

FOUNDED IN 1487

The Stopfordian

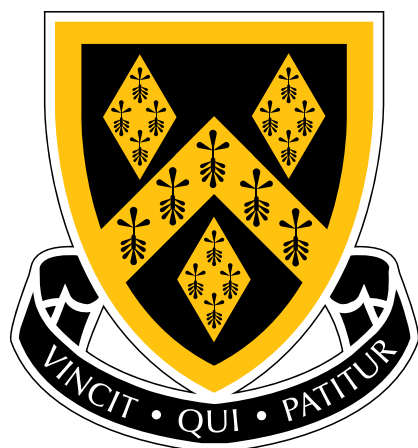
2021–2022



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Vivienne Arrowsmith
Editor

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



It was a real pleasure to see members of the school community gather in the Stockport Plaza for the Senior School Speech Day and Prizegiving, when we were honoured to be joined by Carl Austin-Behan who as a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater Manchester was Her late Majesty the Queen's representative in the county, together with Lord Bridges and Simon Hutchinson from our patrons, the Goldsmiths' Company.

Fittingly, the day began with the official opening of the Junior School's Nursery, a splendid facility and a wonderful introduction to Stockport Grammar School for our new pupils, who we hope will be beginning a happy and fulfilling 14 years of education at SGS. Equally appropriately at the end of the day we had the official opening of the Sixth Form Centre and I hope that pupils will aspire to enjoying its use as part of their natural progression through the school. The members of the Sixth Form have had considerable input into the design, fittings and furniture of the Common Room, and I would like to thank them for that, and also to thank David Stone, Head of Sixth Form, for his time liaising with the students and finally Chris Watson, the former Bursar, who invested an enormous amount of time and effort into this project.

A few days later I was delighted to attend the Junior School Speech Day, an event which happily and energetically demonstrated the robust good health of the Junior School.

Our Speech Days are flagship events of the school year, when we have the opportunity to celebrate the academic and co-curricular achievements of the pupils of the school.

In spite of the unique difficulties of the last two years Stockport Grammar School is flourishing and this will be apparent from the articles in this magazine describing impressive academic achievements, together with a wide range of accomplishments in sports, drama, music and citizenship. It is thanks to all members of the school community that SGS is in such a strong position, to the leadership of the Headmasters, the Bursar and the Senior Management Team, to the skill and dedication of all the staff, the steadfast support of parents and alumni and to the resilience and appetite for learning in the widest sense that the pupils have demonstrated in the most challenging of circumstances.

On the governing body Paul Carr has recently stepped down as Vice Chairman of the Governing Body, having successfully combined his dedicated service to the school with his work as a judge, and we are fortunate that he has agreed to remain as a governor so that the School will continue to benefit from Paul's wise counsel. Jonathan Lee, a former Head Boy, has succeeded Paul as Vice Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to my fellow governors who have continued to be both committed and skilful servants of SGS and colleagues, with whom it is a pleasure to work.

At the end of the last academic year I wrote to inform parents that Dr Paul Owen will be retiring as the Headmaster of Stockport Grammar School with effect from the end of the 2023 academic year. Paul led Stockport Grammar School through the Covid pandemic dealing calmly and skilfully both with an unprecedented public health crisis and with complicated and constantly changing regulations. Paul's headship has delivered excellent academic results, flourishing co-curricular activity and strong pupil numbers and the Governors are very grateful to Paul for all he has done for the school. Dr Owen remains fully committed to the success of the school over the forthcoming academic year.

The process of selecting the next Head is progressing and the Governors remain confident that we will be able to appoint a Head under whom the success and development of the school will continue. I will, of course, let parents know as soon as an appointment has been made.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of The Stopfordian and I would first like to thank Viv Arrowsmith, the editorial staff and all contributors for their work in producing this magazine.

Mr C Dunn
Chairman of Governors



HEADMASTER'S REPORT

It has been another remarkable year in the life of the SGS community, filled with stories of individual and team successes.

In summer 2021 we celebrated some fantastic GCSE and A Level results, awarded through a system of Teacher Assessed Grades as coronavirus restrictions and disruption to teaching and learning made it impossible to hold public examinations in the usual way. At GCSE our pupils achieved 76% at grades 9, 8 or 7 with 27% of entries at the highest grade of 9. At A Level the students gained an impressive 58% of grades at A* or A with 86% of grades in the range A*-B. This gave the Upper Sixth leavers excellent opportunities for the 'next step' whether university entry, employment or further training.

In September the end of coronavirus restrictions stimulated a cautious return to normal. Sports fixtures flourished with huge numbers of pupils participating. The U16 netballers won the County Championship and the U18 rugby players reached the semi-final stage of the National Schools Plate Competition. Many individuals have excelled with pupils reaching national representation in football, hockey and rugby. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is perennially popular and clearing the backlog of delayed expeditions allowed 62 pupils to achieve the Bronze Award, 41 secured the Silver Award and 16 gained the prestigious Gold Award. In Drama a sparkling performance of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* lit up the end of the Christmas Term, complemented by the thought-provoking *DNA* and by a quite excellent Dance Show.

Music also flourished with more ensembles than ever performing in a long series of concerts and the Music Festival making a welcome return to showcase the huge talent amongst our pupils across the full instrumental and vocal range. A musical tour to London in the summer provided a suitable conclusion to the year, allowing pupils across the age range to make music together publicly in a final demonstration of freedom from the year-group bubbles that hampered us for the two years of coronavirus.

The national academic competitions provided renewed opportunities for our students to challenge themselves at the highest level with some placing in the top few percent of entries. House competitions returned with Warren winning the Fallow Shield after more than 90 separate events spread throughout the year.

The school continued to support various charities such as Educaid, which works to promote education in Sierra Leone, and the Wellspring in Stockport, which helps the homeless. These links allow our pupils to make a real contribution to the lives of others. I am delighted that we have also raised money this year for Macmillan, for MIND, for the Ukraine Appeal, for Beechwood Cancer Care and for Amnesty International.

The formal school events which punctuate the year all returned as live events: Remembrance Service, Carol Service,



Founder's Day and Speech Day. We are grateful to the Bishop of Stockport, the Rt Rev Sam Corley, for giving a helpful and thoughtful address at the Founder's Day Service in St George's and to David Saddington, climate change communicator, for his inspiring words at Speech Day.

I am most grateful to the staff who work tirelessly to establish and maintain a vast array of opportunities for the development of excellence and creativity. A number of members of staff left the school at the end of the academic year and I am much indebted to them for their huge commitment to the education and welfare of the pupils. Mr Young retired as Head of Design & Technology and Mrs Larkin retired from the Mathematics Department, both after 21 years at SGS. Mrs Grey moves to another school as Head of Chemistry after 11 years teaching Chemistry and making a very considerable contribution as a Head of Year. Mrs Miles leaves the Geography Department after 9 years of faithful service. Mr Johnson moves to another school, as Head of English, having done a great job within the English department at SGS as well as in Vernon House. Mr and Mrs Thomson are moving to Switzerland after 3 years as Director of Sport and Teacher of Business Studies and Economics respectively.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the different activities highlighted this year which reflect our vibrant community.

Dr Paul Owen
Headmaster



DISTINCTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

ARCHERY

Colours were awarded to Alex Ward.

ART

Chloe Chew (U18), Nathan Lui (U16) and Lauren Storey (U14) had work displayed at the Lowry in Salford as part of The Living Edge Schools Art Competition. Charlotte Bradley-Potts was the winner of the Art History Essay Writing Competition, and Olivia Firth runner up.

BIOLOGY

Over 10,000 pupils from more than 700 schools worldwide entered the Biology Olympiad competition this year! Jessica Horsford gained a **Gold** award (a fantastic achievement as this only goes to the top 5% of all participants). **Silver** awards were achieved by Amirah Afshan, Harry Brown, Isobel Gardner, Katie Hewetson and Shabad Kaur.

CHEMISTRY

In the Chemistry Olympiad pupils were asked to tackle some extremely challenging Chemistry-based questions on topics such as how much energy is released from E10 petrol, the platonic solid cubane and its derivatives, and how COVID-19 spike proteins bind to lateral flow devices. **Gold:** Thomas Gregory, Alex Patsias and Yicheng Xia. **Silver:** Harry Brown, Ella Glazier and Patrick Owen. **Bronze:** Jono Hawkins, Thomas Hodgson and Daniel Wood. Yicheng Xia just missed out on the final round but still finished in the top 70 in the country, which is an outstanding achievement.

CLIMBING

Colours were awarded to Alexa Ashwood, Hannah Beeson, Ella Clayton, Caitlin Hill and Owen Morriss. Commendations were awarded to Tabby Bloor, Maizie Farrar, Charlotte Griffiths, Betty Hashmi and Lauren Storey.

DEBATING

Colours were awarded to Isobel Gardner.

