

# TAKING STOCK /

Stockport Grammar  
School Newsletter



**Issue 72**  
Spring 2019



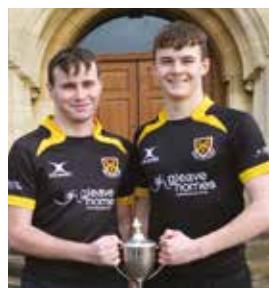
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# SCHOOL LIFE

## STUDENTS DEBATE WITH CHEMIST

The Future Chemistry Society met to look at a paper published in the 'Science Journal' entitled *Rotary and linear molecular motors driven by pulses of a chemical fuel*.

One of the authors of the paper, Stephen Fielden, visited SGS to discuss his work and the Lower Sixth students were eager to ask him lots of questions as he went through the research.



## LIVE THEATRE SUPPORTS GCSE

Pupils from the Fourth and Fifth Year were treated to performances of their IGCSE English Literature drama texts - Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' and JB Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls' - by the Manchester Actors' Company in the Main Hall.

Following each performance there was a Q&A session in which pupils quizzed the actors on the themes of the play, the performance process and their thoughts and feelings on key characters.



## STEM TRIUMPH AT CRANWELL

Fifth Year pupil Matthew Byle picked up the Industrial Cadet Silver Award and the CREST Engineering Silver Award during a STEM course at RAF College Cranwell in Lincolnshire.

The intense course involved 10 hours of written work and 15 hours of project work in which he created designs for planes and tested how they would work.

The course and his Design Technology work in school complemented each other well.

## FROM THE HEADMASTER

The sheer range of co-curricular activities at Stockport Grammar School is truly impressive. The pupils participating gain hugely from their investment of time and effort. Not only are new talents identified and cultivated, but the co-curricular activities allow pupils to develop skills and character strengths that are difficult to hone in a classroom situation.

Teamwork and leadership in sport, self-discipline and composure in music and confidence and empathy in drama are obvious examples. Each activity, however, will bring its own benefits to the pupils and the variety that the school provides allows each boy or girl to find something that they enjoy. Of course, creating the opportunity is only the start of the process and I am extremely grateful for the skill and attention of the teachers in helping the pupils to make progress, through advice and encouragement, to achieve astonishingly high standards.

The U13 netball team reached the national final of the Independent Schools competition and the U16 rugby team won the Cheshire Cup.

The Spring Concert at the Royal Northern College of Music showcased some wonderful performances with two Upper Sixth pupils performing solos of the highest standard and a number of sparkling ensemble pieces. The performances of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' were quite excellent.

I am equally proud, however, of many other pupils who have attended after-school and lunchtime sessions week after week and have made real progress in their chosen discipline. It is this reflective diligence that underpins the eventual public success and satisfaction in achievement and it is this experience of determined effort over a sustained period that moulds character and prepares our pupils for the challenges of future life.

Visit the website to read Dr Paul Owen's regular blogs.



## AIDAN SCOOPS ALBERT JOHNSTON TRAVEL AWARD

Upper Sixth student Aidan Hall is looking forward to visiting Athens and the Saronic Islands this summer to explore a modern European city and the birth place of Western analytical philosophical and political ideas after winning this year's Albert Johnston Travel Award.

Whilst in Athens he will visit the Parthenon, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, Aristotle's Lyceum, the National Garden, various agoras and the suburb of Plaka, the oldest district in Athens.

Aidan said: "I felt both a sense of excitement and relief when I was told I had won because, at that point, I knew all my planning and hard work had paid off."

The Albert Johnson Travel Scheme provides a financial award for students wishing to travel to further a passion or interest. The competition is open to Sixth Formers and is judged by a panel of Old Stopfordians, Governors and staff.



## SCIENTISTS IMPRESS AT OLYMPIAD

A group of Sixth Formers performed well in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad.

