonstrating strong and convincing language skills."

Congratulations go to Lauryn Howard and Eloise Duck as well as Olivia Hardy who wrote the script while Hannah Franklin and Almira Awan-Rutter put voices to the audio file. Lower School pupils also received participation prizes for solving a German city puzzle and writing ePostcards from the Berlin Zoo.

#### AWARDS FOR CHEMISTS

Twenty Lower Sixth Formers took part in the Chemistry Olympiad – a challenging examination set by the University of Cambridge. Ana Krywonos and Emily Dow achieved Gold, putting them in the top 8% of candidates across the country. Will Jones, Jessica Black, Harry Keyes, Nikesh Patel, Alexa Holland and Alex Mayo were awarded Silver, and Bronze awards were won by Christian Anderson, Jonathan Bennett, Henry Brearley, Ellen Downs, Qalam Eusuf, Jacob Murray, Animit Kulkarni, James Longbottom, William Noakes and Elizabeth Wilkinson. Head of Chemistry, Dr Glarvey, was delighted:

"The pupils have thought their way successfully through unfamiliar material, with many demonstrating a significant leap beyond AS Level."

Sixth Formers Alexa Holland, Will Jones and Jacob Murray also undertook forensic experiments to achieve second place in the regional final of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Young Analyst competition. Paul Wong and Natalie Ho were selected to attend Nottingham University's Salters' Chemistry Camp where they worked with postgraduate Chemists, Natalie's group leader described her as:

"an outstanding student in terms of attitude, interest and understanding."

# **HOME AND AWAY**

#### **ADVENTURE IN GRASMERE**

Adventurers from the Second Year kayaked on Derwentwater and scaled waterfalls on their weekend of outdoor pursuits in the Lakes during the summer break. Based at a youth hostel in Grasmere, pupils and staff were able to explore the picturesque village before tackling its stunning natural surroundings in a series of exciting activities.

Expert instructors helped the girls and boys negotiate the waterfalls and rocky obstacles of Stickle Ghyll before they jumped into the plunge pools. Climbing coach Mr Pinder joined the trip to help them climb and abseil in Langdale and Borrowdale, while down on Derwentwater pupils went sailing and launched kayaks from the jetty.

Most of the group managed to scale Thorn Crag, Harrison Stickle, Loft Grag and Pike of Stickle and Mrs Muscutt also led half the group up Far Easedale, Calf Crag, Gibson Knott and Helm Crag, while Mr Cheslett took the rest to Allcock Tarn and the ridge at Lord Crag.



#### IN SEARCH OF THE "GOD PARTICLE"

At the start of the summer holiday, Lower Sixth Form physicists flew to Geneva to visit CERN (European Centre for Nuclear Research), the largest physics experiment in the world and home to the Large Hadron Collider and research on the Higgs Boson.

The group experienced a three hour tour of CERN which included a visit 100m underground to look at the CMS detector.

They also explored the captivating CERN exhibitions, the Microcosm and the Globe, and were fortunate to meet up with School Governor Professor Dainton during the afternoon, who answered many of their intelligent questions.

After this inspirational visit, pupils had some free time to explore Geneva before enjoying an evening of fondue and fun! A fascinating tour of the UN building rounded off an informative and enlightening trip for the girls and boys.



#### MAKING MUSIC

The annual Music Festival, Speech Day at The Plaza and an action-packed rehearsal and activities weekend in the Lakes made for a busy end to the year for the school's musicians.



Soloists and ensembles performed short pieces during a day of auditions at the Music Festival, with the very best being chosen to perform that evening. The winners of each category were presented with trophies.

The following week, Big Band treated the Speech Day audience to brilliant renditions of Goodwin's *Work in Progress* and the Jackson 5's *I Want You Back*.

The department then travelled to the Lake District where nearly 50 pupils and staff spent a weekend at the Glaramara outdoor activities centre in Borrowdale. As well as vocal and instrumental rehearsals, the girls and boys spent two half days ghyll scrambling and canoeing and some even participated in the 5km Keswick park run. The weekend closed with some fantastic performances from the pupils and the musicians are now looking forward to an overseas trip next summer, and the opportunity to perform in Italy.

