

# TAKING / STOCK

Stockport Grammar  
School Newsletter



**Issue 79**  
Winter 2021/2022



**MUN DEBATE RETURNS**  
Page 9



**SPECTACULAR JUNIOR SPORTS**  
Page 13



**HELPING OTHERS**  
Page 16

## SCHOOL LIFE

### HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

Our pupils show a real zest for school life. In the Autumn Term they relished the richly varied opportunities available once again as SGS emerged from the coronavirus restrictions that have hampered our activities for so long.

Enthusiasm is one of the five character strengths that we encourage in our pupils. I feel so sad when I see people just going through the motions: whatever we are tackling we should do it with real energy and commitment, even if it is not our favourite task. Tackling tasks with enthusiasm gives us self-esteem because we know that we have given it our best shot, whatever the outcome. Tackling tasks with enthusiasm makes us more likely to succeed because we bring our focus and determination to bear. Tackling tasks with enthusiasm encourages others, we are all drawn to and inspired by enthusiastic people.

'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', with its numerous cast (always room for a few more Narnian animals), embodied enthusiasm. Having spied on a few rehearsals I know that the pupils worked incredibly hard throughout the term and their joy at being able to perform live theatre to an evening audience for the first time since 'A Christmas Carol' in December 2019 was tangible.



The Autumn Concerts offered further showcases for enthusiasm with some fantastic ensemble performances on display. The pupils blended individual musicality, sensitive teamwork and a palpable sense of fun.

In sport, 30% of our pupils have represented the school this term in fixtures against other schools.

The pupils' enthusiasm for sports of all types is very evident and this percentage does not include pupils who have played in inter-house fixtures or have appeared at training but not matches. The Spring and Summer Term sports will push this percentage much higher by the end of the year with the Sports Department reporting that pupils' appetites for participating in sport has been heightened by the restrictions of the last couple of years.

The wealth of support for academic competitions, lunchtime talks and curriculum trips shows the community's enthusiasm for study. With no coronavirus restrictions on activities, the pupils have returned to discussion, practical work and collaboration with vigour and the lessons have had a real buzz about them.

'Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm', Ralph Emerson.

**Dr Paul Owen**



### BRILLIANT BIOLOGY PROJECTS

Creative First Year pupils rose to the challenge in Biology when they were asked to do a project on their favourite specialised cells.

The pupils were set the task to make a model and fact sheet and to give a presentation on the structure, function and special features of the cell – which make it adapted for the job it does in the body.

Biology teacher Mrs Niven said: **"I was amazed by the projects that were produced – these included cakes baked into the shapes of cells, Lego models and colourful fact sheets."**

The pupils gave presentations before prizes and commendations were made.



### SKILFUL FOOD PREP

Food and Nutrition students have been gaining a thorough grounding in both the theoretical and practical aspects of the subject in recent classes.

Third Year pupils learnt about the regular knife cuts that are used in many recipes whilst Sixth Formers made fresh pasta during an enrichment lesson.



### STEM DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Lower Sixth students Ella Glazier, Hadiya Adam and Chloe Olajide were delighted to be accepted onto Upskill Me's Empowered Females in STEM Programme.

The students take part in monthly masterclass and mentoring sessions over Zoom and they were chosen because they demonstrated a notable passion for STEM.

Sessions cover areas such as resilience, goal-setting, building a personal brand, public speaking and creating a career plan. The programme concludes with a celebration event in London in March 2022.



### INSIGHTFUL ENGLISH SESSION

Fifth Years interested in studying English Literature at A-level attended a taster session as part of SGS's Academic Support and Extension provision.

During the session, the pupils spoke about the themes, language and imagery that were used in 'The Handmaid's Tale', a best-selling novel by Margaret Atwood which has been turned into an Emmy-winning television series.

