

# TAKING / STOCK

Stockport Grammar  
School Newsletter



**Issue 77**  
Spring/Summer 2021



**NEW NURSERY NOW OPEN PAGE 13**



**LITERARY PASSIONS SHINE**  
Page 4



**MAGNIFICENT MUSICAL PERFORMANCES**  
Page 5



**SGS SPORT 'BEST IN NORTH WEST'**  
Page 8

# SCHOOL LIFE



## HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

Each new national challenge leaves its imprint upon our language. 'Social Distancing' (physical distancing might have been a better term), 'Test and Trace' and 'Furlough' have all unceremoniously pushed their way into our linguistic consciousness over the last year. The phrase that has had most impact in schools has, of course, been 'Remote Learning'.

Technology has come to our aid over the last few months with pupils using webcams and a variety of apps and platforms to keep learning from home. The teachers have risen to the challenge splendidly, adapting and innovating to maintain 'business as usual' as far as possible. Some of the new innovations will certainly become part of the established teaching and learning repertoire as we return to face-to-face. Soundtrap, for example, provides an excellent way for pupils to compose music and to collaborate and the pandemic seems to have hugely accelerated the development of this type of software. Teaching and learning using a cloud-based app helpfully blurs the line between learning in class and learning at home and allows pupils to learn at their own pace. One positive benefit for most pupils of remote learning has been an increased confidence in learning more independently, a skill that will certainly be useful throughout their lives.

On the other hand, we have all come to see how much we take for granted in normal lessons. The cumbersome

necessity to un-mute and then re-mute, or type in a chat-box, slows the pace of discussion during on-line lessons making it much harder to check pupils' understanding. In a classroom a quick question and some eye-contact is often enough to know whether the point has been grasped and it is time to move on. Collaboration tools such as Google Jam or Nearpod are useful but can't quite match the speed and convenience of a simple group discussion.

We have also learned the power and importance of practical activities. Whilst much ingenuity has been expended with home experiments and video demonstrations, the experience of doing something yourself using specialist equipment boosts understanding in a way that is hard to simulate. Some co-curricular activities have no virtual analogue. A rugby or hockey practice, a Big Band rehearsal or a session of Animal Club really do require the physical presence of the participants to achieve much.

Finally, we have understood once again the power and importance of community. Schools are about learning together. This is not just about discussing ideas and applications in lessons but also building friendships through a chat over lunch. Schools are about people and not buildings but we have learned that to be really effective schools need people together in buildings.

**Dr Paul Owen**

## REMOTE TEACHING: INSPIRING PUPILS' LEARNING

Following government guidelines, the Junior and Senior Schools moved to remote learning at the start of the Spring Term. All our Nursery children could be taught in school and we were delighted to see them each day as well as a small number of Junior and Senior pupils whose parents are key workers.

Our fantastic teaching staff were fully prepared for this eventuality and immediately implemented our remote learning programmes. Extensive use was made of electronic resources to support pupils. Google Meets, Google Classroom, Tapestry, Satchel One and the Pupil Portal were amongst the platforms used.

Beyond their lessons, pupils enjoyed an array of co-curricular options including sport, music and dance challenges while academic extension opportunities included competitions, brain teasers and online meets.

Staff continued to provide support, advice and guidance for pupils and parents on all matters as though the school were open. We are proud of our strong school community and although apart, together we stayed strong and connected and we were delighted to welcome the pupils back in March.



Jewellery making video



Chemistry experiment video



House games

## EXCITING EXPERIMENTS

As part of the school's remote learning provision, the Science Departments filmed a number of amazing experiments.

Head of Chemistry Dr Annie Glarvey conducted a very colourful experiment for Upper Sixth students during a live lesson as part of their A-level course.

The experiment demonstrated the various oxidation states of vanadium, a transition metal.

Following the experiment, the students completed redox equations to explain the formation of the different vanadium ions.



## PSYCHOLOGISTS ATTEND FASCINATING ONLINE SESSION

Twenty five Sixth Form Psychology students attended an informative online talk with Occupational Psychologist Julie Wacker.

Julie spoke about what Occupational Psychology involves, the role it has to play in organisations and how this work translates to life at school for pupils.

Students also learned about the importance of resilience and wellbeing at work and were able to discuss challenges to their wellbeing as a result of remote learning – as well as ideas on how to best deal with these challenges.

## TERRIFIC TECH PROJECT

In Second Year, Design Technology pupils took part in a jewellery project.

To help them with their project, the department staff filmed instructional videos.

They showed pupils how to add colour to copper using enamel – a process that enhances the aesthetics of jewellery. As part of the process, the pupils' work goes inside a large kiln oven. The kiln in the Technology Centre was donated to the school by The Goldsmiths' Company and, as well as being used by our pupils, it has also been used for jewellery workshops for pupils from local secondary schools.

## GRAB THE LATEST SCOOP

First Year pupils Giulia Burns, Edith Rose, Phoebe Fox, Amelia Smethurst and Ella Merryweather demonstrated amazing community spirit with their production of 'SGS Scoop' – a newspaper to cheer up their year group in lockdown.

