

TAKING STOCK



First Year Trip

Read more page 8



Autumn Concert p/6

Electrical circuits light up imaginations p/13

Dragon Training p/15

SCHOOL LIFE

Headmaster's message

The calendar year 2022 saw five different people hold the office of Secretary of State for Education. Whilst this allowed for a pleasing mix of genders and ethnicities amongst the post holders, it did little to promote stability in national educational leadership. What does excellence in education look like? How should schools prepare young people for life (personal and professional) in a world that seems less predictable and less stable than previously? Schools have returned to normal after the restrictions of the covid era with even public examinations re-established after 2 years of absence. It seems unlikely, however, that politicians have had the time to think afresh about these questions and steer the national debate. Headteachers, on the other hand, have ample opportunity and motivation to try to answer them, immersed, as they are, in the full vibrancy of school life and blessed with a longer tenure than Education Secretaries.

At SGS we have three aims for the education we offer to all our pupils.

Firstly: Academic Ambition. Engaging lessons, a broad curriculum and a culture that encourages curiosity and challenge all help our pupils to achieve highly. Last summer 77% of our GCSE grades were at 7, 8 or 9 with 31% at the very highest grade of 9. At A Level 57% of grades were at A or A*, allowing the vast majority of our Sixth Formers to proceed to the university course of their choice with six students beginning studies at Oxford or Cambridge.

Secondly: Beyond the Classroom. We offer an enormous range of co-curricular activities: sport, music, drama, outdoor pursuits and much more to allow our pupils to find new talents and develop them. There are plenty of articles in this magazine that celebrate not only our pupils' achievements in different fields but also their participation.

Thirdly: Care, Community and Character. All our pupils gain from being part of a community and from learning to work with and learn from other people who have different talents, interests and experiences. We encourage them to develop in personality, to grow in enthusiasm, curiosity and grit, to be 'good with people' and to contribute to the wider community.

Our pupils have great examination grades, a broad range of interests and the character to take full advantage of the opportunities offered to them: an excellent education and a good preparation for life.

Dr Paul Owen
Headmaster



Star Baker crowned at Biology Bake off

Following the huge success of last year's competition, the Biology department were delighted to hold the second 'Great Biology Bake Off'.

Pupils from a range of year groups donned their baking aprons and thinking caps as they created some incredible bakes around the theme of 'biology'.

Amazing edible entries this year included heart and lung cakes, DNA cookies, cakes of our animal club tortoise Shelley and skink Hufflepuff as well as a biscuit skeleton!

The entries from the certificate winners will now be entered into The Physiological Society's BioBakes nationwide baking competition.



Positive Voice kicks off Shaa Lectures

The inspirational Emma Cole was the first speaker of this year's Shaa Lecture series.

Emma has been visiting SGS for 10 years and it was great to welcome her back to speak to this year's Sixth Form cohort.

The students listened to her 'Positive Voice' talk, where she talks about her HIV diagnosis, and they asked some insightful questions. Emma was pleased to be able to share her knowledge and experience and spread the word about U=U – Undetectable = Untransmittable.



GCSE presentation evening

Welcome drinks and canapés in the new Sixth Form Centre with musical accompaniment from Sixth Former Jeya Belocura were the perfect start to an evening celebrating the GCSE achievements of SGS students. Students, parents, staff and governors then took their seats in the Main Hall. Headmaster Dr Paul Owen and Head of Middle School Mrs Jude Fitzgerald presented the certificates, congratulating the students on their hard work and their results. Vocal and cello performances from Chase Hodgett and Lucy Smith continued the musical theme and Dr Owen spoke about the importance of the SGS character traits – enthusiasm, grit, curiosity, community ethos and social intelligence – as students progress through their studies and beyond. With their excellent results the students are well prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



Remembering the Battlefields

During the half term break, Third Year pupils travelled to the First World War battlefields of France and Belgium with the History department. The Somme 1916 Museum, Lochnagar Crater, Newfoundland Memorial Park, Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, Ypres, Passchendaele Museum, the Commonwealth cemetery Tyne Cott, the German war cemetery of Langemark, and Essex Farm Cemetery were amongst the poignant locations visited. The pupils also laid a wreath at the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres.

Pupil William Crowton said: **"I will certainly remember this trip for the rest of my life and I think it is important for as many future pupils as possible to get the same opportunity."**



Remembrance Day

On 11 November, staff and pupils were joined by 88 distinguished guests and Old Stopfordians to remember those who gave their lives during both world wars and subsequent conflicts.

