

TAKING / STOCK

Stockport Grammar
School Newsletter



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HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

Don't shout it, whisper it, but normality is returning after 18 months of coronavirus disruption. Choirs rehearse, sports teams compete and on-site evening events have returned. In lessons, teachers circulate to offer extra explanation and questions, pupils tackle practical work in groups, able to share apparatus, and discussions flourish. Lunch is once again a social highlight with natural chatter cementing and deepening friendships. It is a joy to behold the energy of the school community as it emerges from hibernation and embraces the new opportunities.

The Sixth Form facilities are now completely fitted out with a café area, 'Edmond's', providing coffee and hot snacks for our older pupils and the occasional member of staff. New furniture and a table football set give the main social area a friendly feel and the study areas are in high demand as A Level students focus on their academic work. Across the site, the new Nursery, with its impressive outdoor spaces and planting, is full of busy children.

I have been delighted by the way our new First Year pupils have settled into the school. Starting secondary school is always a daunting step but for this cohort, who have had their primary education disrupted and were deprived of our usual induction events last term, it is particularly pleasing that they have adjusted so quickly to new routines and expectations.

We look forward to the new academic year with optimism, rediscovering aspects of life that seemed commonplace in previous years but now seem so precious.

Dr Paul Owen



EXCITING START TO THE YEAR

Our adventurous First Year pupils were thrilled to head off for the SGS annual residential trip to Ilam Youth Hostel in the beautiful Peak District.

During the trip, our pupils visited Chatsworth House, went hiking around Dovedale and took part in games and activities to develop teamwork and communication skills.

Thomas Huxley said: **"The trip was fun and I really enjoyed the adventure playground as I got to run around and play with my friends. I knew**

some of the other First Years from my time in the Junior School but it was easy, and a great opportunity, to make new friends too."

First Year pupil, Alexis Atenyam said: **"I really enjoyed the residential to Ilam, it was a lot of fun and I now know more people in my year and made new friends. We did lots of activities and made time for ice creams. I especially enjoyed the evening quiz and the trip to the Heights of Abraham in cable cars which was scary but amazing."**



OUTSTANDING EXAM RESULTS

Congratulations to our fantastic A Level and GCSE students on their exceptional academic achievements. At A Level, 86% of the grades were awarded at A* to B and 58% at A* and A. At GCSE, 27% of the grades were at the top mark of 9, with over 76% at 9, 8 and 7.

Headmaster Dr Paul Owen said: **"Our students have worked incredibly hard and I am delighted by their achievements. Supported by their teachers, they have shown academic ambition and resilience in the most difficult of circumstances and have continued to take opportunities to develop their wider talents. I am immensely proud of them."**

I wish our A Level students every success as they prepare to start their courses at prestigious universities across the country and I look forward to welcoming back the large majority of our GCSE students into the Sixth Form at Stockport Grammar School."

Amongst the students receiving their results, Caitlin Cutts was excited to be going on to study at Cambridge University. Following her 4 A*s in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths she is studying Natural Sciences at Jesus College, Cambridge where she also secured a Choral Scholarship. At Cambridge, she joins Reece Linney who is studying Engineering at Girton College.

Talia Zelfhof has combined music in SGS's many ensembles with performances with the Hallé Youth Orchestra. Following her ten 9s at GCSE, she is now studying A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, English Literature and Philosophy.

Keen cricketer Alman Hussain was 'buzzing' with his results of six 9s, one 8 and three 7s and said: **"I'm looking forward to Sixth Form. SGS is a great place – I've got lots of mates and the staff are nice and supportive."**

MATHEMATICIANS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Keen SGS mathematicians put their problem-solving skills to the test as they took part in the 'Mathematical Education on Merseyside Challenge' at the end of the academic year.

From the 93 schools who took part, over 540 entries were received for the First and Second Year Challenge and 190 for the Senior Challenge.

First Year Katherine Monk achieved 'Best in School' in the First and Second Years section and Fourth Year George Steele was 'Best in School' for the Senior Challenge – both obtaining a Certificate of Merit.



SCHOOL LIFE

SGS ACHIEVES ECO AWARD

We are delighted to announce that SGS has secured the Eco-Schools England Silver Award.

The Silver Award involved the Senior and Junior School Eco-Committees completing the Eco-Board and doing a survey of the current curriculum to see when, and in which subjects, environmental issues are covered. The Eco-Board is viewed by all pupils coming in and out of the Woodsmoor building and gives information on our meetings and various initiatives.

