

TAKING / STOCK

Stockport Grammar
School Newsletter

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SCHOOL LIFE

HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

In difficult and unprecedented times, it often helps to take the long view. Stockport Grammar School has been in uninterrupted existence since it was founded in 1487 through the will of Edmund Shaa. SGS has survived wars, revolutions and economic upheavals of all sorts and continues to flourish. I am completing my second year as Headmaster of Stockport Grammar School and I have already outlasted fifteen of my predecessors who were overtaken by a range of maladies, financial woes and political difficulties, often fatal. Francis Lowe, Headmaster from 1586 until 1587, died of the plague. John Pollett, who became Headmaster at the tender age of nineteen in 1628, left Stockport a few months later leaving behind an alarming number of personal debts. Bradley Hayhurst was an enthusiastic supporter of the Parliamentary cause and had to step down in 1644 at the height of the Civil War when the Royalists captured Stockport.

Daniel Leech was dismissed in 1669, after less than a year, for incompetence. Equally, before I get too settled, it is worth noting that Rev Joseph Dale, who became Headmaster in 1703, died in office in 1752 having led the school for a mere forty-nine years. His successor, the Rev William Jackson, managed a lesser, though still undeniably impressive tenure of forty years. Whilst I very much enjoy leading SGS, I will be a centenarian if I stay as long as Rev Dale.

After being founded in a church in the centre of Stockport, the school moved to Chestergate in 1607 and then to Greek Street in 1832. The new school rooms allowed the Headmaster, Thomas Middleton, to teach 150 pupils from 8am until 5pm with a two-hour lunch break. The Head was assisted by an usher; the first usher William Bayles was described as 'impatient when overwrought', a description that could probably be applied to many people when teaching a class of 150 for thirty five hours per week.

The school moved to its current site in 1915 and continues to flourish; the ISI inspection earlier this academic year gave SGS the highest possible rating of 'Excellent'.



As a school community, we will always be forward looking, but it is sometimes wise to look backwards and celebrate the heritage and values of the school, sustained for more than 500 years. Stockport Grammar School has always tried to educate the whole person and prepare them for the rest of their lives. This is reflected in our three core priorities: academic ambition; beyond the classroom; care, community and character. The pages of this magazine give numerous examples of these priorities in action, priorities that I hope my predecessors as Headmaster would all recognise if they were here today.

Dr Paul Owen
Headmaster

ENGLISH SKILLS MASTERCLASS

Professional writer and speaker Paul Morris delivered an engaging English Skills Workshop for some of our Third Years.

Pupils were introduced to a question type that features on the IGCSE Edexcel English Language syllabus.

The output, which the group write using an image or statement as the stimulus, will be entered into the Portico Sadie Massey Awards competition.

The workshop is funded by The Portico Library in Manchester.



UNIVERSITY PREPARATIONS

As the Upper Sixth celebrated receiving offers from prestigious institutions across the country, it was time for the Lower Sixth to start their process of application. Not to be thwarted by the national school closure, Head of Sixth Form Mr David Stone devised a virtual Higher Education Conference with a series of video presentations prepared by SGS staff and a Google Meet for each student with their UCAS Adviser. Further video presentations, including advice from SGS alumni and university representatives will follow as the Lower Sixth continue their application process.



PERFECT PRESENTATIONS BY PUBLIC SPEAKING TEAMS

Two teams spoke brilliantly at the regional heats of the national 'English Speaking Union Churchill Public Speaking' competition.

The Third Year team of Grace Ensor-Adams, Alex Bloor and Scarlett Sim fluently and convincingly presented their argument that human rights are illusory. The Fourth Year team of

Evelina Gwynne, Joseph Eaton and Kate Horsley presented an amusing and engaging take on the need to mask disgust in social situations.

The pupils were superb throughout the event and the teachers commented that it was a pleasure to see their speaking and thinking skills develop significantly over the last few weeks.

PLAY CAPTIVATES AUDIENCES

Audiences enjoyed four amazing performances of 'Bethides', a new version of William Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' created by the Classics, English and Drama departments.

'Bethides', the school's fourteenth Classics Play, takes the dramatic intent of Shakespeare's play and incorporates the power of the original into the established structure of a Greek tragedy.

The play saw Nikolai Krywonos take on the role of Bethides; Katie Collier was Lady Bethides; Oliver Ensor-Adams was Duncan; Banquo was played by Rowan Sutton and Callum Barton was the Messenger.

Behind the scenes, students Chloe Almond, Evelina Gwynne, Sophie Pickup, Eloise Scott, Oliver Thorley and Ben

Wilson were in charge of lighting and sound; Ella Cook and Mrs Zoe Vernon created the costumes; Caroline Jenks and Mrs Helen Lawson looked after the make-up and the set was designed by Mr Dan Farrell.

