

TAKING / STOCK

Stockport Grammar
School Newsletter



Issue 74
Winter 2019/2020



A CHRISTMAS CAROL



**SIXTH FORM
DEVELOPMENT
UNDERWAY**
Page 4



**FIRST YEAR
RESIDENTIAL**
Page 7



**FOOTBALLERS AT THE
HOME OF THE BLUES**
Page 16



STEM EXCELLENCE
Page 16



**JUNIOR AND
SENIOR SCHOOLS
RECEIVE HIGHEST
INSPECTION
RATING**
Page 3

SCHOOL LIFE



FROM THE HEADMASTER

Creativity is crucial in education. Technology threatens to replace workers in any profession which relies on repetitive or predictable actions.

The jobs that survive or will be created by this change will require creative skills: producing new ideas, designs and approaches in unusual and individual situations. Aside from maximising employment prospects, creativity and an appreciation of the fruits of creativity is part of being human and well-educated.

At SGS we promote creativity in the pupils in three main ways. Firstly, by ensuring that the classroom culture promotes tolerance of ambiguity and different points of view and allows pupils to try and sometimes fail without losing their confidence.

Secondly, by recognising that subjects such as Mathematics, Science and History are intrinsically creative, requiring new approaches to solving problems and the formation of new hypotheses. Thirdly, we provide a huge range of creative opportunities both within and beyond the curriculum. At GCSE and A level we provide enormous flexibility for pupils to choose traditionally creative subjects such as Drama, Art, Music and Design & Technology and far more of our pupils pursue these subjects than is the case nationally. Beyond the curriculum, music ensembles, dance groups and drama productions give ample opportunity for creative endeavour.

Artsmark is a nationally recognised way of validating the creative experiences of pupils and SGS is well on the way to achieving the (highest) Platinum level of this award having expanded Drama and Dance this year.

Dr Paul Owen
Headmaster



FASCINATING PSYCHOLOGY

Dr Guy Sutton, the Director of Medical Biology Interactive and Honorary Assistant Professor at the University of Nottingham School of Medicine, spoke to Upper Sixth Psychology students about neuroscience before performing a fascinating dissection of a sheep's brain.

During the visit, Guy talked about the basic brain anatomy, bionic arms, foetus brain scans and mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and trichotillomania.

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR ACHIEVES HIGHEST INSPECTION RATING OF 'EXCELLENT'

Stockport Grammar's Senior and Junior Schools are delighted to have achieved the highest possible ratings of "Excellent" by the Independent Schools Inspectorate following their visit in the 2019 Autumn Term.

In assessing the Educational Quality of a school, the Inspectorate focus on two key outcomes: the achievement of the pupils, including their academic development and the personal development of the pupils.

The Senior and Junior Schools were inspected separately and both were rated "Excellent".

The Senior School report comments include:

"Pupils are aided in their learning by excellent teaching; lessons are well planned, encompass a variety of techniques and are tailored to the needs of the pupils."

"Pupils' social awareness is excellent, and this helps to create an extremely harmonious and engaging community."

"Throughout the school pupils' progress is rapid, and they achieve highly in both academic and other areas."

"Pupils excel in a wide range of creative and physical pursuits and are supported in their achievements by the wide-ranging extra-curricular programme."

"The excellent level of pastoral care ensures that pupils grow in both self-confidence and self-esteem and so develop into resilient young adults, ready for the next stage in their lives."

The Junior School comments include:

"Pupils excel in a very broad range of disciplines both inside and outside the classroom."

"Pupils flourish in a community exemplified by exceptionally warm and supportive relationships and a genuine sense of mutual care."

"Pupils build excellent skills and knowledge; they are confident and curious learners and these attitudes result in very good outcomes across all areas of the curriculum."

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is the body approved by the Government for the purpose of inspecting schools belonging to the Independent Schools Council (ISC).

Please visit the website to read the full report.

YOUTH COUNCIL GATHERING

School Council representatives Shanzay Hanuk from the Middle School and Jonathan Hyde from the Lower School recently attended Stockport Youth Partnership's Extended Youth Council.

The aim of the event was to connect pupils from different schools in Stockport to try and engage them in their local area. It also allows Stockport Council to gain a wider perspective from young people in this area.