The school is now well on the way to achieving Green Flag status. To achieve this status, there needs to be a period of monitoring the success of our various initiatives across the school in raising biodiversity on the site and reducing both litter and the use of plastic in school.

The Eco-Committees will also be working on an Eco-Code which will be displayed in every classroom.

LINGUISTS DEMONSTRATE GERMAN SKILLS

A Fourth Year German debate took place in the last week of the Summer Term.

Adina Vidler and Matthew Darbyshire represented one class with Josh Kitchen and Millie Gallimore representing another.

All the pupils showed impressive linguistic and debating skills as they discussed the seen topic 'Holidays abroad or in England?' and the unseen title 'Advantages and disadvantages of social media'.

Meanwhile, Lower Sixth German students started their Sixth Form course in September with a special German-style back to school Schultüte – a special cone filled with sweet treats.



PSYCHOLOGISTS STUDY ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Lower Sixth Psychology students enjoyed a trip to Chester Zoo as part of their studies in the Summer Term.

The group explored the zoo in the sunshine and were able to see chimpanzees, orangutans, elephants, and giraffes amongst other creatures.

They then took part in a workshop on the evolution of various behaviours in primates, with links to the attachment and relationships topics of A-Level Psychology.



STUDENTS IMPRESS IN INDUSTRIAL CADETS SCHEME

Six Lower Sixth students utilised their problem solving and engineering skills as they took part in this year's Industrial Cadets Gold Project.

The team, which was led by Alex Ward and consisted of Jessica Barraclough, Joseph Hadfield, Daniel Atanasov, Rafe Howgate and Nicholas Houghton, tackled a challenge set by Network Rail – namely 'Light and power supply monitoring in low voltage distribution cubicles'.

Each of the team members contributed sections towards an industry standard report on the project and they worked with Tony Finlison, a Senior Project Engineer with Capital Delivery Eastern, Network Rail who encouraged them to explore the scope of the issue and the wide range of possible solutions.

The Industry Assessor praised the group's 'enthusiasm', 'project management skills' and 'well-rehearsed presentation' with the team's collective effort and strong leadership also winning rave reviews.



SECOND YEARS CREATE ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATIONS

Second Year pupils enhanced their problem solving, teamwork and communication skills as they took part in The National Enterprise Challenge's Key Stage 3 Challenge.

The task, which was part of an Enterprise Day, was set by Air Products and required entrants to work in teams to create a brand new product using recycled cylinders and tanks.

The winning team, 'Elphacan', consisting of Owen Morriss, Bethan Holding, Lily Groves and Jamie Rogers took part in the Virtual National Final on 15th July.

Their idea was a children's playhouse, which included a raft of innovative ideas such as turning the recycled items into a slide and a fireman's pole. Their slogan - 'solving problems, creating solutions' – also impressed the judges.

BIOLOGISTS RESEARCH ENDANGERED SPECIES

In place of the Biology department's traditional Chester Zoo Day, Second Year pupils worked on a project about endangered species.

Small groups created and presented a poster on an endangered species that they thought was important to save.

They also had a talk delivered by an expert at Chester Zoo about how we can help prevent extinction and were able to see some of the artefacts collected when animals are hunted for trade.

Within each form, a winning poster was chosen and these are now proudly displayed on the notice board as you enter the Biology building.



FIRST YEARS SETTLE IN AT SGS

First Year pupils have had a fun and full start to the academic year.

The day before term started, the pupils were invited in to familiarise themselves even more with the school site and to spend time in their forms with their new teachers.

The Lower School Activities Fair rounded off the first week for the new First Years. SGS has an active and comprehensive co-curricular programme and the range of activities means that whether a child is sporty, musical, dramatic, thoughtful, competitive, curious, caring or creative, there is something to inspire them.

Pupils were encouraged to find an activity that they liked and sign up for it. Activities cover various areas including competitions, music, performing arts, sport and talks and presentations.



FASCINATING SGS HISTORIAN RETURNS

Issue Six of the 'SGS Historian', a magazine created by Lower Sixth pupils is now available.

The theme for this year's publication is 'Does History Repeat Itself?' and articles include a look at the 1918 Influenza Pandemic vs the 2019 Coronavirus Pandemic and Greenland and Iceland's struggle for independence from Denmark.

The writing team this year was Alex Ward, Jessica Horsford, Harry Brown, Jack Brown, Gabe Keeble, Jack Stockton and Josh Martin, whilst Head of History Dr Stephen Smith and Head of Sixth Form Mr David Stone also contributed articles.

