



# OLD STOPS' REVIEW

ISSUE 10 2020

Photograph credit:  
Nicola Thomson Photography

**ABIGAIL DEAN** Pg 11

**DR LUCY  
WORTHINGTON**  
Pg 6



**RICHARD  
KIRBY**  
Pg 8



**REMOTE  
LEARNING**  
Pg 12



## IN THIS ISSUE...

- 2 HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE
  - 3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2019-20
  - 4 FROM THE HELM
  - 5 TRAVEL AWARD WINNER
  - 6 DR LUCY WORTHINGTON
  - 8 RICHARD KIRBY
  - 10 FAISAL TAYAN
  - 11 ABIGAIL DEAN
  - 12 REMOTE LEARNING
  - 13 OLD STOPS' EVENTS
  - 14 SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS
  - 16 SGS HIGHLIGHTS
- 

WHERE  
ARE THEY  
NOW?  
PG 18
- 21 ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - 24 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

# Headmaster's Welcome

## 'Excellent'

is as good as it gets and the whole school community was delighted to achieve this highest of ratings in the Independent Schools Inspection visit in November 2019.

Both the Junior and Senior schools gained the enviable 'excellent' award separately for the pupils' achievements and for their personal development.

I am extremely proud of this external validation of the outstanding education that Stockport Grammar School provides.



Pupils' achievements have given us much to celebrate this year. More than one quarter of our pupils have represented the school in sport during the last 12 months. Amongst a number of highlights, the U15 rugby team and the U15 hockey team both reached the last 8 of the national competitions and the U14 netball team played at the national finals. The school has focused on improving the pupils' opportunities in the performing arts this year with an expansion of Drama both within the curriculum and outside. Productions of 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Chicago' have showcased the huge amount of thespian talent within the school.

In Music the usual array of concerts has delighted large audiences with the range and quality of the ensembles on display; the musical contributions to Remembrance Day, the Carol Service and Founder's Day were all fantastic. Outdoor pursuits remain popular with more pupils taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme than ever before. The GCSE and A level exam results remain impressive and we continue to help our pupils gain entry into some of the most competitive university courses.

I am just as proud of our pupils' personal development. I lunch with groups of pupils twice each week and it is an absolute pleasure to see them speak with such maturity about their experiences and enthusiasms. House events, assemblies, trips, charitable fund-raising and the vibrant School Council all foster a sense of confidence and community and the ability to work effectively with others.

Throughout the national school closure, SGS continued to function remotely for most year groups with our teachers providing a huge variety of different electronic resources as well as lessons delivered by video-conferencing. Regular sports challenges, a virtual trips day to museums, zoos and sports stadia worldwide enlivened many pupils' routines. A small number of pupils whose parents are key workers were cared for in school. In the second half of the Summer Term, we were delighted to welcome our Junior School pupils in Pre-Reception, Reception, Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6 and our Senior School Fourth Year and Lower Sixth back to school.



We continue to invest in facilities and provide the best possible educational opportunities for our pupils. The Sixth Form Quad has been equipped with an elegant glass roof to provide a year-round social space for all our Sixth Formers. The nearby rooms have been refurbished to provide fantastic study spaces with all of the furniture and fixtures chosen by members of the Sixth Form. Shaa House, which has provided accommodation for several Headmasters, briefly including me, has been demolished. The footprint of the house and its garden are currently a building site as an innovative, purpose-built pre-reception building slowly takes shape. The new facility will be ready for Autumn 2020, together with the landscaped areas around the building, forming an exceptionally stimulating environment for our youngest pupils.

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*"I am just as proud of our pupils' personal development."*

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The strength and vibrancy of our school community is rooted in a continuing commitment to the wishes of our founder, Edmund Shaa, to ensure that talented children from Stockport are given every opportunity to develop personally and to achieve highly regardless of the financial circumstances of their family. The generosity of many individuals and organisations allows us to support 11+ and Sixth Form pupils through their time at SGS and any donation, however modest, helps to transform the life chances of young people in Stockport. I hope that you enjoy reading this magazine and are encouraged and inspired by the stories.

**Dr Paul Owen**  
Headmaster



## President's Message 2019-2020

Stockport Grammar School is brimming with enthusiasm, talent and fun. I have had a wonderful time not only in observing the wide range of activity pursued, but also in being able to attend a school's events in 2019 as neither pupil nor parent.

My time as President began as Tim Stretton retired after the Old Stopfordian Dinner in March 2019. Tim did a great job as President and has since been very helpful in guiding me through the school calendar – for both of which I offer him many thanks.

What have been the highlights of the year? The Art Exhibition in May 2019 was a lovely occasion when the work of GCSE and A level students – including work books – was displayed. I was struck and encouraged by the high level of engagement with both current world issues and the local area that was on show.

Speech Day 2019 followed and was a reminder of past days spent in a hot theatre dreaming of summer – but at least I didn't have to wear a heavy gown as well unlike the Headmaster. I did though enjoy seeing the recognition of the achievements of all pupils and staff, and was honoured to be able to add my thanks at the end to the guest speaker, Ben Heason, and all associated with the school. June 2019 also included the Summer

Reunion, which was a wonderful chance to get together in a relaxed, informal setting. I wholeheartedly recommend this event to Old Stopfordians of all ages – on their own or in groups – as there is always someone to talk to about the school and friends.

The school year then moved into autumn and winter. I was privileged to attend an exceptional Remembrance Service. The formal event in the main school hall was dignified and thoughtful and this was matched by quite outstanding readings and music – and lunch – in the Hallam Hall. I also very much enjoyed the Autumn Concert and Carol Service, the latter jolting me firmly into new renditions of carols in St. George's Church.

School life is obviously now heavily affected by the issue of Covid-19. I wish all pupils the very best in their efforts to continue their education and thank the staff for all they are doing. I hope big school events can return before too long.

My final thanks must go to all in the External Relations team for all they do for the Old Stopfordian community. Rachel Horsford, Rebecca Shawcross and Stuart Helm in particular have been tremendously helpful to me and it is much appreciated.

**Graham Earles**  
OS (1983)

# From the Helm: Forty years of girls at SGS

When in 1980 the Governors voted to admit girls, they could hardly have anticipated the effect their action would have on the life of the school.

Now, 40 years later, it remains one of the most significant and progressive decisions in the School's history.

Having bought the former Convent site and anticipating increased running costs, the plan was to increase numbers in stages to about 1,000 taking account of the demand for places for girls and at least a moral commitment to take some of the Convent's Sixth Formers when it closed. What the Governors had not foreseen was the enthusiasm with which the decision was received and the strong sense of excitement and determination to succeed by all involved in the process. If there were any lingering doubts these very soon disappeared as the new entrants quickly adapted to their new environment. In the event, 83 boys and 66 girls entered the school at 11 in September 1980 and an initial entry of 22 girls into the sixth form. Some 25 girls entered the Junior School at 7+.

There were no major incidents although some staff took longer than others to acknowledge the change in circumstances. There were some amusing situations as teachers, boys and girls took a little time to adjust to their new status. One such issue, a reflection of the times, was what to call the pupils in the new situation. Some staff were uncomfortable with the idea of using forenames, but girls could hardly have been called by their surnames. In the event it clearly became necessary to use both forenames and surnames for both boys and girls.