The event kicked off with some ice-breakers, an introduction to the group and information on how to get involved. Fifth Year Shanzay and Third Year Jonathan found the diverse range of issues different schools faced interesting and liked the fact that everyone was sharing ideas.



CHARITIES SUPPORT ANNOUNCED

In addition to supporting EducAid Sierra Leone, SGS pupils will also be fundraising for The Christie this academic year with their charity work.

The Senior Prefects for Charities delivered assemblies to all pupils suggesting three shortlisted charities for the school to support. Pupils then voted and The Christie came top.



PHYSICISTS IMPRESS

Congratulations to the Upper Sixth students who took part in the recent Liverpool Physics Olympics at the University of Liverpool.

Out of the 35 competing teams, our physicists impressively finished second and third.

During the annual event, students take part in tasks that require team work, problem solving and utilising their physics knowledge.



SIXTH FORM DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

The building work for the development of the Sixth Form facilities started in the half term break and a huge difference is already apparent, with the site fully cleared and foundations appearing.

A large, modern and well-equipped social space for Lower and Upper Sixth Form students will be created. The building will be completed with a stylish glass roof.

The development of this space will promote the sense of community that underpins the success of SGS. Students have been consulted so that their ideas can be incorporated in the design.

Work is due to be completed by Summer 2020.



AMAZING ACTIVITIES FAIR

Pupils from First, Second and Third Year had a fantastic time exploring all of the clubs, activities and societies that are available at SGS during the Lower School Activities Fair held in the Hallam Hall.

There are a wide range of activities which means that whether a pupil is sporty, musical, dramatic, thoughtful, competitive, curious, caring or creative, there is something to inspire all.

Oliver Walker is excited to join the Animal Club and keen mathematician Sami Butt is looking forward to Puzzles Club as he likes solving problems and brainteasers.

Head of Lower School Mrs Helen Lawson said: **"It is always lovely to see the boys and girls signing up to the clubs and activities. They are encouraged to be curious and to try something new, as well as participate in interests they already enjoy."**

SHAA LECTURE REACHES GREAT HEIGHTS

Sixth Form students were captivated by professional climber and adventurer Tim Emmett during the first Shaa Lecture of the academic year as he spoke on the topic of 'Reaching your Potential'.

Inspired by his experiences, Tim discussed with the fascinated audience the importance of making the most of opportunities, pushing yourself to reach your personal full potential and realising that failure is part of life and demonstrates eagerness to always do better.

Following the lecture, Tim joined our Outdoor Education Co-ordinator Mr Hughes at the Peter Boardman Climbing Wall in the Sports Centre. At the bottom of the wall, Tim imparted his wisdom to the keen climbers who eagerly took in his advice.



HEALTH MATTERS

Upper Sixth book champions took part in the 'Health Matters Book Prize' in the Library where they presented books that they had read to the audience around the issues of physical and mental health in humans and animals – including the delivery of healthcare and the patient experience.

The titles that were discussed were 'Animal Matters' by Charlotte Rea, 'The Beautiful Cure' by Daniel M. Davis, 'Brainstorm' by Suzanne O'Sullivan, 'Reasons to Stay Alive' by Matt Haig, 'The Unexpected Truth about Animals' by Lucy Cooke, 'This Is Going To Hurt' by Adam Kay and 'Your Life In My Hands' by Rachel Clarke.

After the presentations, the audience voted for which one they would be most encouraged to read from the pupils' synopsis and Adam Kay's 'This Is Going To Hurt' was the winner.

The book was championed by Kate Roberts and Tom Pichel; well done to all of the other presenters who gave an interesting insight into each of the intriguing titles.

YOUNG MATHEMATICIANS DAZZLE

First Year mathematicians took part in the Mangahigh competition recently and it was Form 1P that were celebrating as they collected a staggering 1,133 medal points.

A special mention goes to Abigail Sullivan from 1R who collected 318 medal points on her own.

Mangahigh is an online competition that is designed to engage students with Maths through a games-based learning approach.