Directors for the play were Mrs Esther Suttle and Mr Alastair Thorley and they also adapted the script alongside student Zoe Shah.

Mr Thorley said: "**Bethides was the successful culmination of the efforts of many staff and pupils. Dramatic costumes were created for the Chorus in particular and the cast were provided with a memorable set and atmospheric lighting.**

"All of this served to inspire committed and engaged performances every night."



AN EVENING OF MUSICAL DELIGHT

Pupils from First Year to Sixth Form earned rapturous applause from their Spring Term concert audience with performances that were full of joy and talent.

Junior Band opened the show with 'Dr Rock'. Whilst the newly formed barbershop trio The Be Sharps - consisting of Nikolai Krywonos, Teddy Hotchkies and Matthew Howling performed 'Baby on Board' and a fantastic arrangement of Beatles classics.

Another indication that Chamber Music continues to thrive at SGS is the addition of Cello Choir - a group of six cellos ranging from First Year to Lower Sixth - and they made a fantastic sound performing arrangements of the 'First Movement of Bach's 3rd Brandenburg Concerto'.

This concert provided the ideal opportunity for some of SGS's younger groups to perform and the newly combined Vox II performed popular classics including 'What About Us'.

The Guitar Group gave their first performance of the year with a rendition of 'There She Goes' by The La's.

Now in their second year, The Mayhemias comprising of Caitlin Cutts, Sarah Callow and Zoe Shah continue to perform in a range of styles.

The evening was brought to a close by Big Band, who were on fine form performing stylish versions of Dixieland favourite 'Ain't She Sweet' and 'Cool' from West Side Story which showed off their rhythmic playing superbly.

URBAN DESIGN WINS NATIONAL YOUNG PLANNER AWARD

Fourth Year Bella Platt scooped up the Young Planner Award at the Royal Institute of Town Planning's Awards for Planning Excellence.

Bella won both the 'Best Report/Concept' and 'Most Sustainable Project' awards for the 11-15 category of the nationwide competition.

The awards recognise best practice by highlighting exceptional examples of planning and celebrating the contribution that planners and planning make to society.

The competition tasked entrants to plan the future sustainable development of a local urban area and Bella based her project on an area of Salford. Bella, who started the process of planning and application in October, was coached by Geography teacher Dr Kirsten Owen.

Speaking about her success, Bella said: **"I was ecstatic when I found out that I had won. For the competition I wrote an essay and drew up some blueprints and sketches so it covered a number of subjects.**

"I created a project that I would want to live in myself and was keen to make it as eco-friendly and sustainable as I could."

Dr K Owen added: **"Bella produced a fantastic report for the competition. It outlined a forward-thinking sustainable concept that addressed issues such as community cohesion, sustainable transport and food production."**



EXCITING ENTERPRISE

Upcycled, SGS's Young Enterprise team, had the opportunity to present their business idea to a panel of business people at Price Waterhouse Coopers.

They impressed the judges with their upcycled business which produces decorative items made from disposed of CDs and DVDs in order to reduce e-waste within the community.

Most recently, the team progressed through to the Stockport and Tameside Showcase Event and on to the Greater Manchester County Final for the fifth year in a row.

The team's world map CD mosaics certainly won over the judges and, in doing so, the team also picked up the award for best customer service.



THIRD YEARS THRILLED BY AUTHOR VISIT

Third Year imaginations were captured as they listened intently to author M A Bennett who delivered an engaging talk in the Hallam Hall.

During her talk she announced that her book S.T.A.G.S has been picked up by 21st Century Fox to be adapted for the screen and that The Hunger Games screenwriter Peter Craig was on board.

The Manchester-born novelist, whose books include The Island, engrossed the audience as she talked about her school and university life, her career to date and her books.

The talk was the first author visit of 2020 and a host of eager pupils descended on the Library at lunchtime to ask her further questions about her stories and inspiration and to get signed and custom-stamped books.