All issues were sorted fairly quickly, and a new normality began to prevail. After just a few weeks the presence of girls caused almost no comment and the older intake in particular had begun to participate in all areas of school life, as one member of staff put it 'as though they had been in the school for years'.

**Stuart Helm**  
SGS Archivist



## Facebook Memories:

Lacrosse February 4: Stockport Cup winning team: 1982.

## Timothy Stretton:

Was a great day beating Cheadle Hulme School in a fairly tight match if I remember. (Queen on the ghetto blaster!) Start of a strong era for lacrosse at SGS.

## Suheal Ali Khan:

Wow...that brings back a few memories....I think that was the best all round team I ever played for...everyone fitted together like a jigsaw....a great day...especially as Cheadle Hulme had their Lacrosse master playing for them... That team of 81-82 also won the League.







## A dip into the archives

Simon Conway recently shared a photograph of his Quincentenary Year spoon and recalled the time Princess Anne came to visit as part of the celebrations.



Mark Lloyd recalled speaking to Princess Anne for a short time in the Quad. He tells us **"I've since been part of the Special Escort Group responsible for her security on visits to Manchester. She has to sit behind her driver, the only Royal to do so after an incident in the seventies where someone tried to abduct her from her vehicle."**

When asked about Princess Anne's personality Mark tells us Princess Anne is **"incredibly gracious and appreciative of the officers that provide her security. She always passes on her personal thanks."**

## Japanese adventure to follow after Travel Award win



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

There were seven strong applications for the Award this year but Ben thoroughly impressed the judging panel and scooped up the £1,500 prize.

This year's judging panel was made up of Head of Psychology and Award organiser Hannah Larkin, Bursar Chris Watson, Governor Chris Muscutt, Archivist Stuart Helm and Old Stopfordians – and former winners – Hayley Shepherd (OS 2007) and Oliver Hopwood (OS 2003).

Ben's detailed and engaging presentation entitled 'Japan – to understand the cultural differences throughout Japan through the use of theme parks, immersive attractions, culture and food' captivated the room of judges.

He 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.

He notes that theme parks have been pushing the boundaries of technology for years and he hopes to see the ways that Japan are

making their creative developments different to match the cultural differences and to utilise new technologies.

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.

Ben said: **"Japan is a country of biodiversity, value and respect"** and he has been completing voluntary work at Cancer Research and The Wellspring which has taught him the importance of valuing what he already has and of having people around him.

Hannah Larkin commented: **"The applications for this year's Award were of an extremely high standard and it certainly made it a very difficult decision for the panel. Ben's proposal was outstanding and very unique – his passion for rollercoasters and his desire to be a Rollercoaster Engineer or a Themed Attractions Engineer shone through."**





# Dr Lucy Worthington

BSc MRCVS CertESM  
OS 2009 and Head Girl

## What inspired you to become a vet?

I remember wanting to be a vet from a very young age – I was animal mad and lucky enough to grow up with a family dog and fortunate enough to care for and ride ponies. From the moment I took our fox terrier 'Basil' to the vets for a puppy socialisation class I knew I wanted to be a vet.

Even now, I couldn't think of anything better than hanging out with animals all day; delivering them care and attention. My job doesn't differ too much from that childhood dream. The only difference is that I get to hang out with racehorses all day.

## How did SGS help you reach your dream career?

My interest in veterinary medicine evolved during my time at SGS. A group of fantastic science teachers inspired and helped me get the necessary grades I needed to be admitted to Bristol University to study veterinary science. I was also inspired by my dear friend, OS and former Head Girl, Samantha Mundy, who was determined to be a vet. Being a couple of years older than me, she acted as my unofficial mentor.

## When did you become involved with racehorses?

After graduating and working for two years in the UK as an equine vet, I struggled to follow my desired next step – to enter the world of horse race veterinary.

Over the last 15 years, my passion for horse racing has become quite formidable. I'd admit that I 'live and breathe' the sport and admire greatly the beautiful, brave animals that make it. I knew I wanted to work with racehorses and I was keen to be their day to day vet, dealing with training injuries and helping them reach their peak in physical and mental fitness in preparation for races.

## Why did you make the move to Australia?

Australia was never part of the 'life plan'. It seemed that despite growing up around horses, having worked for years in the racing industry and having my vet degree, I wasn't making much progress in securing a job as a racehorse GP. So, I decided to look further afield.

During a month's 'career break' back in April 2016, I flew over to Melbourne to spend some time with my third cousin Dr Bill Wilde. A dentist by profession, he became very well known in the City of Warrnambool, Victoria both as 'the'

dentist and also as an aspiring (and now highly regarded), racehorse trainer. I've always been amazed at how Bill ran his two livelihoods so successfully for so many years. He got me thinking that maybe Australia was the place to be to find new opportunities. Within a week of living beside the sea, with Bill, his family and the racehorses, I was determined to find a job as a racehorse vet in Australia. After some research, I found several positions to apply for and soon I was on a plane to Sydney to meet Dr Tim Roberts about my suitability to practice as a racehorse vet at his business, Centennial Park Veterinary Practice. Finally, I felt like I was making progress and soon back on the plane to Manchester to break the news to my family that I had a job to start in July.

## Tell us about life in Australia.

I've spent the last three and a half years as an employee of Dr Roberts at the Melbourne branch of the practice. I am extremely grateful to him for employing me and giving me the chance to do what I do best – to work intuitively with these equine athletes and to provide them with my upmost care. I work independently for two eminent racehorse trainers – this year's Melbourne Cup and Oaks winning trainer, Danny O'Brien and Australia's Champion trainer, Chris Waller.

*"My interest in veterinary medicine evolved during my time at SGS. A group of fantastic science teachers inspired and helped me get the necessary grades I needed to be admitted to Bristol University to study veterinary science."*

Every working day, I visit both stables and tend to each individual that needs my attention. Most days I can't anticipate exactly what I'll be up to, there may be routine post-race treatments to give, a wound to suture, an ache or pain stemming from a muscle or a common 'cold' to treat. The horses all have individual personalities with certain likes and dislikes and quirks. Understanding these personalities means that I can often tell if someone is uncomfortable or just 'not quite right'. As a team, we work tirelessly to ensure that these horses, who are training and racing at the elite level, want for nothing.

**Do you have any career highlights so far?**

There have been so many already and I know there will be more to come. To note, I've had the privilege of attending to the World's best racehorse 'Winx' (trained by Chris Waller). I feel extremely blessed to have played a part, as her 'Melbourne' vet. Winx retired to become a mum earlier this year and although I miss seeing her, it's great to see her settle so well in retirement.

In November 2019, an unassuming big chestnut horse called 'Vow and Declare' (trained by Danny O'Brien), won the prestigious Melbourne Cup. I can't describe how proud I am of this horse who won 'the race that stops the nation', after only a handful of race starts. Results like this make the early starts and unsociable hours well worth it.





# Richard Kirby Wildlife Cameraman

OS 1977

When Richard started filming in 1983 he had never picked up a camera before. But now more than 30 years later his fascinating career has seen him scoop up a BAFTA, an Emmy and work closely with Sir David Attenborough.