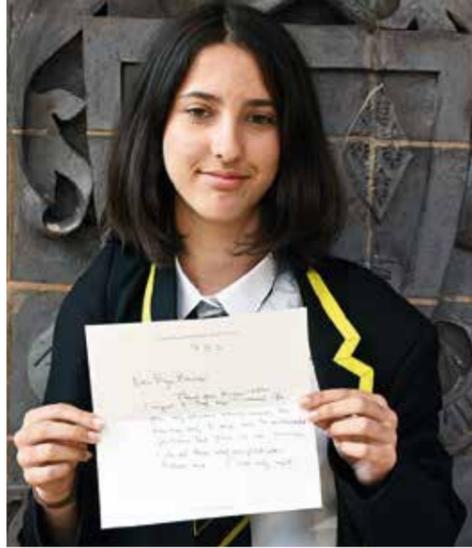
### MIND BOGGLING BRAIN DAY

Upper Sixth Psychologists were engrossed by the annual Brain Day, which saw neuroscientist Dr Guy Sutton perform a brain dissection and deliver wonderful talks.

The talks covered everything from brain structure and the criminal brain through to brain-technology interfacing in the future. Sixth Formers were able to see the brain structures they had learned about in the live dissection in what was a hugely engaging and enjoyable day for all involved.

# SCHOOL LIFE


  
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## DAVID ATTENBOROUGH LETTER RECEIVED

After writing letters to public figures that inspired her, Fourth Year Priya Burrow was delighted to receive responses from television royalty – in Sir David Attenborough – and Queen Elizabeth’s Lady-in-Waiting.

Priya wrote to broadcaster, natural historian and author Sir David about his environmental work and the work the Eco-Schools Committee are doing at SGS. She penned a letter to the Queen about the service she has provided to the country and about how to be a good citizen.

Other public figures she wrote to included Michelle Obama, Theresa May, Jacinda Ardern and Kamala Harris (about their political influence), the Duchess of Cambridge (about being a good citizen) and David Walliams (about his writing).

Second Year Molly Mills also wrote a letter to a person who had inspired her and was pleased to receive a reply from middle-distance athlete Eilish McColgan. Eilish represented Great Britain at the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games.

## DISTINGUISHED GUESTS JOIN PUPILS AND STAFF TO MARK REMEMBRANCE

Pupils and staff were this year joined by more than eighty guests, including Greater Manchester Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Sharman Birtles JP DL, representing Her Majesty The Queen; Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport, Councillor David Wilson and Ms Jeanette Slavinski; Old Stopfordian President Ms Clare Francis; Chairman of Governors Mr Christopher Dunn and fellow Old Stopfordians in memory of those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Headmaster, Dr Paul Owen led the service with an opening statement

marking 103 years since the end of the First World War. Upper Sixth Form pupil Torin Mills read an extract from the diary of infantryman Harry Drinkwater from the battleground in 1916, which was followed by the reading of Wilfred Owen’s Anthem for Doomed Youth by fellow Upper Sixth Form pupil Charlotte Bradley-Potts.

Dr Owen also read an extract of Infantryman’s Diary Helmand Province and Lower Sixth Form pupil Patrick Wilkinson read Isaiah, Chapter 2 Verse 4.

Lower Sixth Form pupil Patrick Owen played The Last Post marking the

beginning of a two minute silence. Wreaths were laid by Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Sharman Birtles, Deputy Mayor Councillor David Wilson, and separate wreaths were laid by Head Girl Jessica Horsford and Head Boy Harry Brown on behalf of Stockport Grammar School and Mary Robinson MP.

Prayers were led by Reverend Leaver, remembering those who have given their lives in service across the globe. The Headmaster closed the service with a call for all to take an active part in lessening the chance of future wars.



## LINGUISTS IMPRESS IN DEBATE

SGS Sixth Formers Jack Stockton, Yasmine Doyle and Iola Williams (Spanish team), Harry Brown, Rose Tomlinson and Charlie Harrison (German team) and Emre Gocer, Georgia Thorogood and Ysabel Ediker (French team) represented SGS at the 2021 North Schools’ Modern Languages Debating Competition.

Topics this year were ‘Parents should not have more than two children’, ‘Tourism benefits the world’ and ‘Young people should be allowed to vote at 16’.

Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Miss Gibson said: **“All of our teams gave an outstanding performance, displaying excellent linguistic and debating skills, with Harry, Rose and Charlie winning the German competition – which is the fourth time SGS has won the German competition since it first started.”**



## GEOGRAPHERS EXPLORE THE PEAKS

Fourth Year Geography pupils attended field trips to Kinder Scout and Edale Valley over recent weeks to study river processes and collect river data using a variety of methodologies.