DRAMA

Colours have been awarded to Cara Bell, Matthew Darbyshire, Bella Evans, Betty Hashmi, Isabelle Holland, Kirsty Hope, Annabel Huxley, Hannah Johnson, Rosie Moore, Emilia Paul, Mackenzie Shropshire, Scarlett Sim and Abigail Sullivan.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The **Bronze Award** has been gained by Murtaza Abbasali, Alfie Anderson, Katie Argyle, Niraj Arora, Georgia Arthur, Amelie Batey, Oliver Bird, George Brown, Blue Budd, Priya Burrow, Sam Burrows, Victoria Butterworth, Alexander Canty, Alexander Carter, Olivia Cartwright, Jeremy Cheung, Anna Collins-Room, Luke Constantine-Williams, Ezra Cooke, Dylan Cort, Brandon Cross, Matthew Darbyshire, Evie Davies, Oscar Davies, Gilby Dawkes, Nancy Dawkes, Beatrice Downing, Jack Dyson, Eris Elsby, Ayan Farooq, Thomas Farrelly, Robert Ferguson, Kiera Field, Matthew Galligan, Millie Gallimore, Sachin Gholkar, James Given, Bradley Gleave, Edward Griffiths, Ben Hammond, Alex Hartemink, Rory Hicks, Ella Hitchen, Zak Hodgkinson-Stefanelli, William Hornby, Penny Horsford, Anna Howard, Archie Hoyle, David Hughes, Fawaz Hussain, Holly Jacks, Zimar Jatoi, Zain Javaid, Jenna Kenyon, Hadi Khan, Hazim Khokhar, Hayden Lam, Aryana Latif, John Lauder, Ben Lavender, Grace Lorimer, Tess McCarthy, Gideon McDermott-Swann, Eddie McDonald, Alex Mirzoyan, Stephen Monk, Elsa Mullins, Freya Niven, Zak Pinkstone, Evie Poor, Oliver Potts, Robert Preston, Jack Rafter, Josh Roberts, Lucy Smith, Lewis Smithies, Joshua Sparrow, George Steele, Nicole Su, Amber Sullivan, Alice Thomson, Nicholas Turner, Joshua Varghese, Jack Ward, Sara Watson, Charlotte Wilkinson, Ben Williams, Holly Williams, Magda Zelazny.

The **Silver Award** has been gained by Eliza Arif, Felix Bowler, Charlotte Bradley-Pots, Harry Brown, Alexander Carter, Olivia Cartwright, Hayley Collins, Anna Collins-Room, Hannah Cope, Ewan Curran, Kat Davies, Oscar Davies, Ned Donovan, Eliot Dowd, Joseph Eaton, Ali Elsedwy, Oscar Fahy, Ayan Farooq, Alex Foster, Sam Foster, Lauren Gall, Isobel Gardner, Ella Glazier, Evelina Gwynne, Joseph Hadfield, Eleanor Hanson, Katie Hewetson, Thomas Hodgson, Jessica Horsford, Kate Horsley, Tamara Huang, Louis Hughes, Joe Hughes, Harry Hulme, Charlotte Jackson, Hazim Khokhar, John Lauder, Ben Lavender, Isabel Marshall, Lois McCarthy, Stephen Monk, Alex Patsias, Eliza Pinkstone, Evie Poor, Tobin Rose, Amelia Rosenberg-Powell, Alexander Shilton, Daniel Simpson, Lucy Smith, Josh Sparrow, Peter Walker, Alex Ward, Charlotte Wilkinson, Thomas Williams, Ben Williams, Daniel Wood, Omar Zaki, Talia Zelfhof.

The **Gold Award** has been gained by Chloe Almond, Eliza Arif, Harry Brown, Matthew Byle, Sarah Callow, Phoebe Christodoulou, Thomas Cope, Emily Daniels, Sophie Douglas, Emily Edwards, Madeleine Evans, Leon Evans, Ben Finlay-McDougall, James Ford, Benjamin Foster, Isobel Gardner, Michael Gilmour, Eleanor Hanson, Lucie Hanson, Lauryn Howard, Lucy Howling, Matthew Howling, Nathaniel Huang, Mia Hutchinson, William Johnson, Alice Jones, Louisa Kelly, Omid Kordmahalle, Sam Lavender, Asha Mistry, Emily Noble, Dillon Roberts, Daniel Simpson, Samuel Stretton, Oliver Thompson, Annabel Tordoff, Freya Ustianowski, Alex Ward.

FENCING

Colours were awarded to Alex Ward. Commendations were awarded to Alexa Ashwood.

INDUSTRIAL CADETS

William Hornby, Harry Hulme, William Jordan, May Nguyen and Charlie Pearse (Lower Sixth) have successfully completed the Industrial Cadets Gold Project. They took place in an Engineering challenge set by Siemens. The team have won through to the regional finals in the Best Project category.

MANDARIN

Headmaster's Commendations were received by Patrick Owen and Frances Walmsley.

MATHEMATICS

SGS pupils took part in the various UKMT Maths Challenges. At Senior level there were seven Gold awards. Yicheng Xia scored the highest mark in the school and both Yicheng and Nicholas Othen qualified for the British Olympiad. At Intermediate level there were ten Gold awards with thirteen pupils qualifying for the second round, including Alexander Mirzoyan, who qualified for the Hamilton Olympiad. There were twelve Gold awards at Junior level with Muhammad Ali receiving the Best in School award and four pupils qualifying for the second round. In the Maths Olympiad for Girls there were six merits, with Katie Hewetson receiving the Best in School award.

In the *Liverpool Maths Challenge*, there were nearly 3000 entries from 129 schools. Congratulations to Angus Reid: Best in School (First and Second Year Challenge); Alexander Mirzoyan: Best in School (Third and Fourth Year Challenge) and Millie Gallimore: Certificate Winner (Open Challenge for Fifth Year and Sixth Form).

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Colours were awarded to Ananya Ruia. Commendations were awarded to Cara Bell, Samuel Sutton and Christian Woodworth.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Harry Brown, Charlie Harrison and Rose Tomlinson won the Northern Schools German Debating Competition. Charlie Harrison was a winner at The University of Sheffield's German

Translation competition. Robert Lord came second in the North West Regional Final of the National Year Seven French Spelling Bee Competition and progressed to the National Final held in Cambridge in June 2022. In the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators, Elena Patsias (French) and Jessica Hamer-Owens (German) were North West Level 1 winners. Magdalena Zelazny (French) received a Commendation for her Level 3 translation. In the Prismatic Jane Eyre Competition, Cara Bell and Annabel Huxley's French poems were selected for publication in an anthology of poetry based on Jane Eyre funded by Oxford University and the Stephen Spender Trust.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Commendations were awarded to Alexa Ashwood, Ella Clayton, Caitlin Hill, Bethan Holding and Owen Morriss.

MUSIC

Liv Dow, Grade 8 Cello (distinction); Zoe Hon, Grade 8 Piano (merit); Ella Moran, Grade 8 Singing (distinction) and Grade 8 Flute (merit); Nicholas Othen, Grade 8 Violin (distinction); Harrison Wilson, Grade 8 Drum Kit (distinction); Ben Wood, Grade 8 Clarinet (merit); Clara Zelhof, Grade 8 Violin (distinction).

Halle Youth Orchestra: Liv Dow (Cello), Patrick Owen (Trumpet), Ben Wood (Clarinet) and Talia Zelhof (Oboe). Halle Youth Choir: Lily Amet, Liv Dow and Ella Moran. Junior RNCM: Dan Vincent (Euphonium & Percussion) and Clara Zelhof (Violin). Halle Children's Choir: Max Hillgrove and Will Lightening. National Youth Choir: Lily Amet. Opera North Youth Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra: Dan Vincent (Percussion). Foden's Youth Brass Band and National Youth Brass Band: Dan Vincent (Euphonium). Cheshire Youth Jazz Orchestra, Liverpool Youth Session Orchestra and Manchester Jazz Festival: Oscar Williams (Drums). BBC Young Composer Competition Shortlist: Oscar Williams.

Colours were awarded to the following pupils: Darcy Breen, Emily Brooke, Emma Broomhead, Sam Burrows, Lilly Cook, Thomas Culwick, Zac Dow, Hannah Gall, Will Harvey, Caitlin Hill, Isabelle Holland, Zoe Hon, Sophia Horne, Jonathan Hyde, Ella Jones, Gabriel Keeble, John Lauder, Milly McCartney, Euan McIlwraith, Torin Mills, Rosie Moore, Nicholas Othen, Emilia Paul, Lucy Smith, Abigail Sullivan Adina Vidler, Daniel Vincent, Toby Wells, Oscar Williams, Harrison Wilson and Dan Wood.

PHYSICS

The Physics Olympiad requires pupils to solve problems requiring a profound depth of development and skill in Physics. Pupils achieving any certificate are extremely able

physicists. Round 1: Yicheng Xia, **Top Gold**; Alex Patsias, **Gold**. Tom Gregory, **Silver**. Tom Pennington, **Bronze**. Round 2: Yicheng Xia, **Silver**.

Two teams from SGS took part in the Physics Olympics: Iwan Barrowcliff, Owen Morriss, Sean Sembataya and Christian Woodworth came second. Cara Bell, Bethan Holding, Annabel Huxley and Rosie Moore came third.

Senior Physics Challenge Silver Award: Jono Hawkins and Patrick Owen. Senior Physics Challenge Bronze I Award: Ned Donovan, Thomas Hodgson and Daniel Wood.

Senior Physics Challenge Bronze II Award: Jonathan Bettridge, Justin Campbell, Joseph Eaton, Minh Nguyen and Daniel Rogers. Intermediate Physics Challenge Silver Award: James Given and Tuguldur Zolzaya. Intermediate Physics Challenge Bronze I Award: Fikayo Balogun. Intermediate Physics Challenge Bronze II Award: Saa'im Begh.

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

Maya Anderson, Hannah Cope and Maddie Corcoran were highly commended for their entry into the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics: Practical Ethics and Responsibility Video Competition.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

SGS Company, Eco-Living continued the school's success in this competition. They won the Stockport and Trafford Final as well as the Greater Manchester Final. They progressed to the North West Final where they received the Award for Sustainability. Their eco-friendly toiletry business which was based on recyclable, biodegradable and plastic free, went from strength to strength with sales at local markets and fairs and has progressed to selling to hotels. Congratulations to Joshua Bell, William Bevan, Harry Boyle, William Hornby, William Jordan and Jo-Jo Mills.

CHARITY

Last year, pupils raised over £8,300 for the school's chosen charities. As in previous years the pupils raised vital funds for local and national charities as well as charities much further afield.