Most recently, he worked with Attenborough on a new documentary series 'Our Planet', in collaboration with the WWF and Netflix. The programme aims to showcase the world's natural wonders, iconic species and amazing wildlife spectacles. The series is showing on Netflix now.

Richard left SGS in 1977 and went on to study Applied Biology at the University of London but when it came to graduation he was driven in other directions by his passions. He tells us: **"I wasn't very academic at school, even in Biology. I think I was more of a naturalist and just wanted to spend time exploring outdoors in remote**

**regions of the world. I grew up wishing I had lived a hundred years earlier and spent my life as a Victorian explorer. The school trip I lived for was the annual Easter hiking trip to Corsica."**

After graduating, Richard joined several research-based sailing expeditions; from there he went to the Commonwealth Institute in Holland Park and to the Natural History Museum in London.

**"When I was younger, I spent most of my spare time catching insects around our home in Adlington and, on the school Easter Corsica trip, lizards and tree frogs which at that time of**

**year were just emerging from hibernation. I had read Gerald Durrell's classic 'My Family and Other Animals' and it seemed to me this was as close as I was going to get to that exotic childhood I craved and I loved every minute of it,"** he explains.

Then, at the age of 12, Richard read the 'Zoo Quest to Guyana' written by David Attenborough and it inspired his pursuit for a career that involved exploring the great wonders of the natural world. **"I had two ambitions, the first was to have a job like Sir Attenborough, or at least to be his assistant. The second was to climb to the top of Mount Roraima, the**





highest of the Tepuis, the monolithic mountains that rise out of the jungle and savannah on the border between Brazil, Venezuela and Guyana. This was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *'Lost World'* and David Attenborough had described the mountain in his book but had not made it to the top. To me it was the most mysterious place in the world, a mountain with its top hidden in the clouds and in Conan Doyle's world was inhabited by dinosaurs.

"Twenty-two years later I travelled with David to Mount Roraima where we camped for 10 days filming the unique plant and animal life living up there in the clouds. It was then and still is the most spectacular place I have visited, but sadly we didn't find any dinosaurs."

Richard has led a diverse career, travelling the world and capturing footage that most people could never imagine seeing. He's now received major photography credits for more than 80 high-end television programs, series, feature films and commercials. These include Peter Greenaway's *'A Zed and Two Noughts'* and the BBC features *'Deep Blue'*, *'Earth'* and *'One Life'* to *'Attenborough in Paradise'*, *'Wild Africa'*, *'How the Earth Made Us'* and *'Human Planet'*.

"I spent the best part of five years during the Cold War years in central Siberia in the Soviet Union where I was the first westerner allowed since before the Cold War. It was five years living in what felt like a spy movie where I was followed everywhere by men with turned up collars driving black Zils – the KGB. Lake Baikal in central Siberia is still my favourite place on Earth."

"In 2004, I travelled the length of the River Nile for the highly acclaimed epic BBC series *'Nile'*, a unique blend of drama, history, documentary and wildlife and my film, *'Chimps – The Dark Side'* was Britain's biggest selling production of 2006," he says.

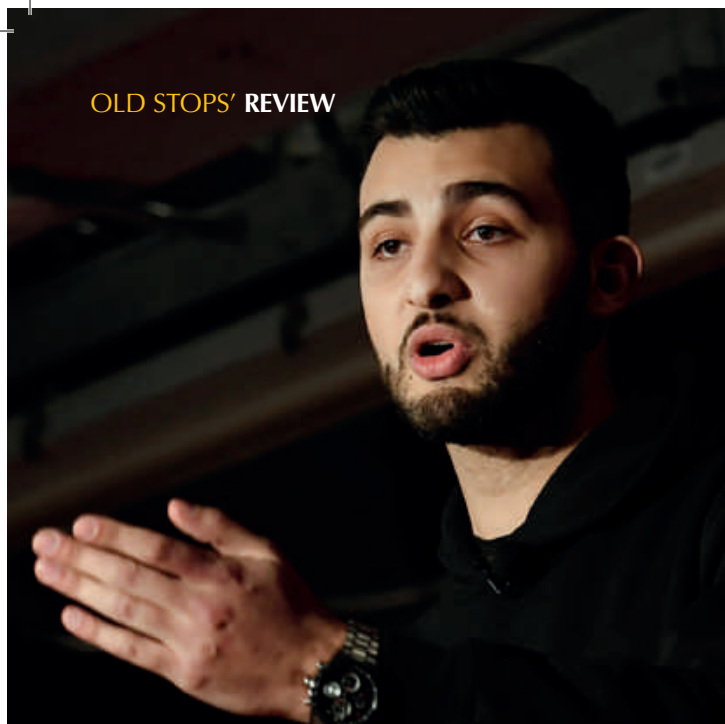
Moving forward, between 2010 and 2013, Richard was series director and Director of Photography for 33 episodes of the *'Wildest'* strand for Discovery Channel which took him on a voyage of exploration through Africa, South America, India and finally 10 episodes about the World's most diverse islands. More recent credits include, *'Wonders of the Monsoon'*, *'Attenborough's Paradise Birds'* for the BBC and *'Darren Aronofsky's One Strange Rock'* for National Geographic. Forthcoming releases include the most ambitious project ever attempted to film the life

of small animals for a new Apple TV series and a major new Netflix series called *'Life on Our Planet'* to be released in 2023 and 2024.

"When I started as a filmmaker, there were perhaps just 30 wildlife camera operators in the world. It was a pretty exclusive club. Now it is very mainstream, one of the biggest sectors in TV production and there are hundreds of us camera operators and thousands of production staff. At one point last year when I was working on Project Minotaur (the working title for the Apple project now nearing completion) there were over 100 production staff and freelancers working on it at the same time. The genre has definitely come of age.

"I feel extremely fortunate that this life has taken me to the farthest corners of the Earth and to the most remote places to film the most extraordinary nature and wildlife on offer. The worrying thing now is that the world I discovered 37 years ago has changed out of all recognition and some of it doesn't even exist anymore. The challenge for wildlife film makers now is to bring those stories to the viewers' attention along with a message of hope."

*"I wasn't very academic at school, even in Biology. I think I was more of a naturalist and just wanted to spend time exploring outdoors in remote regions of the world".*



## Faisal Tayan OS 2014

Old Stopfordian Faisal Tayan has developed into a motivational speaker, entrepreneur and passionate charity worker since he left SGS in 2014.

After completing A levels in Maths, Art and Design Technology at SGS, Faisal went on to study Industrial Design at Brunel University. With a new city, learning opportunities and an ambition to develop his character, Faisal started to discover his strengths and true passions in life.

It was volunteering through the charity Syrian Relief over the summer before University that sparked this journey of discovery.

He explains: **"I'm originally Syrian, that was very prevalent in the news at the time I was a teenager.**

**"So, I volunteered and spent a month in Jordan's biggest refugee camp. This enlightening time allowed me to see a completely different, and troubling world, which was a stark contrast to my privileged upbringing. Whilst there I worked in a rehab centre teaching English to those that were injured during the uprising.**

**"This trip changed my life forever. I met this kid, he'd lost everything but he smiled every day and that put my life into perspective. In reality, there's nothing in my life to be truly upset with."**

In addition to his work in Jordan, Faisal became an emergency aid worker on the Greek Macedonian border helping thousands of people

every day that were flooding into the country sometimes for up to 22 hours a day.