The first edition featured puzzles and crosswords, stories on fitness and the environment and an exclusive interview with English Teacher and 1T's Form Tutor Mr Ollie Johnson.

Phoebe said: **"SGS Scoop has been designed to connect people in lockdown – it's important to have something to talk about and something to do."**

Ella added: **"There are loads of different sections so everybody has something they like or want to take part in. We're encouraging other pupils to send in their messages and ideas."**

Giulia commented: **"It's been really fun to make and to spend time away from screens."** Amelia and Edith were pleased that it brought pupils together from different forms and that they are now good friends.

Head of First Year Mrs Esther Suttle said: **"I am so proud of the girls – they have worked so hard and the whole idea is that the paper cheers everyone up. More First Years will also write for the newsletter in future editions."**

## SCHOOL LIFE

### AMAZING LITERARY POTENTIAL SHOWCASED

A new literary magazine packed with brilliant articles from pupils and staff in the English department has been developed.

'Like, Literary' covers a range of genres from high level academic criticism to film reviews, theatre reviews, contemporary comment and, of course, creative writing.

The magazine, which features pieces from pupils from a variety of years, was edited by students in the Sixth Form who attended meetings, made the final selections and composed section introductions.

Literary criticism articles included a piece exploring whether we should "judge past literature by our present moral standards" and an examination of Alfred Tennyson's 'The Lady of Shalott', whilst book reviews looked at dystopian series such as 'The Hunger Games' and 'Divergent'.

'Ambush', 'The Worst Highwayman' and 'The Masked Figure' are the titles of some of the creative writing pieces and theatre, film and TV shows including 'Chicago', 'Macbeth', 'Little Women', 'Interstellar' and 'Elementary' were reviewed.

The Life and Culture section concludes the magazine with pieces tackling a wide range of issues.

English Teacher Mrs Helen Roberts said: **"The concept for this magazine emanated from a deeply held view among the English staff that there was some great literary potential within our pupils which we should showcase. It turns out, we were absolutely correct.**

**"We believe writing is such an important way we are able to express ourselves as humans and as critical thinkers, that every child should be given the opportunity to do so. What you see here is a small selection of what the English Department at SGS gets up to on a regular basis. We would like to thank the Sixth Form editing team for the way they continue to inspire our younger pupils and we hope you enjoy reading this as much as we enjoyed putting it together."**

Second in English Mr Ollie Johnson added: **"We are very proud of our energised and enthusiastic Sixth Formers, who have brought the magazine to life with sensitive literary eyes, a genuinely inclusive approach, and high editorial standards. It really is the product of the fantastic work done by English pupils across the school."**



### DANCERS IMPRESS AT AUDITIONS

Following some wonderful auditions, four dancers from SGS have now been offered places at prestigious dance schools.

Upper Sixth student, Sophia Fanigliulo-Vlassis has been offered places at various Stage Schools including Laine Theatre Arts.

Exceptional performer, Fifth Year pupil Talia Smith who took part in a number of school shows including 'Chicago' will shortly be heading to Centre Pointe Dance School.

She will be following in the footsteps of Kate Holme who also joined Centre Pointe and has now been offered a place on a degree course for Musical Theatre at London Studio Centre and at Performers College.

Meanwhile, Year Six dancer Pearl Wolstenholme recently got through to the final round of auditions for White Lodge (The Royal Ballet School). She currently dances at Centre Pointe and on the Royal Ballet Junior Associates programme.

SGS pupils of all ages can join Dance Club and showcase their talents during the school's musical, drama and dance shows.

In these performances, the dancers join an exciting collaboration of drama, music and backstage teams to deliver engaging productions which last year included 'Chicago' and 'A Christmas Carol.'

### MAGNIFICENT MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Since returning to school, our musicians have been busy playing and rehearsing new pieces in a wide range of ensembles. Junior Chamber Choir, Chamber Choir and First Orchestra are amongst the groups being filmed this term to create virtual performances for parents and pupils to enjoy.

The pieces they are recording include First Orchestra playing 'Bruch Violin Concerto (1st movement)' and the Chamber Choir singing 'Don't you worry 'bout a thing', an a cappella arrangement of the Stevie Wonder song. The whole of the First Year are preparing a virtual body percussion performance.

The new performances will be added to the fast expanding Music@SGS playlist on YouTube.

### WORLD BOOK DAY

To celebrate World Book Day, the Library held a book-themed baking competition and the pupils impressed with a remarkable range of entries.

Congratulations go to First Year Sadie Canty who picked up first prize and to joint runners-up Molly Steele in First Year and Second Years Abigail Sullivan and Alexa Ashwood.

The Library also held a number of World Book Day themed quizzes. 2R and 4M tied in the Pictionary Quiz, 1Y and 2Q both scored 100% in the Masked Books Kahoot and Abigail Sullivan won the lunchtime quiz.



### BUSY BUSINESS-SAVVY PUPILS

A massive well done to PourToi, this year's Young Enterprise team, who have progressed to the Company of the Year North West Final after impressing judges with their live virtual presentation.