This was an extremely challenging examination which asks questions well beyond the A-Level Chemistry syllabus and requires a deep understanding of difficult concepts to do well.

### The results were:

- Max Howe: Gold (in the top 4% of all UK entrants)
- Leon Evans: Silver
- Alex Hewetson: Silver
- Mo Umar: Silver
- Megan King: Silver
- Nicholas Dow: Silver
- Sam Stretton: Bronze
- Philip Rosenberg-Powell: Bronze
- Lauryn Howard (L6th): Bronze
- Kate Roberts (L6th): Bronze



## UNIVERSITY MATHS QUIZ WINNERS

Sixth Form students won the Sixth Form Pop Maths Quiz organised by the Liverpool Mathematical Society.

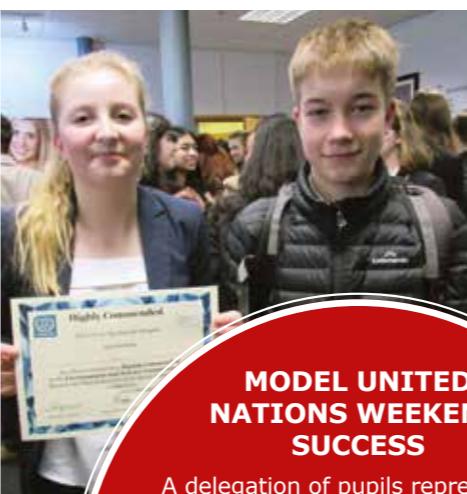
Our students did a fantastic job scoring 46/50 in the Saturday morning competition and they beat off around 20 other teams to secure the winning title.

## UNIVERSITY OFFERS CELEBRATED BY UPPER SIXTH STUDENTS

which picked up silver in the University of Liverpool's Physics Olympics.

Savannah was an active member of the Green Room team that is essential for the smooth running of school productions. Alex is the leader of the Stockport Youth Orchestra, has obtained Grade 8 distinctions in piano and violin and was also a member of the National Cipher Challenge winning team.

Head of Sixth Form Mr David Stone said: **"Our Upper Sixth formers can approach their A-Level examinations encouraged by the fact that they are sought after for competitive courses at leading universities. With so many being in possession of multiple offers from the five institutions they have applied to, their destiny is very much in their own hands."**



### MODEL UNITED NATIONS WEEKEND SUCCESS

A delegation of pupils representing Sudan enjoyed an interesting and successful Model United Nations weekend.

Fourth Year pupil Tobin Rose won 'Best Young Delegate' for his work on the Disarmament Committee whilst Third Year Bella Platt was 'Highly Commended' for her contributions to the debate in Science.



# ARTS

## GALLERIES INSPIRE ARTISTS

Pupils studying Art for GCSE enjoyed a trip to Merseyside where they visited galleries including the Tate Liverpool, the Walker Art Gallery and the World Museum.

They completed sketches and made notes on the art, considering scale, technique, colour, subject matter and context.



## SPECTACULAR CONCERT AT THE RNCM

The annual Spring Concert was held at the prestigious Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester this year, where over 100 pupils delighted the audience with an evening of exceptional music.

String Orchestra got the show underway with a splendid performance of three movements from the *St Paul's Suite* by Holst.

Chamber Choir came on to perform a superb set demonstrating huge versatility in their range of songs; magical madrigals combined with traditional spirituals alongside some joyful jazz and the beautiful *Lay A Garland* by Pearsall. The highlight was the hauntingly atmospheric *O Magnum Mysterium* by Lauridsen, which left the audience spellbound.

The first half closed with an exceptional performance of the 2nd and 3rd movements of Shostakovich's piano concerto No. 2 by Upper Sixth pupil Alex Pollard accompanied by First Orchestra.

Wind Orchestra began the second half with aplomb. Niamh Johnson performed a lovely solo on the Flugelhorn of *The Girl With the Flaxen Hair* by Debussy, specially arranged for the ensemble by Mr Kennedy.