#### **SPIRITUAL SIGHTSEEING**

Fourth Year Religious Studies pupils spent a day in Manchester, looking at how faith and beliefs have been portrayed in some of the city's historic buildings. They visited Manchester Cathedral, where they explored the combination of stained glass and paintings which convey a modern approach to faith.

The group also met the Archdeacon of Manchester, who took time to answer the pupils' questions. Next, a tour of John Ryland's Library gave the girls and boys the opportunity to see the world's oldest fragment of the New Testament, before exploring the library's impressive architecture and discovering the tradition of philanthropy that is a fundamental part of Manchester's development.

#### **TOUR DE FRANCE**

Sixth Former Nick Dove was this year's recipient of the annual Albert Johnston Travel Award. He used the prize money to fund a trip he had been planning for over two years: the route of the 2000 Tour de France, taking in some of the most glorious countryside of France in 21 arduous stages totalling 3500km. Nick cycled across Brittany, the Loire Valley, the Pyrenees, the Alps and the Black Forest before finishing with a precarious ride up the Champs Elysées in Paris. He travelled mainly alone, using budget hotels and hostels for accommodation with the occasional rendezvous with his parents for homemade sustenance snacks and encouragement!

The challenging journey was not without incident, with a knee injury, a visit to A&E, torrential rain, navigation issues and punctures along the way, but nothing stopped Nick from completing his ambitious 25 day cycling trip.



Nick said: "I'd like to thank the school, not only for the funding which allowed me to complete the ride but also for the support that I received from both staff and pupils. Without their support, I may well have struggled to complete the ride and achieve one of my bucket list challenges."





# SCHOOLS GAMES

Some of the school's finest young sports stars competed at the Sainsbury's 2014 Schools Games in Manchester in September. Meghan Myers was named in the England Girls' Whites Hockey squad, Hannah Jones was selected for the swimming squad; and as well as being chosen to compete in the U17 javelin, Fifth Year pupil Jaimal Brown has been invited to take part in the talent inspiration programme.

The Schools Games have a record of providing a springboard for athletes who go on to compete at a national level, with several of the 1,600 competitors expected to take part in the 2016 and 2020 Olympics.

# MAKING A SPLASH

Fourth Year swimmer Maddie Crompton has been named Young Sports Achiever of the Year 2014 at the Stockport Sports Awards. This follows a fantastic year for Maddie who enjoyed great success over the summer.

Winning two Gold medals in the 2014 British National Freestyle Championships, Maddie became the 100m Freestyle National Champion in her category and led the 4 x 200m freestyle team to victory. She also won two silver medals and a bronze.

Representing England at the Portugal National Championships, Maddie secured a very respectable third place in the 200m freestyle, despite many of her competitors being older. She was also placed fourth in the 400m freestyle and reached four other finals.

Maddie also represents Cheshire in the national county team and swims for Stockport Metro. Her selection for the competitions over the summer is based on her current rankings of number one in freestyle 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m along with her performance and success at recent England Talent Identification Camps.

Fourth Year pupil Hannah Jones also swam in the National Youth Championships in Sheffield this summer, competing in the U16s 100m backstroke, 200m individual medley and 400m individual medley. All in all, it's been a brilliant year in the pool for Hannah, who finished second in the National Arena Swimming League with Stockport Metro. She has represented her country, been picked again for the England talent programme and competed in Commonwealth Games trials where she reached the 100m backstroke final.

Olivia Dykes is another Stockport Grammar swimmer who is ranked among the country's best for her age group. The 12 year old is placed first in the country in the 100m individual medley, second place for 200m breaststroke and fourth in 100m breaststroke.

Fellow First Year swimmer Katelyn Bergin has also excelled this year, achieving six national qualifying times in the U12s age group as well as representing the Cheshire county and regional squads.

Congratulations to all the girls on their recent success, and we look forward to watching their progress in forthcoming events.





# RUGBY ROUNDUP

After a successful start to the season by the school rugby teams, a number of pupils have also been selected to train for county and district squads. Check the school website for all the latest updates.

#### **Cheshire U16s**

George Chatterton Will Ogdon

#### **East Cheshire U15s**

Max Wood Alex Brooks Josh Doyle

#### **East Cheshire U13s**

Zak Sebouai Max Gilbert Seb Walker James Nichols George Ross Andy Corcoran Tobie Barnfield-Lee Joe Davidson

#### Lancashire U13s

Joe Davidson Oscar Elvin

Cheshire U16s



SALE SHARKS

playing with their U18s Academy.