Pupils really enjoyed both days with sunny weather and good camaraderie contributing to a really positive experience.

## EXPERTS DELIVER VACCINE TALK

Dr Vish Mehra, Chair of the Manchester GP Board and Dr Manisha Kumar, Medical Director at Manchester Health and Care Commissioning spoke to pupils as part of the Library’s ‘Spotlight On...talk’ series.

Their talk was entitled ‘Covid-19 vaccination – what you need to know...’ and during it they talked about the safety and effectiveness of vaccines, consent, the winter vaccination programme timeline and how the Greater Manchester Mass Vaccination Programme has been divided into three phases.

They also addressed vaccine equity in Manchester for specific communities and how they use age-based approaches – for example, having pop-ups in areas of high footfall and using influencers and social media

## ARTS



## MANCHESTER INSPIRES ARTISTS

Manchester's Castlefield, Spinningfields and China Town provided excellent source material as Lower Sixth artists and textile designers made the most of a drawing and photography day exploring different environments.

The visual information will provide them with valuable primary source material to develop back in the Art Department as part of their personal investigation for the portfolio component of the A-level course.

With the sun shining brightly, the students were able to dive into the extensive kit box of materials as they used acrylic paint, charcoal, conte crayons and watercolours – along with a wide array of drawing approaches and photography.



## LIVE MUSIC IS BACK

An excited audience gathered to watch the Autumn Concert, the first in-person concert since the Spring Term of 2020.

The fabulous celebration of music saw performers from all Senior School year groups, from First Year to Sixth Form, display their talent and for some pupils it was their first live performance at SGS.

The Concert Band kicked off proceedings with 'Dune Buggy' by Ralph Ford and 'North Winds Festival', a piece that is a musical expression of the north winds

After the interval, the Junior Percussion Ensemble delivered rousing versions of 'Believe' by Imagine Dragons and Survivor's 'Eye of the Tiger'.

The Chorus brought the show to a close with a medley from the musical Guys and Dolls which included solos from Third Year Dan Wood, Fifth Year Jonathan Hyde and Sixth Formers Gabriel Keeble, Lucy Grundy and Torin Mills.

Reflecting on the concert, Gabriel said: **"It was great to be back in front of a live crowd again! It was a little nerve-wracking at the start but the atmosphere was so friendly. I have loved taking part in rehearsals and I am looking forward to the upcoming concerts – especially the Carol Service at St George's Church."**



## AUDIENCES TRANSPORTED TO NARNIA

Audiences flocked to the Main Hall for this year's drama production of 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' which combined the talents of more than 100 pupils.

Thanks to excellent acting, staging and production work, the spectators immersed themselves in the most mystical of adventures as they joined Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter as they waved goodbye to wartime Britain and said hello to a talking Faun, an unforgettable Lion and the coldest, cruellest Witch.

The production was a culmination of six weeks of intensive work and was a real team effort from everyone involved, including the Directors and the staff who helped with artwork, costumes, front of house and backstage.

Head of Drama Mr Matt King-Sayce said:

**"It was a real pleasure to engage so many pupils, both onstage and backstage in our first live production in almost two years. The three performances of 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' were incredibly well-received by over 700 people.**

**"The camaraderie and support they offered each other led them to stage a performance they should be incredibly proud of."**

Fourth Year Ben Smethurst, who played Peter, said:

**"The show was really enjoyable and there was a great community ethos amongst the cast and crew. Being involved in the production is a great way to make friends and to find passions you never knew you had."**



## MUSICAL TALENTS DEMONSTRATED

It's been wonderful to see the return of the Monday Afternoon Recital Series.

Across four concerts, talented musicians from different year groups performed in the Hallam Hall.

Upper Sixth euphonium player Daniel Vincent performed a wonderful version of Karl Jenkins's 'Romanza, Second Movement from Euphonium Concerto'.

## AMAZING ART WORK TO BE PUBLISHED

Well done to Second Year Abby Lam whose artwork has been selected as one of the runners-up in Dryad Education's 2022 Catalogue Competition.