Headmaster Dr Paul Owen led the service. Lower Sixth pupil, Lucy Smith read an extract from the diary of Harry Drinkwater, Lower Sixth pupil Amelie Batey read 'Break of Day in the Trenches' by Isaac Rosenberg and Upper Sixth pupil, Fiona Telfer read a report on the conflict in Ukraine by the BBC correspondent Orla Guerin.

Upper Sixth pupil Patrick Owen played The Last Post which marked the beginning of the two minutes' silence. Wreaths were laid by Head Boy and Head Girl Charlie Harrison and Ella Glazier, Mary Robinson MP and Councillor Wendy Meikle, the Deputy Leader of Stockport Council. Prayers were led by Reverend Leaver.

Following the service, guests and Old Stopfordians were invited to a reunion lunch where Third Year pupils Daisy Birds, William Crowton, Ella Merryweather, Giulia Burns and Thomas Stanton gave readings about their experiences on their recent Battlefields trip, where pupils laid wreaths and crosses in memory of relatives and Old Stopfordians lost in battle. Guests also enjoyed music performances by Clara Zelhof on violin and Brian Liu on piano, as well as an operatic performance of 'O del mio dolce ardor' by Gluck from Upper Sixth pupil Ella Moran.

Linguists tackle Romanian

At the latest meeting of the Linguistics Club, attendees looked at the Romanian language.

Two postgraduate students from The University of Manchester have volunteered to help with the club and during the meetings they will examine a variety of languages and the science of language itself in linguistics.



World Mental Health Day

We held a 'Bright Clothing Accessory Day' on World Mental Health Day on 10 October to fundraise for mental health charity Mind.

The SGS community was amazingly generous and we are delighted to announce that £1,064 was raised.

Theatre Director helps performers with project

Drama students enjoyed an inspiring visit from a theatre director who helped them generate ideas for an upcoming performance.

Gitika Buttoo visited the school to speak to the students about her career and artistry. Gitika has directed theatre and radio nationally and was formerly the Staff Director at the National Theatre.

Gitika answered many questions from our A Level group and helped them explore how to stage their play.

As part of their studies, they have been tasked with creating an original directorial concept to Georg Büchner's play, 'Woyzeck'. Gitika helped the students to recognise the themes of the play, and how they could still be relevant to a modern audience.



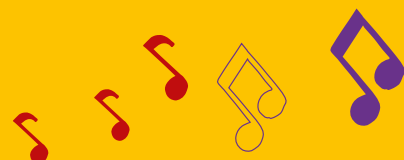
Black History Month

To mark Black History Month UK, the Senior School Library created a display about black writers and poets. Individuals on show include British poet Dean Atta, American novelist Colson Whitehead, Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and former Children's Laureate Malorie Blackman OBE.





ARTS



Autumn

Concert



Parents, grandparents, Old Stopfordians, governors and guests were treated to an exceptional evening of music at the Stockport Grammar School Autumn Concert.

The fabulous celebration of music saw performances from pupils from First Year to Sixth Form display their talent. For some pupils it was their first live performance at SGS.

The Concert Band kicked off proceedings with 'Soul Bossa Nova' by Jones, and Junior Jazz Band performed a modernised version of 'My Baby Just Cares for Me' by Donaldson and Kahn.

The first half ended with an exceptional delivery of Elgar's Cello Concerto in E minor by First Orchestra, with Upper Sixth Form pupil Liv Dow as soloist.

Liv said: **"This was the first time I've ever done something like this. It was nerve-wracking, but a great experience and it's really helped me gain confidence."**

After the interval, First Orchestra played the well-loved Theme from ET by Williams, Senior Jazz Band saw the audience joining in with Porter's 'I Get a Kick Out of You', and Wind Orchestra played the hit 'Final Countdown'.

Musical evening at Bridgewater Hall

Thirty-five students from Second Year to Upper Sixth attended a thrilling opening night concert for The Hallé Orchestra's Autumn season at The Bridgewater Hall.

The programme combined the sumptuous orchestration of Maurice Ravel's 'La Valse', the power and drama of Tchaikovsky's '6th Symphony' and the innovative 'Concerto for Cello and Strings' by the British-Bulgarian composer Dobrinka Tabakova. It was especially notable as several SGS Music students will be performing more of Tabakova's work in her newly-commissioned piece for the Hallé Youth Orchestra.