ENTERPRISING SUCCESS

Pupils from the Third Year presented their business, Chocolat Fantastique, to a panel of experts as part of the Dragons' Den Enterprise Competition at Manchester Airport.

They successfully secured a £100 investment to help produce their unique flavours of chocolate in order to raise money for the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

OUT AND ABOUT

AWARD CREATES UNFORGETTABLE GREEK EXPERIENCE

Albert Johnston Travel Award winner Aidan Hall had a memorable time in Greece as he examined the country's role in the development of Western society and academia.

During his trip he travelled to Athens visiting locations such as the Acropolis and journeyed to the small seaside town of Epidavros.

Aidan said: **"My award took me to Greece, a place whose role in the development of Western society and academia cannot be overstated.**

"My interests lay particularly in ancient political, religious and judicial institutions, the origins of the analytic philosophical tradition, as well as contemporary economic issues and controversies that have haunted Greece in recent years.

"My trip was an experience I will never forget and something I could not have done if not for the travel award and the generosity of its benefactor. I learnt so much not only about the fields I had hoped to further my knowledge in, but also so much about the challenges and excitements of independent travel. I am incredibly thankful for being chosen for the award and look forward to seeing others embark on exciting travels in future years."



INSIGHTFUL BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

Eighty pupils from the Third Year and above travelled to the battlefields of the First World War during the History department's annual visit to France and Belgium.

Pupils visited a number of poignant First World War sites to see the locations they have been learning about in lessons.

At Thiepval a wreath was laid by Jacob Henshaw and Alice Thomson and a minute's silence was observed in memory of the Old Stopfordians who fought during the war.

At the Flanders Field Museum in Ypres, accurately replicated underground bunkers and trenches allowed pupils to experience what life was like for soldiers more than 100 years ago.

In the moving Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Anna Collins-Room and Harry Meanwell laid a second wreath.

Lilah Vidler said: **"I got to visit a lot of places that I have heard of in class and I was particularly moved at seeing the grave of John Condon, the youngest soldier killed in the First World War aged just 14 – almost as old as me."**



SPANISH CLIMBING TRIP SUCCESS

A group of climbers ventured to Spain over the Autumn Half Term where they enjoyed stunning views and perfected their skills.

After a long day travelling, the group tackled Sierra de Toix which offers a great range of routes on the different crags.

Despite the heavy rain and stormy weather, pupils continued to gain more experience climbing out on crags around Alcalali.

For their final day, the group of adventurers travelled up into the Echo Valley and climbed at Paret de la Bassa. The crag offered a mix of short and long routes, some with styles that are not well known to pupils.

Outdoor Co-ordinator Mr Hughes said: **"It was a really good week despite some adverse weather early on.**

"There were a number of other routes of varying grades available for pupils to try. Everyone got a lot of climbing done on either top rope or by leading."



ENJOYABLE GERMAN EXCHANGE

Modern Foreign Languages pupils hosted a group from our German exchange school, Städtisches Gymnasium.

The visitors arrived at Stockport Grammar where they met our pupils and their families.

During their week-long visit the group had a packed schedule, including trips to Quarry Bank Mill and Castleton to climb Mam Tor.

Jessica Horsford said: **"We spoke a mixture of English and German and I am planning to speak a lot more of their language when I go to Germany. I learnt that their school day starts earlier and finishes earlier than ours and that they don't wear a uniform. On the return trip I am looking forward to experiencing the culture."**

FUN FIRST YEAR RESIDENTIAL

First Year pupils had a wonderful time developing new friendships and getting to know their peers on the residential trip to Ilam Hall in Derbyshire.

During the trip, pupils visited Chatsworth House where they had great fun exploring the adventure playground as well as meeting and learning about the animals on the farmyard.

The evening activity at Ilam Hall Youth Hostel was the famous egg drop competition. Pupils worked together as teams to develop a protective casing that would help them win the challenge.

Head of First Year, Mrs Suttle said: **"The trip was a great success and the pupils were amazing throughout the visit including taking on a ten-mile walk and scramble up Thorpe Cloud.**

"It was fantastic to see our pupils return to school in the company of so many new friends and full of great stories of their adventures."