Popular girl's vocal group The MayHemliolas then stepped out to perform an eight part a cappella piece, *Ave Maria* by Holst. Junior Chamber Choir gave a wonderful performance of three songs with a trumpet solo from Patrick Owen.

Chorus brought the evening to a rousing close with a barnstorming performance of Bob Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass*.



## EXCEPTIONAL BAND SELECTIONS

Pupils Teddy Hotchkies and Daniel Vincent were delighted to have been accepted into Foden's Youth Band of which Upper Sixth student Niamh Johnson is already a member. Foden's Brass Band is ranked as one of the finest in the world.



## QUESTION TIME AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Fifth Year pupil Joshua Furtado-Mendes took to the stage at the iconic Royal Albert Hall to put questions to the Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain.

At school, Joshua - who plays the violin - is a member of the First and Second Orchestra, the Chamber Choir and the Chorus.



## A MAGICAL PRODUCTION OF 'A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM'

Two dazzling performances of Shakespeare's comedy '*A Midsummer Night's Dream*' brought together the talents of over 60 actors and dancers from across the Senior School.

Ranging in age from First Year to Sixth Form, the pupils came together to tell the story of four characters - Helena played by Grace Shropshire, Hermia played by Emma Scorah, Lysander played by Adam Murray and Demetrius played by Daniel Grant - who are put under an enchantment on a midsummer's eve.

Second Year pupil, Jacob Henshaw, who played the comedic role of Bottom had audiences laughing uproariously. His self-aggrandising means he is also caught up in the trouble and his head is transformed into that of an ass.

The wonderful performance was supported by the hardworking pupils in the behind the scenes team, made up of makeup artists, backstage helpers and set designers as well as lighting and sound crew.

Head of Lower School, Mrs Helen Lawson said: "The dancers and actors performed enthusiastically and brought mirth, merriment and a taste of balmy summer nights to two stormy March evenings.

"Their efforts were much appreciated by packed audiences, who particularly enjoyed the Mechanicals' comical rendition of '*Pyramus and Thisbe*'. The boys and girls involved showed true grit and a real sense of community spirit in the run up to the performance; they can be proud of their achievements."

# OUT AND ABOUT

## PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS PUT TO TEST

Sixth Form mathematicians visited the Breakout rooms in Manchester where they worked in groups of five to solve various logic problems to enable them to escape.

Each team managed to complete the tough tasks within the allotted hour.

The opportunity to work together in teams enabled the students to show resilience and problem solving skills.



## CLASSICS TRIP TO ITALY A HIT

Twenty nine Fourth Year to Sixth Form Classics pupils enjoyed a week-long trip to Italy.

Whilst in Rome, the pupils visited historic landmarks including the Piazza Navona, the Colosseum and they explored the Baths of Caracalla which was built during the third century AD.

The pupils then journeyed to Sorrento via Tivoli where they visited the Villa Adriana.



## SCIENCE LECTURES

Pupils attended two fascinating medical lectures to build on what they have been learning in lessons.

The first lecture, led by doctors and clinical physiologists from Manchester Royal Infirmary, was about touch sensitivity and how pain is not something that can be 'clinically' diagnosed.

The second lecture was delivered by Professor Brian Cox who gave an enthralling talk which was a sneak preview of the lecture that he had prepared to tour nationally.



## BERLIN INSPIRES YOUNG ARTISTS

Berlin has become a centre for urban and street art, and our visiting group of Fourth and Fifth Year artists were keen to experience its visual and cultural delights.

The group made its way to a number of locations including the Reichstag Building where they were able to go up into the magnificent cupola, designed by British architect Richard Rogers.

During the trip pupils walked to Hamburger Bahnhof, a former station that now houses a vast collection of contemporary art, chiefly from the 1960s to the present day.

The group's journey took them past the vast Jewish Memorial and the Brandenburg Gate and they also took part in a guided tour of Berlin's street art and architecture.