Dancers preparing for show

Our SGS dancers have been hard at work throughout the term as they prepare for their dance spectacular.

The show, called 'American Allstars', will feature dances from different musicals and shows.

The second act will be a stand-alone dance production, 'The Nutcracker Sweeties', set to the jazz music of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn.

Sheffield Crucible welcomes budding actors

Sixth Form Drama students enjoyed trips to Sheffield's Crucible Theatre and the Oldham Coliseum Theatre as part of their A-level course.

In South Yorkshire, the group watched 'Accidental Death of an Anarchist', one of their set texts.

The students also watched dramatist Jim Cartwright's award-winning play 'Road' at Oldham's repertory theatre. The modern classic, which the Upper Sixth are doing for their Component 2 Scripted Performance Exam, mixes humour and pathos to portray an all-too-relevant tale of deprivation and the extraordinary resilience of the human spirit.



The Lakes record first EP

After winning the Douglas Steele prize at last year's Speech Day, indie band The Lakes headed to the recording studio to record two tracks.

The four-piece, which is made up of Fifth Years Alfie Anderson (drums), Gideon McDermott-Swann (electric guitar), Marcus Foster (vocals) and Thomas Mo (bass guitar), have been together since Junior School and hold weekly practices in SGS's Music rooms.

The students write a lot of their own songs and describe their sound as a blend of **"classic Manchester sounds with contemporary alt-rock"**.

You can listen to their two songs, 'Clean Warm' and 'New Normal', on Spotify.



ARTS



Artists make SGS history

Fifth Year pupils Enoch Ajayi and Stephen Monk achieved their Bronze Arts Award qualifications, making them the first two pupils at SGS to achieve this award.

Newly introduced to SGS, Arts Award is a national qualification, which is certified by Trinity College and Arts Council England. Pupils engage in a number of independently-driven arts projects and activities, and share their learning with others. The Gold qualification, which is being offered to Sixth Form pupils, is worth 35 UCAS points.



CO-CURRICULAR

Residential fosters First Year friendships

Chatsworth House and its stunning surroundings played host to First Years as they embarked on their action-packed residential.

In the working farmyard they encountered a range of animals including chickens, horses and guinea pigs. A particular highlight was feeding the goats!

The Senior School newbies then blew off some steam at the adventure playground – making the most of the swings, zip wire and climbing walls that were on offer.

Exploration activities were next up for the youngsters as they grabbed their rucksacks and headed out into the countryside. Whilst taking in the wonderful scenery, they crossed bridges, made their way over the famous stepping stones and took a tour of a cave.

Pupil Sophia K said: **“The trip was amazing and we walked over 9 miles! I have never walked over 9 miles and I am glad we did it. The views were incredible.”**

Head of First Year Mr Alex Ehegartner concluded: **“The residential was great and it was a pleasure to see the kids enjoying themselves! It is an amazing way for the year group to get to know each other and will be an invaluable experience for them as they embark on their journey at Stockport Grammar Senior School.”**



Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Evening

The Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Evening celebrated the hard work of pupils who have taken part in the award over the last two years at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. It was also an opportunity to thank the volunteers for their support, enabling expeditions to run effectively.

The audience made up of parents, pupils, teachers and volunteers enjoyed a musical performance, an aerial video of canoeists on their expedition, a talk about traditional dance and a presentation by pupils of their Gold expedition.

The awards were presented by Monica Greenwood (OS 2007), Podium Coach – Women’s Endurance, British Cycling. Monica inspired the pupils during her speech, having received many set-backs on her journey with British Cycling, she focused on the importance of not letting go of your dreams.



Focus on Neuroscience

Upper Sixth Psychology students were engrossed as neuroscientist Dr Guy Sutton delivered informative lectures and performed a brain dissection during the annual ‘Brain Morning’.

Guy is the Director of Medical Biology Interactive and his talks covered issues such as brain structure, brain-technology interfacing and the criminal brain.

Students discuss Booker Prize



The prestigious Booker Prize is a highlight in the literary calendar and several A-level English students embraced the challenge of reading one of the shortlisted books. They shared their reading experience and answered questions about the books during a lunchtime event held in the Library.

Booklovers praised the writing style of Elizabeth Strout, author of ‘Oh William!’. ‘Glory’ by NoViolet Bulawayo and Shehan Karunatilaka’s ‘The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida’, the Booker Prize 2022 winner, were judged to be challenging but worthwhile reads.