Speaking on behalf of the writing team, student Alex Ward said: **"We felt history repeating itself was an appropriate topic to base the magazine around due to the concerning cyclical nature of recent events, such as the coronavirus pandemic, the rise of far right extremism and some recent religious and racial conflicts."**

Read the full magazine on our website.



TASTY CREATIONS IN MASTERCHEF CHALLENGE

Our creative Fifth Year Food Preparation and Nutrition pupils whipped up a storm in the SGS Masterchef semi-final.

In the challenge they had to use their current learning about fats and proteins to prepare and present a sandwich containing six elements: something soft, crunchy, sour, sweet, hot and cold.

The class welcomed the Head of Middle School, Mrs Fitzgerald, as judge. Joint first place was awarded to Jennifer Bailey-Manion for her fried chicken and Rhiannon Bailey-Manion for her spicy chicken and avocado.

LITERARY TALENT ON DISPLAY

The highly praised 'Like, Literary' magazine has returned for a second edition.

The publication features articles on themes such as Creative Writing, Poetry in Music and Television and Film and it also contains reviews of books such as George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' and 'Circe' by Madeline Miller.

This year's version also sees the work of a Year Six pupil feature after Finn R won the Junior W S Johnston Prize.

Speaking about the process of producing the magazine, Editors Charlotte Bradley-Potts and Merryn Summersgill said: **"For this edition we wanted to capture the events and experiences that shaped our community in the last year. We kept our design minimalistic but with a message behind it: the blue theme that runs throughout represents the resilience of the NHS when conquering the pandemic, a triumph we strived to feature.**

"The pieces chosen by each section's Editors highlight both historical and modern issues that students and teachers alike wanted to explore. We would like to thank all of the people who collaborated to produce such a fantastic magazine that we hope you enjoy reading and will inspire you to write yourself!"



ARTS



SCULPTURES INSPIRE ARTISTS

Forty Fourth Year artists ventured to Yorkshire Sculpture Park for an outdoor art gallery experience during the Summer Term.

Pupils took part in a 'Walk, Talk, Make' with Vinnie, an artist who specialises in sculpture, and saw works by major artists including Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Julian Opie, Eduardo Paolozzi, Joana Vasconcelos and Damien Hirst.

Pupils engaged in practical drawing activities and group work using clay, alongside discussions and debates about the pieces they saw.

FANTASTIC RNCM OFFERS AND EXAM DISTINCTIONS

Gifted SGS musicians have demonstrated their burgeoning talent with two pupils being selected for the Junior Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) and a raft of impressive exam results.

Second Year Clara Zelhof, who plays the violin and piano, is delighted to be a part of the group and said: **"I am really excited about this opportunity and am looking forward to taking part in rehearsals and concerts. I was a bit nervous at the audition but once I started playing I was OK."**

Clara has further reason to celebrate after getting distinctions in both Grade 8 violin and Grade 5 singing.

She will be joined in the Junior RNCM by Upper Sixth student Daniel Vincent who will play the euphonium and percussion.

Third Year Harrison Wilson obtained a distinction in his Rock School drum exam – an assessment for candidates who have mastered advanced technical control and have a thorough grasp of extended stylistic techniques.

Sixth Former Liv Dow also attained a distinction at Grade 8 after getting 96 out of 100 in her cello exam.



DRAMA AND MUSIC MAKE A DAZZLING RETURN

The Music and Drama departments are full of preparations for a return to live performances with a host of concerts and productions announced at the start of the Autumn Term.

Aspiring actors attended auditions for the school's production of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'.

Music fills the corridors of the school as SGS musicians rehearse for a number of shows and recitals that will take place over the academic year including the Autumn Concert, Carol Service and Winter Concert.

CREATIVE DESIGNS BROUGHT TO LIFE

Two Stockport Grammar pupils were delighted to be in the top two of the Gilbert Rugby's 'Design Your Own Rugby Ball' competition.

First Year Edith Rose and the overall winner Rosie Moore, who is in the Second Year, were delighted to see their creations brought to life.



ARTISTS' FINAL PIECES SHOWCASED

The amazing artistic ability of last year's A-level and GCSE Art students has been documented in a colourful and jam-packed gallery catalogue.

Following the cancellation of the last couple of annual A-level and GCSE Art Exhibitions, it is the second time this catalogue has been produced and it draws to a conclusion a period of two years of study for the students.

Among the range of media and techniques included are painting, sculpture and photography.