The team, who also won the award for the 'Best Company Report' for their handmade candle business, will represent Greater Manchester against teams from Lancashire, Cheshire and Cumbria.

The team sourced the relevant materials to produce the candles, including the wax, glass jars, wick and vanilla extract. They produced the candles in their own kitchens – all following the same exact recipe to ensure a standardised quality – and used social media to sell their creations.



SGS Eco Committee deliver petition to Downing Street in February 2020

### SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Mr Alastair Thorley, Head of Classics and one of the lead Eco-Schools staff members at SGS, hosted a workshop at The University of Manchester's online PGCE GREEN conference.

His talk, entitled 'Tell Someone Who Cares', looked at how the Eco-Schools programme has worked in our school. Mr Thorley spoke about challenging fixed mindsets, creating new ways of thinking and inspiring pupils and staff.

The PGCE GREEN conference was organised by a diverse group of professions and individuals including university students, teachers, ITT educators and local organisations who wanted to provide an educational and inspiring conference about the climate crisis.

### DIGITAL MARKETER APPEARS ON CBBC

First Year Zak Haque has been keeping himself busy helping launch a new book and appearing on a CBBC show.

Combining his enthusiasm for digital marketing and algorithms, Zak helped author Warren Inspire Ryan launch his book, 'The Art of Being Yourself', by making promotional videos and running his TikTok and advertisements. His help was rewarded with a thanks from the author in the book.

Zak also made a successful appearance on CBBC's 'Saturday Mash-Up! Live' in the 'Bin It To Win It' quiz show feature.



READ MORE ABOUT US HERE



SCAN ME

FOLLOW US HERE

@stockportgrammar

@stockportgts

@stockportgts

## SCIENTISTS EXCEL IN OLYMPIAD

Pupils have received some excellent results in the Chemistry Olympiad. We are very proud of how well the pupils have coped with all the extra pressure and uncertainties of this year.

They completed the challenging examination paper in February via remote invigilation – they had their cameras on and were watched throughout the exam. Every pupil who entered achieved an award. Gold awards (in the top 10% of all UK entrants): Caitlin Cutts, Oliver Ensor-Adams and Rowan Sutton. Silver awards: Teddy Hotchkies, Matthew Howling, Lydia Johnson, Panashe Munaiwa and George Zelhof. Bronze awards: Chloe Almond, Abdullah Farooq, Sam Hall and William Woodside.



## FANTASTIC CHARITY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

SGS aims to instil a strong sense of community and we are consistently impressed by the incredible efforts of our pupils.

So far this academic year, Senior and Junior School pupils have helped a number of local, national and international charities including The Wellspring, Mind, Stockport Food Bank, Macmillan Cancer Support and Children in Need.

Pupils taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award have continued to find ways to volunteer and help their local communities.

SGS Philanthropy is outward looking, fresh and relevant. Could you help shape our future community involvement and giving? From foodbanks to fee support – contact Sue Mullock, Head of Development, if you can offer your time, expertise or money.

### CHALLENGES HIT THE RIGHT NOTE WITH PUPILS

Musical pupils were thrilled to take part in a number of challenges during the Spring Term.

The 'Build a Musical Instrument' challenge was embraced by the pupils and Upper Sixth student Elliot M astonished teachers and peers with his homemade bass guitar which could even hold a tune.

Whilst our expert music teachers were incredibly impressed by a performance of 'Khachaturian - Allegro giocoso, First movement from Sonata' by Third Year Anna S.

This mesmerising recital was one of three piano pieces Anna recorded as part of the challenges.



## IMAGINATIVE ARTISTS CREATE MASTERPIECES

Artistic pupils in the Lower School developed their creative skills with a range of colourful and inventive lockdown projects.

The theme for the Third Year project was 'Bugs and Beetles'. The artists used various media and techniques to study them and deployed a number of illustrative methods – including the grid method and the Zentangle method.

Amongst the artists whose work the pupils have referenced is Levon Biss who has produced a series of works with the Natural History Museum that capture bugs in microscopic detail.

Head of Art Mr Richard Davies created a number of demo videos to help pupils.

Resourceful pupils also used items from their kitchen cupboards to prepare the surface for biro beetle observational drawings. They used natural colour pigments such as turmeric, tea, coffee, paprika, food colouring and beetroot juice.

Second Years covered a range of artists and themes in their work.