Innovative students wow Dragons



A group of five Third Year students travelled to Manchester Airport to pitch their innovative product idea to four ‘dragons’.

They impressed the panel with their ‘Ready Set Mug Cake’ idea and secured an investment of £200. They are now tasked with producing the product on a larger scale and selling as many as they can before the grand final in December!

Their aim is to maximise their profits for the Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital Charity.



CO-CURRICULAR

Library welcomes Danielle Jawando

The SGS Library was thrilled to welcome award-winning author and Coronation Street screenwriter Danielle Jawando as she spoke to Fourth Year pupils about her career, her books and her inspiration for becoming a writer.

Danielle has written two young adult novels, ‘And The Stars Were Burning Brightly’ and ‘When Our Worlds Collided’, and she talked about the skills needed to become a writer, the process of editing, learning from rejections and the importance of representation and why, in particular, she is keen for black characters and local settings to be central in her stories.

Danielle is one of a number of black writers and poets that are celebrated as part of the Library’s Black History Month UK display.



Amnesty brings together toiletries donation

The school’s Amnesty Club have made a sizeable donation to Bare Necessities Toiletry Bank, a local charity focussed on eliminating hygiene poverty.

Following a shout-out, the club were inundated with bags from the generous SGS community with products such as soaps, sanitary products and toilet rolls.

In a separate donation drive, students visited The Wellspring Stockport to deliver items sent in as part of the Harvest collection.



Exploring Faith

As part of the Lower School’s Faith Visit programme, Third Year pupils headed to Chorlton for a trip to Kadampa Meditation Centre Manchester to find out more about Buddhism.

During the visit they learnt about Siddhartha Gautama, or ‘The Buddha’, and his 84,000 Buddhist teachings, found out why Buddhists shave their heads and the significance of Buddhist clothing. They also took part in a very calming meditation session.

SPORTS

GB Hockey star Holly Hunt pays a visit

Fallows Shield

At the end of the Autumn term the Fallows Shield points are as follows:

1st	Warren	37 points
2nd	Vernon	34 points
3rd	Nicholson	30 points
4th	Arden	29 points

England and Great Britain Hockey player and Old Stopfordian Holly Hunt (OS 2015) returned to school to help inspire the next generation as she led a training session for the SGS Senior and Under 13 hockey teams.

The Commonwealth Games Gold medallist imparted a variety of useful tips to help pupils improve their skills and knowledge of the game. She also spent time at the end of the session answering questions about the sport and her journey to the national team.

Speaking about the day, Holly said:

"I had such a lovely time visiting Stockport Grammar with the Grays team. It was amazing to go back to the place where I first learnt how to play hockey and to see lots of familiar staff faces."

Holly was a member of the Stockport Grammar First XI team that won the National School Championships in 2015.



Outdoor education hits the mountains

Pupils interested in outdoor education had a busy term as they perfected their mountain biking and climbing skills.

Mountain bikers ventured to Hebden Bridge and Oneplanet Adventure in Llandegla on action-packed excursions and, over half-term, visited the Scottish Borders for a five-day trip.

Football Focus

Congratulations to the Under 15 boys' football team who are through to the last 16 of the ISFA Football Shield after winning against Wolverhampton Grammar 3-0 away from home. They will now play Read School away in January. The Under 13 girls' team have also impressed on the pitch, reaching the semi-finals of a tournament at Woodley Sports Village.



SPORTS

Cross country champions

SGS athletes had a successful time at the Stockport Secondary Schools' Cross Country Championships, with eleven runners in the top ten of their age group and the school topping the final standings. With 77 pupils in the competition, SGS had the biggest team – it was great to see the runners so engaged and proud to represent the school.



Athletes stay on track

Fifth Year Rhys Watson and Third Year Molly Mills performed impressively for Greater Manchester at the English Schools' Athletics Association's Combined Events Nationals in Bedford.

Rhys took part in the Octathlon (hurdles, long jump, high jump, 400m, 1500m, javelin, shot and discus) in the Inter Boys category and secured an amazing fourth place.

Molly was in the Junior Girls section and competed in the Pentathlon (shot, hurdles, long jump, high jump and 800m). She finished 15th out of a field of 42 National athletes in her first year in the age category and was given a special recognition by the officials as the athlete with the most potential.