Head of Art and Design Mr Richard Davies and department teachers Mrs Rebecca Upton and Mrs Katy Gate said:

"We want to congratulate each student for the willingness, determination and fortitude they showed when dealing with the unprecedented set of circumstances. Evidence of those qualities of resilience abound in the pages of this catalogue and they all should take great pride in seeing what has been produced."

Chairman of Governors Mr Chris Dunn concluded: **"I am delighted that this year, when it is not possible to hold the Exhibition, this brochure makes it possible for a wide audience to view and admire the accomplished art work of the pupils of the School - the very high standard of which reflects great credit on the students and staff of the Art Department."**



TALENTED MUSICIANS JOIN PRESTIGIOUS HALLÉ GROUPS

It has been an exciting start to the academic year for our musicians with a number of pupils being offered places in the Hallé Youth Orchestra and the Hallé Youth Choir.

Second Year pupil Clara Zelhof (violin) joins Lower Sixth students Liv Dow (cello), Talia Zelhof (oboe), Ben Wood (clarinet) and Patrick Owen (trumpet) in the orchestra where they will take part in a number of rehearsals and concerts and in other training activities, including residential courses and tours.

Liv Dow will also take up a place in the Hallé Youth Choir, alongside fellow Sixth Formers Lily Amet and Ella Moran.

The choir, which is recognised as one of the country's leading mixed-voice youth choirs, usually performs with the Hallé and a variety of other ensembles, as well as independently.



SPORT

ACTION-PACKED START TO SPORT AND CLUBS

Sport fixtures at SGS have made a welcome return and we are already achieving some impressive results in the first round of National competitions.

Netball U13s were celebrating following a win in both the Sisters n Sport National Cup and the Independent Schools Netball Cup.

Outstanding hockey performances have seen the school teams throughout the year groups secure wins including the U13 team against Newcastle-Under-Lyme.

Rugby have been improving their handling skills with a special coaching session from Sale Sharks.

To keep up to date with the latest fixtures and results visit: www.sport.stockportgrammar.co.uk



SGS TALKS SPORT CONTINUES

To aid pupils' development, the Sport, PE, Health and Fitness department have continued 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 recently spoke to photographer Stephen Gosling.

Stockport-born Stephen is now based in Washington and is an NBA photographer. He was also an official photographer at the Tokyo Olympics.

Other talks to feature over the last month include an insightful discussion with Great Britain Hockey star Shona McCallin MBE. Visit SGS on YouTube to watch the full SGS Talks Sport series.



PUPILS PUT THEIR BEST FOOT FORWARD

Senior School pupils demonstrated their sporting ability by taking part in House Athletics activities.

Pupils from First to Fourth Year competed in a range of track and field activities, such as the 100m, the 1,500m, long jump and the javelin, during their House Athletics events. These events were held on four separate days.

First Year

In the First Year, Warren took top spot in the table and they were followed by Arden and Vernon with Nicholson finishing bottom.

Arthur Wolstenholme and Molly Mills won the respective Victor Ludorum titles.

Second Year

In the Second Year Vernon finished first, Nicholson came second, Arden third and Warren fourth.

Amelia Blakeley won the girls' Victor Ludorum title and Oisin Atkinson and Jack Williams shared the boys' title.

Third Year

Nicholson came first in the Third Year competition and they were followed by Arden (second), Warren (third) and Vernon (fourth).

Ava Barton and Rhys Watson picked up the Victor Ludorum titles.

Fourth Year

In the Fourth Year competition, Warren topped the table with Nicholson, Arden and Vernon following them in that order.

James Ware won the boys' Victor Ludorum title and Darcy Breen picked up the girls' title.



DANCERS SHINE ON THE STAGE

Fifth Year and Sixth Form dancers put on a stunning show as they performed in a 'Taste of Dance', a smaller scale live-streamed dance show towards the end of the 2020-2021 academic year.

The performers were delighted to be back on the school stage and pieces included many that the pupils had created themselves.

The show got underway with Sophia Fanigliulo-Vlasis, Lucy Grundy, Isabelle Horne, Phoebe Kelly-Cooper, Suzi Kim, Tahlia Smith, Fiona Telfer, Niamh Warburton and Izzie White performing 'Hot Honey Rag' from the musical Chicago.

The show concluded with an energetic and euphoric performance of 'You Can't Stop the Beat' from Hairspray.