George Chatterton is training with Sale Sharks

Player Development Group and James Gilboy is

#### **PROFESSIONAL COACHING**

Pupils in both the Junior and Senior School are now able to benefit from professional netball coaching with Manchester Thunder's Assistant Coach and England Scout Paul Harper.

First Year pupil Jody Peters is enjoying the sessions:

"We are practising and improving all the basic drills, which helps us

do well when we play actual matches."



# SCHOOL LIFE

#### **ART ATTACK**

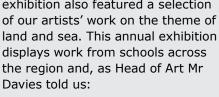
Seven Upper Sixth Formers had their work displayed in The Assembly Schools Art Show at the gallery in Manchester's historic Portico Library. Universally praised by the judging panel, Jess Campbell, Maya Gordon, Vicky Morgan, Jessye Persse, Chloe Rutter, Martha Vernon and Gabriella Watkins were delighted that their pieces were selected to take part in the show alongside artists from eight other selected schools in the region, with Gabriella being presented with the Highly Commended Award for Drawing. The well-established exhibition, on display in such an inspiring setting, was open to the public for a month.

During the summer the Manchester School of Art's Out of Schools

exhibition also featured a selection displays work from schools across the region and, as Head of Art Mr

"It showcases the exceptional achievements in art and design, providing a wonderful opportunity for pupils to have their pieces exhibited in a professional context."

SGS artists represented in the exhibition were Fifth Years Tasia Goodwin, Rebecca Hosfield, Mark Orpen, Amber Ramone, Rebecca Smith, Sofi Stevenson and Sophia Swindlehurst as well as Sixth Formers Joe Ganley-Yates and Xav Warburton.



# **TALES OF SUCCESS** Old Stopfordian, former Royal Marine commando and a major force in Harry Potter's

journey from books to blockbuster movies, Bruce Marshall was the guest of honour at the annual Speech Day ceremony at The Plaza, using tales from his dynamic and varied career to urge pupils to seize every opportunity that comes their way.

Mr Marshall talked about a fascinating career that has seen him introduce Marks & Spencer to the former Eastern Bloc, "make loyal life time friends and lose a few too" in the Royal Marines, help bring the likes of Harry Potter, Batman and *The Matrix* to the screen as Senior Vice President of Warner Brothers Inc and, in his current role develop American fashion retailer Express's international business.

We were honoured that Mr Marshall was able to take time from his busy schedule to visit and inspire the pupils at the close of another busy school year.



"It is a pleasure and an honour to be Chairman of the Governors and I'm greatly looking forward to the challenge."

#### **BUDDING AMBASSADOR**

Fifth Year linguist Natasha Lodhi has spent the past year being part of the UK-German Youth Ambassador Scheme – a network of young people from both countries that promote UK-German relations. Natasha's strong application and unmistakable linguistic skill and passion meant that she was chosen from hundreds of applicants.

After attending her first conference, Natasha picked three projects to work on: a German club, video exchange and a pen pal project. In June she attended seminars in Berlin, where the ambassadors presented their projects to one another, evaluated them and discussed any challenges.

Natasha found the whole experience extremely valuable:

"I had to balance my projects between school, homework and exams. I learnt to arrange my time and get into new routines - a life skill I'm sure I'll take with me. I feel proud of the work my fellow ambassadors and I have done to raise cultural awareness."

#### A NEW CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the new Chairman of Governors, Mr Christopher Dunn, following the retirement of Mr Ron Astles after 21 years as a Governor. Mr Dunn has a long connection with Stockport Grammar, experiencing school life as a pupil and more recently as a current parent and Vice Chairman of Governors. On leaving SGS in 1976 he studied Law at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge University and is a partner with Gateley LLP, Manchester.

# **NEW CLUBS ON** THE BLOCK

With over 200 co-curricular clubs and activities going on across the school, the new school year has seen the addition of ever more interesting and challenging opportunities to try something new.