JUNIOR SCHOOL



Headmaster's message

The second half of the Autumn Term is a magical time in the Junior School as many of our children start the countdown to Christmas. This year has been no exception! Our Nursery and Reception children took to the Main Hall stage to perform Whoops-a-Daisy Angel and Year 1 and Year 2 delivered two great performances of The Inn-spectors. St George's Church was the setting for our Junior Carol Service and was a fantastic way to mark the end of term and to enjoy so much wonderful singing.

As always, we continue to focus on Community – one of our school values. Our Charity Reps have organised a variety of events to support a wide range of worthy causes. In the last term we have provided donations to the Trussell Trust for Stockport Foodbank, raised money for MacMillan Cancer Support, Francis House and Children in Need.

Just before the October half term holiday, Frank (Year 5) and Florence (Year 2) undertook the role of Junior School Head for the day – this was won at our SPA

Summer Soirée earlier in the year. The new heads were warmly received by all the pupils and had a fantastic day, including having to reprimand two teachers for their lack of punctuality at the end of breaktime!

Ian Bland, performance poet, visited the Junior School for National Poetry Day and worked with every class over a two-day period. The children created and performed some wonderful poetry following Ian's engaging and enthusiastic performances and workshops.

Last term our children were involved in a huge range of co-curricular activities with 57 clubs each week covering a huge range of interests, from STEM and Swimming to Kayaking and Chess. Encouraging curiosity is so important and the co-curricular offer in the Spring Term provides further opportunities for children to experience new activities whilst also continuing with firm favourites.

I hope that you enjoy catching up on Junior School life and learning in this edition.

Mr Matthew Copping
Headmaster

Head for the Day

The Junior School was briefly under new management as two pupils won the chance to be Head for the day.

Pupils Frank and Florence T thoroughly enjoyed the experience as they undertook a number of jobs usually carried out by Mr Copping.

After picking up their 'staff' passes, the Year Five and Year Two pupils welcomed the rest of the children into assembly and gave out certificates and prizes. They then took a seat in the Headmaster's chair to take a look at the list of tasks they had to complete.

During the day they met the Bursar Ms Clague, Catering Manager Mrs Gosling and Grounds Assistant Mr Bennett.

The brother and sister secured the opportunity after their parents won the prize at the SPA's Summer Soirée.



Fire safety on top of agenda

Ahead of Halloween and Bonfire Night, Reception and Year Five pupils enjoyed a visit from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

Outside, boys and girls in Reception were given a tour of a fire engine where they learnt about the different ladders, hoses and other equipment. They then had the opportunity to spray a hose themselves!

Inside, Year Five children found out more about the law regarding fires and fireworks, tried out the 'stop, drop and roll' technique and learnt a host of tips on how to stay safe around bonfires and fireworks.

People who help us week

Throughout the Autumn Term, Reception pupils have had a visit from a dentist and a police officer as part of their 'People Who Help Us In The Community' topic.

Mrs Fran Cooke from Dentistry for All and the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital spoke to the children about the importance of brushing teeth. She advised the pupils on how often and how long they should brush their teeth and demonstrated the best method on a set of giant teeth.

Police Constable Moore from Greater Manchester Police came in to speak to the boys and girls about the role of a police officer. He talked about the jobs they do and the equipment they use. He gave the children tips about what they should do in the event of getting separated from their parents or carers when out and about.



Electrical circuits light up imaginations

Pupils in Years Six and Four have been enjoying some enlightening lessons.

In Design Technology, Year Six pupils learnt about light sensors. Using a Crumble Controller, they wired and programmed it to act as a night light.

Year Four pupils have been looking at how switches and circuits work. After discussing how a switch affects a circuit, the children had a go at creating their own switches and were set the challenge of using the switches to make the components work. Afterwards, they evaluated the different types of switches they had made.



Levers and Trebuchets

Year Six pupils have been learning about levers and have used their knowledge to build trebuchets.

After spending some time testing their creations, the girls and boys competed in a 'Trebuchet Tournament' to see who could fire a missile the furthest.

Well done to 6B champions Serina G and Ellie R and 6V winners Imaz A and Harry B!





Poet inspires pupils

Junior School pupils had an amazing time for National Poetry Day as children's poet Ian Bland delivered absurdly fun interactive workshops.

Reception pupils wrote action poems whilst children in Years One and Two looked at the poem 'Can You Do It' and learnt about the effects of adding alliteration into poems to create rhythm and atmosphere. The children were fabulous poets and, at the end of the day, they proudly presented their poems in an assembly.

Boys and girls in Years Three to Six enjoyed Ian's assembly where he recited some of his poems, including 'The Dinner Lady Dance', complete with choreography.

