

# TAKING / STOCK

Stockport Grammar  
School Newsletter



Issue 73  
Autumn 2019



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# SCHOOL LIFE



## A-MAZING RESULTS ACHIEVED

Sixth Form students enjoyed exceptional success as they collected their A Level results with 78% of all grades awarded at A\* to B and a 100% pass rate.

Headmaster Dr Paul Owen said: **"I am thrilled by the achievements of our talented students in winning places at their chosen universities. This is the result of a huge amount of hard work by staff and students over the last two years. I am delighted too that the results highlight the diversity of the A Level courses available at Stockport Grammar School and our success in gaining the highest grades."**

**"My congratulations go to the GCSE pupils, I am extremely pleased for the many pupils who have achieved grades of 9, 8 and 7 or A\* and A, and for all the pupils who have achieved their personal best and fulfilled their own potential."**

Max Howe secured 4 A\*s in Chemistry, Further Maths, Maths and Physics and will go on to study Natural Sciences at Pembroke College, Cambridge University. Taking advantage of the many opportunities to go beyond the curriculum has been a highlight of SGS for Max and a CREST Award on Nuclear Physics took his enthusiasm for his subjects to a greater depth.

He will be joined at Cambridge by Head Boy Murray Jallands who will study Economics at Jesus College.

Head Girl Megan King was **"shocked and happy"** to see her 4 A\*s in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Art. In September, Megan will start her Medicine degree at Manchester University. Megan has been a fantastic role model for younger pupils, organising a school-wide warm clothing collection for the Wellspring charity for homeless people.

Alex Pollard will study Music at Oxford University after securing 2 A\*s in Maths and Further Maths as well as 2 As in Physics and Music. Alex was extremely pleased to receive his results.

At SGS he has enjoyed **"the wide variety of opportunities available and support from teachers"**.

He commented: **"A lot of my time was spent with the Music Department playing in various orchestras and bands. Being involved with music was good because it's a friendly community with fun opportunities, music tours and concerts."**

He will be joined at Oxford by Savannah Gill who is studying History.

Keen football player, Jake Wyatt-Thomas is heading off to Edinburgh University to study Medicine. He will be joined by Nicholas Dow, whose 4 A\*s secured him a place to study Maths there.

Sophia Boar will be following her ambitions for a career in Formula 1 after securing her place to study Automotive Engineering at Loughborough University.

GCSE pupils enjoyed celebrating their amazing results, with 21% of grades at the highest mark of 9. Forty-three pupils achieved 9 or more of the top 9, 8 and 7 or A\* and A grades.

Caitlin Cutts achieved ten 9s and an A\* with distinction and will study Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths next year. Caitlin is also a talented musician, taking part in this year's school concert at the Royal Northern College of Music.

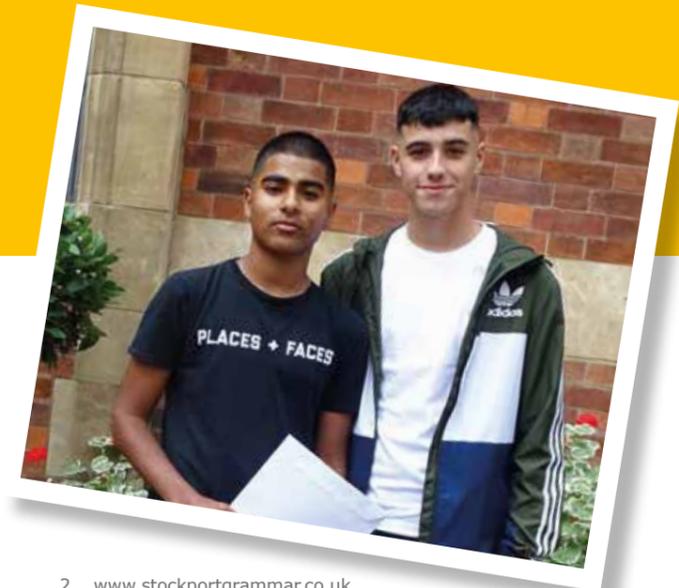
Simon Wong was **"very excited"** to receive nine 9s plus an A\* with distinction in Further Maths and thanked his teachers for being so supportive.