SPORTS

NETBALL SELECTIONS

Fourth Year pupils Eloisa Burton and Chloe Olajide and Third Years Libby Goodman and Holly Williams have been chosen for the Greater Manchester County Under 15 squad for the 2019-2020 season whilst Fifth Year player Libby Wolstenholme has been selected for the Manchester Thunder Under 17 squad for the upcoming season after successfully coming through trials.

These achievements are even more remarkable as both of the Libbys and Holly are a year younger than the age group they are representing.



ISFA CALL UP

Well done to Third Year pupil Dominic Hanson who was selected to attend the London Independent Schools Football Association (ISFA) U14 National Camp.

Earlier in 2019, he and fellow footballer James Carr were selected in the North West ISFA squad for the Regional Representative Festival, where Dominic obtained a representative hood.



STRONG START TO THE SEASON FOR NETBALLERS

SGS netballers have started the season as they mean to go on and already have a number of triumphs to celebrate.

The U18A team and the U18B teams have enjoyed their matches with wins against Bradford Grammar School (twice), Birkenhead School and Alderley Edge School for Girls being the highlights.

A 27-23 Sisters n Sport National Cup (Area Cup – Round One) victory over St Bede's College has been the standout result of the U16As season whilst the U15A team can look back with pride on a 55-39 win over Bradford Grammar School in Round Two of the national competition.

The U14As and U14Bs won almost all their matches. The U13A and B teams are putting in better performances after a slow start to the season whilst the U12A and B teams boast 100% records after winning all of their games so far.

The U15 team made the very short journey to Stockport School to take part in the Stockport Schools Tournament.

The girls made it through to the final unbeaten where they faced Cheadle Hulme School. A strong and energetic performance saw them emerge victorious by a score of 12-6.

The team's success is reward for the players' hard work, which started with pre-season training during the last week of the summer break.

IMPRESSIVE HOCKEY AWARD

Fifth Year hockey player Eliza Arif is thrilled after picking up two trophies from Bramhall Hockey Club.

Eliza plays for the thirds and mixed team and the awards are for 'Female Youth Player of the League'.

The active sports star, who plays for the school's Senior and U16 teams, said:

"I enjoy playing hockey because it's a great way to make friends and it's great for your mind and health. I originally started playing in the mixed team at Bramhall and now I train most days of the week. I also help out with the training of the First and Second Years at school."



DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR RUGBY STARS

Congratulations to a group of rugby players who have been selected for the Sale Sharks England Rugby Developing Player Programme (DPP).

Harry Reeder-Hirst has been selected for the U16 programme whilst Dominic Hanson, Raees Latif and Elliot Mills have been selected for the U14s.

For the U15 DPP: Rowan Abbott, Albert Bradshaw, Frank Chatterton, Isaac Deans, Eddie Hukin, Tom Loveday, William Karlton-Morris, Navid Mousavi, Dominic Rode and Eddie McDonald have been selected.

Head of Rugby, Mr Corbett said:

"The school is extremely proud of the grit and enthusiasm that the boys have shown to gain their selection, a number of other pupils narrowly missed out and the opportunity is still there for them to gain selection at a later date."



ARTS



FLOURISHING MUSICIANS

Well done to Lower Sixth student Teddy Hotchkies and Fifth Year Dan Vincent who have been selected to play with Foden's Youth Brass Band.

Teddy, who plays trombone, and Dan, who plays the euphonium, had to audition for a place but dealt well with the high level of difficulty.

Additionally, a number of our Senior School pupils have been selected to perform for The Hallé Youth Orchestra or the Hallé Youth Choir.

Kate Langton, Ella Moran and Eloise Scott have been chosen for the choir, Liv Dow and Talia Zelfhof are in the orchestra and Zoe Shah is in both.

Lower Sixth student George Zelfhof has been awarded a place at the Junior Royal Northern College of Music to study piano.

Junior RNCM is a community of gifted young musicians aged 8 to 18 who come together to develop their talent within the Royal Northern College of Music.

George said: **"The Junior RNCM has provided me with an invaluable experience of a lifetime."**

MEMORABLE MUSICAL MOMENTS

Exceptional musicians and dedicated Music staff have had a successful and eventful start to the academic year.