The pupils then split up into different workshops to create their own poems based on some of Ian's poetry. Years Three and Four worked on 'What Am I' and Years Five and Six focussed on 'I'd Like To Be'. During the workshops they looked at couplets, rhythm and rhymes as they crafted their verses.



Germs go under microscope

Year Two boys and girls have been learning about germs during Science lessons.

They used glitter to represent germs on their hands and then carried out an investigation to find out what was best to remove them.

They tested cream, hand sanitiser, cleansing wipes and soap and water and found that washing their hands with soap and water was the most effective method.



Parents participate with phonics

Reception parents were invited to take part in a Phonics Workshop with their children.

The visitors were given a presentation about phonics before enjoying watching a phonics lesson taught by Mrs Ehegartner and Mrs Coulson. The girls and boys then took their parents around the classroom and played lots of phonics games with them.

Macmillan Coffee Morning makes a big splash

Thank you to everyone who attended or donated to the Junior School's Macmillan Coffee Morning.

The hall was packed with families enjoying a cuppa and biscuit as they talked to other members of the SGS community, and the pupils looked the part as they swapped an item of school uniform for something purple or green.

The staff also raised funds for Macmillan Cancer Support as they tucked into tea/coffee and cake!



Screenwriter gives talk

Screenwriter, playwright, theatre director and now children's author David Farr gave a wonderful talk to pupils in Year Five, Year Six and Senior School First Year.

He read from the opening of his book, 'The Book of Stolen Dreams', and revealed the inspiration behind Rachel and Robert's fantastical adventures to locate the lost book and rescue their father, detained by the dictator Malstain's regime.

It was an interactive session with lots of contributions from the audience where they contemplated a world without stories, and even went on to create intriguing and dramatic starter sentences in small groups. David was delighted with pupils' creative contributions and the volley of thoughtful questions asked at the end of the session.



Stone Age Discoveries

Having spent some time over the last three weeks developing skills working with charcoal, Year Three came together to produce their very own cave paintings.

They were very excited to be able to produce very similar designs to the 'Cave of Hands' and the work linked with their Humanities topic on the Stone Age.

The children understood that we do not have any written evidence from the Stone Age but that we can learn a lot about the period by looking at their cave paintings.



Dragon Training

Year Four pupils loved visiting The Plaza Stockport to hear a talk by author Cressida Cowell.

Cressida wrote the popular 'How To Train Your Dragon' books and the audience listened intently as she spoke about her life and inspiration for writing.

The girls and boys were also thrilled to pick up a copy of her new book, 'Which Way To Anywhere'.



Year One 'owl-mazed' with feathered friend

As part of their learning about the story 'Owl Babies', Year One had a very exciting visit from The Feathery Folk.

The children met a white-faced owl called Dickens, Kit the African Spotted Eagle Owl and Pippin the Barn Owl. They learnt about the differences and similarities between them, what they eat, where they live and how they hunt for food.

The three owls flew all around the school hall and the children stayed very calm and still as the owls swooped down over their heads!



LAMDA certificates

A host of Junior School pupils were thrilled to receive their LAMDA certificates recently.

A LAMDA exam is the speech and drama equivalent of a music grade and the girls and boys, from Years Three to Six, worked hard to ensure that they passed their particular level.

Eco Harvest generosity

The Junior School held an Eco Harvest assembly after the generous SGS community dropped off food donations for local charity The Wellspring Stockport.

The assembly was led by Rev Leaver, Charity Co-ordinator Mrs Turner and Charity Reps Maeve S and Emily K. During the gathering, Rev Leaver spoke about the importance of being grateful and generous, and Maeve and Emily told the audience about the amazing work that The Wellspring does.

Staff from the charity collected the donated items; they will distribute these to homeless people in Stockport.

Sports stars wow at events

Junior School pupils enjoyed visits to Rossall School and Manchester Grammar School for cross country and rugby events.

Twenty-four pupils from Years Five and Six travelled to the Fylde coast for an AJIS Cross Country competition. The athletes performed with effort and resilience on what was a very fast course and a notable mention goes to the Year Five girls' team who finished third overall.

At MGS's annual rugby festival, the Under 9 team had a blast running, tackling and scoring tries. The pupils involved performed excellently, securing a number of wins against good opponents.

Meanwhile, on home turf, the Under 10 rugby team held a tournament with 10 different schools travelling to SGS to attend.