He said: **"We didn't notice (nor care) that we didn't even eat or drink for hours. If you find a purpose everything else goes out the window, I was working crazy hard, but I didn't think of it as work."**

During his last year at University, Faisal's final project involved making anything that he wanted; so long as it could be justified. It was here that Faisal drew on his experiences from volunteering.

**"I wanted to do something that really represented me. Personally, I love trainers and always loved having the latest ones. So, I combined this love with my desire to help people and made the world's first adjustable shoe.**

**"It was challenging to see the condition refugees walked through and the shoes they wore. If we go for a day with ill-fitting shoes it's awful but imagine doing that for 2,500km,"** he comments.

Since leaving University, Faisal has developed into an entrepreneur adding more and more to his portfolio.

He's developed a start-up company for a Green Fashion app called 'With It', he's delivered TED talks on his university project and delivers

motivational workshops around the country to school pupils, businesses and university students.

**"It had always been a dream of mine to do a TED Talk, they gave me coaches and I trained hard. As I got into that sphere of delivering talks, I saw the impact it had on audiences. Since leaving SGS I've gone from being rather introverted to becoming more confident."**

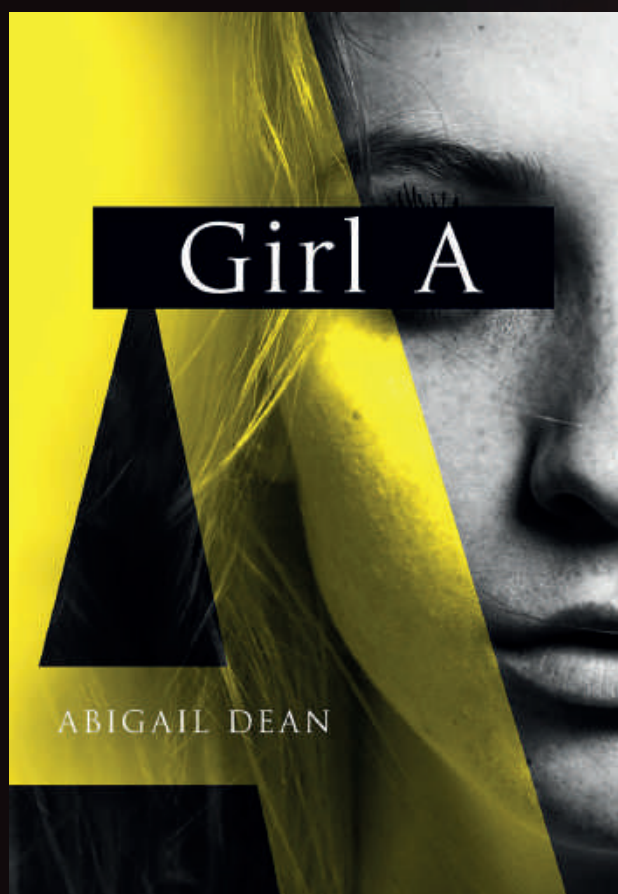
He has started speaking in schools and universities across Manchester and the UK. His work aims to help kids to find their own passions beyond exams and school structure.

He adds, **"The reaction has been amazing, I couldn't ask for more, I get kids messaging me on social media to say thank you and that reenergises me to keep going. I want to thank SGS for the start they gave me.**

**"I may not have been the brightest in the class, but I wanted to learn. The community of friends, support of teachers who recognised my ambition to succeed and the ethos of resilience has helped me in my adult life."**

SGS pupils were delighted to welcome Faisal to the school in 2019. He delivered an inspiring talk about his journey since leaving the school which prompted a lively Q & A by the inquisitive pupils.





Photograph credit:  
Nicola Thomson Photography

**"This was only ever the pipe dream, and I'm so, so happy that it's come true. I can't wait for the world to meet Lex - and the Gracie family."**

In October 2019, lawyer and debut writer Abigail Dean's (OS 2007) dream came true as HarperCollins won a nine-way auction to publish her debut novel *Girl A*.

*Girl A* follows the story of successful lawyer Lex Gracie, who was the subject of national news as a child for her escape from a family of religious fanatics. When her mother dies and leaves Lex and her siblings the family home, Lex realises she can't run from her past and must come to terms with her childhood. The major six-figure deal was negotiated by Juliet Mushens at Mushens Entertainment, with Juliet now representing Abigail. International rights have since sold in over 26 territories with the book set to be published in the UK in January 2021.

Talking about the deal, Abigail said: **"I'm so excited to be working with the fantastic team at HarperCollins to introduce *Girl A* and the Gracie family to readers across the world. The whole process has been dreamlike, and I'm in awe of my agent, Juliet, who has worked tirelessly to make all of this happen."**

In addition to publishing rights, renowned Emmy-winning music, television and film director Johan Renck is in negotiations to direct and executive produce a limited series of *Girl A* for Elizabeth Gabler's 3000 pictures at Sony Pictures Entertainment. In addition to directing music videos for the likes of David Bowie and Madonna, Renck has directed a number of television series such as the critically acclaimed *Chernobyl*, Netflix's *Bloodline*, *Walking Dead*, *Breaking Bad* and History Channel's *Vikings*.

After leaving Stockport Grammar School, Abigail read English Literature at Cambridge University, graduating with double first class honours. While at university, Abigail was a frequent contributor to *Varsity* newspaper and theatre editor. She also spent time as an English teacher in Hong Kong as part of the Oxbridge Summer Camps Abroad programme as well as an internship at *The Times*, transcribing articles and assisting the legal team. After completing her degree, Abigail qualified with distinction from BPP Law School, leading to a career in law. In the summer of 2018, she took some time off to work on *Girl A* ahead of her 30th birthday. Abigail now works as a lawyer for Google and is writing her second novel.

The book is now available for pre-order at a range of leading book retailers.

# Remote Learning

Following government guidelines, the school closed to most pupils from the end of the day on Friday 20th March. SGS teachers had been preparing for this eventuality and extensive use has been made of electronic resources to support pupils' learning. The SGS community has stayed strong and connected with staff providing support, advice and guidance to pupils and parents. Care has been available within school for the children of key workers.

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

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.

Pupils have enjoyed regular video assemblies from Headmaster Dr Paul Owen.

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.