For World Mental Health Day in October, pupils were invited to brighten up their uniform with a brightly coloured accessory. The event raised £1,270 for MIND. Activities throughout the year, including the non-uniform events, raised over £4,000 for EducAid's work in Sierra Leone. House coffee morning events, involved plenty of cake and saw us raise well over £600 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Smaller scale events, including the annual First Year party, raised further funds, which were sent to Beechwood Cancer Care, a charity chosen by the pupils.

Later in the year, due to the events in Ukraine, the pupils chose to fundraise for the Ukrainian Appeal and raised over £1,500.

As well as financial donations, charity work across the school has included the donation of clothes and food to the Wellspring and local food banks.



The Amnesty+ Group worked to twin taps in both Afghanistan and Nepal with two water fountains in the Senior School, with the aim to bring safe drinking water to those in need.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to these fundraising efforts.

Dr K Owen
Charity Co-ordinator

CHAPLAINCY REPORT

Rev. L.E. Leaver

HARVEST

Harvest time is our deliberate focus on gratitude and generosity in the Autumn Term. In addition to harvest assemblies, the library provided a fantastic display and gratitude tree. The charity prefects Nikita, Haniah, Lois and Charlotte organised a superb harvest collection for our local homeless charity, Wellspring. They, together with other members of the Sixth Form, delivered the donations and chatted to some of the people who benefit from Wellspring; as ever, an eye-opening and worthwhile encounter.



CAROL SERVICE

The familiar retelling of the Christmas story in songs and readings. The spine tingling moment when church is illuminated only by candles. Time to reflect. Light in darkness. Prayers that focus on hope. The covid secure service was fully booked.

The choirs, readers and congregation helped make this a very special community occasion.



FOUNDER'S DAY

Our annual service to commemorate the school's founder, Sir Edmund Shaa was held in St George's Church in March. At the start of the service the President of the OS, Clare Francis, together with the Head Boy, Harry and Head Girl, Jessica, lit candles to remember each OS who had died in the past year. The psalm was sung with as much gusto as ever and the choirs were in superb voice. The words *"there is no us, without us"* were woven into Rt. Rev. Sam Corley, Bishop of Stockport's

sermon, both to help us make sense of the impact of Covid on community but also to challenge us to include those within our wider community who might be left behind.

This opportunity to celebrate being part of the school community alongside time to stop, pause, and reflect is a valuable part of the school year.

FAITH GROUPS

This year the Christian Group ran an Alpha course within school which saw a range of pupils find out about and discuss Christian teaching. A member of the Fourth Year was selected

for a national evangelists' programme which he thoroughly enjoyed. Muslim Friday prayers are extremely well attended and led ably by a Sixth Form pupil.

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

Name	University	Course
Amirah Afshan	Keele University	Pharmacy
Lavinia Alexiou	King's College London, University of London	Pharmacy
Eliza Arif	Liverpool John Moores University	Architecture
Nikita Arora	Newcastle University	Law
Daniel Atanasov	Sheffield Hallam University	Business and Management
Shanzay Attique Hanuk	University of Manchester	English Literature
Taylor Barnett	Swansea University	Aerospace Engineering with a Foundation Year
Katherine Barr	University of Nottingham	Mechanical Engineering including an Industrial Year
Jessica Barraclough	Gap Year - Reapply UCAS 2023	
Oliver Beirne	Degree Apprenticeship with NTX and University of Salford in Quantity Surveying	
Felix Bowler	University of Bath	Business (with professional placements)
Charlotte Bradley-Potts	University of York	English
Rachel Bramley	University of Leeds	International Relations
Lucy Brook	University of Nottingham	Psychology
Harry Brown	University of Bristol	Medicine - MBChB Standard entry
Jack Brown	University of Sheffield	History
Kelly Bui	Leeds Beckett University	Business & Management
Isabella Byrne	Degree Apprenticeship with AstraZeneca	
Samuel Carr	Newcastle University	Economics and Finance
William Carroll	Degree Apprenticeship with GMP and University of Salford in Policing	
Chloe Chew	University of Portsmouth	Biomedical Science
Charles Clark	University of Nottingham	Pharmacy (4 years)
Zachary Crook	Durham University	Religion, Society and Culture
Sasha Crossley	Sheffield Hallam University	Sociology with Foundation Year
Tom Crouch	Newcastle University	Economics and Finance
Ewan Curran	University of Bath	Economics (with placement)
Samuel Curwen	Northumbria University, Newcastle	Psychology Foundation Year
Haniah Daji	Degree Apprenticeship with Capgemini & Aston University in Business	
Lucy Dale	University of Surrey	Psychology
Harry Dare	University of Liverpool	Business Management
Kristen Davies	University of Kent	Psychology with placement year
Chrysa Dimopoulou	UCL (University College London)	Geography
Lily Doherty	University of Chester	Theology and Religious Studies
Elliot Dowd	University of Leicester	Economics
Yasmine Doyle	Newcastle University	Law
Ysabel Ediker	University of Nottingham	Psychology
Emily Edwards	Durham University	Sport and Exercise Sciences
Thomas Emery	King's College London, University of London	Medicine
Darcy Entwistle	Nottingham Trent University	Fashion Marketing and Branding
Joseph Farrelly	University of Liverpool	English Literature
Lucy Ferris	Newcastle University	Psychology
Sophia Fidler	University of Leeds	Classical Civilisation
Ben Finlay-McDougall	King's College London, University of London	Geography and Environmental Science
William Finnie	Gap Year to apply for Degree Apprenticeship 2023	
Tom Flaherty	University of Liverpool	Marketing with a Year in Industry
Tom Galligan	University of New South Wales (Australia)	Economics
Isobel Gardner	University of Cambridge	Medicine
Emre Gocer	University of London Institute in Paris	French Studies with Business
William Gould	Harper Adams University	Agriculture (with Placement)
Thomas Gregory	University of Bath	Integrated Mechanical and Electrical Engineering
Lizzie Griffiths	Gap Year	
Lucy Grundy	Newcastle University	Biology
Lola Gurton	Gap Year - Reapply UCAS 2023	
Joseph Hadfield	University of Stirling	Economics
Charlie Hallows	Newcastle University	Business Management
Eleanor Hanson	Bath Spa University	Film, Television and Digital Production
Fatimah-Zahra Hassan	Gap Year to apply for Higher or Degree Apprenticeship 2023	
Lauren Hedley	University of Cambridge	Economics
Katharine Hewetson	University of York	Natural Sciences
Henry Ho	Durham University	Accounting
Nickolas Holland	Manchester Metropolitan University	Mechanical Engineering
Zoe Hon	University of Nottingham	Pharmaceutical Sciences
Jessica Horsford	University of Cambridge	Medicine
Joel Hotham	University of Bristol	Mathematics
Nicholas Houghton	University of Salford	Law with Foundation Year
Rafael Howgate	Bristol, University of the West of England	Filmmaking
Mia Hutchinson	University of York	Biomedical Sciences
Charlotte Jackson	University of Bath	International Management
Caroline Jenks	University of Leeds	Psychology
Joshua Karski	Gap Year	
Gurshabad Kaur	Gap Year	
Gabriel Keeble	The University of Edinburgh	History
Daisy Keigher	Gap Year	
Phoebe Kelly-Cooper	University of Nottingham	Psychology

Maheen Khan	Gap Year - Reapply UCAS 2023	Pharmacology
Louis Le	University of Bath	Medicine
Enas Mahmoud Jamia	University of Leeds	
Ziam Malik	Gap Year	
Maria Marcheva	Gap Year	
Isabel Marshall	Durham University	Earth Sciences
Joshua Martin	Newcastle University	Law
Tobin Mather Rose	University of Bristol	Economics and Politics
Lois McCarthy	University of York	Psychology integrated Masters
Milly McCartney	Kingston University	Fine Art and Art History
Harry Mellett	University of Surrey	Mechanical Engineering with Foundation Year
Victoria Millington	University of Bath	Psychology
Elizabeth Millington	Swansea University	Classical Studies
Torin Mills	University of York	Music
Divyendu Mishra	University of Dundee	Business Economics with Marketing
Adam Murray	Bristol, University of the West of England	Filmmaking
Athalea Mutamba	Manchester Metropolitan University	International Relations
Arshia Nagravi	Gap Year	
Iman Nazir	Manchester Metropolitan University	Biomedical Science with Foundation Year
Hugo Oakley	Manchester Metropolitan University	Economics
Alice O'Neill	Keele University	Chemistry with a foundation year
Nicholas Othen	University of Oxford	Mathematics
Alexandre Patsias	Imperial College London	Mechanical Engineering
Olivia Patton-Lane	Gap Year to apply for Software Development Apprenticeships	
Ali Hamza Peerzada	City, University of London	International Political Economy
Thomas Pennington	University of Leeds	Actuarial Mathematics
Megan Phillips	Loughborough University	Marketing and Management (with placement year)
Nathan Pownall	Gap Year to apply for Degree Apprenticeship 2023	
Harry Reeder Hirst	Harper Adams University	Agriculture (with Placement)
Jack Rogan	Loughborough University	Economics (with placement year)
Matt Schofield	University of Leicester	Financial Economics and Banking
Oliver Setchfield	Gap Year to apply for Higher or Degree Apprenticeship 2023	
Zoe Shah	University of Oxford	English Language and Literature
Aroush Shahzad	University of Salford	Biomedical Sciences
Ishan Sharma	Leeds Beckett University	English and History
Daniel Simpson	University of Nottingham	Neuroscience (4 years)
Daniel Stevenson	Flight School (USA & Spain) in Jan 2023	
Jack Stockton	University of Dundee	International Relations and European Languages
Merryn Summersgill	University of York	English/History of Art (Equal)
Lucy Thompson	University of Leeds	Philosophy
Georgia Thorogood	University of Liverpool	Business with French
Joseph Timmins	Lancaster University	Business Management
Rose Tomlinson	Durham University	Modern Languages and Cultures (with Year Abroad)
Daniel Vincent	Royal Northern College of Music	Music
Lyle Wang	University of Bristol	Computer Science
Alex Ward	Lancaster University	Engineering
Charlotte Wells	Sheffield Hallam University	Criminology
Thomas Wells	University of Nottingham	Economics
Iola Williams	University of Glasgow	Spanish
Oscar Williams	Gap Year	
Adam Wilson	University of Sheffield	Zoology
Minerva Winton Stubbs	Gap Year	
Nathan Wood	University of Salford	Accounting and Finance
James Wyatt	University of Leeds	Modern Languages and Film Studies
Yicheng Xia	University of Oxford	Mathematics
Ammar Zayni	University of Central Lancashire	Civil Engineering (Foundation Entry)
Angela Zhou	Gap Year	