Her piece was based on a modern still life theme and influenced by the Purism art movement. Her composition was created using mixed media including collage and watercolour.

The artwork will feature in the art, textiles, design and technology supplier's brand-new catalogue and website and she has also won a £25 voucher to spend on materials from the catalogue.

# CO-CURRICULAR

## LIBRARY HOLDS COP26 TALK

The first 'Spotlight On...' talk after half term was on the topic of climate change.

The illuminating talk, titled 'COP26 – Best Last Chance?', was delivered by SGS Head of Classics Mr Alastair Thorley.

In a lively discussion, Mr Thorley highlighted the key facts, policies and commitments that were being made at the COP26 summit which aimed to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. He also quizzed the avid listeners on who they thought the biggest polluters were globally and whether the summit will actually bring forward change.

As part of SGS's commitment to minimising our environmental impact, pupils can join the Eco-Schools Committee and, in the Summer Term of the 2020-2021 academic year, the school gained the Eco-Schools Silver Award.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL REPS REVEALED

Following the hotly contested School Council elections, SGS is pleased to announce the Year Representatives for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Daisy Garside and William Lightening were successful from a big First Year field, Freddie Hancock-Grimley and Annabel Bagshaw took the Second Year spots and Annabel Huxley and Yusuf Ashraf will represent the Third Year. The Fourth Year election was won by Shania Broderick and Sachin Gholkar and Adina Vidler and Raayan Akbar were the Fifth Years that were selected by their peers.

## COLOURFUL DISPLAYS FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Well done to the SGS community on raising a stunning £1,272 for the mental health charity Mind as part of their Bright Clothing Accessory Day to mark World Mental Health Day.

Senior School and Sixth Form students rocked red jackets, bright bucket hats, yellow leggings and orange tutus as part of the fundraising initiative.



## SGS MARKS BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Pupils marked Black History Month in the UK by taking part in a variety of activities.

It was the focus of the first SGS History podcast and pupils from all Senior School year groups were invited to research a person or event that was an inspiration and record their findings.

The 'They were an inspiration...' theme saw pupils speak about figures such as athlete Jesse Owens, the ninth Mansa of the Mali Empire Mansa Musa and a number of civil rights campaigners.

Pupils were fascinated by Maya Anderson and Hadiya Adam's 'Spotlight On...' talk on the subject of 'Black Discrimination in Medicine'

and Upper Sixth student Jack Stockton focused on the topic of 'Accent Discrimination' in another 'Spotlight On...' talk.

The Library staff created an inspirational window display celebrating black role models as part of Black History Month's 'Proud To Be' theme. They also handpicked a number of books for pupils and staff to read.

Old Stopfordian, organisational psychologist, Founder of APS Intelligence and former NBA sportsman John Amaechi O.B.E. (OS 1989) spoke to Head of Psychology Mr Tom Buxton-Cope and former pupils Lydia Johnson and Panache Munaiwa (OS 2021) about prejudice, how to understand the concept of white privilege and how we can support each other in respecting difference as a school community.

Head of Middle School Mrs Jude Fitzgerald held an assembly on 'Cultural Appreciation vs Cultural Appropriation'.

During the talk she spoke about covert racism and being an ally, and she also shared a number of books, podcasts and shows for the SGS community to delve into.



## PUPILS RELISH RETURN OF MUN DEBATE

SGS pupils gave strong debate performances when they represented Iraq and New Zealand at a Model United Nations Conference.

All the pupils involved in the conference gave fascinating intellectual insight. Well done to Abigail Sullivan, Alex Bloor, Alice Finnie, Ananya Ruia, Betty Hashmi, Cara Bell, Christian Woodworth, Eddie Griffiths, Emilia Paul, Kia Spooner, Luca Scorer, Marley Busby, Millie Gallimore, Priya Burrow and Sam Sutton.

The delegates for Iraq won the top prize in the Human Rights Forum by being awarded 'Outstanding Delegation', including Priya Burrow who was awarded the top prize of 'Outstanding Delegate' in the Human Rights Council.

Ananya Ruia was awarded 'Best Young Delegate' in the Health and Social Committee representing New Zealand and there was also success in the Political Committee as Christian Woodworth was awarded 'Best Young Delegate', representing Iraq.