Pupil Jack Purves said: **"I was interested to see how her life affected what she wrote. For example, in S.T.A.G.S she looks at the different classes of people and how the environment they are in can make people equal."**

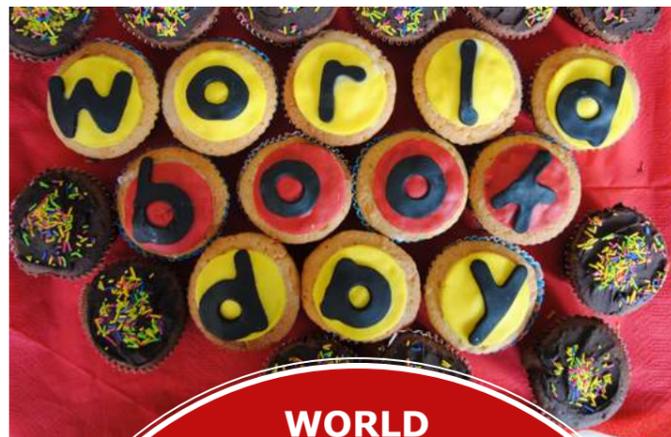


INSPIRATIONAL SHAA LECTURE

Alan Tomlinson, father of Old Stopfordians Mark and Naomi Tomlinson, came into SGS to talk to the Sixth Form about the Hero Project by the Anthony Nolan Trust which operates as the UK's principle blood stem cell and bone marrow donation register.

BURSARY FUND APPEAL

The Bursary Fund provides means-tested assistance to children joining SGS at age 11 and for Sixth Form. The coronavirus pandemic has also caused financial challenges for a number of families with children at the school. If you would like to make a donation to the fund to help families who need assistance with fees, please contact Mrs Rachel Horsford at externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk or visit stockportgrammar.co.uk/alumni/support-us/. We are very grateful for all support for the Fund.



WORLD BOOK DAY

SGS had a packed schedule for World Book Day, including the Big Book Swap and Cake Sale, hosted by the Library, which raised **£224** for the school's designated charities and Book Aid International.

During the day, pupils took part in a 'Title Quest' competition to list as many books as possible that were being championed by staff members wearing a tag on their lanyard. This prompted lots of mini book chats and helped pupils find out about good books.

Second Year Edward Griffiths was the winner of the competition with the longest list and many of the championed books are now on display in the Library so that pupils can follow up on those recommendations and get reading.

PETITION DELIVERED TO NO. 10

Eighteen Eco-Committee members from Stockport Grammar's Junior and Senior School travelled to 10 Downing Street to hand over a petition focused on reducing carbon emissions. The pupils have now had a formal letter from the government to acknowledge the petition.

The petition has amassed over 800 signatures and urges the government to adopt emission reducing ideas including more tree planting.

Whilst the pupils were in the capital they spent the day exploring a variety of sustainability themed attractions including the Royal Academy of Arts to see the Eco-Visionaries exhibition and the London Aquarium where they could read more about the conservation and protection of marine wildlife.

Speaking about the trip, Lower Sixth student Rabeeah-Nuur Mohammed said: **"Visiting the Eco-Visionaries exhibition at the Royal Academy was an eye-opening experience that very effectively showcased the consequences and imminent dangers of the climate crisis.**

"My highlight was being able to hand in our petition to 10 Downing Street, an opportunity I will always be grateful for and cherish for the rest of my life."

Junior School teacher Miss Sarah Knowles added: **"The passion and enthusiasm of the children was evident and it brought children from all ages together, exposing them to many ideas which we will continue to discuss over the next few months – providing a focus for the school to help towards gaining our Eco-Schools Green Flag Award."**





EXCITEMENT AS WORKS PROGRESS

SGS is committed to creating and developing the perfect environment for our pupils to enjoy learning.

The construction of new Sixth Form facilities is well underway and pupils were excitedly watching as the works progressed throughout the term.



The development will create a large, modern and well-equipped social space with a stunning glass roof for Lower and Upper Sixth Form students – further promoting the sense of community that underpins the success of SGS.

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



JAPANESE ADVENTURE FOLLOWS TRAVEL AWARD WIN

Lower Sixth student Ben Finlay-McDougall is in for the experience of a lifetime when he heads to Japan after winning this year's Albert Johnston Travel Award.

There were seven strong applications for the Award this year but Ben thoroughly impressed the judging panel, and picked up the £1,500 prize, with his detailed and engaging presentation entitled 'Japan – to understand the cultural differences throughout Japan through the use of theme parks, immersive attractions, culture and food'.

Ben is planning on studying Mechanical Engineering at university and would like to enter the theme park industry as a Rollercoaster Engineer or a Themed Attractions Engineer.

During his travels, Ben will take advantage of the numerous opportunities to connect with the country's unique traditional culture and he will be learning as much of the language as he can in the upcoming months so that he can be prepared for the cultural differences.

Ben commented:

"Japan is a country of biodiversity, value and respect."

Ben has been completing voluntary work at Cancer Research and The Wellspring. He says this has taught him the importance of valuing what he already has and of having people around him.



PHENOMENAL FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

SGS pupils have raised £4,244 for the school's three chosen charities – The Christie, The Wellspring Trust and Educaid through a number of events this year.