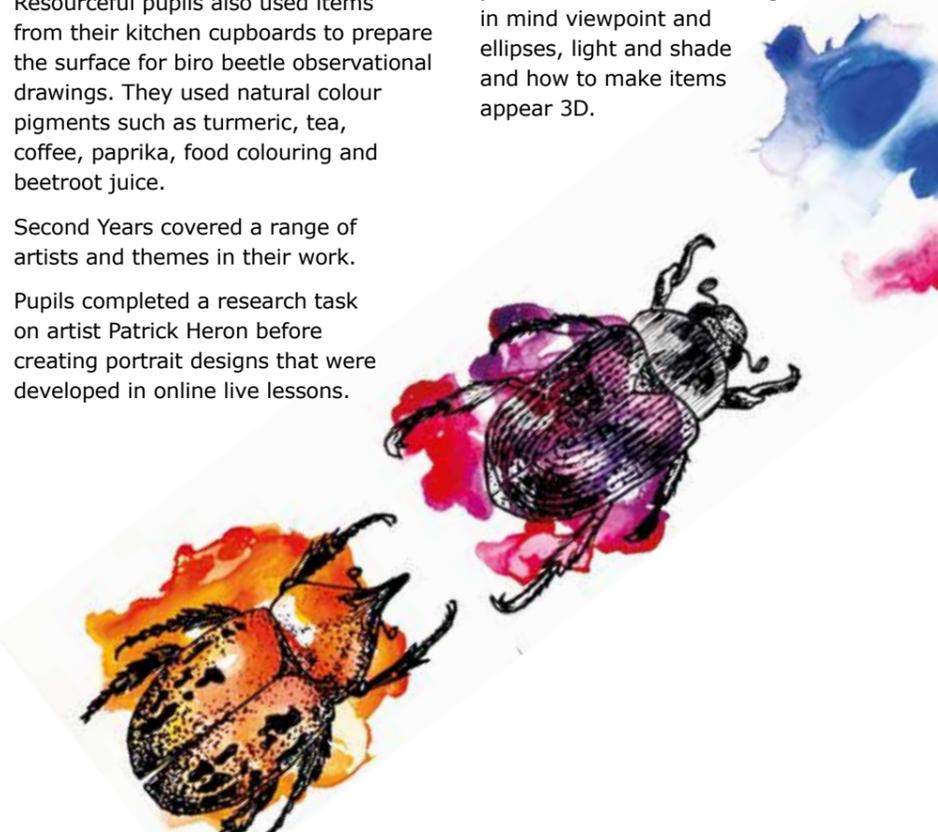
Pupils completed a research task on artist Patrick Heron before creating portrait designs that were developed in online live lessons.

The budding artists also looked at the work of mixed-media artist Teesha Moore, who is known for creating visual journals.

Pupils worked with string to create relief portraits and frottage – the art of taking a rubbing from a textured surface – and created pieces from single line drawings.

Still life drawing was the focus of the work for First Year pupils.

The young creatives produced pieces inspired by the 'Master of Silence' Giorgio Morandi, an Italian painter and printmaker whose paintings are noted for their tonal subtlety in depicting apparently simple subjects. The pupils were challenged to paint or draw cans – bearing in mind viewpoint and ellipses, light and shade and how to make items appear 3D.



## RECORD BREAKING ART COMPETITION

Now in its seventh year, the SGS Year 5 Art Competition, sponsored by Brewin Dolphin, celebrated the artwork of 220 local young artists from 59 primary schools in a virtual arena.

The competition's theme of 'Portrait' inspired a wealth of entries.

Mr Richard Davies, Head of Art, Design and Technology, commented: "We are delighted by the record number of entries – the children have certainly risen to the challenge and produced the most fantastic artwork."

"Our team were astounded by the creativity shown and also by the range of mediums used, some of which we haven't seen before in the competition."

All of the artists' work is available to view in our online gallery. In his virtual prize presentation, Mr Davies thanked all of the artists for creating such imaginative pieces and their teachers, parents and carers for taking the time to send us the entries.

Emil Semaniszyn of Oldfield Brow Primary School won the competition with a piece inspired by the work of Roy Lichtenstein. Runner-up Charisse Ng of Bowdon Preparatory School captured the judges' attention with the characterisation of her piece, along with the clever use of tone.

Fellow runner-up Lily Grace Barratt of Lower Park Primary School brought a smile to the judges' faces as they were impressed by how the different components of her photo-montage were seamlessly put together.

All artists are congratulated on producing such amazing artwork.

## SPORT

## SGS SPORT NAMED BEST IN THE NORTH WEST

We are delighted to be ranked the top independent school in the North West for sport by School Sport Magazine in their annual Top 200 schools list.

The rankings were created by School Sport Magazine using the sporting results of each school's teams. Congratulations to our pupils on the motivation, skill and teamwork they have demonstrated and to our Sport, PE, Health and Fitness department along with our specialist sport coaches for this remarkable achievement.

## SGS TALKS INSPIRE ATHLETES

To aid pupils' development, the Sport, PE, Health and Fitness department have created the 'SGS Talks Sport' series, speaking to figures from the world of sport who can impart their knowledge to our pupils.

Director of Sport Mr Danny Thomson video interviewed a variety of athletes including:



Sir Alastair Cook, former England Cricket Captain and player for Essex. He holds a number of English and international records and is one of the most prolific batsmen of the modern era.

Sally Gunnell, British former track and field athlete who won the 1992 Olympic gold medal in the 400 metres hurdles. She is the only female British athlete to have won Olympic, World, European and

Commonwealth titles, and was the first female 400 metres hurdler in history to win the Olympic and World titles and break the world record. She was made an MBE in 1993 and an OBE in 1998.