Alongside the usual sports, pupils can also have a go at archery, fencing, table tennis, water polo, squash, triathlon training, boxfit and even frisbee or circus skills. There is a full dance programme with professional dance teacher, Abi Downing: Jazz, Street Dance and Ballet Bootcamp are just some of the classes on offer with more being introduced soon and performances to look forward to in the Spring Term.

Practical and mechanical guidance for new motorists can be found at Car Club and the new Feminism Society offers opportunity for critical discussion.

For those preferring to turn their hand to something creative, Craft Club and Jewellery Club provide the perfect lunchtime diversion. First and Second Year pupils have been busy with their first challenge at Craft Club; a papercraft project transforming papier maché letters. Future projects are set to include felt bunting and winter lanterns.

Craft Club organiser Mrs Poole said:

"It is exciting to see the pupils sharing their experience and encouraging each other's creativity."





# THE GREAT STOPFORDIAN BAKE OFF

Almost £500 was raised when teaching and support staff from the Junior and Senior Schools brought in their home-baked goods in aid of Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

Senior School staff got together at break-time for coffee and an array of delicious treats ranging from sparkly sticky chocolate cake to generous wedges of carrot cake and melt-inthe-mouth honey cake.

Leftovers were whisked away and sold to sweet-toothed pupils later in the day!

The Junior School staffroom was also filled with cakes baked by members of staff and their children. A raffle was organised with prizes such as Indian head massages and free baby-sitting up for grabs, which proved to be very popular.



# HE JUNIOR SCHOOL



### **WELCOME MR WHEELER!**

September saw the arrival of a new Headmaster of the Junior School.

Mr Tim Wheeler joins SGS after six vears' service as Headmaster of Hereford Cathedral Junior School and before that, Bilton Grange in Rugby. Educated at Sheffield, Cambridge and Bath universities, Mr Wheeler also has a background as an Educational Consultant, specialising in strategic school improvement and development planning.

Mr Wheeler is settling in well:

"It is amazing how at home I already feel. I am greeted everywhere I go by a sea of friendly, smiling faces and I have enjoyed getting to know the children, in the classroom, in the playground, in the dining hall and on the sports pitches.

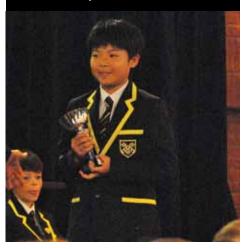
The staff have also been most welcoming and I am enjoying working with them as we look to take the school into its next stage of development. Many parents have also taken the opportunity to come over to say hello and I have already been working closely with the SPA as we look for ways to benefit the children within the school. Our new all weather surface is providing us with a huge area for the children to use for a wide range of activities, from football to skipping to catching ladybirds on leaves."

Mr Wheeler joins the school following the retirement of Mr Larry Fairclough who led the Junior School for fourteen years.

# **AWARDS NIGHT**

The girls and boys were recognised for their outstanding contributions to school life at the annual prizegiving ceremony marking the end of the school year. England Cricket Board and Lancashire County Cricket Club Coach Assessor Dr Mark Butler presented awards to those children who had excelled in their subjects, sport and in improving the life of the school.

Parents, Governors and staff watched on during a ceremony which included some accomplished musical performances from the orchestra and a stunning piano solo by Year 6's Kanei Nishii, as well as speeches from Dr Butler, acting Headmaster Mr Milnes and retiring Chairman of Governors Mr Astles. Nursery Manager, Miss Peake, was also onstage to present mementoes to the Year 6 children, many of whom were in the firstever nursery class in 2006.



#### **BOWLED OVER**

The U11 and U10 cricketers had a busy Summer Term, playing in lots of matches and competitions.

After a strong season, the Junior Cricket U11 A team made it through to the semi final of the AJIS Cup, losing out in a close fought match against King's Macclesfield. Ten teams attended the SGS-hosted Reeman's 6 a-side U11s competition in glorious sunshine. In the final tournament of

the season for local Stockport schools, the SGJS team were both hosts and the winners of the day.

Year 4 cricketers took part in the AJIS Kwik Cricket tournament. The boys played some exciting IPL style swashbuckling cricket and made it to the final group finishing second

Mr Johnson is pleased with the boys' progress this season:

"Our job is to make the most of the opportunities we have and learn from every experience, win, lose or draw. I feel this summer's cricketers did just that and will go on to improve."