Throughout the Autumn Term, First Year pupils took part in instrumental lessons where they received tuition on the clarinet, oboe and saxophone.

Before half-term, they stood up at the front of class and demonstrated what they had learnt with a short performance on their chosen instrument. After half-term, they moved on to looking at the flute and bassoon.

Throughout the rest of the year they will get to play other orchestral instruments with specialist teachers and have the chance to show off their new skills in a concert during the Summer Term.

The Music department have started some small Chamber groups this year for pupils to improve their ensemble, leadership and independence within rehearsals.

The groups meet on a Wednesday and Friday before school and there is a cello sextet, piano trio, sax quartet and flute group – all of whom are high level performers tackling a challenging repertoire.

The Monday Afternoon Recital Series (MARS) have returned with much success. They have seen performances of pieces from artists as varied as Mozart, Keane and The Platters.

Visit the website to see the wide range of music groups and performance opportunities.



LONDON INSPIRES CREATIVITY

Fifth Year and Sixth Form students from the Art, Food and Nutrition and Technology departments ventured to London to visit the capital's famous museums and landmarks to gather research for NEA assessments, exam preparation and portfolio work.

Art students headed to the Tate, Banksie Gallery, Borough Market and White Cube whilst Food and Nutrition pupils visited Brick Lane and Camden Market as well as Borough Market.

Meanwhile, Technology students went to the Victoria and Albert Museum and Design Museum. It proved to be a very worthwhile trip for everyone involved as they headed back to Cheshire with lots of great ideas.



'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' IS A SELL OUT

Around 150 actors, dancers and singers from across the Senior School brought together their talents for two heart-warming performances of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'.

Ranging in age from First Year to Sixth Form, the pupils came together to tell the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a rich, mean and miserable old man. Scrooge was played marvellously by Sixth Form pupil Sam Wilkinson.

The magical production was a great success with all tickets sold out. Pupils are now busy rehearsing for the next production, 'Chicago', which will be brought to the stage in the Spring Term.

Mr Matt King-Sayce, Head of Drama said: **"The hours of hard work and commitment to rehearsals truly paid off. The staff and pupils worked tirelessly and with such energy, both onstage and backstage to create something special – the**

buzz from the pupils and the mutual support made 'A Christmas Carol' a real success.

"I'm excited to continue to build upon this with many productions in the future."

Daniel Grant, who played Cratchit, said:

"It was great to see a full audience on both nights and the whole team worked well together. I was a bit nervous ahead of the performances but I have done a few school shows before – including 'Annie', 'Down The Rabbit Hole', 'Dreams of Anne Frank' and 'Midsummer Night's Dream' – so I was OK.

"I would recommend to other pupils that they should get involved in the shows. It develops your public speaking skills and confidence and helps you know how to present yourself."



AMAZING AUTUMN SOUNDS

Audiences were treated to a spectacular and varied programme at the school's annual Autumn Concert.

The girls' vocal group VOX led by Mrs Matthews sounded wonderful with songs such as gospel classic *Gonna Make a Wish*.

Chamber Music at SGS has seen fantastic growth in recent years and the Piano Trio of Zoe Shah, Olivia Dow and Talia Zelfhof performed pieces including the folk-influenced third movement of Haydn's Piano Trio in G major.

The Jazz Band delivered wonderful arrangements of *All the things you are* and *Golden Lady* whilst Upper Sixth pupil, clarinettist Sarah Callow, was selected to play a concerto with the orchestra.

Frist Orchestra skilfully performed *Beethoven's 5th Symphony* and the percussion ensembles also showed off their musical talents.

Around forty of our younger musicians took to the stage with Junior Band and gave exhilarating performances of *Lord of the Rings* and the perennial classic *Soul Bossa Nova*.

The evening was brought to a rousing conclusion by the Chorus with a medley from *Les Misérables*.

EVENTS

POPULAR CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

A number of coffee mornings and cake sales were held to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.



TRAINING EMPOWERS

Six Fourth and Fifth Year anti-bullying ambassadors made the short journey to Hazel Grove to take part in training provided by The Diana Award.