Natalie Berry, GB climber and Editor-in-Chief of UKClimbing.com. She was placed third in the 2018 British Bouldering Championships, gaining her a place on the 2019 GB Bouldering Team.

## SPORTING CHALLENGES IMPROVE WELLBEING

An array of 'At home' sporting challenges were created and videoed for all pupils in the Senior and Junior Schools during the period of remote learning in the Spring Term.

The challenges included a Tik Tok style Whole School Dance Challenge, footwork skills in Netball, bowling techniques in cricket and a cross bar challenge in Rugby, while the SGS House Race Around the World proved to be a close competition with Arden, Nicholson, Warren and Vernon battling for pole position.

## SWIMMERS SELECTED FOR NATIONAL OLYMPIC TRIALS

Congratulations to two of our Fifth Year pupils, Colleen Devlin and Eliza Pinkstone, who were selected to take part in the Olympic Swimming Trials in April at the London Aquatics Centre. The trials were cancelled because of the pandemic but we are incredibly proud of them for this amazing achievement.

Colleen said: **"When I found out that I had qualified it was like a dream come true."**

The news that the pandemic has now affected the junior side of the competition has been deeply disappointing but Colleen says: **"I am determined to be positive and focus on what I can control such as my schoolwork and internal assessments to get the best grades I can in my GCSEs."**

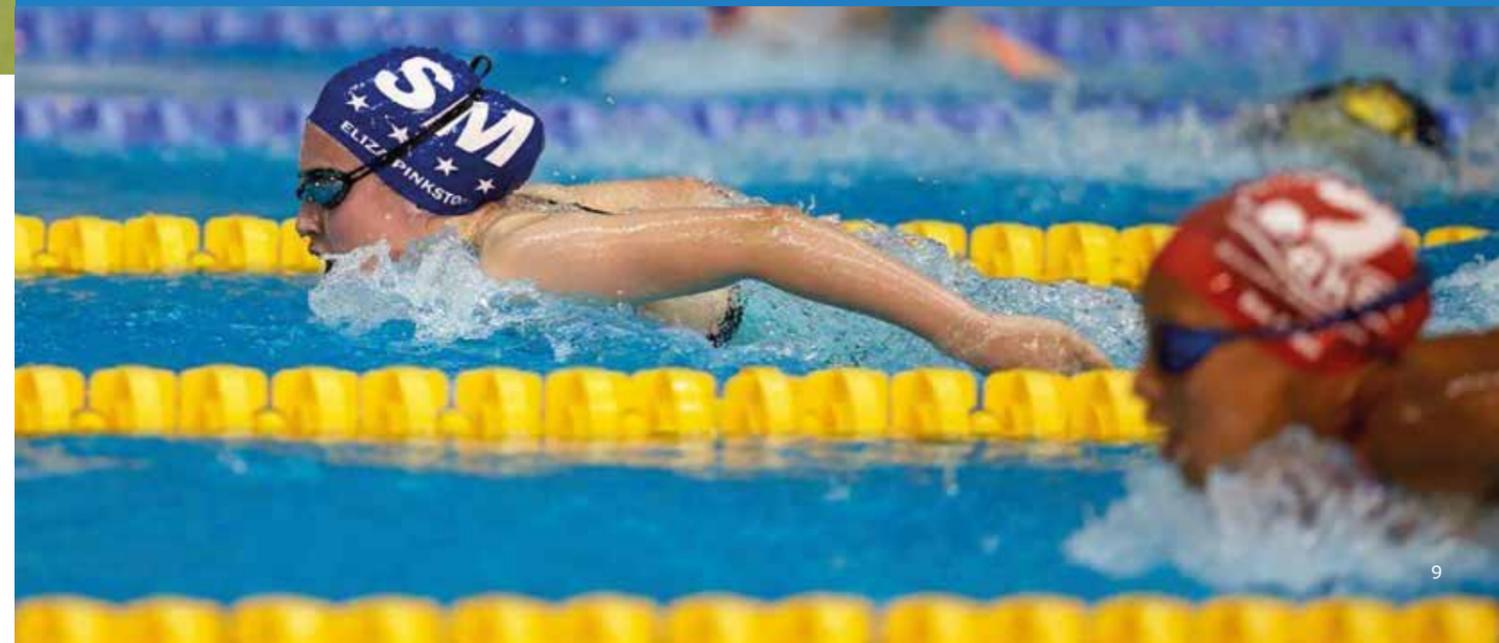
Having qualified in 2020, Eliza was eagerly awaiting the rescheduled event to compete in butterfly, freestyle and individual medley races.

Eliza said: **"I have been swimming for around six years, gradually moving up through the Stockport Metro training program and I'm now on the International Squad."**

**"I was lucky enough to enter the English and British Nationals in 2018/2019, winning Gold in 100m fly at the English Nationals."**

Both swimmers train up to eight times a week and incorporate land based training such as running, weights and yoga into the busy schedule.