OLD STOPFORDIANS

Tahah Ahmed (OS 2021)	University of Lincoln	Pharmacy with a Science Foundation Year
Philippa Brown (OS 2020)	Royal Holloway, University of London	Mathematics and Music
Abdullah Farooq (OS 2021)	UCL (University College London)	Medicine (6 years)
Georgia Fazakerley (OS 2021)	University of Bristol	Accounting and Management
Jack Field (OS 2021)	King's College London, University of London	Biomedical Science
Nathaniel Huang (OS 2020)	University of Manchester	Mathematics and Statistics
Hassan Khan (OS 2021)	Queen's University Belfast	Economics and Accounting
Ellen Mangnall (OS 2021)	Northumbria University, Newcastle	Criminology
Rabeeah-Nuur Mohammed (OS 2021)	University of Bradford	Physiotherapy
Panashe Munaiva (OS 2021)	University of Leeds	Medicine
Rowan Sutton (OS 2021)	Durham University	Biosciences
Isabella Whittle (OS 2021)	University of Manchester	Management, Leadership and Leisure
Simon Wong (OS 2021)	Imperial College London	Chemistry
Emelia Yahova (OS 2021)	Newcastle University	Medicine and Surgery

LIBRARY LIFE

Library life started to regain more normality this year as we were progressively able to return to being an interactive space for learning and discovery. We were able to hold library inductions for our new pupils and also made sure all Second Year pupils got to discover how to make the most of our physical Library after their remote induction from the previous year. Throughout the year we were able to welcome classes back in for a variety of Library sessions – in particular, English classes were given the opportunity to explore reading choices through Match-making sessions, around our ‘Campfire’ and deciphering the clues to reveal the mysterious murderer during Crime Week.

Reading was also promoted through, much missed in-person, author visits. Our first visitor was Everest summiteer, writer and film-maker Matt Dickinson who, over the years, has encouraged pupils to read adventurously and embrace opportunity. One of the most popular series in the library is the S.T.A.G.S series by M. A. Bennett so we were delighted that she too was able to make a return visit. We were privileged to be included on Anne Fine’s publicity tour for her latest book *Aftershocks*. A prolific writer, Anne Fine, OBE, amused our Year Six and First Year pupils with her frank and funny recounting of her writing career and creative inspiration.



Outside of class time we were also busy providing opportunities for our pupils to explore books and gain reading inspiration. Harry Potter Book Night was celebrated with a teacher versus pupil lunch time quiz. Along with the fun Form Quiz, World Book Day saw the launch of our ‘Reading is Powerful’ trail – showcasing the impact particular books had had on particular teachers, and our interform borrowing competition ‘Branch-out-Read-Flourish’ which saw the tree skeletons in our library windows burst into leaf. The winning Form got to



create beautiful, beaded bookmarks, in a second ‘Beads and Reads’ session led by beading expert & assistant librarian Mrs Brennan. A team of enterprising First Years has also contributed to our mission of promoting good reads by creating *On the Same Page*, a magazine comprising of book reviews, puzzles, competitions, and library news.

Of course pupils’ reading habits and exposure to the written word is changing. Graphic novels, in particular *Manga*, is increasingly popular and many more novels for young people include attractive illustrations. As well as the visual experience, many pupils enjoy audiobooks as a complement to reading. To this end, we now subscribe to ePlatform enabling pupils to choose from hundreds of audiobooks.

Whilst our fiction stock is the most sought after, we continue to have a comprehensive range of non-fiction resources which we promote with particular vigour during ‘Non-fiction November’. Our *Spotlight on...* series of talks also enables pupils to find out more about real world issues. Over the last year staff, pupils and Old Stopfordians have given talks on diverse topics including philosophy, sustainability, and sociolinguistics. Through our physical and online resources and events, the Library seeks to support pupils to dig deeper and find out more across and beyond curriculum subjects.

Ms J Pazos

YEAR FIVE ART COMPETITION

Now in its ninth year, the Stockport Grammar School Year Five Art Competition, sponsored by Brewin Dolphin, welcomed 89 artists from 12 local primary schools to an exhibition evening to show their work to family and friends.

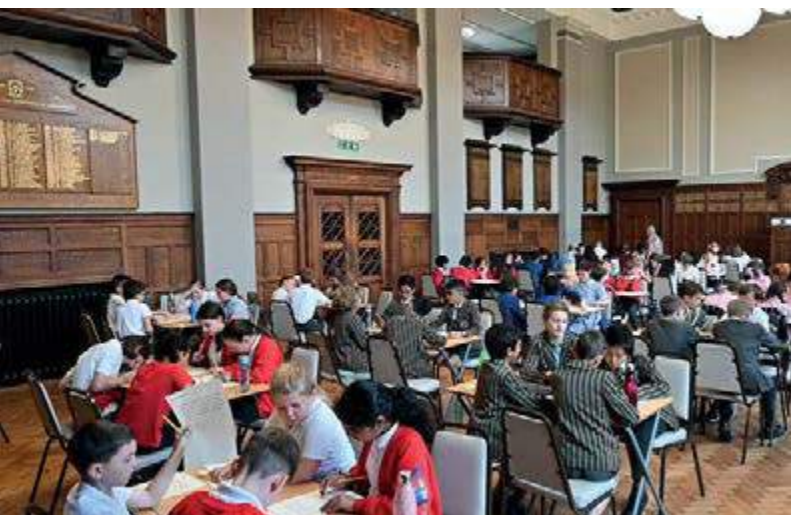
The theme of 'self-portrait' produced some spectacular work, with the children interpreting the brief in a range of ways to create imaginative artwork from painted canvas portraits of 'School Dinner' times, to collage textile cushion creations. The judges were bowled over by the high quality and care put into the pieces and found it very difficult to choose winners – all artists were congratulated on being chosen to represent their schools.

Christy Ho of Oldfield Brow Primary School took first place, winning a boxed art set and sketchbook. Her Picasso inspired piece caught the eyes of the judges for its combination of bold shapes and tonal mixing, thus creating such an ambitious and successful piece.

During the evening, the children also enjoyed taking part in art activities led by SGS Fifth Year Art students. Artists went home with a 'goody bag' provided by sponsors Brewin Dolphin, including art equipment to help them continue to capture their creativity for others to enjoy.



YEAR FIVE MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE



224 young mathematicians from 31 primary schools across Greater Manchester gathered for the annual Maths Challenges for Year Five children.

The popular Maths Challenge ran for three sessions this year testing each team's maths, problem solving and team working skills across three rounds, which included the chance to relay race around the Hallam Hall.

Now in its eleventh year, it is the creation of the SGS Maths department and is designed to inspire and enthuse Year Five pupils to enjoy the subject.

Congratulations go to the winners of each session: Stamford Park Primary School, Springfield Primary School and Forest Park Preparatory School.

Head of Mathematics Mr Greig Frankland-Wilkinson commented: "It was a pleasure to host so many eager mathematicians especially after having to hold the competition online last year. The sportsmanship throughout was inspiring with all teams producing some fantastic maths. All of the children should be very proud of themselves for representing their schools."

FOURTH YEAR SCIENCE COMPETITION

The annual Science Competition, challenged 44 Fourth Year pupils from 11 local high schools.

The scientists competed in groups of four with each team taking on the name of a famous scientist to complete hour-long tasks in each of the sciences.

In Biology, the sustainability of the use of antibiotics in the future was investigated looking at the susceptibility of a species of bacteria to a range of antibiotics.

The Physics department tasked the competitors with constructing an electromagnet. The electromagnets were then used to transfer paperclips from one bowl, across a fixed distance, to another on a mass balance. Each team had three attempts with the highest mass transfer being the victor.

The Chemistry task had two aspects: firstly, the teams had to find out what proportion of a polylactide sample had degraded to lactic acid by titration against sodium hydroxide. Secondly, with a water sample that had been polluted with the catalyst for making polylactides, they had to carry out a reaction to create a precipitate followed by a reduced pressure filtration, to determine the aluminium concentration.

The level of competition was high and the results were very close. Overall victors were 'Team Einstein' from Reddish Vale High School.

The competition aims to inspire and challenge pupils who have a passion for science with the opportunity to use advanced lab equipment and to engage in science beyond the curriculum.

Head of Physics Mrs Heather Fenton commented: "Science requires us to continually challenge the status quo, to hypothesise and then to back up these ideas with experimental evidence. The competitors performed their experiments with accuracy showing competent practical techniques and analytical skills. It was a pleasure to host such an enthusiastic and inquisitive group of scientists."



SPEECH DAY



Speech Day at Stockport Grammar School was an extra-special occasion this year with the official openings of the new Nursery and Sixth Form Centre buildings by Chairman of Governors, Mr Christopher Dunn.

The new single-storey Nursery building, complete with exciting new play areas and an eco-friendly living green roof, sits within the grounds of the Junior School.