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

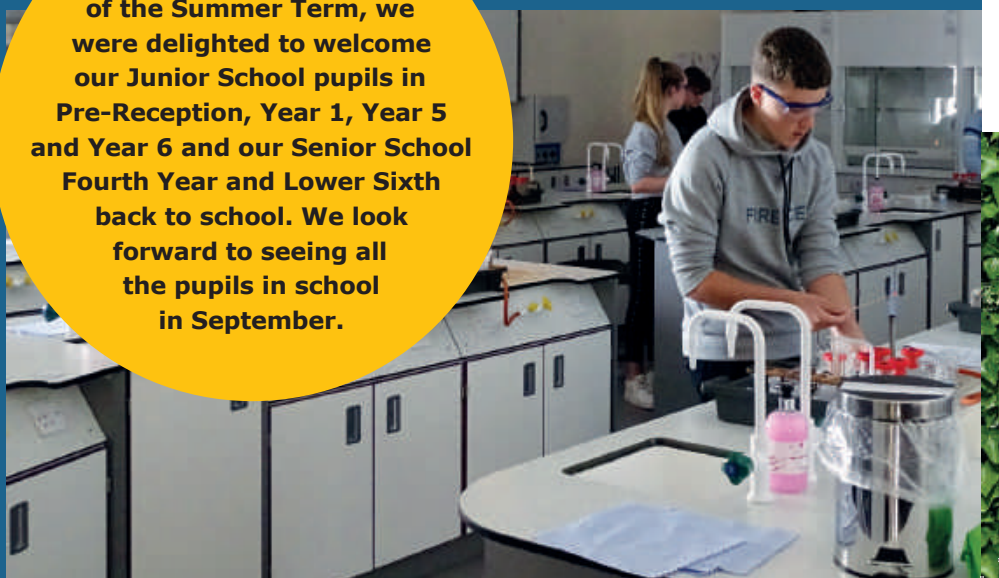


The school's musicians have been taking part in not only virtual rehearsals but also performances, which can be enjoyed by following SGS Twitter, Instagram or Facebook. The performances have included a stunning version of Bellin's 'Vaga Luna, Che Inargenti' by Fourth Year Ella Moran, accompanied by Director 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.

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.

**In the second half of the Summer Term, we were delighted to welcome our Junior School pupils in Pre-Reception, Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6 and our Senior School Fourth Year and Lower Sixth back to school. We look forward to seeing all the pupils in school in September.**







## Thank you to the NHS, from Stockport Grammar

SGS's community has been so grateful for the amazing work of the NHS, charities and other vital frontline workers during the recent months. We have wanted to do what we can to help.

A donation of toiletries from the school community has been delivered to staff at Stepping Hill Hospital. SGS also donated goggles and protective equipment from the Science departments to Stockport NHS Trust and a local care home. The Design Technology department boosted these efforts by producing face visors.

Junior School children made posters to thank the NHS and all those who care for us. Some of their beautiful paintings appeared on display in the Emergency Department at Macclesfield District General Hospital.

Second Year chefs made carrot cake as part of their practical work. The cakes made by one of our pupils were enjoyed by NHS workers.

Junior School Headmaster Mr Tim Wheeler ran the London Marathon in his own back garden to raise money for The Little Princess Trust and six SGS families raised money for food bank Emmeline's Pantry with their 'Tour De Lockdown'.



OLD STOPS' REVIEW

### Memorable Annual Dinner

Old Stopfordians joined together in the Hallam Hall for the Annual Old Stopfordians' Dinner.

Attendees donned their black ties and cocktail dresses whilst enjoying a delicious three course meal, speeches and musical performances.



### Old Stopfordians join pupils in Remembrance

More than eighty Old Stopfordians joined pupils for the Stockport Grammar School Remembrance Service on Monday 11th November 2019.

Pupils and guests were able to pay their respects to the brave men and women who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Following the service in the school's Main Hall led by Headmaster Dr Paul Owen, Old Stopfordians made their way to the Hallam Hall for a Remembrance lunch.

Prior to lunch being served, our visitors received a talk from Stuart Helm, the SGS Archivist, who gave an illuminating talk on early memories of life at SGS before 1964. Following Mr Helm's speech, Third Year pupils Alice Thomson, Thomas Keogh and Lilah Vidler gave

talks on their experiences of a recent trip to the First World War Battlefields where wreaths were laid in memory of Old Stopfordians lost in battle at the Memorial for the Missing at Thiepval.

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

Ella Moran gave a breath-taking operatic performance of Pergolesi's Se tu m'ami, se sospiri, with Mr Dow on piano.

Zoe Shah played Kreisler's Praeludium and Allegro on the violin.

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



# Sporting Highlights

## **Jessica Piasecki (OS 2008) ranked UK's third fastest female**

Jess Piasecki (née Coulson), has become the third fastest female in British marathon history after winning the Florence Marathon in 2:25:29.

When she left SGS in 2008, Jess went on to study Human Biology at Loughborough University. She now works at Nottingham Trent University as an exercise physiology lecturer and researcher.

Earlier this year, she ran the Long Eaton parkrun in 15:51 which puts her second in the parkrun all-time rankings. Jess captained the GB team at the World Cross in Aarhus.

On her latest achievement, Jess said:  
**"I would say that the race itself just all went to plan, everything down to the weather just clicked. I was very sensible in the first half and then I was in the mix at the front for the second half and my competitive instinct kicked in."**

**"It was a fabulous day and it's something I have been wanting to be able to do for a number of years so I am excited now to have done that and to progress from here. I couldn't have done it without the support of my coach, husband and family."**



Picture Credit: Firenze Marathon

## **Outstanding support for Memorial Cup**

Thank you to everyone who came along to play or support the Ben Stollery Memorial Cup in aid of PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide. These events have raised enough money to send 30 people on Papyrus training courses, and to support many more individuals needing support. What a fabulous lasting legacy for Ben.

The final score was Old Stopfordians 27 - 10 MGS Old Boys.

Thanks also to Stockport Rugby Club for hosting the game; to Rob North for organising the game, raffle, photography and fundraising; to George Chatterton for commentary; and to everyone who played and helped co-ordinate our incredible teams, not least Mr Corbett.

### **Producing sport for world audiences**

Stockport Grammar School's sporting heritage shone through at the Vitality Netball World Cup 2019 with Martha Watson (OS 2013) producing coverage for Sky Sports and Di Dougherty née Stewart (OS 1997) presenting the games.

The SGS Netball team was also honoured to be invited to feature in a promotional video for Sky Sports.

### **Inspiring future players**

Old Stopfordians and former 1st XV Rugby captains George and Pat Chatterton (OS 2017 and 2018 respectively) held a Google Meet for current pupils, along with Head of Rugby, Mr Corbett.

The interviews with Mr Corbett have given the rugby pupils the chance to find out more about tactics and attitude. They also shared some favourite highlights of their school rugby days and beyond.

Pat and George were both 1st XV Captains, Cheshire 7's winners and Cheshire RFU Cup winners. George is now scrum half for England 7s and Pat is Vice President of The University of Nottingham Rugby Union Club.



# Challenging pupils to stay active

With pupils learning at home during the national school closure, SGS's prominent sporting alumni set about creating online challenges to help keep them active.

Led by SGS Director of Sport, Mr Danny Thomson, the Old Stops featured in videos sent to pupils and shared on social media, challenging followers to a variety of creative challenges.

The videos were a huge hit with hundreds of views. Pupils, staff and parents enjoyed the challenges which helped them stay active, healthy and supported overall wellbeing.

Thank you to the Old Stops who spent the time setting challenges from handstands to keepy uppies.

## Ed Francis (OS 2017)

Professional footballer for Swiss club Grasshoppers currently on loan from Wolverhampton Wanderers.



## Rebecca Coales (OS 1994)

The UK's leading pool free diver who holds National Records in breath-hold swimming. She's also a Yoga teacher and environmental scientist.