Colleen adds: **"School has been fantastic; the PE department have been so encouraging and supportive. They constantly encourage and motivate me; they always have time to talk and check in with me to see how training is going. My coach has been welcomed to school to help facilitate some training sessions and I am so grateful for this opportunity. I have been able to move some PE lessons to have additional training in the pool."**



## CO-CURRICULAR

### AMAZING EFFORTS FOR DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARDS

Well done to all the pupils who have been continuing to work towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award despite the challenges of lockdown in the Spring Term.

Lower Sixth student Felix B, who is going for the Gold Award, is volunteering at the Message Community Grocery in Sharston, as is Third Year Archie H who has been helping out on the shop floor, assisting team members with technology and building boxes.

Third Year Freya N has been looking after the school animals – including Lizzie, the bearded dragon – and baking, including a tasty looking gluten free Valentine's cake.

The Wythenshawe Waste Warriors have benefitted from the help of Third Year Anna S who has been volunteering by litter picking with her family.

SGS is a Direct Licensed Organisation and, starting from Third Year, offers all pupils the opportunity to obtain the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Participants complete volunteering, expedition, and skill sections.



### SIXTH FORMER CELEBRATES CADETS SUCCESS

Lower Sixth student Isabel Marshall has been promoted to Sergeant in the Royal Air Force Air Cadets.

She is part of the 318 (Sale) Squadron and her involvement with the squadron has contributed to the volunteering section of her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award at SGS.

As part of her involvement, Isabel has been attending Virtual Parades every Tuesday and will now organise activities for the other cadets following her successful interview and promotion.

SGS Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator, Miss Laura Turner said: **"I'm incredibly proud that Isabel has achieved this promotion. This year, pupils have continued working towards the awards by volunteering in the local community including making phone calls to vulnerable people, keeping active and learning new skills such as first aid."**

**"This has been keeping pupils healthy, learning lifelong skills, helping to maintain and boost resilience and mental health."**

### BRILLIANT BAKING PROVIDES CHEER

First Year Sadie Canty has been putting her exceptional baking skills to great use volunteering for community groups.

The keen baker has signed up for Free Cakes for Kids – they provide birthday cakes to children who might not otherwise get one. Families are referred and volunteers make cakes based on the requests.

So far, she's created two birthday cakes for the group – one for a first birthday and another for an eighth birthday.

She also bakes every weekend for Handy Ladies, a local group of volunteers providing free meals to those who are vulnerable or struggling.

Sadie mixes and cooks on Saturdays and Sundays and her mum drops off the finished creations to be delivered to those receiving the meals. Sadie has made lemon drizzle cakes, banana loaves, brownies, blondies, shortbread biscuits, flapjacks, vanilla cupcakes, chocolate and a Victoria sponge.



### SGS SET TO ACHIEVE ECO AWARD

The Eco-Schools Committee is pleased to report that SGS is on track to gain the Eco-Schools Silver Award.

Whilst our pupils were remote learning they remained active in their passion to create an eco-friendlier environment.

Pupils took part in Earth Hour, completed the Library's eco-themed activities and our First to Third Years were able to sign up for free 'live lessons and world days' webinars from the WWF UK.



### KARATE CHALLENGE SUPPORTS CHARITY

Well done to brothers Rahul and Mehul V who took part in a cumulative kata challenge in January to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

First Year Rahul and Year Six pupil Mehul undertook the challenge with friends from Marple Bridge Karate Club to increase the numbers of katas they did each day throughout the month.

At the end of January, the team completed 12,721 katas and raised £2,248 – smashing their initial target.

### TASTY HOUSE BAKE-OFF

Pupils throughout the Senior School produced amazing, creative treats for this year's House Bake Off.

The theme was 'Nature and the Environment' and the entries, of which there were over 50, were judged on design and presentation.

The winner of the First Year competition was Molly Steele from Vernon who impressed with a vanilla sponge cake decorated with fondant icing in the iconic yellow and black of SGS with the bumble bee in its natural habitat.

Vernon's Priya Burrow was the winner of the Second and Third Year competition with a chocolate cake showing nature in a plant pot – flowers were handmade from fondant icing and strawberry roses and the soil was made from crushed chocolate cake. Even the entire plant pot itself was edible.

Kate Horsley from Arden took the Middle School and Sixth Form prize for her vegan tree trunk cake.

# JUNIOR SCHOOL



## YEAR ONE INSPIRED BY TRADITIONAL TALES

Pupils in Year One developed their love of reading by learning about traditional tales and taking part in inventive science, art and history activities.

As part of looking at the story of 'Cinderella', and to develop their written skills, the children created invitations to their own imaginary party and wrote a comprehension piece that focussed on answering questions in full sentences.

In Science, pupils made a variety of houses out of different materials that would be suitable for 'The Three Little Pigs'.

They tested their structure using a hair dryer to act as the wolf's 'huff and puff'.

In Art, pupils made castles out of recycled materials. They started by designing their castle before moving on to assemble it.

In RE, children read the Good Samaritan story from the Bible and then found out about special places where different faiths go to worship. Each child thought about where their special place is.



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

It was wonderful to see all the Junior School children return on the 8th March. Although the children showed fantastic attitudes towards learning over the school closure period, it is impossible to completely replicate school life in a virtual environment.