**For the full story visit: [www.stockportgrammar.co.uk/news-and-events](http://www.stockportgrammar.co.uk/news-and-events)**

## FROM THE HEADMASTER

Creating a curious culture is a big part of school leadership. Pupils who ask questions, notice patterns and anomalies and read for themselves will thrive on public examination courses but, much more importantly, will also thrive in their lives. A great question, 'What makes us human?', or a fascinating fact, 'there are more atoms in a glass of water than glasses of water in the oceans', changes the way we look at the world, stimulates an unfamiliar chain of ideas and makes us more flexible at thinking and better at finding creative solutions to problems. More prosaically, this is not a bad way to start a lesson.

New experiences can be just as good at pushing us out of our accustomed thought processes, helping us make connections and encouraging us to wonder afresh. I try to learn a new skill each summer, covering juggling, ukulele and an oceanography course in recent years. My varying levels of success bear no relation to my enjoyment, satisfaction or increased empathy. Even seeing the activities, passions and achievements of other people, highlighted in this magazine, forces us to examine different points of view and reminds us of the value of learning together in a community. Curiosity may kill cats but it certainly helps schools.





## OLD STOPS INSPIRE PUPILS

Second Year pupils met with a range of experts (including Old Stopfordians) from a variety of industries for their Careers Day.

Sectors covered included architecture, medicine, law, veterinary science, HR, information technology, media, publishing and civil engineering.

Throughout the day, pupils were able to ask the visitors lots of questions to discover more about careers, course requirements and the skills needed and involved in each area.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SUCCESS CELEBRATED

The annual Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentation Evening celebrated the hard work of more than 320 pupils who took part at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels this year.

A packed audience enjoyed an evening of speeches before the presentation of certificates by special guest, Great Britain rower Graeme Thomas.

Laura Turner, the school's Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator, thanked volunteers for their support and commended the resilience and commitment of pupils who have taken on the award.



## A TASTE OF SUCCESS

Fourth Year pupil Fatimah-Zahra Hassan was crowned winner of the 2019 MasterChef competition after impressing judges from Almond Family Pubs.

Fatimah's dishes of tuna kebabs and chapatti with curry sauces took top spot – just ahead of runner-up, First Year Freya Niven.

Fatimah said: **"I have competed in MasterChef every year since I joined the school in First Year and I was aiming to enjoy it, whether I won or not. The atmosphere was competitive yet encouraging and I would encourage people who are thinking of pursuing a career in the industry, or if they want to improve their cooking and presentation skills, to get involved."**

Almond Family Pubs Director Mr James Almond commented: **"The passion for food the pupils have was clearly evident and I was impressed that they took some challenges to make harder dishes and not just the easy route. I would be proud to serve any of the dishes that made the final at any of our pubs."**

The winning dish will be featured on the menu as a special at Fatimah's chosen Almond Pub as a reward for coming first.

## SIXTH FORM FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

We are excited to announce a significant development of Sixth Form facilities.

A glass roof for the current Sixth Form quad will allow the development of a large, modern and well-equipped social space for Lower and Upper Sixth Form students – further promoting the sense of community that underpins the success of the school.

Existing facilities will also be developed to provide enhanced study spaces for the students and contribute to SGS's excellent academic record.

The school will be consulting with current and future Sixth Form students on the detailed design of the new spaces to ensure that the facilities are state of the art.

Subject to planning approval and technical considerations, the project should be completed in 2020.

To keep up to date with the latest news at SGS visit: [www.stockportgrammar.co.uk](http://www.stockportgrammar.co.uk)

## SPEECH DAY REWARDS PUPILS' EXCELLENCE

Pupils, parents, governors and staff packed out the historic Stockport Plaza for this year's Speech Day where professional climber and adventurer Ben Heason delivered an inspiring address.

Whilst at SGS in the morning, Ben visited a training session on the climbing wall in the Sports Hall where he spoke to pupils and Outdoor Education Co-ordinator Mr Adam Hughes about his experience.

In the afternoon, Ben took his seat on the stage at the Plaza alongside Chairman of Governors Christopher Dunn, Headmaster Dr Paul Owen and Old Stopfordian President Graham Earles.

Following an opening address by Mr Dunn, the Big Band performed Hairspray's 'You Can't Stop The Beat' and 'It's Been A Blast'. Pupils from all year groups received prizes for their achievements.



## NATIONAL ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE TRIUMPH

A team of business savvy Second Years have been named the fourth best team in the country at the Ryman National Enterprise Challenge.