Junior School Headmaster, Mr Matthew Copping said: "Our new Nursery facilities provide an amazing learning environment both within the classroom and outdoors. The large bi-fold doors mean that indoor and outdoor learning blends seamlessly, giving access to a huge range of learning opportunities including a mud kitchen, huge covered sandpit, water play and our woodland area. Our Nursery provision is very much focused on developing a thirst for learning and



encouraging curiosity in children. The stimulating environment is a fantastic place for the children to begin their learning journey at SGJS.”

The Sixth Form students also have a new modern space to call their own, featuring a large social space with a stunning glass roof, study rooms and a café. The café, called Edmond’s, is named after the School’s founder, Sir Edmond Shaa.

Senior School Headmaster Dr Paul Owen said: “We are absolutely delighted by the success of our new Sixth Form facilities. They were designed with a great deal of input from our wonderful Sixth Form pupils and have transformed the space. We now have excellent social facilities to promote

mixing between the Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth pupils, as well as a stylish café area and some fantastic study and work spaces. The students have warmly welcomed the developments which support their academic endeavours, as well as reinforcing the sense of community that underlies Stockport Grammar School.”

The Speech Day address was given by Climate Change Communicator David Saddington and the openings were attended by special guests and supporters of the school including Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester Carl Austin-Behan OBE and Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths’ Company The Lord Mark Bridges KCVO.



ARDEN

Senior Prefects
(House):

Yasmine Doyle
Sophia Fidler
Charlie Hallows
Caroline Jenks

Tobin Rose

Heads of House: **Mrs H R Ashton**
Mr K Prudham



With a full house calendar back in action this year, it has been delightful to see the engagement and devotion from the members of Arden House this year.

The year started with a sunny Wednesday morning out in the Hallam quad with an active assembly, ably led by the new Senior Prefect House, and this set the tone for a year of involvement and enjoyment from all of the pupils in a wide range of house activities. Some stand out results from early in the year were successes from the rugby teams in all the first four years.

The pupils in Arden showed their sharp intellects with victories in the senior and First and Second Year quizzes and a number of victories in the newly formed House Countdown which the pupils took to impressively. A standout moment from this was Arden's First Year team being the first to correctly get the 'countdown conundrum'.

The year ended successfully with a thoroughly enjoyable House athletics that had participation from a large number of pupils. New records were set by Chris Parikh for the 200m and Frank Chatterton for the Boys set (if only briefly) and a new school record was set by the Arden Boys 4x100m relay team of **48:81** which was last broken in 1988!

Congratulations to the newly appointed Senior Prefects House: Olivia Buchanan, Frank Chatterton, Ben Dadge, May Nguyen, Thomas Perfect and Charley Shea. They have shown devotion to the house over the years and their enthusiasm for such a challenging role has been incredibly impressive already and we look forward to continuing to work with them during the academic year.

The standout characteristic from members of Arden House so far has certainly been their willingness to participate with the number of Arden pupils at every event really impressive. Whilst it was disappointing to not win the Fallows' Shield, we were delighted to win the Brown Cup for our pupils' excellent effort and attainment in their lessons this year.

Mrs H R Ashton and Mr K Prudham
Heads of House

NICHOLSON

Senior Prefects
(House):

Sam Curwen
Eliza Arif
Kat Davies

Lucy Ferris
Darcy Entwistle

Heads of House: **Mr A Ehegartner**
Mr M Sallabank



The good ship Nicholson sailed into 2022 with a new crew at the helm; Mr Phillips and I took over the roles of Heads of House.

The Senior Prefects House were a motley crew: Sam (the man) Curwen, Eliza (I won House Chess) Arif, Kat (don't worry I'll play) Davies, Lucy (I've already done that) Ferris and Darcy (it'll be fine) Entwistle; but seriously they have been fabulous this year, engaging and entertaining in Assemblies and full of enthusiasm, which are perfect attributes for the role. Their Halloween Assembly with apple bobbing and doughnut eating; finding the sweet in the plate of flour proved so popular it was repeated - did someone forget to put the sweet in my flour.....!

We have climbed, played chess, quizzed, taken photographs, swum, played Countdown, all in addition to the usual plethora of sports covered in the Games lessons. Numbers wanting to take part have been fabulous in Lower School and this will be the platform upon which we build and move forward. From bottom of the Fallows' Shield table last year to a very strong second this year....watch out Warren we are coming to get you!

This year, Mrs Larkin leaves, a stalwart of Nicholson House during her time at SGS. She attended House Assemblies when I was previously a Head of House and was still there to welcome me back this year. I would like to thank her for all her support over the years. Similarly to the outgoing Upper Sixth and those leaving the Fifth Year to study elsewhere, the House is nothing without the people who take part in events. Stay safe and go make memories – life is not a rehearsal.

Miss S Withington and Mr A Phillips
Heads of House

VERNON

Senior Prefects
(House):

Georgia Thorogood
Felix Bowler
Mia Hutchinson
Megan Phillips

Heads of House: **Mrs J Plowright**
Mr O Johnson



Vernon kicked off the year with a strong performance in the House Badminton competitions. With some fantastic serves, smashes, drives and drops. Excellent determination was on show, winning the Third and Fifth Year and coming second in the Sixth Form competitions.

Outstanding performances followed in the range of events on offer. The Photography competition was a huge hit, with entries following the brief of *The Natural World*. Maizie Farrar won the inters competition with a lovely close-up photograph of a flower. Oliver Thorley and Fiona Telfer achieved third and second place respectively for their draw dropping snaps.

Full points were achieved in the Senior House Hockey, as well as strong performances from the Third Year boys' football and rugby teams, coming out as overall victors in these categories. The Senior Rugby team were also victors, bringing home full points for Vernon.

The Second Years were the stars of the swimming gala. Victories from Stanley Tombs in the freestyle and fly, Frankie Taylor in the freestyle and backstroke, and Ava Mungall in the freestyle and backstroke, were the stand out performances.

A fantastic showing for all house Athletics events at the end of term but a big shout out goes to the Lower Sixth who won their event. Tom Manton broke the Senior Boys 1500m record, which has stood since 1989, finishing in **4:22:57** and Amy Jack ran a new record time of **50:27** in the 300m.

Congratulations go to the newly appointment Senior Prefects (House): Lauren Gall, Tom Manton, Eddie McDonald, Lucy Stead, Fiona Telfer and Oliver Thorley. Their continued commitment throughout the years, have really showed their enthusiasm for such a demanding role. We look forward to working with them in the next academic year.

Vernon House wish Mr Johnson the best of luck in his new role as Head of English at Ripon Grammar School. We thank him for all his hard work over the past few years.

Mrs J Plowright and Mr O Johnson
Heads of House

WARREN

Senior Prefects
(House): **Emily Edwards**
Emre Gocer
Daisy Keigher
Josh Martin

Heads of House: **Mr A Hanson**
Mrs K Wilkinson



Another spectacular year for Warren!

The results of the Fallows' Shield, not only tell you of Warren's success this year but of the success of the House System generally. It's phenomenal! I know I've been involved in this system for a while but it just gets better and better each year.

Over 90 events!

September 21, as we came out of lockdown and school was still functioning under restrictions, we were able to put on a whole host of activities. Nothing was holding us back in hosting event after event and the camaraderie amongst house members, players and supporters was immense. Everyone just wanted to get going again and by goodness, we did.

Huge praise to our Senior Prefects who did a sterling job in motivating the house once again. Josh Martin, Emily Edwards, Emre Gocer and Daisy Keigher – we applaud you and wish you well for the future.

Charity work was a high priority again for Warren, and we would like to thank pupils and parents for their very generous contribution to events such as this. The Macmillan cake sale was a particular success; we were at the forefront of charity work at the school and we are very proud of our efforts.

Let's go again Warren!

Mrs K Wilkinson and Mr A Hanson
Heads of House

MATHEMATICS

It has been very pleasing to see School life returning to normal. Over the course of the academic year, pupils made over 300 entries to national competitions.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in Mathematics. The UKMT organises national Mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year old UK school pupils.

At Senior level there were seven gold awards: Jono Hawkins, Katie Hewetson, Thomas Gregory, Nicholas Othen, John Rees, Alex Patsais and Yicheng Xia. Yicheng scored the highest mark in the school and both he and Nick Othen qualified for the British Maths Olympiad. At Intermediate level there were ten gold awards: Sarwar Ali, Eddie Griffiths, Toby Halls, Zain Javaid, Hayden Lam, William McCluggage, Alex Mirzoyan, George Steele, Christian Woodworth and Tugulder

Zolzaya with twelve students qualifying for the second round. Alex Mirzoyan scored the highest mark and qualified for the Hamilton Olympiad. There were twelve Gold awards at Junior level -Muhammad Ali, Cameron Brooks, Tobias Burton, Ibrahim Chaudry, Issac Clowes, Pheoba Dileep, David Hawkins, Niall O'Reilly, Tolu Osinuga, Fiza Rasheed, Umair Salahuddin and Molly Steele. Four students qualified for the next round with Fiza Rasheed achieving a Merit in the Junior kangaroo.

In the Maths Olympiad for Girls there were eleven entries, with six students gaining a merit: Amirah Afshan, Lowenna Forrester, Millie Gallimore, Lauren Hedley, Katie Hewetson and Shabad Kaur.

LIVERPOOL MATHEMATICAL EDUCATION ON MERSEYSIDE CHALLENGE

Pupils were set the various Challenges in the Spring Term, as optional extension tasks. The Challenges involved problem-solving and clear setting out of their solutions, which they then had to send in online. Angus Reid achieved the Best in School for First and Second Years, Alexander Mirzoyan achieved Best in School for the Senior Challenge and Millie Gallimore achieved Best in School for the Open Challenge, with a Certificate of Merit. Many congratulations to them, and to all the pupils who participated in the competition.