Many of the staff taught remotely from their classrooms over the closure period. As I walked around school during this time, I often encountered staff teaching what appeared to be an empty room, on closer inspection, all the children were on the interactive whiteboard fully engrossed in learning and discussion with their teacher.

The first part of the Spring Term was enormously challenging for parents juggling home learning and their own work and for staff delivering virtual lessons and also providing Critical Worker provision.

It was great to see the school community pulling together so that all the children had the support, guidance and teaching required to successfully navigate their way through school closure number two.

Following our full return, the children very quickly settled back to learning and immediately embraced all 32 co-curricular activities on offer, from drama and yoga to reading and football. The opportunity for the children to play and socialise was also an extremely important part of our return.

The new Nursery building opened at the start of the Summer Term and now enhances the exceptional Nursery provision for our youngest children in the school. It will provide a fantastic start to Stockport Grammar Junior School for generations to come.

**Mr Matthew Copping**

## READING INSPIRES BAKING FUN

One of Nursery's favourite stories is 'The Gingerbread Man' and the children love to join in.

Inspired by the story, the children baked their own gingerbread men and asked Catering Manager Mrs Gosling to watch the oven door very carefully so that they wouldn't run away.

Luckily, they didn't, and they were eaten at the end of the day – much to the delight of everyone.

In a following lesson, the pupils thought about how they could help the gingerbread man cross the river and a variety of wings, rockets, boats, submarines, bridges, a tunnel and even a diving centre were built for him to use.



## NEW NURSERY DELIGHTS YOUNGSTERS

Stockport Grammar School's youngest pupils are over the moon with their brand new Nursery building.

The single storey Nursery is within the grounds of the Junior School. With large bi-fold doors, the new development links the inside and the outside enabling the children to fully embrace outdoor learning whilst at the same time benefitting from high quality teaching from fully qualified teachers and Nursery assistants.

The exciting and varied programme for the pupils includes reading, writing and numeracy along with specialist Music, Modern Foreign Languages and PE sessions, as well as weekly swimming lessons in the school pool, again taken by specialist teachers.

During the first week of the move, our pupils enjoyed the spring weather and headed outside to discover the wide range of activities on offer. They built sand castles, mixed mud, shared stories, splashed around with the water equipment, ran up the mini-hill and made their way through the tunnel with delight.

It was an exhilarating experience for the children as they went on to explore the brilliant bike track, discovered the tree trunks and enjoyed sharing the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk' amongst their very own tall trees.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

To mark this year's World Book Day, pupils in the Junior and Senior Schools took part in a wide range of book-themed activities – both at home and in school.

Early Years and Key Stage One children enjoyed reading 'The Lion Inside' by Rachel Bright.

Nursery boys and girls loved listening to the story and joined in with very loud roars and tiny squeaks. The book prompted lots of talk about times when they were brave, with Mila T saying: **"I don't like spiders in the garden but Sebastian showed me one down in the grass and it was only tiny."**

In Reception classes they made puppets and masks, explored feelings of confidence and learnt lion and mouse facts and descriptions.

Year One children shared their favourite books at home with their parents, and there was a super selection of fiction and non-fiction, modern and old.

In Science, the children were asked to research facts on either a lion or a mouse. They could use either a non-fiction book or the internet to help with their research and they were challenged to use scientific vocabulary such as 'carnivore', 'nocturnal' and 'predators'.

'Bears Don't Read' was the starting point for Year Two. The children discussed their feelings about learning to read and through perseverance,

support from their teachers and families they have developed a love of reading.

Key Stage Two children loved exploring 'The Barnabus Project' by The Fan Brothers.

Year Three children enjoyed reading such a beautiful book and examined the concept of perfection – a subject that prompted much discussion.

Year Four pupils followed instructions from the illustrator of the book and tried to sketch some of the characters.

Year Five pupils had a busy day writing haiku poems about Barnabus, creating a portmanteau animal and a fact file to accompany it.

Year Six enjoyed analysing the meaning of aspirational quotes before creating designs of quotes and sayings that resonated with them after reading about Barnabus.



## SAFER INTERNET DAY

Junior School pupils marked Safer Internet Day 2021 by reading 'Buddy the Dog's Internet Safety Story'.

The theme was 'an internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world' and the children found the lessons really valuable. Nursery pupil Sophie C said: **"Don't press anything when something strange is on your iPad"** and classmate Lilly F added: **"If an advert comes on your iPad, call your mummy."**

In Year Two, the children also read the story and completed their own 'digital footprint' to show how they use the internet.



## ENGINEERING PROJECT SPARKS CREATIVITY

As part of their toys topic in Humanities lessons, Year Two keyworker children made vehicles.

The pupils first learned about axles and wheels before moving on to design and make a toy car that moved.

They used boxes to make the body of a car and then attached axles and wheels. If the car moved then the children could decorate and play with it, if it didn't move they had to rethink the design.

The children loved the activity and were proud of their very own toy car.