The team travelled to the iconic Wembley Stadium for the National Final. Alice Finnie, Alex Bloor, Brooke Richards and Amaya North had created 'Skylar and Ranger', a plastic waste fighting duo, to be the new mascot for Ryman. Presentations were conducted by all the competing teams throughout the morning and the pupils were pleased to hear that they would get to compete to be the overall winner.

Before presenting during the final stage, the team were treated to a Q&A session from Theo Paphitis, the Chairman of Ryman and a former Dragons' Den judge.

The team gave a four minute presentation to a crowd of more than 1,000 people.

Economics and Business Studies teacher Mr Alex Phillips said: **"The pupils delivered a superb presentation with confidence and clarity. Finishing where they did in a National competition is recognition of the dedication that they put in to creating two strong mascots, with an excellent story, and the hours of rehearsals."**



## NEW EDITION OF AWARD-WINNING MAGAZINE

Lower Sixth Form students have continued the school's winning streak with the latest edition of the 'SGS Historian' by being named the Best School History Magazine at the Young Historian Award for the third year in a row.

Alex Malone has received a commendation for his article on the occupation of Guernsey during World War 2.

This year's issue contains an eclectic selection of articles, trip reports, interviews and film reviews on periods as diverse as the Fourth Crusade to the German occupation of the Channel Islands during World War Two.

Alex said: **"I couldn't be more proud of what we have been able to create and I do hope you enjoy reading the magazine as much as we have enjoyed putting it together."**

This year's contributors were Jamie Carson, Phoebe Micklefield, Alex Malone, Claire Murphy, Josh Brougham, Linton Armstrong, Archie Eady-Gurr, Alfred Bradshaw, Head of Art Mr Richard Davies, Modern Foreign Languages teacher Frau Kerstin Christmann and Head of Sixth Form Mr Stone.

You can download the full magazine here: [www.stockportgrammar.co.uk/senior-school/academic-ambition/departments/history/](http://www.stockportgrammar.co.uk/senior-school/academic-ambition/departments/history/)

## ASTOUNDING ASTRONOMY VISIT

First Year and Lower Sixth pupils had an out of this world experience towards the end of the academic year as a planetarium set up residency in the Hallam Hall.

The groups learnt lots of facts about astronomy and the night sky which will aid them in their Physics lessons.



# SPORTS

## GOLD OLYMPIC HOCKEY IN HOLLAND

Thirty-five girls from Second and Third Year travelled to Holland for exciting matches and coaching from Olympic Gold Medal winner Crista Cullen MBE.

The first matches for the girls saw them face Hasselt Hockey Club from Belgium. The Under 13s performed exceptionally well securing a 5-1 win. The Under 14s showed true grit and determination to hold off the opposition's dogged fightback to win 3-2.

The final sporting action of the trip was a tournament against other touring English schools. The Under 14s managed to come third overall whilst the Under 13s also played successfully in a number of games.

Throughout the trip, players were able to take part in a number of special coaching sessions, including those with Crista Cullen.

Off the pitch, the pupils got the chance to go bobsleighting and visiting the delicious Pennenkorken Pancake House.



## GREAT PRE-SEASON PREP

Fearless rugby players from Fourth Year to Sixth Form spent five days in and around St David's in Pembrokeshire, Wales on a team bonding pre-season trip.

During the tour they took part in a host of activities including sea kayaking, surfing, mud running and coasteering and they helped and encouraged each other through the gruelling tasks.

The boys did not mind getting muddy and it brought the players closer together ahead of a season of friendlies, cups and competitions.



## LIONS SELECTION FOR HOCKEY PLAYER

Third Year hockey player Amaya North is all smiles after being selected for the UK Lions.

Amaya's first session was a training camp at the University of Exeter in September and she has a winter training session in Malaga and a tour in Holland to look forward to as well.

She follows in the footsteps of Fourth Year pupil Lucy Stead who went through the same experiences last year.



## INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS

The sun tried its best to shine for this year's Senior School Inter-House Athletics.

Pupils took part in a range of events on the track and in the field including high jump, long jump, javelin, relay races and running races.

Nicholson were named the overall winners with the girls and boys scoring particularly well in the track events which included 1500m, 400m and 100m races.

Defending winner Warren came in a close second with the girls and boys showing true determination and skill throughout the track and field events. Arden finished third whilst Vernon ended up in fourth position.