The training empowers pupils to change the attitudes, behaviours and cultures of bullying by building skills and confidence to address different situations both on and offline.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

YEAR TWO GET ARTY AFTER LOWRY VISIT

Year Two artists were inspired to be creative following a visit to The Lowry at Salford Quays.

During the trip, they looked around the gallery, learnt some facts about L.S. Lowry, observed some of the equipment the famous artist used and took part in a workshop session.

Back in school, pupils donned aprons and got hold of paintbrushes as they had a go at mixing colours after learning that Lowry only ever used five colours and had to mix them to get other colours.

A number of pupils were also able to see up close prints by L.S. Lowry with his original signature. The prints were purchased by a parent at an auction at the Tate.

Speaking about the experience, pupil Elijah C said: **"I liked the trip to the Lowry, it was great fun as I like to draw,"** whilst Azaan A added: **"I loved the drawings on the walls, especially 'The Man With Red Eyes'."**



INNOVATIVE TEACHING INSPIRES EYFS PUPILS

Our Early Years Foundation Stage pupils have had lots of fun learning about a range of topics in a number of innovative ways.

Pre-Reception boys and girls put their wellies on as they went for a walk on the school fields to learn about Harvest.

After a talk from Mrs Hampson about the importance of Harvest and the job that a farmer does they visited the tractor that the Grounds team use. Whilst at the tractor they talked about the size of the wheels, the steering wheel and gears and about all of the things that the tractor could tow behind it.

In the classroom, Pre-Reception and Reception were visited by Senior School Music teacher Mrs Matthews and the children enjoyed getting on their feet and learning songs and actions.

Reception pupils welcomed family members into class for a Phonics 'Stay & Play' session after they were invited in to watch a lesson and play some phonics based games to help understand how their children are learning to read and write at school.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES RAISED AN AMAZING £595

Warren House held cake sales in the Pavilion Gym as part of their assembly and in the Main Quad at break time and both were well attended by generous pupils purchasing treats and donating money to a great cause.

Staff also got a slice of the action. The Charities Club held a coffee and cake sale in the Sports Centre café for Senior School staff and in the Junior School there was a raffle in addition to the delectable cake and coffee on offer.

FALLEN ARE REMEMBERED

More than eighty Old Stopfordians joined pupils for the Stockport Grammar School Remembrance Service.

Pupils and guests were able to pay their respects to Old Stopfordians who lost their lives in the service of their country.

The service was led by Headmaster, Dr Paul Owen, with Upper Sixth Form pupils Jamie Carson, Almira Awan-Rutter, Archie Eady-Gurr and Olivia Clark reading poetry and accounts from the war. The School Chaplain Rev. L E Leaver led the service prayers.

Head Boy Alexander Malone and Head Girl Kate Roberts laid a wreath. Fourth Year pupil Patrick Owen played the Last Post before a two minute silence was observed.

Guests also listened to spectacular musical performances including Haydn's Piano Trio in G Major (last movement) by Zoe Shah, Talia Zelhof and Olivia Dow.

Talented SGS musicians performed The Last Post at each of the school's Remembrance Services and in the community.

Old Stopfordian Reginald Holmes (OS 1949), also plays the organ each year for the school Remembrance Service.





HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

Junior School pupils donated items such as tinned food, pasta, chocolates, coffee, sugar, fruit and vegetables for residents living in local sheltered housing and the homeless charity The Wellspring Stockport as part of the Harvest celebrations.

Year Two teacher and Charities Co-ordinator Mrs Turner and Rev Leaver held an assembly to discuss with pupils the importance of kindness, the gift of giving and how the donations would help others.

RESIDENTIAL HAILED AS 'BEST TRIP EVER'

The wet weather did nothing to dampen Year Five's enthusiasm as they took part in a range of fun activities on their exciting residential.

The Hollowford Centre in Castleton played host to the energetic pupils for three days and pupils were able to challenge themselves and work on their team-building skills in the great British outdoors.

Some pupils took on team challenges such as rafting and the zip wire whilst others went caving

or spent the afternoon at Higgarr Tor weaselling and bouldering. In the evening, pupils went walking up and over Back Tor using head torches.