Dance Teacher Mrs Abi Downing said: **"In these unprecedented times it felt like a real milestone to be back on our school stage performing once more, albeit in an unconventional manner."**

"The pupils deserve a huge thank you and well done - they have worked so hard on their individual and group performances, showing commitment and enthusiasm despite the challenges we've faced this year."

Thanks also go to the Production Team of Chloe Almond (Lighting), Millie Job (Sound), Fiona Telfer (Programme Artwork), Mrs Alison Moffatt (Backstage) and Mrs Downing and the dancers (Costumes).

READY TO REHEARSE

Talented dancers from the Senior School are excitedly preparing for a live dance show due to take place in the Spring Term.

The dance opportunities at SGS are extensive with curriculum opportunities and dance clubs that include Jazz, Modern and Contemporary.

Regular musical productions bring together drama, music, dance and backstage teams in an exciting collaboration to showcase and develop our pupils' talents, with the latest production 'Chicago' taking place in spring 2020.

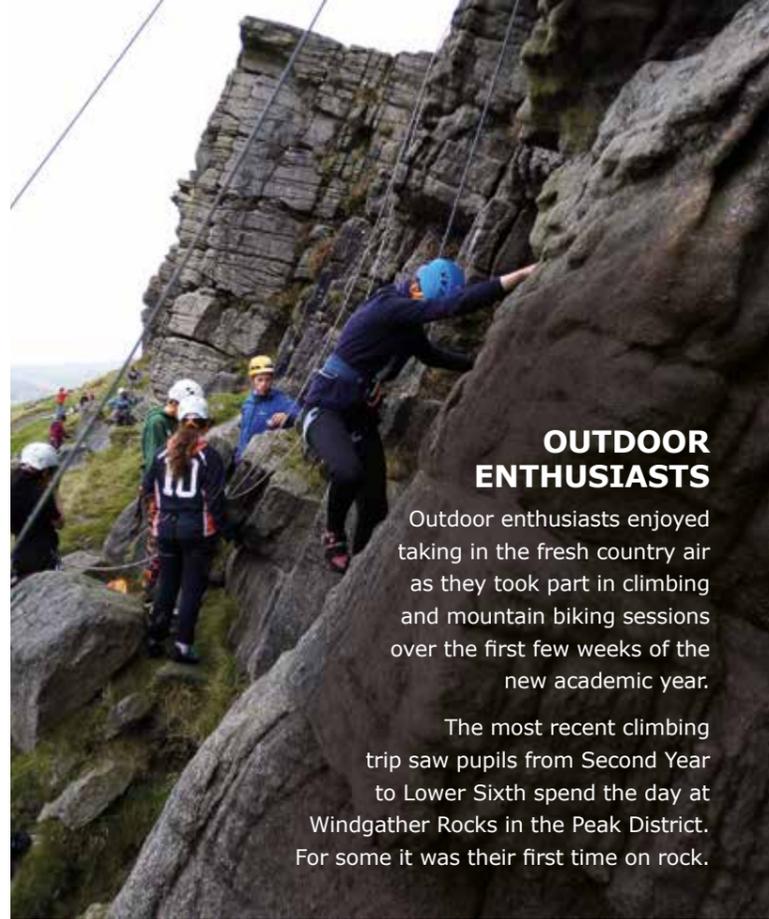
CO-CURRICULAR



BIKERS HIT THE TRAILS

Mountain bikers explored Disley, Lyme Park and Rowarth during their first outdoor trip of the new school year.

The group covered 19 miles with over 2,800 feet of climbing and it has whetted their appetite for more.



OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

Outdoor enthusiasts enjoyed taking in the fresh country air as they took part in climbing and mountain biking sessions over the first few weeks of the new academic year.

The most recent climbing trip saw pupils from Second Year to Lower Sixth spend the day at Windgather Rocks in the Peak District. For some it was their first time on rock.

SUPERB LINE UP OF SPOTLIGHT ON... TALKS

The first 'Spotlight On...' talk of the 2021-2022 academic year saw Sixth Formers, who are part of the Medical Society, give a talk about books they have read around the genre of medicine.

At the 'A Good Read: About Medicine' session, the six students provided a synopsis of the book they read, discussed how it made them feel and fielded questions from the audience.

'Spotlight On...' returned the following week with an insightful presentation from Fourth Year pupils Priya Burrow and Magda Zelazny on the topic of fast fashion.

The pair discussed the economic and practical challenges of creating a more sustainable fashion industry.

Further talks and presentations will be taking place throughout the year.



INSIGHTFUL CAREERS CONVENTION

It was amazing to welcome so many interested Fourth Year, Fifth Year and Sixth Form students to this year's Careers Convention.