Warren's Megan Callaghan won the Senior Victrix Ludorum whilst Aiden Hall from Warren and Dylan Roberts from Nicholson shared the Senior Victor Ludorum.



## RECORD ROUND FOR BURSARY GOLF DAY

Twenty three teams of keen golfers braved the rain to take to the course at Stockport Golf Club for the annual Bursary Golf Day in association with Brewin Dolphin.

The Bursary Golf Day, celebrating its 15th year, donates all of the day's profits to supporting the Bursary Fund and this year it raised a record £9,500.

Congratulations to the team from Usleep who won the competition. Thank you to all our teams and sponsors.

## FOOTBALL TOUR IS A WINNER

The Under 14 football team had a great time taking to the field and enjoying the scenery on their tour to Barcelona.

After landing and checking in, the boys headed to the home of FC Barcelona, the immense Camp Nou to watch the Catalan derby as the hosts defeated RCD Espanyol.

The following day the boys were split into two squads and their first games of the trip saw them face Peña Barcelonista Barcino.

The A team drew 1-1 in an exciting and enjoyable match against the local side whilst the B team also competed well.

The footballers enjoyed some down time on the beach in Calella before heading to a valuable and informative training session with RCD Espanyol.

Coach Miss Leanne Curl said: **"The trip was absolutely superb. The lads were a delight throughout the trip; they played some excellent football against strong opposition and very much enjoyed having the opportunity to play football in another country."**

To find out about the latest fixtures, teams, news and more visit: <https://sport.stockportgrammar.co.uk/>



## ARTS

## EUROPEAN ADVENTURES FOR MUSICIANS

Sixty musical pupils enjoyed the delights of Holland, Belgium and Germany on an action-packed and eventful tour.

The musicians headed to Maastricht for their first concert. With slick efficiency the stage was set for an informal concert featuring a selection of popular music from Concert Band, Big Band, Jazz Band and some lighter choral numbers from Junior Chamber Choir, The Mayhemias, Chorus and Chamber Choir.

After some free time to look around the town and sample the local delicacies, it was time to set off for the next concert in Liège. The formal concert was held in the magnificent Église Saint-Jacques and featured First Orchestra, with Lydia Horne playing the 'Second Movement of the Haydn Trumpet Concerto', String Orchestra and Wind Orchestra, as well as Chorus singing 'A Little Jazz Mass' and sets by Junior Chamber Choir and Chamber Choir.

The choirs sounded superb when they performed in the fantastic surroundings of Bruges Cathedral. There were hemiolias aplenty with the Chorus' 'Cantate Domino' and Chamber Choir and Junior Chamber Choir also singing beautifully.

At Leuven in Belgium, the last formal concert was held in yet another beautiful church and was hosted by a local MC who had meticulously researched the school and the pieces being performed.

With only one concert left on the tour, there was time to start engaging in some more leisure activities. Pupils enjoyed a toboggan run and had a great time at the borders of Holland, Germany and Belgium at the three countries point maze before heading to Aachen in Germany for the final concert.

Head of Music Mr Michael Dow said: **"The pupils had a good time performing in some amazing European venues and it really was the perfect way to end what has been a fantastic year of Music at Stockport Grammar School."**



## MUSICAL FIRST YEARS

All of our First Year pupils enjoyed taking part in their final musical performance of an academic year during which they had each received expert tuition in a range of instruments.

With most pupils having never played their chosen instrument before September 2018, it was great to see the fantastic progress they had made and they clearly enjoyed performing to each other.

## DRAMA EXTRAVAGANZA

The new school year brings an exciting line up of drama opportunities for pupils from First Year through to Sixth Form.

First up is 'A Christmas Carol', which will be performed on November 13 and 14.

The script, which is adapted by Neil Duffield, creates a very stark and gothic picture of Victorian London and perhaps communicates the most heart-warming message of all, which is our need as a society to help and support all.

In the Spring Term, pupils will once again take to the stage and perform the spectacular Broadway hit musical 'Chicago' (High School Edition).

Students have been busy auditioning for roles in the productions and there are plenty of opportunities for pupils to get involved in the lighting, sound and back stage elements.

If you would like to find out more, please contact SGS's new Head of Drama, Mr Matt King-Sayce via [kingsaycem@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:kingsaycem@stockportgrammar.co.uk).