## SCOTTISH ADVENTURE FOR CYCLISTS

Despite questionable weather, SGS mountain bikers had a great time during their expedition to the Scottish Borders.

The group have been building up their skills over the past six years with school trips and in their own time.

Outdoor Education Co-ordinator Mr Adam Hughes said: "Seeing how much pupils have improved over the years, but especially this week, has been very rewarding. I'm excited to see the new pupils coming into the mountain bike scene at school develop as well. Hopefully future trips will not be as wet as this one!"



## HARVEST COLLECTION

A massive thank you to everyone who donated items for the Senior School's Harvest collection.

Just before half term, Sixth Formers Emre Gocer, Tom Flaherty, Charlotte Jackson, Nikita Arora, Haniah Daji and Charlotte Bradley-Potts loaded the minibus with the generous donations and made the short journey to the town centre to deliver them to The Wellspring Stockport and help homeless people.

## SPORT



## RUGBY TEAM REACH NATIONAL QUARTER FINALS

Our talented rugby players are heading through to the U18 National Plate Quarter-Finals against Norwich School.

A number of players have also been selected to join the Sale Sharks and Cheshire player's pathways.

Frank Chatterton has been training with Sale Sharks U18s and is looking forward to playing in the U18 Academy League, starting in December.

Isaac Deans, Albert Bradshaw, Rowan Abbott, Navid Mousavi-Khoshrou, Sami Nassar and Eddie McDonald have all been training with Sale Sharks U17 Junior Academy and Dominic Hanson has been selected for the Sale Sharks Junior Academy U16 Development Group.

Bradley Gleave, Joshua Sparrow and Harry Cook have been involved in the Sale Sharks U15 East Cheshire DPP.

SGS Head of Rugby, Hugo Corbett said: **"It is great to see that the boys are getting rewarded for their hard work and commitment, we are also very grateful to the number of different local rugby clubs that have also played an important role in their development."**

## HOUSE RESULTS

Pupils across the school have been participating in House Events including Swimming Galas, Badminton Matches and Orienteering challenges.

The results so far this year are:

Warren	87 ½
Nicholson	73
Arden	70
Vernon	68 ½



## NATIONAL SCHOOLS' NETBALL COMPETITION SUCCESS

The U16 netball team were thrilled to reach the regional round of the National Schools' Competition to be played in January, competing against a whole host of teams including Cheadle Hulme and Withington.

Sports teacher, Mrs Wilkinson said: **"This latest success builds on the reputation of our talented school teams who have previously seen success in regional and national competitions."**

**"Additional congratulations to our talented players who frequently gain representative honours with both county and national teams."**



## SCORING BIG

Well done to SGS footballers Daniel Stevens (U18), George Foster (U17), Dom Hanson (U16) and Jack Williams (U14) after their recent successful Independent Schools Football Association trials in York.

The quartet now go on to the next set of trials – ISFA North of England v ISFA South of England. The next step after that is the national squad.

## NETBALLERS' SKILLS RECOGNISED

A number of our netballers are celebrating after being selected for Leeds Rhinos Netball or Manchester Thunder squads.

Fifth Year Sophie Harris has been named in Leeds Rhinos U17 squad and fellow Fifth Year Libby Goodman will line up for Manchester Thunder's U17s.

The Manchester Thunder U12 squad features two First Years – Melika Mortazavi and Lola Ferris. Lola has also been chosen for Cheshire U12s.



## FANTASTIC HOCKEY SELECTIONS

Well done to Fourth Year Charli Barnett, Lower Sixth student Lucy Stead and Second Year Toby Gleave who have been selected to attend England Hockey Centres.

Charli and Lucy have been asked to join the Manchester Performance Centre after consistently demonstrating their talent in club and county games. The squads are selected after a series of regional trials held over a number of months.

Toby has joined up with the U13 East Cheshire Academy Centre, which, as the 'County squad' for junior hockey, recognises the significant achievement players have made in the sport.