The annual Nicholson House Jumping Jacks Valentine's lunch was a hit again, raising £187.

Performances by SGS musicians created a lovely ambience for the pupils who enjoyed tucking into a tasty meal whilst their drinks were kept topped up by members of Nicholson acting as waiters.

Other charity events hosted this year included the Santa Dash raising £200 and non-uniform day which raised £1,515.

The national school closure interrupted the plans of the Sixth Formers who serve as Charity Captains but everyone involved can be very proud of this year's amazing fundraising.



ARTS

CHAMBER CHOIR PERFORM AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Members of SGS's Chamber Choir enjoyed a wonderful trip to the University of Oxford where they sang Evensong with the University College Chapel Choir and discovered more about university pathways.

The musicians were fascinated by a tour of University College led by a number of students, including Old Stopfordian Elsa Shah who is currently an organ scholar at the university.

It was followed by a Question and Answer session with University College's Director of Music Mr Giles Underwood and a Senior Tutor about future musical and non-musical pathways and opportunities in higher education.

The day concluded with the performance of Evensong under the direction of Mr Underwood and expertly accompanied on the organ by Elsa Shah.

SGS Director of Music Mr Michael Dow said: **"It was a fantastic experience; the pupils sang superbly in the Evensong service and they were a great credit to the school throughout the day."**

ARTIST SCOOPS UP AWARD

A massive congratulations to Upper Sixth student Hannah Franklin who won the U18 category at this year's Living Edge Magazine Schools' Art Competition.

The standard of the competition was very high and SGS is thrilled with Hannah's tremendous achievement.

Well done to Fifth Year pupil Lois McCarthy whose beautiful artwork was shortlisted in the U16 category.



DAZZLING CHICAGO

The talents and hard work of our actors, musicians, dancers and stage technicians came together beautifully at the dress rehearsal and pupil performances of Chicago. Sadly, the main performances could not go ahead because of the national COVID-19 restrictions but all those who were fortunate enough to see the production were amazed by the exceptional standard of the performances.

Holly Buckley as Roxie Hart, Grace Shropshire as Velma Kelly, Cam Wylie as Billy Flynn and Gabriel Keeble as Amos led a cast that truly dazzled as they sang, danced and acted their way through such classic numbers as "All That Jazz", "Cell Block Tango", "Mister Cellophane" and "Razzle Dazzle".

Their talents were matched by the musicians in the orchestra who, along with the pupils on stage, received a standing ovation. A dedicated team of pupils and staff brought together lighting, make-up, props and all the other back stage essentials to create a perfect theatrical experience.

Directed by Head of Drama Mr Matt King-Sayce, and with musical direction from Director of Music Mr Michael Dow and choreography by Dance teacher Mrs Abi Downing, Chicago was a true Drama, Music, Dance collaboration which took months of dedication to prepare.



SPORT

FOOTBALLERS REACH QUARTER FINAL

Congratulations to the Under 13 girls' football team on a closely fought match in the Quarter Final of the Sisters n Sport National Plate Competition.

In the Quarter Finals they hosted Easington Academy. An entertaining match saw the game finish 4-4 and extra time was required to separate the sides.

The away team then edged it to win with the narrowest of margins.

IMPRESSIVE NATIONAL CUP RUN

The Under 15 rugby squad put in a host of impressive cup performances as they reached the Quarter Finals of the National Cup.

Their cup run started back in October when they defeated Lymm High School 72-0 in the Last 32 of the Area Knockout.

A gritty and dedicated performance saw the boys earn a 26-15 victory against Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and secure their place in the National Cup Quarter Finals.

A closely fought game saw Stowe School come away with a 21-14 victory but the squad can take great heart from the fact their cup run meant that they were one of the best eight schools in the country at this age group.



For match reports and a list of fixtures and results for a range of SGS sports, visit our dedicated sports website. sport.stockportgrammar.co.uk/



SKILLFUL PLAY FOR PLATE

The Under 15 Hockey players can be rightly pleased with their efforts after they reached the Quarter Finals of the National Plate.

A brace from Libby Porter and strikes from Amy Jack and Talia Zelhof saw them earn a 4-1 victory over Moreton Hall in Round One.

In the Quarter Final they faced an away tie against Wakefield Girls' High School and home advantage proved decisive as the hosts secured a 3-1 win despite Holly Smith's goal.

NATIONAL HOCKEY SELECTION

Congratulations to Fifth Year Emily Edwards who has been selected for the Hockey Wales U16 team.

The midfielder, who plays for SGS and for Bramhall Hockey Club, attended a training camp in Cardiff.