## AMAZING ART SHOW

Congratulations to former Upper Sixth student Niamh Johnson who was selected for the first ever Young Artists' Summer Show at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Niamh's artwork, 'Four Pork Chops' (artwork ID 5610), was one of only 139 chosen out of over 6,200 entries and was on display in the Clore Gallery at The Royal Academy over the Summer.

## MASTERPIECES UNVEILED AT EXHIBITION

This year's spectacular Annual Art Exhibition showed off the amazing pieces created by GCSE and A Level pupils.

The masterpieces embraced the use of a range of disciplines including drawing and painting, print, graphics and 3D.



2019 production of  
A Midsummer Night's Dream



# OUT AND ABOUT



## SIXTH FORM EXPLORE PARLIAMENT

Lower Sixth students had an action packed trip to London where they visited the Houses of Parliament, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Supreme Court to learn more about Politics, History, International Relations and Law.

An early start saw the students reach Westminster for a tour; they were given the opportunity to go

into the chambers of the Lords and the Commons, step through the Division Lobbies and meet Mary Robinson, MP for Cheadle.

The pupils valued the opportunity to quiz Mary on the big issues of the day – including Brexit.

After lunch on the South Bank, the final stop of the day took the group to the Supreme Court.

## CERN TRIP BRINGS PHYSICS TO LIFE

CERN and the Palais des Nations impressed inquisitive physicists during an enlightening trip to Geneva, Switzerland.

The European Organization for Nuclear Research, known as CERN, is a research organisation that operates the largest particle physics laboratory in the world.

During their visit, pupils were given a fascinating talk about how the centre operates day-to-day, they learnt about the different projects that are carried out there and took part in a tour.

After leaving CERN the group had some free time to explore, play a spot of football and chill around the city's landmark water jets.

On the next day, the pupils visited the Palais des Nations, the home of the United Nations Office. The group were wowed by the history and splendour of the venue.

Jacob Noakes commented:

**"My favourite bit was seeing the inside of the machinery at CERN. It was interesting and insightful to see what happens and great to experience it first-hand. It really brought Physics to life.**

**"I would recommend the trip to everyone as it helps with your understanding of the subject and the course."**



## OXFORD UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

The end of the Summer Term saw an interested group of Lower Sixth students visit the University of Oxford's colleges and faculties to learn more about the experience of living and studying there.

Staying in Corpus Christi College, the group gained a first-hand insight into living in college – sampling the accommodation, the food and the surroundings.

This was followed by a full day visiting colleges and departments, hearing from academics and students as part of the university's Open Day.



## OUT OF THIS WORLD

Excited Fifth Year and Sixth Form physicists travelled to America to visit NASA and experience life as an astronaut.

During the trip, pupils visited the Kennedy Space Centre so that they could go to the Astronaut Training Experience Centre.

Whilst visiting NASA, the pupils sat down with Astronaut Ken Cameron; Lower Sixth student Oliver Grundy asked him about what was the hardest thing to adapt to when returning to Earth after a long mission.

Other experiences on the marvellous trip included a journey to WonderWorks, an 'amusement park for the mind'; a visit to iFLY for an indoor skydiving experience and a trip to Universal Studios.

Head of Physics Mrs Heather Fenton said: **"The pupils were fantastic and threw themselves into every activity with such interest, joy and enthusiasm. I hope that this trip has brought to life the theory that we have learned, inspiring them as well as providing them with lasting memories and friendships."**

## FRENCH EXCHANGE TO PARIS

Twenty four Third and Fourth Year pupils journeyed to France as part of the annual exchange programme.

During the visit, pupils had the opportunity to explore the many historical and cultural delights of Paris, as well as experience Parisian life with their host families.

A busy week saw pupils take in the sights around the banks of the River Seine and tour historical architecture such as the Fontaine Saint-Michel, before experiencing French curriculum at Collège Sévigné.

Over the weekend, pupils spent time with their host families building friendships, before enjoying another day exploring Paris with their tour guide.



## USA TRIP FOR HISTORIANS

History enthusiasts visited New York, Washington and Philadelphia during an action-packed, educational and memorable trip to the United States of America.

Upon arriving in the Big Apple, the pupils immersed themselves in the culture and liveliness of the city. The group visited Times Square, Ellis Island and ventured to the Top of The Rock.