The group returned to Manchester with a wealth of ideas that they will find useful when they are developing their GCSE portfolios.

## POLISH TRIP GIVES PUPILS A MOVING INSIGHT

Nineteen Fifth Year Religious Studies and History pupils spent four days in Poland as part of their GCSE studies.

During their time in Poland, pupils visited Auschwitz and Birkenau – the largest of the German Nazi concentration camps and extermination centres.

Other activities that the pupils took part in included a guided walking tour of Krakow Old Town and a visit to the markets.

Pupil Isabel Derbyshire said: **"Going to places we spoke about in lessons has helped to put things into context. It was a saddening experience visiting the camp at Auschwitz - it burst a bubble and made it real, although I still can't quite believe what had happened as it was on such a big scale."**



## PHYSICS IN ACTION

Sixth Form students attended a Physics in Action lecture at The University of Salford where they heard talks from five inspiring speakers.

## TRIP TO CHRISTIE SUPPORTS TEACHING

Fifteen Sixth Form Physics students visited The Christie NHS Foundation Trust where they learned how tumours are diagnosed and accurately located, how treatment programmes are then decided and how radiation is used to treat tumours.

The trip links with the radiation topic in the A-Level course and helps to develop a better understanding of the theory.



## GERMAN EXCHANGE A FASCINATING EXPERIENCE

Fifth Year linguists had a wonderful week exploring Bad Segeberg, the city of Hamburg and the UNESCO World Heritage site of Lübeck with their German exchange partners.

During the weekend pupils spent their free time with the host families which gave them the opportunity to improve their German conversational skills, visit local attractions and experience the local customs and cuisine.

Following on from the weekend, the German and English partners ventured to the nearby city of Hamburg where the pupils enjoyed a delicious trip to the city's chocolate museum.

Mrs Linda Morgan, who organised the trip, said: **"We had lovely weather and the pupils had great fun but it was also successful linguistically as their comprehension improved enormously in just one week. The areas that surprised them most were those relating to school and meals – they noticed significant differences between English and German culture here."**

The outing was the return trip for our pupils, who had previously hosted our German friends towards the end of 2018.

## OUT AND ABOUT

# EVENTS

## SKILLS DEVELOPED IN JEWELLERY WORKSHOP

Twelve pupils from Hazel Grove High School visited the Art, Design and Technology department at SGS.

Whilst at the school, the visiting pupils were able to use the state of the art kilns donated by SGS's patrons, The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

Kim Kress, Head of Design and Technology at Hazel Grove High School, said:

**"Myself and the Year 10 students had a fantastic time with Mr Young and the Technology team. The students had so much fun creating their enamelling samples."**



## PUBLISHED HISTORIAN GIVES TALK

For one of the Spring Term's 'Spotlight On...' talks, historian and archaeologist Professor Richard Morris visited to speak to pupils about Sir Barnes Wallis – the English scientist, engineer and inventor who is best known for inventing the bouncing bomb.

Professor Morris is currently writing a new biography on Sir Wallis – which is to be published next year – and has written three books on the role of the Royal Air Force in World War Two.

Whilst visiting SGS he presented to the Sixth Form historians on how battlefield archaeology has improved our understanding of the English Civil War.



### POP UP RESTAURANT RAISES MONEY

In the Spring Term, Nicholson House opened their annual one-day Jumping Jacks pop-up restaurant in the Exhibition Room to raise money for charity.

Fifteen lucky raffle winners and a guest of their choosing were treated to a pomegranate and lemonade drink on arrival before sitting down for a three course meal.

Guests were entertained by a four piece band and dancing. The event raised an impressive £211.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

Ahead of World Book Day, pupils welcomed author Bryony Pearce who gave an inspiring talk on the joy of reading and pupils were able to meet the author at a book signing in the school library.

On World Book Day itself, pupils enjoyed a book swap and cake sale to raise funds for Book Aid International and Eduaid. In total, pupils raised £148.