IRELAND TOUR FOR KEEN FOOTBALLER

Fourth Year football player Harry Lynn had a great time playing for Stockport SFA U15s on their tour of Ireland.

The trip saw the team play three matches. Harry ended the tour on a high after bagging the winner with a left-footed 68th minute shot that earned them a 1-0 victory against Dublin City Team.



NETBALLERS IN THE NATIONALS

The Under 14 Netball team secured third place at the prestigious National Schools Finals which took place at the start of March.

After drawing their first couple of games, the girls went on a fantastic winning streak across the next six games with victories including Wellingborough School (13-3) and Taunton School (14-4).

These results saw them reach the Semi Finals where they faced Putney High School. The opposition were unfortunately too strong on the day

but the girls showed great determination and grit to earn an impressive bronze medal after seeing off Guildford High School 14-8 in the Third/Fourth playoff.

The team also finished with the best defensive record out of all the schools in the entire competition.

SGS's Head of Girls' Games, Mrs Laura Goddard said:

"It was a fantastic experience for the players and a school sporting memory they will never forget."

FANTASTIC RUGBY TOUR

Thirty U12 rugby players headed to the Midlands on a mini-tour.

On the Friday, they played a triangular fixture against Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and Solihull School before heading down to Warwick, their base for the night.

On Saturday, the boys played against two very strong Warwick School sides before heading to the Ricoh Arena to watch Wasps against Edinburgh Rugby in the European Rugby Champions Cup.

It was a fantastic trip and a great way for the U12s to end their first rugby season at SGS. The boys fully embraced the core values of rugby - teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship.

TENNIS PLAYER SERVES UP SUCCESS

Fourth Year tennis player Oliver Hague came back with an extra bit of baggage from an international U16 tournament in Stravanger, Norway after he won the doubles competition.

On the way to securing the title, Oliver and his partner Freddy Blaydes defeated the second, third and fourth seeds. At the tournament, Oliver also competed in the singles event.

He now looks ahead to the Grade One National Final at the National Tennis Centre in London where the best U14 boys in the UK will be competing.

RUNNING FOR GOLD

First and Second Year pupils took part in House Cross Country.

In First Year, Arden were first; Vernon second; Nicholson third; and Warren fourth. Medal winners for the boys were Hugo Cooke (1st); Oisín Atkinson (2nd); and Finn Haisley (3rd) and for the girls it was Caitlin Hill (1st); Maisie Keyes (2nd); and Florence Hughes (3rd).

In the Second Year competition, Nicholson finished top; Warren came second; Arden were third and Vernon ended up fourth. Medal winners for the boys were Ben Lavender (1st); Josh Roberts (2nd); and Tom Farrelly (3rd) and for the girls it was Lucy Vine (1st); Emily Carolan (2nd); and Tamsin Emery (3rd).



REMOTE LEARNING

Following government guidelines, the school closed to most pupils from the end of the day on Friday 20th March. Extensive use has been made of electronic resources, with staff keeping in regular contact with pupils to support them pastorally and academically.

"I have to say that I'm really blown away with the level of work, support and care you are providing, it is amazing! I just wanted to let you know how grateful we are

INSPIRATION AND LEARNING

Across the school, innovative ways have been found to deliver online teaching and provide pastoral support. Our teachers have used a range of platforms including Google Meets, Google Classroom, Satchel One, the Pupil Portal, email and Classlist.

In the Senior School, pupils have enjoyed regular video assemblies from the Headmaster Dr Paul Owen. The Sixth Form team have continued to support university preparations with a series of video presentations to guide students through the process.

Departments have also created a variety of videos to support remote learning. Pupils can now watch a wide range of science experiments featuring SGS staff: from Fractional Distillation with Dr Annie Glarvey to Projectiles Demonstrations with Miss Ruth Moore. The Physics department alone has videoed nearly 40 experiments.

Videos in the Design Technology department include an introduction to the piercing saw. Head of Food and Nutrition Miss Sarah Hodkinson has demonstrated a range of recipes including Macaroni Cheese, teaching Second Year pupils how to make the dish and about the process of gelatinisation.

The school's musicians have been taking part in not only virtual rehearsals but also performances, which can be enjoyed by following SGS Twitter, Instagram or Facebook. The performances have included a

as a family and that we really do appreciate all the efforts that you and all your wonderful staff are making." (Parent)

A small number of pupils whose parents are key workers have been cared for in school. At the time of writing, our Junior School pupils in Pre-Reception, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and our Senior School Fourth Year and Lower Sixth have just returned to school.



stunning version of Bellin's 'Vaga Luna, Che Inargenti' by Fourth Year Ella Moran, accompanied by Director of Music Mr Michael Dow; while five percussionists came together to play 'In The Box', a new piece composed by SGS Percussion teacher Mr Mark Landon.