# JUNIOR SCHOOL

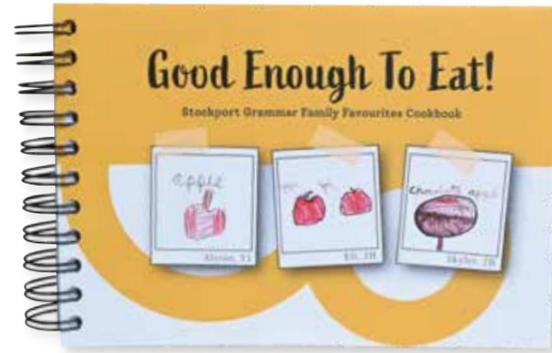


## HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

The first term of the academic year went in a flash, with many highlights. Our children, as always, demonstrated a strong desire to think of others. This was evidenced through our very successful fundraising activities for The Christie, Children in Need and the Trussell Trust. In addition to our fundraising activities, we celebrated Black History Month.

This included a visit from barrister and author Sally Penni who talked to the children about her book, 'Where are you from?' which celebrates figures from black history. The ability to have live audiences at our Nativity plays and also our Carol Service was lovely after the challenges of last year and was a fantastic way to round the year off.

Our Year 5 children attended their residential visit to Hollowford in December. Over the remainder of the school year, all the other junior classes will be undertaking a residential visit. The opportunities these visits provide in developing independence, teamwork skills and resilience cannot be overestimated. I know the children will benefit hugely. We look forward to all the opportunities 2022 brings.



## SGS COMMUNITY COOKS UP A STORM

'Good Enough To Eat!' a cookbook full of recipes sent in by creative members of the Stockport Grammar community, is now available to buy.

The 162-page cookbook costs £15 and can be purchased on Wisepay with 100% of the sales going to the Stopfordian Parents' Association for projects that will help all SGS pupils.

Recipe contributors include pupils, parents, alumni, teachers, the SGS Cookbook Team, Executive Editor Robyn O'Donnell and the school's Catering Manager Mrs Kathy Gosling.

Sam Buckley, Chef Patron of Where The Light Gets In sent in his recipe for a whey tart whilst Paul A. Young,

chocolatier and founder of Paul A. Young Fine Chocolates, offered his recipe for dark chocolate water ganache hand-rolled truffles.

All of the artwork was created by Junior School pupils with graphic design by parent Lex Budd.

The family favourites cookbook contains a host of appetising food options, whatever your taste and diet.

The publication also includes tips and tricks for cooking and baking with children and information on how to grow your own ingredients. Year One pupil Piper O'D said: **"I loved making 'Yummy Banana Bread Pancakes', from the book."**



# JUNIOR SPORTS STARS SHINE

In October, girls and boys were thrilled to get back to enjoying, playing, competing and learning against other schools.

The Year Six Hockey girls headed to Jodrell Bank where they took part in a seven-a-side tournament at Terra Nova School.

Fantastic performances in the group stages and knockout games saw them advance to the final unbeaten.

A coach load of excited Year Four footballers headed to Altrincham Preparatory School for their first taste of representing the school.

Performances were very positive and the team left Trafford unbeaten across the four fixtures.

Birkenhead School was the venue for the revamped version of the AJIS Cup – a tournament that attracts entries from most independent schools in the north west of England.

In a hotly contested final game, SGJS drew 2-2 with Birkenhead, meaning both schools progress to the finals day, which takes place after Christmas.

On a beautiful day at Rossall School on the Fylde coast, pupils competed in the AJIS Cross Country – a mile and a half run taking in fields, sand dunes and the ever-present wind.

Pupils had qualified for the event through the House Cross Country race and they were very excited and enthused to run against 15 other schools. There were some superb individual performances with pupils showing grit and determination throughout their races.



## EXPLORING THE SGS GROUNDS

Nursery pupils bundled into their coats and wellies as they crossed the school grounds on a walk to see the school's tractor.

The boys and girls made their way around the all-weather pitch and grass pitches, stopping at times to look at the leaves on the ground and to watch the trains passing on the nearby track.

Once they reached the tractor – parked up beside the Grounds Team's building – they were amazed by the size of the vehicle. The children talked about the size of the tyres, spotted the flashing light, spoke about different items in the cab and discussed what jobs the team would do with the machine.