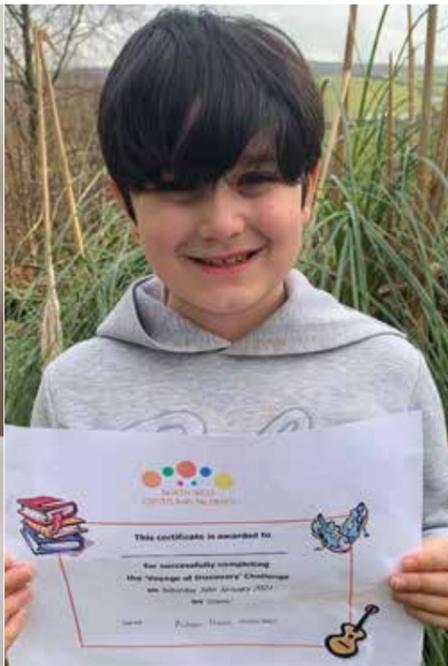
## WRITING TASK CHALLENGES YEAR SIX PUPILS

Year Six put their written skills to the test for their latest English task – drafting compelling and persuasive fictional formal letters of complaint.

Pupils had to convince their classmates that their complaint should be upheld by using a range of techniques, such as tone and formal language.

Ava A and Ted D wrote letters about why they should be compensated following an injury at a circus whilst Archie M drafted a letter to the Prime Minister about the lack of team sport for children during the pandemic.

After voting, pupils shared positive and constructive comments with one another on what went well and how they could improve their argument further. Alfie M even scoured his Dad's law books to advise Ava A and Ted D on the compensation they should receive.



## PUPILS KINDLY SUPPORT PEERS

Junior School pupils took part in Project Smile, a project set up by PSHE and Life Skills Resources Bank 1decision.

The project aims to encourage children to support each other throughout lockdown.

Pupils from across the UK sent in videos, pictures, poems and inspiring stories.

Well done to Archie and Sadie-May who were runners-up in the competition with their wonderful poems and Zoe who brought smiles to people's faces with a lovely piece on the violin.



## MAGICAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Congratulations to Year Five pupil Emily M who picked up a silver prize in the 'Original Composition' category of the London Young Musician competition with her piano piece 'Bee Invasion'. She has also passed her piano Grade 4 examinations. Very well done Emily.

Meanwhile, keyworker Year Six pupils impressed with musical performances in school.

'Hedwig's Theme' was performed by both Sophia M (guitar) and Sadie-May F (flute), Benedict W played 'Beauty And The Beast' on the piano and Finn R wonderfully executed 'Why Does It Always Rain On Me' by Travis on his guitar.

## CREATIVE ORIGAMI

Year Six pupils enjoyed the task of creating scenes out of origami – an assignment that tested their creativity and attention to detail.

The pupils had free rein over what landscape they chose for their project, which took place over a number of weeks, and imaginative backgrounds included the sea, a campsite, savanna plains and outer space.



## EXPLORING THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE

Year Three pupils Luca H and Euan D had lots of fun taking part in the North West Gifted and Talented 'A Voyage of Discovery Workshop'.

During the workshop they visited all the corners of the earth and developed their skills as historical detectives. Luca enjoyed identifying animals native to Australia, including the Cassowary and the Thorny Devil, whilst Euan enjoyed the historical elements of the workshop.

## IMAGINATIONS CAPTURED BY STORY

Reception children have enjoyed sharing the story of the 'Three Billy Goats Gruff'.

They worked hard to make their own masks to help them retell the story and used instruments to create imaginative sounds to accompany it. There were even some fantastic homemade instruments using household items.

The children investigated making bridges from a variety of construction kits, making sure they were strong by testing their work. Some very scary looking trolls appeared in the classroom but, don't worry, they were only made from clay.



### FUN IN THE SNOW

Nursery pupils made the most of the Stockport snow as they built snowmen and snow bears and made snow angels.

Back in the classroom they warmed up with hot chocolate and the story 'Kipper's Snowy Day'.



## CREATIONS DEMONSTRATE ARTISTS' FLARE

Junior School pupils have been creating some exceptional artwork in lessons.

Year Five pupils have been looking at the work of Wassily Kandinsky in their Art lessons and their first task was to create their own version of his piece of work entitled 'Circles Within A Circle'.

As part of their Humanities topic on water, Year Four pupils tried their hand at drawing a gigantic wave. This also linked in with their sketch work in Art lessons. The young artists looked at the work of the Japanese artist Hokusai by reading their English text 'Kensuke's Kingdom'.

## SCHOOL VALUES EMBRACED BY ALL

In addition to their school values, Junior School children are being encouraged to follow some 'Golden Rules' during the upcoming terms.

Golden Rules include instructions such as **"We are honest and treat everyone with respect"** and **"We always try our best and never give up"**.

Pupils will be reminded of these rules in assemblies and by their form tutors and signs around the school and in classrooms are a visual reminder.

During the first week of the Spring Term, keyworker children created colourful cubes adorned with the school values – enthusiasm, resilience, curiosity, togetherness and respect.