To continually support the Senior School pupils in their reading, the library run a Book Club for different age groups where they discuss a range of books in detail. This runs alongside regular author visits and special themed events such as Harry Potter day, Book Matchmaking on Valentine's Day and literacy festivals.



## FOUNDER'S DAY COMMEMORATION

Chaplain to the Queen and to the House of Commons, Reverend Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin joined pupils, staff, governors and Old Stopfordians for the annual commemoration of the foundation of the school by Sir Edmond Shaa in 1487.

Sir Edmond Shaa was Court Jeweller to three kings of England, Prime Warden of The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths and Lord Mayor of London.

Junior Chamber Choir sang Albrecht's 'Lift Up Your Voice, Alleluia'; the Chamber Choir sang Lauridsen's 'O Magnum Mysterium' and the Chorus group sang 'Kyrie and Gloria' from Chilcott's A Little Jazz Mass.

## FOCUS ON WELLBEING

SGS welcomed Laura and Katy from The Vibrancy Hub to deliver lessons to Fourth Year pupils on well-being.

Pupils have been given the opportunity to attend these well-being classes on a fortnightly basis as part of the PE curriculum to help them learn how to deal with stress, anxiety and general mental, emotional and physical health.

During the classes, pupils practised yoga, mindfulness, breathing exercises and other de-stressing techniques.



# SPORTS

## RUNNERS SHOW THEIR METTLE

Our valiant runners braved the cold for the Stockport Cross Country Championships and were rewarded for their efforts.

The First Year girls and boys teams finished in first place, as did the joint Second and Third Year boys team. The joint Second and Third Year girls team took second in their competition.

Following these impressive results, Emily Carolan, Lucy Vine, Charli Barnett, Tom Farrelly, Talia Zelhof, Finley Mayoh, Luca Muthappan, Megan Phillips, Georgia Fazakerley and Tobin Rose represented the town in the Greater Manchester Cross Country Championships.



## NETBALLERS REACH NATIONAL FINAL

The U13 netball team reached the final of the Independent Schools Netball Cup following an impressive series of results during their cup run.

The team were defending the national title which the school won in 2018. The girls travelled to Hertfordshire University for the final where they played fantastically in a challenging match.

Mrs Laura Goddard, Head of Netball and Girls PE, said: "**The U13 team have worked hard all season and were thrilled to be in the final. It is a fantastic achievement for the school to reach the Smile ISNC final for two consecutive years."**



## PUPILS WELCOME DOUBLE WORLD TAEKWONDO CHAMPION

Pupils had a wonderful visit from Great Britain Double World Taekwondo Champion and Olympic Bronze medallist Bianca Walkden as she hopes to inspire the next generation of sporting superstars.

The visit saw her lead a training session for pupils, allowing them to learn first-hand from someone who has reached the pinnacle of their sport.

Chris Wright, Head of PE said: "**Bianca's achievements are truly inspirational and she shares our vision to encourage every child to enjoy sport and to continue this enthusiasm into adult life; we are delighted that she chose to visit and the pupils had a fantastic time.**"



## MEGAN GETS GB CALL UP

Congratulations to Fifth Year pupil Megan Callaghan who has been selected to represent Great Britain in the U19 Ladies team at the Underwater Hockey World Championships.

In August, Megan will travel to Sheffield as part of the 12 strong team to compete in the Championships.



## HOCKEY SELECTIONS

A number of our hockey girls are celebrating selection success for Greater Manchester squads.

Senior School pupils Charli Barnett, Milly Hall, Anna Howard, Jessica Jones, Amaya North, Libby Porter, Chloe Smith, Lucy Stead, Sara Watson and Talia Zelhof have all been called up and Junior School pupil Lilly Cook was also offered a place after impressing in Junior Development Training sessions.