Lola F's mum, Katie, said: **"The residential was the 'best trip ever' according to Lola, she just loved it! We thought she would be exhausted on Friday but she was very lively and keen to recount minute by minute all her activities and fun."**



ROMAN EXPERIENCE FOR YEAR FOUR

Year Four pupils experienced life as a Roman soldier on their residential trip to York.

The eager boys and girls donned Roman tunics to practise being guards and they improved their javelin throwing and sword skills. The group then made a Roman soldier's oil lamp and wrote in Latin.

The soldier training set the pupils up well when a Celt came to try and raid their fort and they performed the testudo to send the invader packing.

During the trip, pupils visited the Yorkshire Museum where they participated in a Pre-History workshop

where they handled artefacts from the Stone Age; wove a blanket; made coins and painted their faces.

Pupil Poppy D said: **"The trip was good to get a feeling for what life was like in those times. I enjoyed dressing up as a Roman and seeing how hard they trained. We also saw a piece of Stone Age hair in the Yorkshire Museum which was a bit weird but cool."**

Jack P noted: **"I found it interesting learning about Roman board games – one of them was quite similar to noughts and crosses."**

GREAT GYMNASTICS

Congratulations to Year Five girls Neave S and Ella H on a great showing at the Stockport School of Gymnastics 2 Piece Championships.

Neave, who plays for the school's netball team, finished first on the floor and first overall. She said: **"I was the first one in my family to take up gymnastics and now my mum and sister also do it. I like it because it is fun and I can learn new skills."**

Ella H came third on the floor and third overall. She commented: **"Gymnastics looked like fun on TV and I was keen to try it and as soon as I went to my first class I loved it!"**



DRAMA PERFORMANCE INSPIRES WRITING

Reception, Year One and Year Two pupils loved having Tell Tale Hearts in school as they performed 'Trunk Tales', a new collection of stories from around the world.

The animated performance saw pupils engrossed in tales of boastful toads, magical fish and fearsome beasts of the wild woods! Using only the contents of the magical trunk, the audience were transported to Arabian seas, epic mountains and fields of turnips.

The children then followed up the visit with an imaginative writing task.

PERFECT POETRY

As part of National Poetry Day, pupils from Reception to Year Six took part in a series of poetry competitions.

In the Year Three to Six competition, one pupil from each form got to recite a poem of their choice – linked to their current English topic – after qualifying for the final following heats in class.

The competition was judged by Mr Jones and Mrs Suttle from the Senior School's English department.

Abigail S won the Lower Juniors section whilst Finn R won the Upper Juniors and overall title after writing and performing his very own poem.

In the Reception to Year Two competition, which was judged by a representative from Simply Books, Ellenor D was the winner with Thomas C in close second.



STEM EXCELLENCE

Year Five pupils enjoyed testing their engineering and programming skills during interactive and animated K'NEX workshops.

The sessions, which were delivered by STEMworks scientist Simon Kettle, started off with the girls and boys identifying the huge variety of engineering careers that are available. They then considered the question 'Are computers good or bad?'



The first hands-on task was to build and develop their prototype Ferris wheel, ensuring that lights flashed and the motor ran to accelerate, decelerate and reverse the direction of the ride.

The next challenge was for the participants to use what they had learned to meet the design criteria and be creative, developing their own ride and including music in the programming.

The pupils had a great day working as a team and experimenting with different techniques and it gave them a valuable insight into how computer programming and engineering are used in our daily lives.

Julia T said: **"It was amazing to do something that I wouldn't normally do in school, especially because I love programming."**

INQUISITIVE PUPILS

Senior School Headmaster Dr Owen was interviewed by Year Three children as part of their work in R.E and Philosophy.

The pupils have been learning about Buddhism, specifically looking at the role of leaders and how they impact our daily lives.

The children came up with a selection of questions to ask Dr Owen about his role at the school and the qualities he thinks are important to help him to lead the school.



FOOTBALLERS AT THE HOME OF THE BLUES

Year Three and Four football players travelled to Manchester City's Etihad indoor training complex to take part in a festival of fixtures against local schools.

The Year Four team finished with a resounding win after a mixed set of results and it was great to see them test their skills in a prestigious venue. The Year Three team also impressed at the East Manchester site and we look forward to them taking this form into the rest of the season.