The historians then boarded a coach for Washington via Philadelphia. After exploring Old City Philadelphia, the group visited the Liberty Bell, an iconic symbol of American independence and went on a guided tour of the Independence Hall.

Whilst in Washington, pupils took a guided tour of the Library of Congress, took in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and the National African American Museum.

Harry Brown said: **"I liked Ellis Island the most because it gave me an understanding of how New York was created."**





## MADAGASCAN EXPLORATION

A group of Sixth Form students spent an amazing month in Madagascar over the summer where they completed a community project and trek.

After making the long journey to the island which is located off the East Coast of Africa, the group split into teams and they set off on their adventure.

During the four weeks, the pupils went on an expedition where they ventured through diverse National Parks including trekking in the Isalo National Park and experiencing the wildlife in Andasibe-Mantadia National Park.

Students were delighted by the variety of landscapes they saw and the opportunity to meet extraordinary wildlife including the critically endangered Golden Lemur, the Mossy Leaf Tailed Gecko and different breeds of Chameleons.

As part of their month long adventure, the students completed a community project. They thoroughly enjoyed getting involved in the project and spent time building homes, meeting locals and experiencing Madagascan culture.

Head of Life Studies, Mr Alex Ehegartner said: **"This trip enabled our Sixth Form students to experience a new lease of life and learn valuable life lessons along the way. All pupils were given two years to fundraise for this trip and we had various meetings and training sessions during the build-up. Once we were in the country, the roles and responsibilities were handed over to the pupils. A big thank you to all of the teachers that took part in the trip and the team from Outlook Expeditions."**



## FRENCH CULTURE FUN

First Year French linguists enjoyed a trip to France where they had the opportunity to speak the language and experience the local culture.

The group stayed in the small seaside resort of Hardelot, where they were taught, in French, how to make croissants and sampled some of their tasty creations.

During the trip, the pupils walked along the coast to the World War Two bunkers and practised their French by interviewing

locals on the street before enjoying ice-cream and visiting a biscuit factory.

Pupil Lucia Smart said: **"The trip was fun. We enjoyed a scavenger hunt activity around the beach which required us to speak to local people to work out the clues and this really helped my French speaking skills – using what we had learnt in lessons and also learning new words which we sometimes had to check with our teachers."**

## ADVENTURES IN ABERDOVEY

This year's Second Year Aberdovey trip has been a great success and saw pupils build friendships and develop in confidence.

Pupils took on a mixture of challenges during the week from the jetty jump to Jacob's Ladder and completing expeditions based around an ascent of Cadair Idris or in the stunning Rhinogs.

Outdoor Education Coordinator Adam Hughes said: **"Throughout the week I have seen the groups change and develop. Pupils' positions and roles in their groups have shifted as they have increased in confidence, putting themselves forward in situations they would have avoided before the course started."**



## JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



## EXCITING BEGINNINGS

Reception pupils settled in really well and enjoyed exploring their new classrooms at the start of the Autumn Term.

They have created cakes in the play dough area, made pirate boats outside and investigated how to make shadows with torches.

The children were excited to start their new topic on dinosaurs and have even watched a dinosaur egg hatch that they found in their dinosaur swamp.

## GEOLOGY FASCINATES

As part of their river topic, Year 6 children have been looking at how rivers form and change on their journey to the sea.

The boys and girls first used a hose pipe to serve as the river source and then watched as the river naturally formed. They identified the different features and labelled them with flags. It was particularly interesting to see erosion and deposition happening immediately.

The fascinated pupils then looked at how rivers change course due to erosion and deposition, causing meanders and oxbow lakes.



## PREFECTS AND CAPTAINS PREPARE FOR AN INSPIRING YEAR

Every pupil in Year 6 has the chance to apply to become a prefect which gives them the perfect opportunity to experience a position of responsibility.

Our pupils relish the opportunity to lead by example and they are looking forward to being role models for children in the lower year groups.

House Captains and Senior Prefects are changed each term. For the Autumn Term the House Captains are:

**Head Boy and Head Girl:** Erin R and Thomas S

**Arden:** Mustafah K and Nel R

**Vernon:** Zakariyah H and Malak H

**Nicholson:** Katherine M and Fredrik G

**Warren:** Connie S and Samuel H

**The Autumn Term Senior Prefects are:** Sadie C, Lucy J, Muhammad A, Tobias B, and Nicolette L

**Sports Captains are selected for the whole academic year. For 2018-2019 the captains are:**

**Netball:** Harriet H

**Rugby:** John H

**Swimming:** Annabel E and Arthur W

**Hockey:** Viola P

**Football:** Stanley T

The Leader of the Orchestra is Clara Z. Congratulations to all of the pupils who have been chosen. To keep up to date with the House Captains and Senior Prefects for the Spring and Summer Terms, visit our Facebook page at the start of those terms.