## OLD STOPS' REVIEW



## Chris Jones (OS 1999)

Current SGS rugby coach and ex professional rugby player for Sale Sharks, Worcester Warriors and 12 caps for England.

## Holly Hunt (OS 2015)

Member of the Great Britain Elite Development Hockey Squad.



## Rick Stevens (OS 2003)

Barrister and star of TV's SAS Who Dares Wins.

## George Adams (OS 2010)

Air Traffic Controller and golf enthusiast.

## Rick Cotgreave (OS 1988)

Senior Consultant at Lane4Management assisting elite athletes finding success and fulfilment beyond sport.

## Jenna Mottershead (OS 2003)

Former Captain of the 1st XI Hockey Team and now a Personal Trainer.

# SGS Highlights

## Highest inspection rating of "Excellent"

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

The Inspectorate focusses on the achievement of the pupils, including their academic development and on their personal development.

The Inspectors' comments about the Senior School include:

**"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."**

Their comments about the Junior School include:

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

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).

The full report can be viewed at [stockportgrammar.co.uk](http://stockportgrammar.co.uk)

## Facilities developments near completion

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

The construction of new Sixth Form facilities is almost complete. The development has created 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 are also being developed to provide enhanced study spaces for the students and contribute to SGS's excellent academic record.

In February we started construction of a new Pre-Reception building with a striking living green roof. The new building will be completed in Autumn 2020.

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.

Headmaster, Dr Paul Owen said: **"These are very exciting developments for our pupils. Our new facilities will allow us to continue to provide an exceptionally high standard of both education and care."**



## Talented performers take to the stage

One hundred and fifty actors, dancers and singers from across the Senior School brought together their talents to showcase 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 production was supported with exceptional performances by SGS dancers, Chorus, Junior Chamber Choir and a full production team.

The talents of our actors, musicians, dancers and stage technicians came together again to perform 'Chicago'.

They put on a fantastic dress rehearsal and performance to pupils. 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.





## Netballers come third at nationals

The Under 14 Netball team had a fantastic start to 2020, securing third place at the prestigious National Schools Finals.

A fantastic winning streak saw the girls sail through the group stages. This most recent triumph continues a run of success including becoming Smile ISNC Netball Cup Champions 2018 and Finalists in 2019.

It was a successful start to the sporting year at SGJS with the Under 15 rugby and hockey teams both reaching the Quarter Final stages of national competitions.

Meanwhile, the Under 13 girls football team gained a place at the Quarter Final of the Sisters n Sport National Plate Competition.



Matthew Copping



Tim Wheeler

## 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.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



**Professor  
Sir Anthony  
Cheetham  
FRS awarded  
Knighthood**

Professor **Sir Anthony Cheetham FRS (OS 1965)** was awarded a knighthood in the New Year's Honours List 2020 for services to materials chemistry, UK science and global outreach. His area of research is inorganic and hybrid materials and involves their synthesis, characterisation and applications.

After leaving Stockport Grammar School, Tony read Chemistry at St Catherine's College, Oxford. He graduated with first class honours in 1969 and obtained his DPhil at Oxford in 1972. In 1975 he moved to the United States to take up a position as Professor of Materials at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he became the first Director of the Materials Research Laboratory (MRL).

In 2007 he moved back to the UK to become Goldsmiths' Professor of Materials Science at the University of Cambridge, a position he held until October 2017. From 2012 to 2017 he was Vice-President and Treasurer of the Royal Society.

**Nicholas  
Cameron  
(OS 2008)**

Following an inspiring time at SGS, Nick went on to achieve a First-Class degree in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at the University of Glasgow.

He has gone on to pursue his passion for animal care and has now worked as a veterinary surgeon for three years.

As well as his career with CVS, the largest integrated veterinary services provider in the UK, Nick is a published author in a National Peer Reviewed Scientific Journal with his research on tail injuries in working dogs contributing to a change in law in Scotland.

**Vet recognised  
at awards**

Congratulations to **Dr Rosie Allister MRCVS (OS 1998)** who was awarded with one of two RCVS - Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' Impact Awards.

Rosie is a leading campaigner and researcher for and about veterinary mental health, as well as a veterinary educator, the manager of the Vetlife Helpline and a member of the RCVS Mind Matters Initiative Taskforce.

Dr Ebony Escalona, her nominator, commented: "**Dr Allister is widely respected within the veterinary profession and the academic community as one of the world's leading experts on veterinary mental health. When she speaks at national or international conferences, appears on TV/ radio or gives expert commentary in the veterinary press, it is with such empathy, connection, authority and professionalism that it encourages so many of us to have conversations that we sometimes struggle with.**"

Rosie has told us she is always happy to help anyone in the OS veterinary community and the Vetlife Helpline is a good place to start for anyone struggling with these issues.

**Peter Shirley  
(OS 1985)**

Leaving SGS to study medicine at Birmingham University, Peter is now a consultant in Intensive Care Medicine at Royal London Hospital.

He's travelled the world with his career in medicine including spending time in Australia and closer to home in Scotland.

As well as his medical career, Peter was an RAF reservist from 1995 - 2014. This role saw him serve in Iraq, Kosovo and Afghanistan.



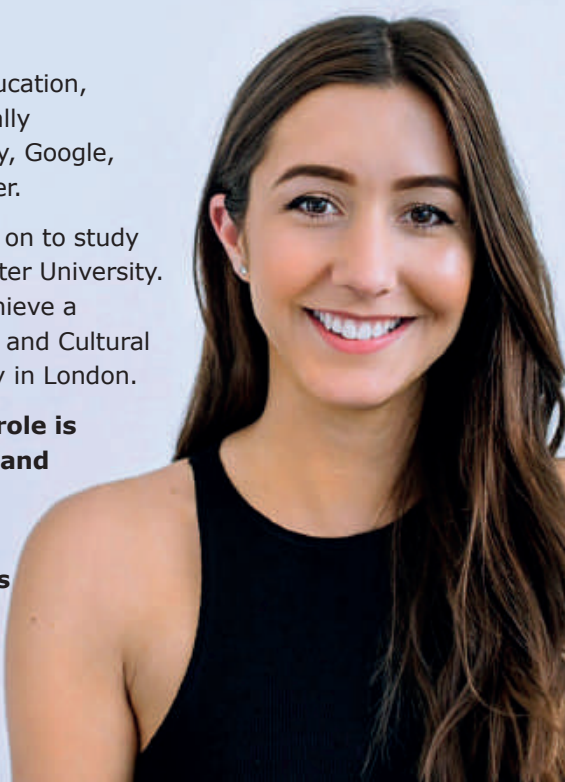
## Moira Rizopoulos (OS 2010)

Following an intensive arts education, Moira is now working for globally renowned technology company, Google, as an Arts and Culture Manager.

After leaving SGS, Moira went on to study Fine Art and History at Lancaster University. From there she went on to achieve a Masters in Arts Administration and Cultural Policy at Goldsmiths University in London.

She commented: **"My latest role is at Google within their Arts and Culture department which is just brilliant."**

**"I manage our partnerships and content for many art institutions around the UK – I'm truly loving it."**



## Jonathan Pine (OS 2015)

Jonathan graduated from Newcastle University with a First Class Honours degree in Marketing.