Aspiring medics got a chance to listen to talks from Old Stop Dr Rob Waterhouse and those interested in finance heard current Old Stopfordian President Clare Francis and her colleagues at Barclays give a fascinating talk.

Thank you to the over 50 representatives from business, industry and a range of universities that helped make the event such a success.



SHAA LECTURES RETURN

SGS was honoured to welcome back Old Stopfordian Nikita Murray (OS 2019) and her mother Figen Murray to share with Sixth Formers their story about tolerance, kindness and forgiveness in the wake of the Manchester Arena attack in which Nikita lost her brother, Martyn Hett.

Figen has toured the UK to share their message with over 11,000 children, with a drive to instill values of compassion, peace and kindness, as well as educating young adults about the dangers of terrorism and its devastating effect on families.

Figen said: **"I believe that even small acts of kindness make a big difference to individuals' lives."**

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD CONTINUES TO INSPIRE

A number of Sixth Form students took in the beautiful sights of Yorkshire on their Duke of Edinburgh Award Gold Canoeing Assessment before the new school year. Locations covered during their expeditions included Ripon and the River Ouse.

Stockport Grammar School is proud to be a Direct Licensed Organisation and as such we can offer the chance to obtain the award to all willing pupils starting at bronze level at the end of their Third Year. Each participant's programme is tailor made to reflect the individual's starting point, abilities and interests.



MOUNTAINEER CAPTIVATES FIRST YEARS

Our First Year pupils were thrilled to welcome Everest summiteer and author Matt Dickinson to the school.

Many of the pupils were familiar with the author as some of his books were on the school summer reading list.

Matt spoke to pupils who were taken on a captivating creative journey and at lunch time the pupils gathered with excitement to get their books signed by the accomplished author.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

The SGS community raised £671 for Macmillan Cancer Support during the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

Warren House's Senior Prefects - Josh Martin, Emre Gocer, Emily Edwards and Daisy Keigher – showed great organisation and commitment as they created an awesome atmosphere at their cake sale. They looked great in their white hats, aprons and gloves and it was amazing to see the whole house there raising money for such a worthy cause.

Cake sales also took place outside the Sixth Form Centre, in classrooms and in the staff rooms.

Well done to everyone involved.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY INSPIRE YEAR SIX

As part of the Junior School's commitment to developing skills of citizenship, personal responsibility and care for one another, we are pleased to announce the names of the Year Six pupils that are taking up positions of responsibility.

Marco B and Minnie H will be the Head Boy and Head Girl for the Autumn Term.

Two pupils from each of the school's four houses are chosen to be a House Captain on a termly basis.

The House Captains for the Autumn Term are:

- Arden: Anabelle W and Finn N
- Nicholson: Sophia S and Sophia T
- Vernon: Amelia D and Thomas W
- Warren: Georgiana H and Jack P

After announcing the appointments, Junior School Headmaster Mr Matthew Copping said: **"Well done to everyone who has secured a position of responsibility. We are excited to work with them and support them in their new roles.**

"By taking up one of these positions, pupils promote a common ethos with shared values, develop a selfless approach and sense of community spirit and it allows them to encounter and deal with compromise."



HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

The resumption of singing and music, co-curricular activities, fixtures, inter-year playground games, School Council, Harvest Festival, House competitions and so much more, have provided a poignant reminder of just how much learning and personal development takes place for our young people as they mix in the time and space between their lessons.

We have much to look forward to over the year ahead – educational visits and residential trips, concerts and performances. The school year has got off to a fantastic start – the school has had a real buzz about it as we resume some of the activities we have been unable to undertake over the last 18 months. Our first whole school assembly in September was a very special occasion – having the whole school community together in one place was an important and reflective start to the term.

Since September, our Year Six children have taken up a variety of posts to enable them to develop their leadership skills – Prefects, House Captains, Sports Captains and Head Boy and Girl. This year we have also created a new post of Charity Rep.

The Charity Reps are responsible for supporting our Charity Coordinator Mrs Turner – and have already helped our fundraising efforts for The Christie and to lead our Harvest Assembly. All of these leadership roles help to reinforce and support our school values, particularly togetherness.

The last few weeks have reminded us of the importance of togetherness and the importance of our school community being able to physically come together again.

Mr Matthew Copping



SPORTS DAYS SHOWCASE ATHLETIC TALENT

Junior School pupils had a great time taking part in Sports Days.