## WILD WELSH OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Year Six pupils travelled to North Wales for a full and fun few days in the outdoors for their annual residential.

The girls and boys stayed at the Arête Centre near Caernarfon and took part in a range of exciting activities.

Some of the groups went canoeing and kayaking on the lake in Llanberis before finishing off with a jump in to the cool water from the pontoon, whilst others made their way to the foot of Mount Snowdon and scrambled up a gorge that offered them a host of challenges to negotiate as a group.

In the evening everyone walked along the seafront to Caernarfon Castle before heading to bed, eager to get their teeth into the following day's challenges.

During the trip the adventurers were told how the lake was formed and learnt about its history and connections to the town of Llanberis.

Outdoor Education Co-ordinator Mr Adam Hughes said: **"Pupils did fantastically well during the trip. They demonstrated how much they had improved in their ability to work with each other in demanding situations."**



## SPORTING SUPERSTARS

Junior School children benefited from glorious weather during their Sport Days.

There was plenty of competition both on the track and in the field events and many children experienced success – either in victory or with justifiable pride that they knew they had done their best.

After the morning events for Years Five and Six, Arden were holding the lead with Vernon in second, Nicholson in third and Warren fourth. The afternoon events for Years Three and Four swung heavily in favour of Warren with Nicholson, Vernon and Arden trailing in their wake.

In the Infants competition, Vernon just pipped Arden to top spot with Nicholson in third and Warren fourth.

When all of the results were collated Arden were crowned winners.

Thank you to the Stopfordian Parents' Association volunteers for their hard work during the two Sports Days. Not only did they keep everyone fed and watered, they also raised £788 towards school funds.



## PRIZE GIVING WELCOMES 'BOB THE BUILDER'

The BAFTA winning designer of Bob the Builder, author and illustrator Curtis Jobling, was the guest of honour as the Junior School held their Prize Giving evening.

The event started with a welcome from Governor Philip Cuddy before the orchestra treated the audience to the theme from Beethoven's *'Symphony No7'*.

Year Six pupils Abigail S and Zahra R performed R & R Sherman's *'Feed The Birds'* from the Year Six production of Mary Poppins, after which Curtis presented prizes to pupils who have impressed throughout the year in a range of subjects, sports and clubs.

Curtis delivered his address where he spoke about his career and demonstrated his skills by drawing a number of his characters.

Year Six musician Patrick Z performed a piano solo of Tan Dun's *'Staccato Beans'* then the Head Girls and Boys gave speeches.



## MEMORABLE LAKE DISTRICT RESIDENTIAL

Year Three pupils had an amazing time in Grasmere during their first residential trip.

Upon arriving in the Lakes, the group devoured their packed lunch before boarding a boat for a trip over Windermere to the National Trust site of Fell Foot.

The children had fun exploring the area, collecting resources from nature to weave into a piece of wild art creating a natural photo frame.

Then it was off to Grasmere to follow the trail, looking for lots of historical sites such as William Wordsworth's place of burial at St Oswald's Church and, of course, to the famous gingerbread shop for the children to spend some of their pocket money.

After a good night's sleep, the children had a big breakfast and then headed to Aira Force – probably the most famous of the Lake District waterfalls.

The children had a great time, were fantastically behaved and created memories that they will remember for years to come.



## SPECTACULAR SUMMER FAIR

Year Six pupils raised an astonishing £1,033 for their House charities as they hosted a spectacular Summer Fair.

As well as enjoying ice-creams in the sunshine, pupils visited stalls ranging from Welly Wangling and a tombola to 'Pin the tie on the Headmaster'.

## INSPIRING STEM DAY

Year Three and Four pupils enjoyed a day engaging in activities involving Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

The day began with parent Mrs Helen Saunders, Strategic Communications Manager at Cisco Systems, talking to the children about engineering in the real world.