This has been my ninth year at Stockport Grammar School as Head of Department and it has been a relief to be able to lead the department under a much more typical manner. Our mathematicians have managed to take on the additional challenges as well as adapt to being back in school, which they should be commended for. The members of the department have worked tirelessly to maintain the high level of teaching provision and provide opportunities for extension. We look forward to celebrating many more achievements with our pupils.

Mr G D Frankland-Wilkinson



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

OXFORD UNIVERSITY TRANSLATION EXCHANGE

In Lower Sixth, I entered The Queen's College, Oxford University's Translation Exchange's Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators, and I was awarded a Commendation for my translation of an extract from the Spanish book *Una Bala para el recuerdo* by Maite Carranza. I was very pleased to be commended for my

work, as there were over 1,000 entries to the competition which was held on four levels and in four languages. The winners were selected for each level in ten different geographical areas, and sixty Commendations were awarded.

Jack Stockton (U9)

NORTH SCHOOLS' MODERN LANGUAGES DEBATING COMPETITION



Sixth Form pupils 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 were: *Parents should not have more than 2 children*; *Tourism benefits the world* and *Young people should be allowed to vote at 16*. All of our teams gave an outstanding performance, displaying excellent linguistic and debating skills.

Harry, Rose and Charlie made it through to the final against Kings, Macclesfield. They were then given a surprise topic - *School terms should be longer*. Harry and Rose had to quickly discuss and formulate arguments before launching into the final debate. Their composure and skill was on full display as they tore into the opposing team. Their quick thinking and language capability was inspiring to see.

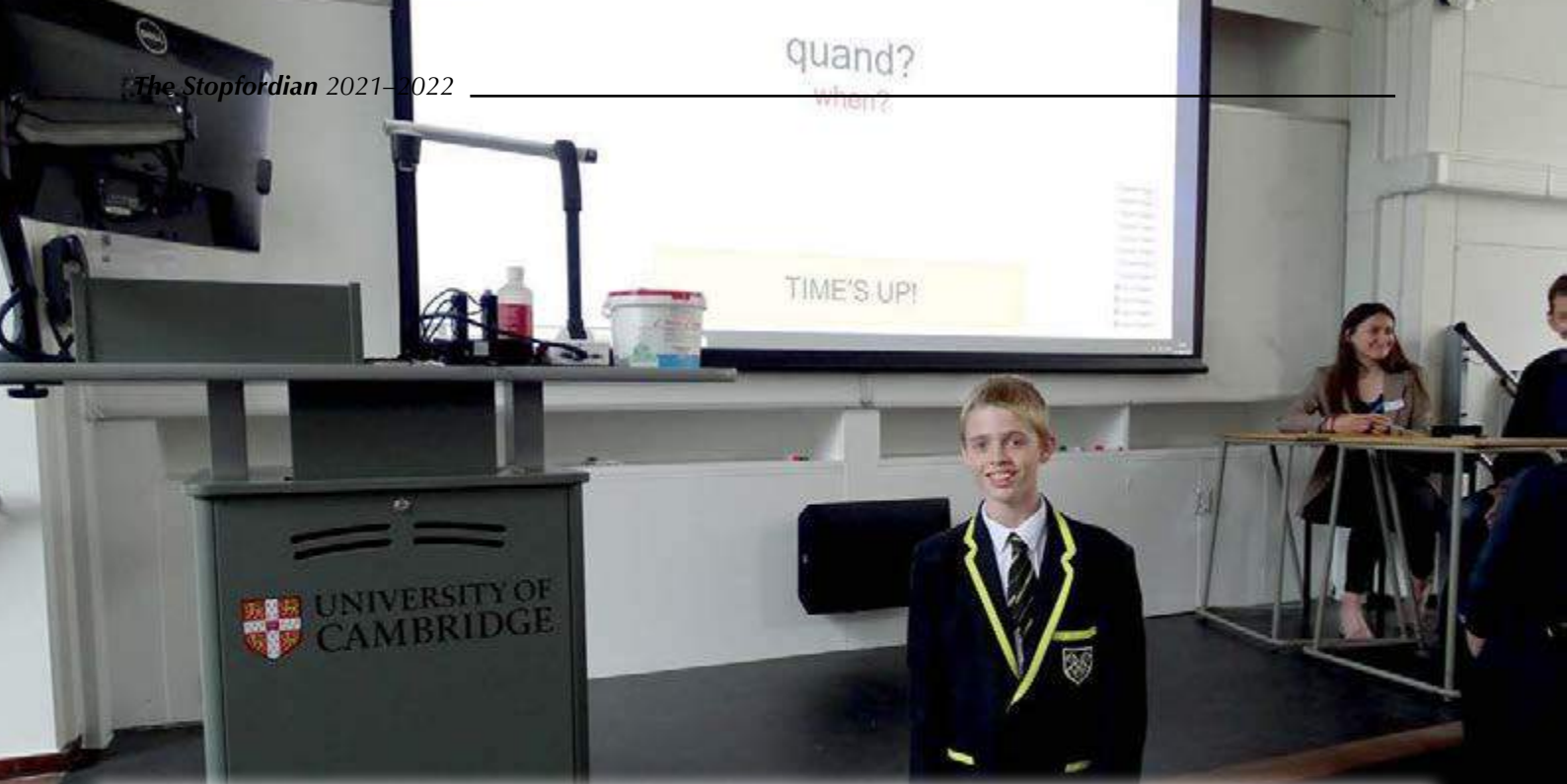
Charlie commented: "We held our breath while the judges deliberated and then celebrated jubilantly when they announced that our team had won. It was a great feeling to know that all our hard work had paid off."

Overall, the competition was a great experience. Although debating in front of an attentive audience was nerve-wracking, I gained a lot from it. It was an honour as a Lower Sixth pupil to have been invited and I can't wait for the opportunity next year to retain our crown."

This is the fourth time SGS has won the German competition.

Bis nächstes Jahr!

Frau K Christmann



SPELLING BEE

First Year pupil Robert Lord made it through to the final of the French Spelling Bee. This is a national competition with class, year group and then regional rounds. Robert came second in the North West, which is an amazing result. Over 3500 pupils entered the competition in the North West in French, German and Spanish, which puts Robert's fine achievement in context. He went through to the final, held at Cambridge University in June.

Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Miss Sylvia Gibson spoke to Robert about his experience in the competition:

"How did you get involved in the Spelling Bee competition?"
French has always run in my family, so I had always wanted to do something like this where I could compete against other people in the north-west and then eventually the country. Yes, it was a really good experience.

"So, that first round, what did you have to do? How many words were there?"
In the first round, there were 50 words to learn. They were the first 50 words – in some ways, they were words I already knew because of other French vocab.

"Did you find it easy to learn the words?"
Yes, I did. I found it quite easy to learn because I had a technique where I'd learn 3 or 4 a day depending on time. No matter where I was, I just learnt 3 or 4 a day. So that really helped.

"So, how did you feel when you got through to the national final? You were obviously the best person in your class, then you were the best in the school and then you got into this national final."
It was a really proud moment. You know, I couldn't really put it into words. To be the best at something like Spelling Bee was good.

"So, how many words were there overall when you got into the national final?"
300.

"What were the hardest types of things to learn?"
The hardest ones were the ones which had lots of vowels in, yes, lots of vowels because you have to really get your mouth around it. It's not quite a tongue-twister but it messes with your lips a bit! Like 'jouer' (Robert spells it really fast!)

"Did you have to think about what you were saying? It couldn't just be speed could it?"
For some of them that were really short, you just go quick, straightaway, but for some of them, you have to take your time.

"Ok, you got through to the final. Tell me about the final. What happened?"
We went to Cambridge and it was a really good experience; it was such an amazing place. There was a really good atmosphere. I felt really excited to go up onto the stage.

"Unfortunately, you didn't make it into the last four. How did you feel about that?"
I felt disappointed. I was curious as to why I didn't get there because I thought I spelt lots of words. I wish I could have known how many exactly I got and how many the last four got as well and how close I was to being in the last four. But it was still a great experience and I wouldn't regret going even if I came last.

"Last question: Would you recommend this competition to other pupils? To new First Years joining school?"
It's a great experience. Cambridge is one of the top universities, not just in England, but in the world! Yes, I'd definitely recommend it.

Miss S Gibson

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The Model United Nations has continued to provide pupils with an opportunity to hone their debating skills, research topical World Affairs and learn how to negotiate and influence others. Students have been delighted to have been able to return to a full programme of face-to-face conferences, where they have met and discussed the solutions to global problems with hundreds of other young people from around the UK. SGS pupils have formed delegations from a wide range of countries, including Chile, Switzerland, Jordan, UAE, Russia, Pakistan, Ireland, the United Kingdom and India.

Debates have been productive and stimulating, with students usually finding a set of clauses to which the majority of countries can subscribe. The issues that pupils have tackled have been challenging and diverse. The club has enjoyed debates on human rights issues, such as capital punishment and the treatment of refugees; climate issues, such as the preservation of the world's oceans and greenhouse emissions, as well as discussing the topic of man-made islands and tackling period poverty.

The Lower School club has flourished and SGS delegations have been proud to have had the contributions of younger

delegates recognised. We are particularly proud of Niall O'Reilly, Joshua Burgess and Marco Burns who have been Commended or awarded 'Best Young Delegate' in local competitions.

We are also proud of the Senior MUN team who were Commended at a conference in July, achieving this accolade out of 37 other schools. Notable individual achievements have included that of Eddie Griffiths, who won the title of 'Outstanding Delegate' in the Security Council – the highest-level committee – while representing Russia, and Priya Burrows who has twice won the title of 'Outstanding Delegate' while in Human Rights committee.