The Infants had their own Sports Day with Years Three and Four and Years Five and Six holding separate events.

Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One children had lots of fun competing in several different events such as long jump, ladder racing, hurdles, a sack race and a nerf throw.

The overall standings were:

- 1st Vernon
- 2nd Nicholson
- 3rd Warren
- 4th Arden

YEAR SIX MARK END OF YEAR IN STYLE

At the end of the 2020-2021 academic year, Year Six boys and girls signed off from the Junior School in a number of memorable ways.

The Stopfordian Parents' Association hosted Stockfest 2021, the Leavers' Party for pupils who have completed their time in the SGS Junior School.

With the outdoor areas beautifully decorated with banners, balloons and flags, attendees enjoyed tasting scrumptious cupcakes, candyfloss and ice creams and taking part in a wide range of games including limbo, the coconut shy and Play Your Cards Right.

Pupils loved pulling on their sky blue leavers' hoodies during the last few weeks of the Summer Term.

Reflecting on their time in the Junior School, Neave S said: **"I'm excited for a new environment and to make more friends. I have liked how everyone is always included and takes part in everything in the Junior School. The teachers are caring and always help you."**

Benedict W added: "I've really enjoyed the community we have in the Junior School, everyone is friends and we all play together. I also like playing rugby for the school."

PRODUCTION MAKES A SPLASH

The Year Six production for the 2020-2021 academic year was 'The Little Mermaid'.

The animated Disney classic, which is based on the 1837 Danish fairy tale of the same name by Hans Christian Andersen, tells the story of a mermaid princess who dreams of becoming human and falls in love with a human prince, which leads her to make a magic deal with the sea witch to become human.

Pupils had lots of fun learning their lines and lyrics with the help of staff including Music Teacher Mrs Anastasia Micklethwaite and SGS's Head of Drama Mr Matt King-Sayce.

Some of the songs they performed included 'Part Of Your World' and the well-known piece 'Under The Sea'. The production was filmed for families to enjoy at home.



SGS COMMUNITY RAISE RECORD AMOUNT

The Junior School held a Dress Down Day to support The Christie.

Year Six pupils Neave S, Anna B, Sophia St C and Priya M wanted to raise awareness and funds for The Christie after discussions about charities and the work they do in an earlier lesson and were delighted with the total raised.

The girls said: **"As the organising group, we are delighted to discover that we have raised £1,891 for The Christie – a hospital dedicated to treating cancer and for researching it. We all experienced a day in non-uniform. The day was all about physical and mental health, and also learning more about healthy eating."**



RECORD AMOUNT RAISED £1,891





INSPIRATIONAL TALK FROM BARONESS FLOELLA BENJAMIN

Children in Years One to Six enjoyed taking part in a special Macmillan Children's Books event which saw Baroness Floella Benjamin deliver an outstanding and inspiring talk.

As part of the publisher's 'Virtually Together Festival', Baroness Benjamin of Beckenham spoke to schools from across the country over Zoom to celebrate the publication of both her picture book 'Coming to England: An Inspiring True Story About the Windrush Generation' (suitable for ages 5-7) and the 25th anniversary edition of her ever-popular memoir 'Coming to England' (suitable for ages 8-11).

Pupils intently listened to her talking about her journey from the Caribbean, aged 10, to begin a new life in London in the 1960s with her family. They learnt of the adverse circumstances that she encountered and how she learnt to overcome them with her mind and embracing education as a passport to a better future. As the Baroness shared with the pupils, her Mum said:

"Ain't no stopping you; everything's achievable."

GEOGRAPHERS EXPLORE THE WORLD

Year One children have continued their learning about Australia by reading Rachel Bright's book 'The Koala Who Could'.

In Art, the children made koalas, cutting out and piecing together shapes using a variety of materials



LITERARY WORKS ENTHUSE YEAR TWO

Throughout the year, Year Two enjoyed reading many types of literature.

For the Summer Term, pupils engaged in literacy activities related to the books written by Anthony Browne. A firm favourite was 'Through the Magic Mirror', which was about a young boy who stepped through his mirror into a world which looked the same but was slightly different.

The pupils also read 'Changes' and eagerly discussed the changes that had taken place around them, and the world, this year.



AUTHOR PROVIDES LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Reception pupils have enjoyed learning about the story 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson.

The children explored the farmyard scene and used different cereals to create each animal's pen. They even made their own maps to seize the fine prize cow without getting caught!

They also used their creative skills to make their own ladybirds from the story.