Meanwhile, First Year pupils joined Mr Ollie Johnson on a virtual 'trip' to The British Library in London as they explored 'The Treasures Room' and the 'Harry Potter: A History of Magic Exhibition' together using Google Meet and the Google Arts and Culture platform.



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Junior School pupils have been delighted to receive regular video messages from Headmaster Mr Tim Wheeler who had some help from Moose and his endearing puppet friends. With regular support and encouragement, children from across the Junior School have risen to the challenge of home learning.



SCIENCE INVESTIGATIONS

Year Three pupils helped Miss Knowles to set up an investigation to find out about the function of leaves, with plants being monitored over a series of weeks. Year Four used their daily outings to carry out litter walks, choosing categories and designing a tally chart to record their results.

KEEPING ACTIVE AND WELL

The Sports department devised a variety of sporting challenges and activities for all.

Pupils took part in an exciting challenge that involved an SGS 'race' to the Tokyo Olympics 2021 and a UK Inter-School Competition.

Pupils, staff and parents covered over 18,000 miles in the challenge. (Correct at time of publication)

SGS is grateful for the support of the alumni who sent in challenge videos that were made available for the whole school community to enjoy via email and SGS social media.

INGENIOUS PROJECTS

Reception made a great start to their new topic on animals. The children made fantastic animal spotting hideouts, pet shops and junk model animals.

Year One pupils enjoyed learning about buoyancy with a task to design and make a pirate ship which would float. Edith's mum said: **"Edith loved making her boat, complete with pirate, canon and gangplank and made an excellent prediction about why it might float."**

Story time with Mrs Sullivan has been a regular treat for Year Three who have enjoyed watching and listening to her read entertaining stories such as Dick King-Smith's 'The Hodgehog' and 'The Diary of a Killer Cat' by Anne Fine.

VIRTUAL POETRY

Pupils have joined their teachers on Google Classroom as they continue their reading, writing, mathematics and wider learning.

As part of Year Six's English Lessons, staff set up "Poets' Corner". Pupils were encouraged to join, so that they can share and respond to each other's poems and attend Poetry Meets.

The virtual club has inspired some amazing creativity including Viola P's atmospheric poem 'The Boy' about a werewolf.

KEEPING CREATIVE

Junior School Headmaster Mr Tim Wheeler asked pupils to send in their 'Share A Smile' pictures and the creativity of pupils was inspiring.

Beth H in Reception created a colourful drawing of herself with a smile whilst Year Three pupil Zoe L designed a smiley face in front of a rainbow – tying into the NHS rainbow initiative that youngsters took part in around the country.



HELPING THE COMMUNITY

Whilst staff worked hard to continue to develop the minds of our pupils with virtual learning, the whole SGS community also joined together to support the wider Stockport community.

THANK YOU TO OUR NHS

Former SGS swimming teacher, Kristy Franklin took boxes of donations to Stepping Hill Hospital.

Now a midwife, Kristy was appreciative of the toiletries donated by staff, pupils and parents for NHS staff.

Junior School children were busy making posters to thank the NHS and all those who care for us.

Some of the images appeared on display in the Emergency Department at Macclesfield District General Hospital.

Parent Mrs Joanna Raynes works there and has said that the posters – which include ones from Year Three pupil Ellie R and Year Five pupil Sophia M – have received lots of lovely comments from patients and staff and brighten up the department.



TASTY BAKING

As part of their Food and Nutrition lessons, Second Year pupils made some carrot cakes for their practical work.

It was wonderful to see that the baking by Charlotte Carson was enjoyed by NHS staff.

EQUIPMENT DONATIONS

SGS were made aware of calls for extra PPE donations for the Stockport NHS Foundation Trust. To support this, SGS's Science departments donated science equipment.

Following on from this, the school also put together donations of more science equipment to give to a local care home.

Meanwhile, Design Technology worked hard to produce face shields for NHS workers.

CHALLENGES FOR CHARITY

In the Junior School, Headmaster Tim Wheeler ran the London Marathon... in his own back garden to raise money for The Little Princess Trust.

Six SGS families raised money for the Emmeline's Pantry with their 'Tour De Lockdown' which saw them run, walk and cycle a combined 3,500km.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

PUPILS TACKLE INTERNET SAFETY

To mark Safer Internet Day, Junior School children took part in a number of activities.

The older pupils attended an assembly where the topic was 'Together For A Better Internet' - this year's global Safer Internet Day theme - whilst the Infant pupils' assembly looked at keeping personal information safe.