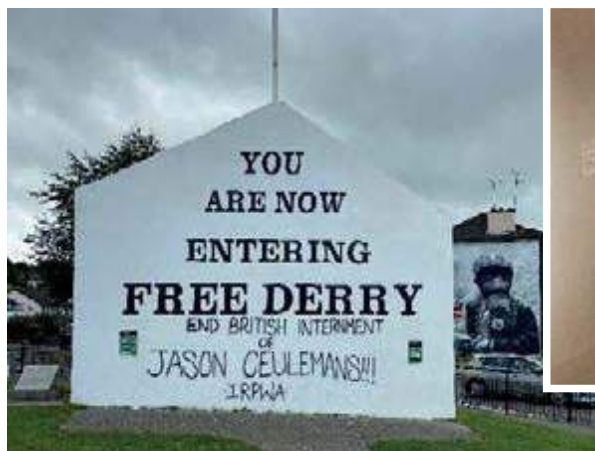
Finally, it has been pleasing to see so many older pupils share their skills with younger members by helping to run the club, taking on the role of Chair or providing advice and coaching to younger pupils. This has led to some of our pupils taking on the challenge of chairing full committees at conferences around Manchester. We look forward to the club going from strength-to-strength next year.

Miss E MacDonald



ALBERT JOHNSTON AWARD

NORTHERN IRELAND



The Albert Johnston Award gave me the opportunity to travel to Belfast, Derry and Enniskillen, visiting museums, murals, and monuments, to learn more about The Troubles, a conflict in Northern Ireland which occurred throughout the 1960s to the 1990s.

It was between Protestant Unionists, who wanted Northern Ireland to stay a part of the United Kingdom, and Roman Catholic Nationalists who wanted Northern Ireland to become part of the Republic of Ireland. The Troubles claimed over 3,600 lives and left more than 30,000 wounded. This was ended by a peace agreement, called the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

I was shocked that the conflicts had lasted as long as they did, but during my trip I learnt why. I gained an insight into how the people of Northern Ireland were still affected by them, as they were the people who grew up and lived through the terror of it first-hand. I also quickly realised how divided the two

religious groups still are to this day, when I was on an open top bus tour

of Belfast. The guide announced when we moved through the Catholic areas and the Protestant areas, both of them covered in Irish flags for the Catholic areas and the Union Jack for the Protestant areas; it was then that the animosity of the environment really hit me. This was further highlighted when he pointed out the barricades, big concrete posts and gates, along a main road between one of the Catholic and Protestant areas, which are still closed every evening to keep the area safe. The barricade is able to close in just ten seconds during an emergency!

I am so grateful to the Albert Johnston Award for this opportunity, I learnt so much

Lydia Barker (L5)

THEME PARKS OF EUROPE

Due to the ongoing closure of Japan for international tourism, I adapted my travel plans to a European version of the trip, to explore the differences in themed entertainments throughout Europe.

I departed home for the early morning Eurostar departure bound for Paris, followed by a regional train down to Mulhouse, close to the German border. With a further two more trains journeys, changing in Basel, I arrived late into Rust, Germany.

The first park on the trip was *Europa Park*, which is the most visited European park outside of Disney. The purpose of this trip was to attend the IAAPA winter summit and to learn more about their new fine dining Eatreenalin. The IAAPA tour also





gave us an exclusive look behind the scenes at the park's new water park Rulantica and the dinner show.

A visit to *Phantasialand* in Cologne gave me the opportunity to experience two of the best themed lands in the world. Klugheim, home to a Mack Rides double launched roller-coaster, known as Taron, and Rookburgh home to the world's first launched flying rollercoaster, F.L.Y. Both lands showed off a level of detailed storytelling and immersion that I had not seen before.

As April rolled around, I started the second part of my travels, by flying to Dublin. Located in Kilbrew, *Tayto Park* is based on the Irish potato crisp brand Tayto. This was an opportunity to experience the Cú Chulainn Coaster, a Gravity Group wooden roller-coaster that opened back in 2015.

After heading from Dublin to Eindhoven, I had the opportunity to visit *Attractiepark Toverland* to ride Troy, a GCI wooden rollercoaster, and have a behind the scenes look at the new area Port Laguna, home of Fenix a B&M winged coaster. The next day took me onto *Efteling*, known as one of the world's best and oldest theme parks. This Park is rumoured to have been the inspiration for Walt Disney's Disneyland. It was great to visit a host of unique attractions such as the Fairy Tale Forest, designed by Anton Pieck, along with the 35-million-euro dark ride, Symbolica, the most expensive project in the park.

Poland was next, one of the growing theme park destinations in Europe. *Legandia* in Katowice allowed me to experience Lech Coaster, the biggest rollercoaster in central-eastern Europe. *Energylandia*, in Zator, is being branded as the new European coaster capital. The most rapidly developing park in the world has 52 rides since opening in 2014. Just before the pandemic hit, Zadra, an RMC hybrid wooden rollercoaster opened and

is now regarded as one of the best rollercoasters in the world.

The next stage of the trip took me to Gothenburg Sweden to *Liseberg*, for the TEA SATE event, giving me an insight into how the park is preparing for the opening of Luna and how it has developed since the addition of Helix back in 2014. This trip also gave me a behind the scenes look at multiple



development projects coming to the park in future years including the new hotel, waterpark, and Volvo experience.

I then took a £3 Ryanair flight up to Stockholm, and after around three hours of trains heading back south, I arrived at *Koelmarden Zoo* overlooking Braviken Bay, which in 2016 opened Wildfire an RMC topper-track wooden coaster. I then headed down to Copenhagen, to visit the oldest amusement park in the world, *Bakken*, which opened in 1583! Boosting free admission, the park is home to Tornado, a unique Intimin launched indoor spinning coaster.

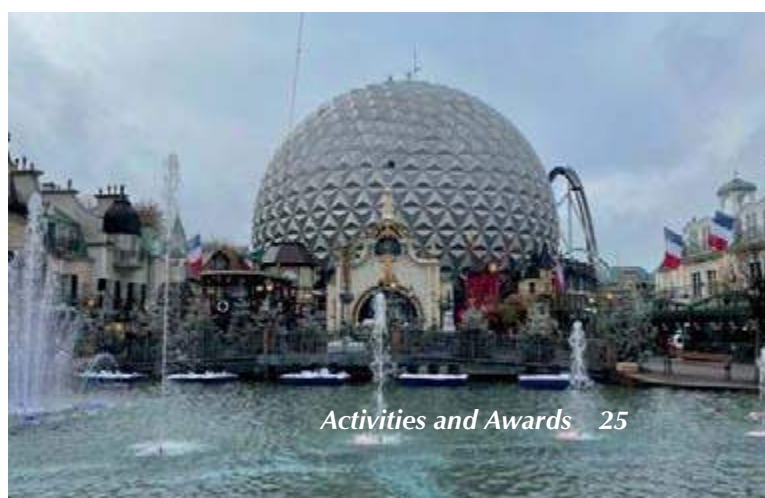
The next day, I experienced *Tivoli Gardens*, the most visited amusement park in Scandinavia. Most noticeably the park includes Rutschebann, opened in 1914, a ride with an operator that sits in the middle of the train with a pull break to ensure the train does not gain too much speed.

After taking the overnight bus from Copenhagen to Berlin, I arrived at *Tropical Islands* waterpark, famous for being housed within a former airship hanger on the former Brand-Briesen Airfield, which is the largest free-standing hall in the world. The concept of the park is to incorporate a water park and the largest indoor rainforest in the world.

The final part of my trip took me to Tenerife to experience one of the world's best waterparks *Siam Park*. Built on a hill so the slides can follow the terrain of the park, the park is famed for its Dragon slide and Tower of Power which sees riders plunge through a shark tank.

This trip has been a fantastic opportunity to experience some of Europe's best themed attractions, whilst building a network all over the continent, this has led me in a strong position to develop my career within this industry. I would like to thank everyone involved with the Albert Johnston Award for giving me this opportunity.

Ben Finlay-McDougall





DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Stockport Grammar School has had another busy year with multiple expeditions over the year.

The 24 Bronze Teams in Fourth Year completed their walking assessments in the Peak District in September, along with the Fifth Year pupils completing their Silver walking assessment in early October. These teams had received less training than usual due to restriction, however did fantastically well completing a full assessment with great navigation skills.

Third Year Bronze and Fourth Year Silver award pupils completed the first training day in school over the winter, taking part in a number of theory expedition skills covering camping skills, tents, first aid, food and planning route cards. This training all aids in the completion of the expedition section.



Spring continued with a Gold award walking training weekend in North Wales and Silver award practice walking & mountain biking expeditions in the Peak District.

Summer term was extremely busy with expeditions almost every weekend. Walking, canoeing & mountain biking expeditions took place for Fourth Year pupils along with Gold walking, canoeing and mountain bike expeditions for the Lower Sixth. We even managed to fit in the Third Year Bronze walking practice expeditions for our biggest ever cohort of Bronze Award pupils, with 134 Third Year pupils taking part in the weekends.

There was just time to squeeze in a canoe expedition for our Lower Sixth pupils and four ex-SGS pupils who are now at university. It is fantastic to see the pupils continuing from Bronze all the way up to Gold, this shows the level of dedication and perseverance SGS pupils are giving to the DofE award.

The Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Evening will be held in the Autumn Term, where we will be celebrating the success of DofE pupils over the last two years, with 95 Bronze, 58 Silver and 39 Gold completions. Well done to everyone who has completed their DofE award over the last two years, you have had to overcome many challenges.

Once again, the DofE award at SGS could not run without the support of the staff and volunteers. Thank you for all your help over the last year, especially volunteers who have given up multiple weekends to complete the many expeditions.