Alongside coaching from the teachers, the boys benefit from the expertise of ex-England player James Ormond who helps to develop the players' talent on the Senior School pitches.



Boys and girls in Year 3 spent two days in the Lake District to support the Geography they have been studying in school.

They enjoyed a boat trip across Windermere before exploring the grounds of Wray Castle, where they learned about the National Trust's care of the grounds and Beatrix Potter's love for the castle, and its important part in the history of the Lake District's tourism. After spending the night at Grasmere Youth Hostel, the children made the most of the stunning surroundings by exploring the village and taking a leisurely stroll by the River Rothay, stopping off for lunch before they returned having had a brilliant time on their first residential trip with school.

#### **MATCHSTICK BOYS AND GIRLS**

Year 2 had an inspiring day out in the galleries at The Lowry in Salford Quays. Thomas Alexander thoroughly enjoyed the trip:

"We met a lady called Isobel and went to the classroom at The Lowry. We drew portraits. Then we went to the gallery and saw Lowry's real paintings of Ann and the man with red eyes. We went back to the classroom to practise drawing portraits. My best bit of my life was The Lowry."





The children in Year 5 made do, mended and cooked with rations when they spent a day as WWII evacuees. Dressed in 1940s costume, the girls and boys spent their morning learning first aid with Captain Eamon Fire (aka Mr Johnson), reusing old material to make toys with the well-to-do Mrs Pinkerton-Smythe MBE (aka Mrs Torz) and cooking with rations in Mrs Peggy Washing-Out (aka Mrs Sullivan)'s kitchen.

The girls and boys feasted on Lord Woolton vegetable pie, corned beef hash, potato piglets and sugar sandwiches, which all proved to be good sustenance ahead of a trip to the air-raid shelter. Yasmine Doyle and Megan Phillips told us:

"Captain Eamon Fire sprinted to the air-raid shelter with us closely behind, and we sang lots of wartime songs while we waited."

The news that war was over soon reached the children who celebrated with a party in the courtyard, before returning to their history lessons and the present day.



#### **SPORTS DAY FUN**

Infant Sports Day was a superb event with all children from Nursery to Year 2 competing in a series of running, jumping and throwing events. The egg and spoon and sack races saw some great competition and everyone had fun watching the children try their best, with Arden House the winners of the day.

Junior Sports Day started with the Years 5 and 6 competition where all pupils participated in the 600m, Hurdles, Long Jump, Ball throw, 150m and Target shot. Some fantastic races and excellent techniques were seen from the children who seized the opportunity to demonstrate the skills learnt in PE lessons. Nicholson House were awarded the most points, making them the Year 5 and 6 champions.

Years 3 and 4 also had the opportunity to compete against their peers, this time it was Warren House's turn to take first prize in the competition.

# **FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS**

Following an exciting semi final against Bolton School which was settled by Rocky Hinton's extra time golden goal, a goalless final against King's Chester meant the U11 football team were joint champions of the King's Macclesfield seven-a-side tournament.

Congratulations to the team who have shown real effort and determination throughout the competition: George Elvin, Emre Gocer, Sam Signey, Rocky Hinton, Harry Flaherty, Alex Perfect, Michael Stone, Patrick Wilkinson and Harry Dare.



### HARVEST GIVING

Those in need of food in Stockport benefited from the pupils' generous Harvest Festival donations when Year 5 delivered food parcels to residents living in local sheltered housing, and homeless shelter The Wellspring.

The Harvest Assembly featured a special performance from Year 2 pupils before School Chaplain Rev Liz Leaver explained to the children exactly how their donations will help those less fortunate than themselves.

Pupils in the Senior School also collected food and warm clothing for The Wellspring.



Junior School athletes held their own against the 39 other schools taking part in the biggest schools athletics event of the year. Tommie Blashill and Zoe Jones came second in the Year 6 80m sprint heats.

George Elvin qualified for the Year 5 boys' 80m final as did Libby Wolstenholme in the girls' event. Ruby Mellor beat tough competition in the 150m, coming first in her heat and battling to fourth in a challenging final.

Both Year 6 relay teams did well to come second in their heats. Medallists of the day were Zoe Jones who finished second in the Year 6 80m and Georgia Fazakerley who won bronze in the 600m.