## TRIUMPHANT RUGBY SEASON FOR PLAYERS

SGS rugby players have won the U16 Cheshire Cup bringing an outstanding season of challenging games to a fitting end.

On top of this victory, more than 20 of the school's rugby players have recently been selected for teams and training groups at club and county level.

Nineteen rugby players from the U14 to the U16 teams have been selected for Developing Player Pathways and Development Groups with Sale Sharks.

Meanwhile, Fifth Year Bradley Boyd has been selected to join the Sharks' U16 Player Development Group. Harry Reeder-Hirst and Ali-Hamza Peerzada have been selected to play for the Cheshire U15 squad representing the county in games against Lancashire, Yorkshire and Staffordshire.

Bradley Boyd and Chester Bowden have been selected for the Cheshire U16 squad for their ties against Staffordshire, Bristol, Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Head of Rugby Mr Hugo Corbett said: "**It is an exceptional achievement for our U16 team to win the cup and it is a testament to the training they've put in. I am so pleased for the boys that have been selected, it is a credit to all the hard work and enthusiasm that they have shown.**"

**"Sale Sharks Academy is one of the best rugby environments in the country and I am sure that all the players involved will gain a great deal from being involved."**

## CLIMBING SUCCESS

Four teams, made up of 37 pupils from the Senior and Junior Schools, took part in the Manchester Schools Climbing Competition at Rock Over Climbing Centre.

Well done to Nick Dow, Mo Umar and Leon Evans who bagged the medal spots in the Further Education Male category, Sam Lavender who took first place in the Key Stage 4 Male category and Chloe Almond who came second in the Female equivalent.



## STORMING THE COURSE

Pupils have been leading the field this term with two athletes picking up medals and being chosen to represent Greater Manchester whilst all First and Second Year runners took part in House Cross Country.

Third Year Finley Mayoh and Fourth Year Megan Phillips were awarded medals at the Greater Manchester Championships at Heaton Park and went on to represent Greater Manchester in the English Schools' Cross Country Championships. Special mention goes to Finley who finished first in both the Stockport and Greater Manchester Championships.

In First Year House Cross Country, Ben Lavender, Nick Turner, Josh Roberts, Lucy Vine, Emily Carolan and Lena Ali picked up medals as Warren finished first whilst in the Second Year competition Tom Clark, Dan Beattie, Adam Littlewood, Darcy Breen, Amaya North and Emily Mills finished in the top three with Warren again taking the House crown.



## GIRLS ENJOY TRAINING WITH STOCKPORT SCARLETS

Senior School girls enjoyed a series of thrilling after school rugby sessions with the Stockport Rugby Club women's team - the Stockport Scarlets. The pupils were given a fantastic introduction to passing, running and scoring tries.



## JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



## SWIMMING SUCCESS AT AJIS GALA

Junior School swimmers had great success in the Association of Junior Independent Schools gala at Darwen Leisure Centre, Blackburn.

Year Five pupil Molly Mills scooped up a gold medal in the Girls' Under 10 backstroke and Arthur Wolstenholme secured first place in the Boys' Under 10 breaststroke.

In the Boys' Under 12 fly, Year Six pupil Oliver Feehan came first and the Girls' Under 10 medley relay team of Molly Mills, Annabel Elliott, Lucy Jones and Harriet Hanger also picked up a bronze medal for her third place finish.

Arthur said: **"At the swimming gala I swam breaststroke, but my other favourite stroke is butterfly even though people say that it is difficult. I enjoy practising my swimming so that I can go faster and keep winning in the races. Being able to swim at school is great."**

Annabel Elliott in Year Five came second in the Girls' Under 10 individual medley and huge congratulations go to Year Four pupil Melika Mortazavi who swam in the Girls' Under 10 front crawl (a Year Five event) and got a silver medal.

## PUPILS MAKE A SPLASH

Year Five pupil Molly Mills has picked up five medals at Romiley Swimming Club's Championships, gaining five personal best times along the way.