PHENOMENAL LAMDA RESULTS

Congratulations to all the Year Three to Year Six pupils who took their LAMDA Examinations in June. We are very proud of the efforts they made, especially with so much of their learning being delivered online.

The pupils' hard work resulted in every pupil achieving a Merit and above with over 80% achieving the highest award of Distinction.



MUSICAL DISCOVERY

Junior School pupils enjoyed exploring the music opportunities on offer at SGS with the chance to try out a range of instruments from the cello to the clarinet.

With opportunities in oboe, clarinet, saxophone, flute, cello, guitar, double bass and more, starting from Junior School our pupils are encouraged to explore different instruments, sounds and techniques before choosing which is for them.



SCIENTISTS TACKLE FINAL CHALLENGE

Year Five's final STEM Club challenge at the end of the Summer Term was to create an Escape Room task.

They had to solve a variety of mathematical problems and riddles, using the maths strategies covered

across the year, to find the key code to allow them to 'escape' unscathed.

Pupils have really enjoyed working together and the teachers have had great fun watching them plan, puzzle, solve and evaluate.



BIRTHDAY CARD DESIGN COMPETITION

The judging panel for the Junior School Birthday Card Design Competition were inundated with entries with over 100 designs sent in.

After much deliberation it was decided that the winners were: Early Years - Chloe X; Years 1 and 2 - Anna C; Years 3 and 4 - Leo G and Lucy M; and Years 5 and 6 - Sadie-May F.

COUNTLESS CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Our children in the Junior School have been enjoying the chance to take part in a myriad of co-curricular activities including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Club, Model United Nations Club and Rugby.

Find out more about the co-curricular opportunities on offer at SGS on the website.



SUPER SEASONAL LEARNING

Nursery children enjoyed the sunshine and engaged in lots of summer themed activities.

They counted with shells, pebbles and toy fish, used moulds and decorated sandcastles and they visited the ice cream shop in the home corner.

They discovered that ice cream comes in lots of different flavours, with chocolate being the firm favourite of the class.



RARING TO GO

Junior School pupils have been full of energy at the start of the Autumn Term.

Nursery boys and girls have settled in well and enjoyed a journey on a look, listen and talk walk where they noticed signs of nature and collected items such as leaves, conkers, pine cones and twigs to make a collage.

After finding a letter which explained how something special had been found on the school grounds, children in Reception grabbed their welly boots and magnifying glasses to go on a hunt.

Year One children learnt how to sequence and retell a story and make puppets after reading Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson's 'Owl Babies' book.

In Year Two Science lessons, pupils have been learning about the different food groups and discussing their benefits. Year Three children joined pupils from schools across the country for a talk from Dara McAnulty, an author, naturalist, conservationist and activist from Northern Ireland.

Year Four started their electricity topic by completing a set of challenges. In one of their STEM Club sessions, Year Five pupils covered the topic of buoyancy. Year Six pupils have been learning about the cha cha cha, samba, tango and bossa nova as they find out more about the culture and dance music of Latin America.



LEARNING FROM NATURE

Year Two children learnt about butterflies and bugs and making keepsakes from clay.

Following lessons about lifecycles, the children waited patiently for three weeks to witness metamorphosis taking place.

They were greeted by four beautiful butterflies and set them free.

They have also observed and drawn various specimens of bugs. They were introduced to identifying creatures using classification keys and will build on this work in Year Four.

ONLINE LEARNING SPECIAL FOR SCIENTISTS

As part of their Science and Humanities work on states of matter and the water cycle, Year Four pupils took part in an online session with Janet and Jayne from Kingfisher Education Services, who work alongside United Utilities to deliver their education programmes.

Intrigued pupils learnt about how water is delivered to our homes and taken away again to be cleaned, found out more about sewers and heard about the positives and dangers of reservoirs.



Archie B said: **"It was so much fun watching the paper in the water bottles being shaken. Learning all about the water cycle was really interesting."**

BUSY WEEK OF LEARNING AND DISCOVERY FOR NURSERY

Nursery pupils had a busy week baking biscuits, painting flowers and exploring outside towards the end of the Summer Term.

Using ingredients such as flour, ginger, egg and golden syrup, the girls and boys rolled out their biscuit dough before cutting it into a shape and decorating it with honey or icing sugar.

Jack B loved his finished creation and gave it a big thumbs-up.

Making the most of the sunshine, they headed outside to explore the new Nursery development's large garden spaces and played at the water and sand stations. Sebastian J remarked that it was **"like a beach"**.