## YEAR SIX STEP BACK IN TIME

Year Six pupils experienced what life as an evacuee during World War Two was like during a trip to the Stockport Air Raid Shelters.

Dressed in 1940s style costumes, the pupils went to the home of Mrs Hodgkinson and warden Bob and immersed themselves in their role-play as evacuees from the Channel Islands.

In the shelters they saw the beds, toilets, medical room and meeting room and were shocked by the fact that pets could not be taken into the shelters with their owners during a raid.

Pupil Gemma W said: **"Our trip to the Stockport Air Raid Shelters was exciting and the tunnels were really interesting."**

Children in 6B noted that **"there was so much to learn and so many things to see"** and their favourite part was re-creating the blackout.



## EXPLORING THE ORIGINS OF MUSIC

Year Five studied the history of Black American Music and sang their way along a musical journey from African folk song to spiritual, gospel, blues and jazz.

They learnt about the story behind the lyrics to the famous hymn 'Amazing Grace' by John Newton – a former slave trader and sailor who became an Anglican priest later in his life. The message behind the hymn is that forgiveness and redemption are possible regardless of sins committed. Years later, the hymn became well-known as the anthem of the civil rights movement.

## LESSONS CAPTURE CREATIVITY

Year Two pupils exercised their creative flexibility in recent English and Science lessons.

In English, they learnt about character descriptions, the use of connectives and the importance of a beginning, middle and end in stories.

After reading Carol Ann Duffy's book 'The Tear Thief' – a magical fairy story – pupils wrote their own story about a 'Giggle Thief'.

In Science, the children found out more about the different food groups and discussed their benefits. They enjoyed constructing a pyramid using felt which showed the numbers of servings recommended to keep them healthy.

## LITERARY EXCELLENCE DEMONSTRATED

As part of their National Poetry Day celebrations, pupils in Years Three to Six took part in a poetry competition.

It was judged by the Senior School's Second in English Mr Ollie Johnson and Junior School Deputy Head Mr Simon Milnes.

One pupil from each class was selected to perform a poem during an assembly following heats in lessons and they were judged on the volume, clarity, pace and tone of their delivery.

Well done to the winners – Padraig D (Year Three), Emmy D (Year Four), Amelia B (Year Five) and Poppy D (Year Six) – on their excellent performances.



## ROBOTICS WORKSHOP DEVELOPS STEM SKILLS

Year Five really enjoyed a Lego Robotics STEM workshop where they developed their programming and engineering skills and learnt about cams – a style of rotary system.

The Lego 'freestyle' went down well early in the day, before the girls and boys made an alligator and a monkey. The hands-on activities, which were delivered by Nick from Juniorstem, were highly engaging and allowed the children to be creative.



## DISCOVERING DENTISTRY

As part of their 'People Who Help Us' topic, Reception children were pleased to welcome a special visitor – Rupert the dentist.

Mr Longson, who is based at Cheadle Heath Dental Practice, told the captivated crowd about the important work he does and answered lots of questions – such as "should we brush our tongues?" and "what is plaque?".

The girls and boys were very excited when they were given a chewy sweet that made the plaque in their mouths turn red! The dentist then gave pupils a toothbrush and some toothpaste and showed them the best way to clean their teeth to keep them shiny and clean.

## PUPILS TAKE UP POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Well done to all of the Year Five children that have been selected as 'Playground Buddies'.

The buddies' basic responsibility is to help pupils who may approach them.

The buddy will seek to mediate in a situation and know when they must seek the involvement of a member of staff.

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."**



## EXCELLENT ENGLISH SKILLS

Year Two utilised the skills they had learned in English lessons to create their own free verse poem and do some acting.

Pupils analysed Kit Wright's poem 'The Magic Box', recognising alliteration and repetition and thinking about the words and phrases that bring the poem to life. They recognised that it was an imaginative poem, full of textures, sights and sounds and got to work on composing their own fantasy poem.



### CHILDREN IN NEED

Junior School pupils raised an incredible £1,355 for Children in Need by taking part in a wide range of arts and crafts based activities.

In exchange for a donation to the charity, the boys and girls came to school in clothing suitable for 'crafting' – something they didn't mind getting paint, glitter or glue on.