In addition, he was awarded the university prize for the best graduating student on his course and honoured with the role of Student Orator.

This involved giving the graduating students' farewell address to graduates' families, dignitaries and academic staff at the graduation awards ceremony - held in the university's iconic Kings Hall.

He has now started a job in marketing with a global social media company.

Jonathan and his parents would like to thank SGS and its staff for instilling the study approach and commitment required to achieve his full potential.



## Peter Flitcroft (OS 1974)

Old Stopfordian Peter Flitcroft recently wrote in to share his memories of school activities and how those activities have inspired his interests.

Peter recalled the day the whole school boarded a chartered train at Davenport station to take everyone to Middlewood for a sponsored walk along the Macclesfield canal to raise funds for the current dining hall.

He said: **"Trains featured quite significantly during my time at SGS with regular sessions at lunchtime on the school field by the railway. There was an active railway club and Mr Gosling, and if I remember rightly, Mr Durnall organised regular coach trips to preserved railways which were very popular."**



**"Sailing and swimming were activities that I enjoyed at SGS as an alternative to the mainstream sports and the sailing holidays at the Island cruising club at Salcombe were the perfect introduction to my aquatic adventures in later life. I also enjoyed helping on the technical side of the school plays."**

After a career in banking and finance, Peter took early retirement and developed an interest in old tractors.

## Rachel Hale

(OS 2003)

Recently featuring in the BBC programme *'The River: A Year in the Life of the Tay'*, Rachel diligently showcased her knowledge as a Marine Ecologist and Biogeochemist.

She currently works for New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research after obtaining her PhD in Ecological Sciences.

## Helen Hargraves née Hiscocks

(OS 2007)

This creative Old Stops' latest venture is Rock The Frock Cheshire, a bridal boutique which celebrated its first year of opening in 2019.

Rock The Frock Bridal Boutique offers cool and ethical wedding dresses for the modern bride.

Helen set up the franchise in September 2018 in response to a struggle to find inspiration for her own wedding dress in the North of England.



## Camilla (OS 2010) and Courtney Dignan (OS 2011)

This dynamic pair recently contacted SGS for its delicious flapjack recipe in order to recreate it at their very own bakery The Bridge Bakehouse in Whaley Bridge.

Camilla said: **"Ever since I left Sixth Form I've been dreaming of the school flapjack we had for dessert in the school canteen. It was so syrupy and buttery and gooey. I've been trying to perfect the recipe for years but to no avail."**

If you'd like to sample the delights of the SGS flapjack all over again, why not pop in for a slice?

## David Peter Elias

CBE (OS 1964)

Having spent 44 years as a researcher, investigating national and international labour market issues, David is now working as a professor for the Institute of Employment Research at Warwick University.

In addition to his current role, David was awarded a CBE in 2011 for services to the social sciences and has become a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

## Oliver Mills (OS 2012)

Now a successful Composer & Musical Director, SGS is lucky enough to have him on board to support our pupils in music and drama lessons and productions.

Oliver was one of the composers behind the Toys 'R' Us 2016 Christmas TV campaign, creating a new acappella arrangement of the famous *'Magical Place'* jingle and conducting recording sessions with The Greater Manchester Voices and professional local musicians.

He has written three full-length stage musicals, most recently *The Tree of War*, which saw great regional success, and he has more musical-theatre pieces in the works due for debut soon.

He said: **"I think at the moment, I am most proud to be a trustee of The Matthew Nicholls Foundation which supports musical education opportunities for talented young musicians who live in challenging circumstances."**

The Foundation was established in memory of Matt Nicholls (OS 2011).





# Announcements



## The next OS President

**Clare Francis (OS 1994)**

has accepted an invitation to become the next Old Stopfordian President. Clare's term of office will begin in March 2021, following the conclusion of **Graham Earles's (OS 1983)** term.

Clare is Savings and Investments Director at Barclays and a Board Trustee for the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute.

Her background is in financial journalism with over 15 years' experience covering consumer finance. Clare started her career at The Times in 1999. She moved to The Independent on Sunday where she was Deputy Personal Finance Editor and then became Assistant Money Editor at the Sunday Times. Before joining Barclays, Clare was Editor-in-Chief and Head of Consumer Affairs at MoneySuperMarket. She was one of MoneySuperMarket's main spokespeople, regularly appearing on TV and radio as a consumer finance expert.

Clare has contributed in recent years to the Stopfordian community; sharing her expertise in school with pupils and at a London Old Stops' event.

## Professor Vikas Shah MBE (OS 1999)

Serial entrepreneur, philanthropist and CEO of Swiscot Group, Vikas Shah has been appointed to the DigitalBridge Advisory Board, along with Steve Furber. David Levine, CEO of DigitalBridge, said: **"With the appointment of Steve and Vikas we're ensuring we have the best technical and commercial minds to create a sustainable business."**



## Collaborations

It's always great to see Old Stopfordians connecting with one another.

We recently caught up with **Charlotte Bryan (OS 2009)** and **Emily Banks (OS 2015)** who work together at AmeriCamp, offering applicants the chance to work at American summer camps.

## Thank you from SGS

More than 30 Old Stopfordians took part in our virtual Careers Day, each sending videos about their career. Pupils were able to view the videos online as an opportunity to gain some insight into their GCSE options. Thank you very much indeed for your support. Current pupils and recent leavers are often on the search for advice and work placement opportunities.

If you can assist fellow Old Stopfordians with opportunities to find out more about your industry, please email our Alumni and External Relations Officer, Rebecca Shawcross at [shawcrossr@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:shawcrossr@stockportgrammar.co.uk).

# Announcements

## Memorial

### Keith Weston

A tribute to Keith Weston, former Head of Biology

Stockport Grammar School was saddened to receive the news that **Mr Keith Weston**, former Head of Biology, passed away on Monday 14th January 2019.

Former pupil, **Ian Hamilton (OS 1963)** has provided the following tribute:

Keith was born on 21 May 1925 and died in Wirksworth, Derbyshire, on 14 January 2019, aged 93.

He was married to Freda Skidmore in summer 1950 and they had one child, Peter, who was born early in 1954.

Keith Weston taught at Wycliffe College in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire in the early 1950s, and it was while he was there that his son Peter was born. In September 1957 he took up the post at Stockport Grammar School to introduce Biology as a separate

subject, which it had not been until that time. This coincided with the opening of the new Science Block by Professor F C Williams at the Speech Day in July 1957 and therefore the Science Block's first use in the Autumn term of 1957.

While teaching at Stockport Grammar School, Keith Weston lived in Davenport. He continued teaching at Stockport Grammar School until the mid-1960s. He then worked at Mather Training College in Manchester.

While at Stockport Grammar School, Keith Weston was an officer in 550 Squadron ATC, the school Air Training Corps squadron.

He had been in the RAF at the end of WW2 and then joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve. He also umpired the cricket matches.

At the age of 55 he retired and moved to Wirksworth, where he and Freda continued to live. At one time he was Chairman of Wirksworth Civic Society. His wife Freda passed away in 2013. Only in the last two weeks of his life did he move from his home into the care home where he died.