INTRIGUING SCIENCE INVESTIGATIONS

Year Five pupils learnt about air resistance by making parachutes, with different sized chutes, out of bin bags and string.

They tested the parachutes by dropping them from a height to the ground and timed how long it took. They did this three times for each parachute to find an average time.

After assessing their results, they discovered that the parachute with the largest chute was the slowest because it created more air resistance.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

A group of Year Six pupils held an assembly where they delivered a presentation highlighting a number of inspirational women.

The girls compiled some independent research after reading Frances Hardinge's award winning book 'The Lie Tree' which highlights misogynistic attitudes. They turned their thorough research into a display that is on show in the reception area.

The group of inspirational women included Rosa Parks, Ada Lovelace, Marie Curie, Fadumo Q Dayib, Mamie Phipps Clark, Ellie Simmonds and Onjali Rauf, who recently visited the school.

Their work inspired Year Four pupil Freddie L so much that he read up about spy Virginia Hall and joined them at the front of the assembly.

MAGICAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Year Three and Four pupils enjoyed performing their class ensemble pieces.

Year Three delivered sensitive and accurate performances on a whole variety of instruments including ukuleles, cellos, violins, keyboards and drums to mention but a few.

Year Four rose to the challenge of tackling some of the fastest pieces in their classical repertoire, including the 'William Tell Overture' and the 'Can Can'. A wide range of solos were performed at all musical levels by pupils who are taking instrumental lessons.

Well done to everyone who took part.



During the day, Reception listened to 'Buddy The Dog's Internet Safety Story' and learnt a song to help them remember how to use the internet safely. Year One listened to a story about 'Smartie The Penguin' keeping safe on the internet and Year Two made a 'Safety On The Internet' jigsaw.

Year Four used an interactive learning package to gain knowledge of staying safe, successfully completed tasks relating to e-mail, and social media use, and engaged in class discussions about the hidden dangers of the web. They learned what to do if something upsets them and used iPads to make an avatar to represent themselves.



SPECTACULAR SUPERHEROES

Reception pupils unleashed their inner superhero as they donned capes to enjoy a WOW day.

Throughout the day, they took part in a number of activities, including a Superhero Training Camp with events such as 'The Iron Map Leap', 'The Flash Dance', 'The Hulk Smash', 'Superman Speed' and 'Spiderman Crawl'.



NEW PRE-RECEPTION BUILDING

Construction of the new Pre-Reception building has begun, enabling us to develop our facilities for our youngest children and to continue to provide an exceptionally high standard of education and care. In addition, the project brings an opportunity to develop and extend outdoor play and learning spaces for children across the Junior School age range. There have been a number of other exciting developments for Junior School children this year, including the construction of new changing rooms and new all weather surfaces in the Quad.

The new Pre-Reception building will be completed in Autumn 2020.



ASTONISHING LITERARY ADVENTURES

SGS Juniors had a busy time immersing themselves in books as they celebrated World Book Day and enjoyed engrossing talks from award-winning authors.

The national theme for World Book Day this year was 'share a million stories' and the Junior School's broad theme within this was 'adventure'.

In Pre-Reception and Reception, the children shared Rachel Bright and Jim Field's wonderful picture book, *'The Way Home for Wolf'*.

Pre-Reception children enjoyed listening to the story and talked excitedly about Wolf's winter journey home.

Reception pupils made the most of the beautiful pictures and descriptive language in the book, each writing their own sensational setting description.

Year One and Two children were captivated by *'The Bear and the Piano'* by David Litchfield and took part in a range of activities including creating their own bear hats and designing furry masks to reflect different emotions.

Year Three and Four were taken on an urban adventure in *'The Promise'* by Nicola Davies. Our Year Three pupils reflected on the change in urban environment and subsequent changes in emotion of the characters, and portrayed these in emotion graphs. Creating textured vocabulary flowers to inspire and create poetic songs, in response to *'The Promise'*. kept our budding Year Four poets busy throughout the day too.

'The Widow's Broom' by Chris Van Allsburg was Year Five's book choice. With their creative hats on and pens at the ready, they were all determined to write engaging descriptions, powerful poetry and clear instructions.

Year Six pupils took a step back in time as they listened to Paul Fleischman's book *'The Matchbox Diary'*. They were inspired to create their own written descriptions of personal memories, linked to their own special objects.



NEW HEAD OF SGJS

We are delighted that Mr Matthew Copping is joining SGJS as Head in September 2020. Matthew is currently Headteacher of Brooklands Primary School in Sale and is married with two children.