The children then took part in various activities that required them to think logically. From building the tallest structure to making a helicopter and from transferring water without spilling it to creating chemical reactions, the children were encouraged to solve problems and think of solutions – placing them in situations experienced by engineers, scientists and mathematicians.

It was a jam packed day that inspired children to go home and test out what they had learnt.



## HEADMASTER RECEIVES QUEEN'S HONOUR

Junior School Headmaster, Mr Tim Wheeler, has been awarded an MBE for services to charity and to education in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Mr Wheeler is also the Chair of the Little Princess Trust, a charity that provides real hair wigs to children and young people with hair loss, and funds vital research into childhood cancer.

In addition, he is a Trustee of the IAPS charity, iTrust, which provides bursaries to support children who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend independent schools and helps teachers in hardship.



He said: **"The letter informing me that I was to be awarded an MBE came as an enormous surprise. I have always considered it a great privilege to be involved in education and to be able to contribute to the work of an amazing charity, the Little Princess Trust."**

## IMPRESSIVE REDEVELOPMENT

The Junior School building has undergone a number of impressive redevelopments and improvements over the past few months.

Thanks to an extension to the front of the building, the changing rooms will double in size before being fully kitted out and ready to use.

The pupils are very excited about this improvement, especially as they are able to see work in progress thanks to a number of viewing portholes.

The hall – which hosts assemblies, visiting speakers, authors, theatre companies and indoor sports and activities such as dance and yoga – has also been refurbished.

The Quad, which a number of classrooms look out on, has had a makeover – supported by a donation by the Stopfordian Parents' Association. It has been landscaped with artificial lawns that will provide an all-year-round play surface for pupils.

Finally, the start of term saw the completion of an entirely new roof for the main building and the removal of large quantities of scaffolding which had enveloped the Junior School throughout the vacation.

The school is looking to ensure that all of their new buildings are as eco-friendly as possible, starting with an eco-cabin for the builders which harvests rain and uses solar power.



## TALENTED MUSICIANS IMPRESS IN SHOWS

Junior School pupils demonstrated their fantastic musical ability as they delighted audiences with an exciting series of shows and competitions.

The annual Music Festival was held in the Senior School's Main Hall at the end of June.

Junior Orchestra aptly opened the Festival with 'Singin' In The Rain' following what had been a very rainy school day.

Year Three and Four Choir had the audience singing and clapping along with a collection of songs from The Greatest Showman.

The Ukulele Ensemble saw the crowds uplifted again with Ed Sheeran's 'Perfect' and a creative piece of their own.

Next up was the Drum Ensemble who played an energetic and fun culmination of rhythms learnt over the term.

To close the Festival, Junior Choir came to the stage to impress the audience with George Ezra's 'Shotgun', before performing the emotional Young Voices song, 'One Small Voice', which included solos by Year Six pupils, Klara J and Emma B.



## ECO-CONSCIOUS PUPILS TAKE ACTION

An inspired group of children have set up an Eco Committee with the aim of making the whole school more environmentally friendly.

The Eco Committee started by completing an Environmental Review of the school to begin the Eco School journey and to provide ideas of areas to focus on. This includes topics such as waste, energy and biodiversity.

As well as holding regular meetings, pupils have used their creative flares to design posters about the environment and a selected few were chosen to be printed on banners that are now displayed outside the school.

SGS has already undertaken a number of initiatives to minimise the environmental footprint. These include:

- Installing solar panels on the newer buildings
- Allotment Club to encourage pupils to grow their own fruit and vegetables
- Sourcing purchases from local suppliers, where available, to minimise transport, particularly for fresh foods
- Using vegeware products in the refectory rather than plastic
- Switching bulbs in the school to efficient LEDs and installing lights that turn themselves off.

## READING SPARKS NEW CREATIONS

Year Two children have been making beautiful dragon eyes using clay which complemented their English work on the theme of dragons.

Meanwhile boys and girls in Reception have been making clay Rainbow Fish (and designing them with sequins) after reading the book 'The Rainbow Fish', which is known for its morals about the value of being an individual and treating people well.



## BUBBLE-TASTIC DAY

Pre-Reception children were extremely excited as they ventured outside for a special bubble morning.

Mr Sheard, a current parent, was kind enough to come in to demonstrate how to make large bubbles and to let the pupils explore using an array of bubble wands.

The weather was perfect and the boys and girls loved having a go at doing it on their own. They also had lots of fun chasing and popping the bubbles.