His funeral took place at Markeaton Crematorium, Derby, on Monday 4th February 2019.

Keith was a lovely gentleman who did not let his teaching take over his whole life but had other interests which in my view made him an even more interesting person. He was particularly interested in cricket and I well remember he and his son Peter and me all attending the first day of the Old Trafford Test Match in June 1963 between England and West Indies! He and his son Peter also used to go to watch Stockport County FC.

## Stopping by

### Reverend Michael Loach

We were delighted to welcome back Former Head of RE & Philosophy, Reverend Michael Loach, to address the congregation at the Founder's Day Service in March. Michael focussed his speech on love.

### Alan Tomlinson

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.

Ten years ago Alan was diagnosed with lymphoma, an aggressive form of blood cancer. After two years of chemotherapy Alan was given just a 20% chance of surviving without a stem cell transplant.

Alan was lucky enough to find a matching stem cell donor via the Anthony Nolan Trust and is incredibly grateful to his donor.

He encouraged students to think about signing up for the Hero Project.

Upon his return to the school less than a week after the talk, students and staff gathered to sign up.



## In Memory

Stockport Grammar School was saddened to receive notice of the following deaths in the Old Stopfordian community. We are always sorry to hear of the passing of a member of the school community, however, we are extremely grateful to friends and families who share tributes and obituaries with us. To read the tributes and obituaries that have been shared with the school in memory of Old Stopfordians passed, please visit the In Memory section of the school website. If you would like to receive the notices as and when they are received by the school, or if you would like to contribute to our tributes and obituaries, please email us at [externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk).

We are very sorry that in the last edition David Seddon (OS 1961) was included in this list in error. We have apologised to David.

### John Dutton (OS 1949)

Friday 12th June 2020

### Charles William Hunt (OS 1945)

Monday 18th May 2020

### Nigel Higgins (OS 1939)

Sunday 3rd May 2020

### Reginald George Hardie (OS 1957)

Tuesday 7th April 2020

### Neil Andrew Megson, also known as artist and musician P-Orridge (OS 1969)

Saturday 14th March 2020

### Dr. Stephen Eldridge M.A., Ph.D. (OS Former Mathematics Teacher 1977-1984)

Wednesday 12th February 2020

### Neville Joseph Holt (OS 1949)

Monday 3rd February 2020

### Mr Carl Wright (OS Former Science Technician 1995-2016)

Wednesday 1st January 2020

### Philip Kershaw, J.P. (OS 1957)

Sunday 10th November 2019

### Philip John Lund, Ph.D (OS 1960)

Friday 8th November 2019

### Robert Whittall (OS 1962)

Sunday 13th October 2019

### Keith Naismith (OS 1944)

Monday 7th October 2019

### David H Fletcher (OS 1964)

Thursday 19th September 2019

### Roger David Law (OS 1985)

July 2019

### Paul Bradbury (OS 1958)

Sunday 21st July 2019

### John C Avery (OS 1959)

Friday 31st May 2019

### Major Colin Campbell JP (OS 1954)

Tuesday 8th January 2019

## Weddings

Congratulations to **Rosie Cumino née Broadbent (OS 2013)** who graduated from the University of Sheffield after six years studying medicine. Rosie also married her long-term partner Andrew in June 2019.



We're delighted to share this photograph from the wedding of Old Stopfordians **Faye O'Herlihy (OS 2009)** and **Peter Wood (OS 2009)**.

Faye and Peter married on 15th February. Faye told us "We met on our first day at SGS and were friends throughout until we started dating in university years. We married in Manchester and I bought my dress from Timeless Bride in Poynton run by Kim Lines née Barr (OS 2009). We are so lucky to have met and kept lifelong friends from SGS!"

The wedding party included a number of fellow Old Stopfordians, including bridesmaid Hannah Winn (OS 2009), groomsman Ian Kettlewell (OS 2009), and readings by Pete Wilson (OS 2009) and Sarah Crothers (OS 2009).



Photography credit:  
Neil Redfern Photography

# Dates for your Diary

This year we may have to hold some of our events in an online format. We would be delighted to welcome you virtually so please check we have your up to date email address.

## SGS Sports Reunion

11am-3pm, Saturday 5th September 2020 - **POSTPONED**

## Remembrance Reunion

Wednesday 11th November 2020

## Carol Service at St. George's Church

7pm, Tuesday 8th December 2020

## Shaa Society Lunch

For Donors and Legators  
Thursday 18th March 2021

## Old Stopfordians' Dinner

7pm, Friday 19th March 2021

## Summer Reunion Barbecue

12 noon - 3pm,  
Saturday 19th June 2021

## Stopfordian Committee Meetings

3 meetings each year

## Ad Hoc Reunions

Over recent years we have hosted a number of smaller groups who wanted to visit the school. If you would like to pop back for a tour, a gathering or to meet up with old friends or teachers - contact the External Relations Team on 0161 419 2408 / [externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk) and we will be pleased to arrange something for you.

## Join the Old Stops' Community on social media:

-  **Old Stopfordians**
-  **Stockport Grammar School**
-  **@stockportgs**
-  **/stockportgs**

## As we reached the end of term we said farewell to the following members of staff:

**Mrs Linda Morgan**  
(retiring, joined 2010)

**Mr Peter Urwin**  
(retiring, joined 1992)

**Mrs Zoe Vernon**  
(retiring, joined 2001)

**Mr Ben Bowles**  
(joined 2016)

**Ms Catherine Griffiths**  
(joined 2016)

**Mr Philip Kennedy**  
(joined 2016)

Junior School  
Headmaster

**Mr Tim Wheeler**  
(joined 2014).

We wish all departing staff good wishes for the future.

## STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Telephone: 0161 456 9000 Email: [sgs@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:sgs@stockportgrammar.co.uk)  
**[www.stockportgrammar.co.uk](http://www.stockportgrammar.co.uk)**

If you no longer wish to receive a copy of Old Stops' Review, please let us know by emailing: [externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk)  
Stockport Grammar School is a Registered Charity Number 1120199

## Can you help?

The Bursary Fund provides means tested assistance so that local children whose families cannot afford the fees can benefit from the excellent education we offer. Each year we receive far more applications for assistance than we have funds available. The coronavirus pandemic has also caused financial challenges for a number of families with children at the school. If you would like to help, please contact Mrs Rachel Horsford at [horsfordr@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:horsfordr@stockportgrammar.co.uk), visit [stockportgrammar.co.uk/alumni/support-us/](http://stockportgrammar.co.uk/alumni/support-us/) or send a cheque payable to Stockport Grammar School. We know that this has also been a difficult time for many Old Stopfordians. We are very grateful to all our donors and supporters.

## Keep in touch

This edition is full of fascinating and inspiring news of Old Stops and I am very grateful to Enfys Bosworth and Rebecca Shawcross for bringing together so many interesting stories. The recent months have been difficult for our communities and we have missed seeing Old Stopfordians at the events which bring us together. The many updates that Old Stopfordians have shared on social media, by email to [externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk) or by letter have brightened our day and we hope they have brightened yours. We look forward to seeing you, virtually or in person, in the coming months. So please keep in touch and make sure we have your up to date email details.

**Rachel Horsford**  
**External Relations Director**