The keen sportswoman won gold in the Individual Medley, Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke and obtained silver in the one length Fly.

Congratulations to the Junior School Boys Swimming team, captained by Oliver Feehan, who defeated Manchester Grammar School 176-167.

## MATHEMATICS ADDS UP TO SUCCESS

Every year Stockport Grammar Senior School hosts an exciting maths challenge for the Year 6 pupils from the Junior School to test their mathematical knowledge in a series of fun quizzes.

This year's Junior School Maths challenge was won by Vernon House with 384 points as they saw off the challenge of Arden (2nd), Warren (3rd) and Nicholson (4th) Houses.

There were 3 rounds: the first was a series of mathematical problems for the children to solve in their groups of four. The second round was called the 'group relay' where each question was reliant on the previous question's answer. The final round required the teams to work in twos, relaying questions back and forth against the clock.

The winning team were awarded certificates and a Brain Box Maths cube game to mark their achievements. This year it was "Team 11" who emerged victorious. The team consisted of Christian Woodworth, Ali Raza, Owen Morrissey and Leon Porter from Vernon House.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all the pupils who really embraced team spirit throughout the competition, working together to get the best possible results.

## FORECASTS FROM WEATHER WATCHERS

As part of their Humanities work learning about the weather, Year Three children wrote their own weather forecast and presented them using a green screen.

They felt like real presenters as they reported on the wintery showers, blustery winds and outbreaks of rain.



## U11 RUGBY SQUAD SECURE FESTIVAL VICTORY

A team of talented Year 6 rugby players from the Junior School have returned home from the Rossall Invitational Sevens Festival triumphant after winning all their games.

In the final game of the tournament, which was held in Lancashire, the U11 squad from SGS played Kirkham, who are known as a tough and experienced team to compete against.

Following a score of 1-1 at half time, SGS players dug deep and defended incredibly well making a colossal number of tackles and as a result they ended up winning the game 2-1.

The squad, made up of Roman Deans, Hugo Cooke, James Petch, Mohammed Abuhoraira, Christian Woodworth, Tom Woodside, Jack Williams, Mason Kitchen, Jenson Wilkinson and Mathew Ediker put on a fantastic display of skill and enthusiasm at the festival.

Mr Andy Taylor, the team's coach, said: **"The children played a very high standard of rugby in very difficult conditions and I was extremely impressed by their team ethic and the determination shown, particularly in the final game."**

**"We have always shown great skill at the festival but this year the commitment of the players and the hard work they have put in at training really made them stand out."**

## CURIOSITY SPARKS INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

Inspired by topics studied in school, a number of determined and creative Junior School pupils have taken it upon themselves to do some independent research and project work.

Amongst the exciting project work, Year Four pupil Sadie-May Feehan loves animals and her favourite subject is Science, so she relished the chance to put together a poster on English naturalist, geologist and biologist Charles Darwin.

Her interest was piqued on a trip to the Natural History Museum in London where she saw his statue, original books and collection of finches.

The research will stand her in good stead in her career aspirations to be a vet.



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Year Three pupils have been having lessons that have given them food for thought.

They have been learning about healthy foods and food groups and for homework they were asked to create some well-balanced (and appetising!) plates of food that were then put on display in school.

Next up, they rolled their sleeves up as they made their own pizzas. They were able to choose from a variety of toppings, including peppers and mushrooms, and were shown how to use knives safely. The pupils certainly had a lot of fun designing their pizzas and could not wait to get them home for a pizza night!



## SCIENTISTS ENJOY TRIP TO MILL

Following their work on materials in Science lessons, Year One pupils visited Quarry Bank Mill.

They kicked the trip off with a tour of the apprentice house where they learned about a boy called Thomas and a girl called Margaret who had lived there. The children found out what their day would have been like, where they would have slept and the medicines they would have used if they were ill.