Chairman of Governors Mr Christopher Dunn: **"Matthew's wide experience and engaging approach meant that he was the unanimous choice of the Governors to lead SGJS. I look forward to working with Matthew over the coming years to secure the best possible education for all our Junior School pupils."**

Mr Matthew Copping said: **"I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed as the Head of SGJS. I am excited to have been given the opportunity to lead the school having witnessed the fantastic attitudes the children have towards learning and the clear commitment of all the staff in recognising and celebrating each pupil as an individual."**

Mr Tim Wheeler has been Head of SGJS since 2014 and is also Chair of the Little Princess Trust. In 2019, he received an MBE in recognition of his services to charity and education. Under his leadership, SGJS achieved

the highest ISI Inspection rating of "Excellent".

Mr Tim Wheeler: **"It is now nearly seven years since I first visited SGJS and I still remember clearly the sense of welcome and of warmth that I felt when I walked in the door. That first impression has stayed with me and I have tried throughout my time at the school to build on that strong sense of community. It has also been important that we challenge and inspire the children and I have encouraged them to set ambitious targets. The response of the children, their willingness to explore, their enthusiasm and energy, have been fantastic. They are the ones who create the happy buzz that is daily life at SGJS. For a school is, ultimately, a collection of people, both children and adults, who share experiences, learn and play together. They are what makes SGJS and I shall take with me many happy memories of those with whom I have shared my time at the school."**

Thank you Mr Wheeler for your fantastic leadership of SGJS.



SPORTING TRIO CELEBRATE MEDAL SUCCESS

A trio of young sporting stars from the Junior School have been celebrating their success after scooping up a host of medals at County Championship competitions.

Year Six pupil, Arthur W, represented Stockport Metro Swimming Squad in the Cheshire County Swimming Championships.

His hard work and training certainly paid off at the championships where he won three gold medals in the 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke races as well as two silvers in the 100m and 200m individual medleys.

Meanwhile, Year Six Cross Country runners Molly M and Lucy J have been representing Stockport at the Greater Manchester Schools Cross Country Championships.

The talented runners did extremely well at the high level competition with Molly M taking third place in the U11 category and Lucy J coming in fourth place.

SGJS PE and Games teacher, Mr Martin Cooke said: **"We are very proud of Arthur, Molly and Lucy not only for their performances but also for the resilience and grit that they show in their training and commitment to sport."**



JUNIORS USE CODING SKILLS

Pupils from Year Two and Year Six enjoyed taking part in engaging, educational and fun Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) workshops delivered by STEMworks.

Year Two pupils learnt how to construct chicken and cat robots.

The children worked with a partner to create their robots and used advanced coding to make them move, dance, flash their eyes and even detect a visitor.

Year Six pupils demonstrated a range of skills including creativity, planning and teamwork as they took part in a number of challenges.

Under the careful supervision of Mr Kettle, the children had the opportunity to program Lego robots and compete in the Ultimate BP STEM Challenge where they designed their own pieces of 'wearable' tech.



JUNIORS AMAZE IN MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Year Five and Six pupils took part in the Junior Model United Nations.

The topic was 'Big Game Hunting' and the countries represented included Italy, Brazil, Russia, Peru, Spain, Canada and the United Kingdom.

The club is a great starting point for pupils who can continue their desire to debate by joining the Model United Nations club in Senior School.

TASTY SHROVE TUESDAY

To mark Shrove Tuesday, Pre-Reception pupils had a fascinating time making their own scotch pancakes.

The children discovered the reason for Shrove Tuesday and were delighted to make the pancake batter.

Whilst making the batter, pupils enjoyed learning about where the ingredients came from and excitedly discussed their favourite pancake toppings.

Prior to the day of baking, the pupils had been reading the book 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes'.



ECO-CONSCIOUS JUNIORS TAKE ACTION

As part of Waste Week 2020 in the Spring Term, children across the Junior School took part in activities to learn how society can try to contain and process waste.

Pre-Reception looked at Julia Donaldson's story of 'The Snail And The Whale', talking about oceans and plastic waste and the effect on sea creatures.

Alice J said: **"It's bad for the environment and it can hurt all the animals in the whole wide world. It's just bad and makes the animals die, and our animals are helpful."**

Other activities in the school saw pupils learning about the impact of plastic tooth brushes on the environment, researching statistics about plastic waste and continuing their work on saving water.

Pupils in the Junior School have joined with those in the Senior School to create an eco-committee which aims to look at making the school greener. Junior and Senior School members of the committee travelled to 10 Downing Street to present a petition focused on reducing carbon emissions.



CRICKET SQUAD SELECTIONS

Well done to Year Six pupil Daniel D who has been selected for the U11 Tameside Regional Cricket squad for the 2020 season.