They then had an opportunity to see how weaving used to be done, learned the origins of the word 'heirloom' and took part in a textile workshop. In the workshop they sorted fabrics, carded wool and weaved and spun wool on a spinning wheel.

## ACTION PACKED TERM FOR PRE-RECEPTION

From magic trains to robotic mice, every day our Pre-Reception children have been enjoying different experiences as they learn communication, language, maths and English skills and so much more.

Recently Pre-Reception pupils have been experiencing the wonder of *The Magic Train Ride* by Sally Crabtree, with lots of exciting activities that explore different train destinations such as deep in the ocean, fairy land and even outer space.

The children have also been enjoying science lessons every week, and have recently learned how to use robotic mice

that are programmed simply by pressing direction buttons.

Children in the Pre-Reception have been taking part in exciting music lessons, led by Mrs Matthews from the Senior School Music Department. From playing drums to singing, the varied classes are a great introduction to music and how to perform.

Over the next term, children will continue to take part in regular activities including an introduction to cooking, school trips and the ever popular mud kitchen.



## PRACTICALLY PERFECT, IT'S MARY POPPINS!

Year Six pupils treated audiences to two supercalifragilisticexpialidocious performances of Disney's *Mary Poppins* at the yearly Spring Term production.

The audience was entertained with a truly fabulous performance – with a full cast including statues, honey bees, strollers, passersby, kite flyers, chimney sweeps and vagrants, buskers and policemen and clerks and customers, everyone had a part to play.

After many failed interviews with stern and sour-faced nannies, a strange wind brings in Mary Poppins, played by Abigail Sullivan, floating down from the sky using her magical umbrella.

The children then embark on a number of magical adventures with Mary including a ride on enchanted carousel horses and a tea party on the ceiling.



## CHILDREN HAVE A WILD TIME

Reception children started their new topic of Animals with a fun dressing up day recently.

There was an amazing array of animals arriving at school and the costumes were certainly inventive.

During the first day of being taught the new topic our pupils had a great time participating in activities such as making animal biscuits, descriptive writing about the animal they came dressed as and an animal quiz.





## WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate World Book Day, pupils all over the school took part in different activities to help encourage a love of reading.

Junior school pupils studied *Tuesday* by David Weisner, a book that explores strange happenings on a Tuesday night where frogs on lily-pads lift off into the air and fly into a nearby town causing havoc.

Whilst Pre-Reception pupils focused on magic frogs and what would happen if they kissed a magic frog, Reception and Junior School pupils investigated a crime scene filled with lily-pads. Pupils were encouraged to interview witnesses and take notes that would help them analyse what had happened, find clues around the scene and then write up their findings.



## CHESS TRIUMPH

Year Four pupil Chethas Rajanna had a great time as he represented Cheshire and North Wales in the Under 9 Northern Zone Chess Championships in Liverpool.

Chethas, who is a member of the Junior School Chess Club which takes place each Friday, won two of his three games as his team faced squads from across the country.

He is now looking forward to the next round which takes place in Nottingham.

## UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMING ARTS EXPERIENCES

Junior School pupils took part in an array of exciting performing arts activities with an action-packed trip in London, and a concert at the world-famous Manchester Arena.

Year Six pupils enjoyed two thrilling days visiting well-known landmarks and catching a show during their Performing Arts trip to London.

The girls and boys were excited to visit the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter whilst on their trip.

Forty three singers experienced what it was like to perform in a venue which has hosted stars such as Peter Kay, Kylie Minogue and Take That as they took part in the Young Voices concert at Manchester Arena.

The boys and girls enjoyed singing in the show as school children from across the region filled one of the busiest and biggest live entertainment venues in the world with tuneful and passionate performances of hits from Disney film *Moana* and musical *The Greatest Showman*.

The group were also treated to a few songs from Spandau Ballet singer Tony Hadley.



## RED NOSE DAY JOY

Our children had a super time when they donned their best 'nose' outfits and raised an incredible £603.46 for Comic Relief.