Miss L Turner
Award Co-ordinator



GAMES CLUBS

TACTICAL GAMES AND CHESS CLUB

With Chess and Tactical Games going on at the same time this year, the classroom, M6, was buzzing with noise and enthusiasm, so much so, that we had to expand into more classrooms on occasions!

It's mainly First and Second Years who attend, but pupils from all years are welcome. Sixth Formers borrow chess sets to play in their Common Room and some activities are borrowed to use in Form Time.

We were particularly fortunate to welcome two of our student teachers in the Spring Term to the weekly club, Mr Massey from Biology and Mrs Venugopal from Maths who have both contributed enthusiastically to the activities. We have also introduced quite a few new games : RhinoHero, Junglespeed, Unstable Unicorns, Anomia, and this has led to increased attendance.

We also benefitted from a generous donation of material from War Hammer World, but need more pupil interest to make it a worthwhile club on its own.

Mrs A Larkin and Dr M Hamilton



BOARD GAMES CLUB

The idea for Board Games Club came about one rainy afternoon. I walked past L9 and saw the joy on the faces of a group of pupils who had brought in a pack of Uno cards and were having an animated game. I thought that it was a perfect activity for phone-free fun and a way for pupils to meet new people.

I launched the club tentatively in September 2021 with just a few games and a few enthusiastic First and Second Year pupils. Week by week the numbers grew until I had to invest in several sets of Monopoly and Connect 4. There are now approximately 20 pupils who attend regularly and we play traditional board games including Pictionary, Kerplunk and Jenga. There has also been some interest in learning newer games like Dobble and older ones like Backgammon and Ludo.

Miss S Gibson

FIRST YEAR INDUCTION



First Year pupils enjoyed an action-packed few days on their residential.

Upon arriving in the stunning surroundings of Chatsworth House, pupils took part in some games before grabbing a place waterside and in the gardens for lunch. The children headed to the farmyard, where they fed the sheep and goats, and the adventure playground. The pupils then moved on to their hostel in Ilam where they unpacked, made their beds and came together for dinner.



After a hearty breakfast, the First Years headed out geocaching, an outdoor recreational activity in which participants use a Global Positioning System receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques, to hide and seek containers called “geocaches” or “caches”, at specific locations marked by coordinates.

A well-earned dinner was followed by a fun interactive quiz.

With breakfast consumed and belongings packed up on the final day of the trip, the pupils departed for the Heights of Abraham, a hilltop park reached by cable car, with cavern tours, walking trails and fossil exhibitions. The girls and boys took in the wonderful sights at the top of the park as they ate their lunch, before boarding the coach back to school.

Pupil Alexis Atenyam said: “I really enjoyed the residential to Ilam, 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 cable cars, which was scary but amazing.” Esme Birkett added: “Staying in a room with my friends and going on the cable car and exploring the cave at the Heights of Abraham were my favourite parts. We did group activities and this meant that we met new people and had to work together.”

Head of First Year Mr Alex Ehegartner concluded: “Ilam was a huge success and it was simply wonderful to see kids being kids! It was an absolute pleasure to work with this group. This time away was needed and deserved and I couldn’t be more proud of each and every one of them!”



CLASSICISTS TO LONDON



We all gathered at Stockport station and headed to the British Museum in London. Going with school was an amazing experience because Mr Thorley and Miss McAllister were able to give us details about everything in the exhibitions. I loved seeing the Cyrus cylinder in real life, after learning about it in lessons. It wasn't just a picture in a textbook anymore, although it was a lot smaller than I imagined. We also saw the Rosetta stone, Brooks slave ship and the Babylonian map of the world! My personal favourite was Lely's sculpture of Venus, I loved the fact that you could interpret her posture in different ways to tell a different story.

We headed to Covent Garden for lunch before moving on to the National Gallery. Here we found many paintings based on classical myths such as Joseph Mallord William Turner's painting of Odysseus' ship or Titian's paintings *Ariadne and Bacchus* and *The Death of Actaeon*. I enjoyed seeing how people translated these myths into paintings and how they told a story through one static picture. The museum also had some of Vincent van Gogh's pieces and Da Vinci's *Virgin of the Rocks* which I was honoured to see and definitely was an added bonus.

Visiting Carnaby Street was great fun! We had time to explore the shops and look at the London Christmas lights, which got everyone in a festive mood. We finished with a well-deserved pizza and headed for the train back.

I did consider wearing a toga but the British weather wasn't very kind, so I wrapped up warm and prepared for the classics trip to London!

The trip made me wonder who has seen the sources that we learn about in lessons and how amazing it is that they've survived this long.

Evelina Gwynne (L6)



MOUNTAIN BIKING

SCOTLAND



Mountain biking has been a great all weather option over the years. So with the restriction on travelling abroad uncertain, it opened up time and opportunity for the advanced riders who have built up their skills over the last six years with school trips, and in their own time, to be put through their paces in the Tweed Valley, in Scotland, riding many world class trails, some of which had just been used for the Enduro World Series the week before.

Having travelled to Innerleithen in the morning and set up camp, good organisation by pupils meant we were out riding by mid-afternoon, even rewarded with some reasonable weather; this was well received with the forecast for the next few days terrible, to say the least.

Starting low down at the Golfie, we sessioned a small section of trail, before linking into the next section. After a few small trails that built confidence, we climbed further up the hill (only halfway) to take on one of the classic trails. Pupils enjoyed the longer descent with its fast flowing turns all the way down to the lower fire road. The huge grins and enthusiastic comments saying it all. One more short section dropped us back out at the bottom to cruise back to camp to enjoy fish and chips. A brilliant start.

Thursday brought with it rain and weather warnings. After a strategic start time and adaptable plan, we made our way

out and up to the top of the Golfie to start with arguably the most well known trail there. The smiles had started to fade after the hour or so slog up with the rain coming down. My promise of quality descents really needed to win them back over if the day was to succeed. We dropped in and swooped and whooped through the fast and fun opening section before the woods and the climb was forgotten. Smiles back and excitement high, we enjoyed the awesome flowing descent that have been ridden by the worlds' best.

Unfortunately that also meant we had the climb back up again. The same pattern followed as we descended another top quality trail, pushing the technical level up a little as well. All pupils stepped up and delivered their best riding skills to reach the fire road with huge smiles again. After a short chat, and to my surprise, we were climbing back up again to redo the final descent from the previous day. A final short run to the bottom and back to camp. We had managed to survive the weather. Fantastic riding and attitude from everyone.

Friday was our final day, waking up to more localised flooding, some of which was in our tents! Pupils again did a fantastic job adapting and getting organised so we were ready to leave and be at Adrenaline Uplift for the first shuttle of the day. One run in, we had tyre issues and a full drive train failure. After what seemed like an eternity, we had patched the bikes up enough to keep going. Masses of water on the trails, but still excellent grip meant it was a full on wet and wild mud fest.

Seeing how much pupils have improved over the years 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.

Mr A Hughes

Co-Curricular Co-ordinator

Three days out in the big mountains of Scotland was not only a test of our physical and technical skills, but our mental toughness, waking up to torrential rain and freezing temperatures every day. Huddling under the tarp whilst listening to the rain hammer down upon the campsite, telling

stories of old and joking about the day's events with fish and chips gently warming our laps; wading through knee deep puddles and watching in awe as the nearby River Tweed burst its banks; the throbbing pain in our forearms flowing down the gorgeous trails to emerge out of the trees at the bottom, beaming from ear to ear and looking behind to see your best mate grinning as well, and then riding up to do the whole thing again.

The great camaraderie between teachers and pupils really made this trip; there was never a dull moment. It was very rewarding to see how far we as riders have progressed thanks to the trips that Mr Hughes has run over the last six years.

Alex Foster (L6)





COED Y BRENIN (GIRLS)

Girls' mountain biking has been very successful this year after the introduction of girls only sessions. To build on this, a small group of girls used the final three days of their Easter break to head to North Wales for some MTB action.

We drove down to Coed Y Brenin trail centre, where we rode the longest version of the Minator (Blue) to give ourselves an idea of how the trails felt at a new trail centre. It quickly became clear to the group that blue graded trails are not all created equal across centres.

Everyone was more than up to the challenge and it gave us a number of key areas to focus some coaching. Once we had completed the trail, we used the skills zones to work on some of these areas, before heading off to set up camp.

Saturday gave us all a fun day to ride so we stepped it up a little and rode the Fox (Red). The hardest sections proved to be the technical ascending sections. A totally different skills

set that is an area to work on for everyone. This trail was a big challenge for everyone, both technically and physically, but the commitment and effort from pupils was outstanding.

After lunch we cut up and around to descend the final sections of Temtiwr (Red). This took us back to the skills area to finish off with more coaching and some fun, chilled riding. Another fantastic day. Back to camp for food and sleep.

With tired legs we decided to break up the drive home and ride at Llandegla. We did a lap of the Red, which felt much easier in comparison to those of the previous days.

I was blown away by the effort and commitment shown by pupils over the long weekend. It is always impressive to see the amount of progression and increase in confidence when they have the time to ride multiple days in a row. Overall a fantastic trip with amazing pupils.

Mr A Hughes
Co-Curricular Co-ordinator

Six girls from Second and Third Year went on a MTB trip to Coed Y Brenin, where we did many different blue and red runs, including the Minotaur and Cyflym Coch.

The first night we had to put up our tents and had fish and chips from the local chippy. Throughout the three days we enjoyed spending time at the skills area and the pump track,

which gave us a chance to improve our skills and we also enjoyed various riddles as we cycled along, such as *'I like coffee but not tea'*.

I am new to Mountain Biking but I really enjoyed our trip and I'm really looking forward to doing more in the future.

Caitlin Hill (3T)

COED Y BRENIN (ADVANCED)

A small group of pupils went to Wales for some advanced MTB at Coed y Brenin. The aim of the trip was to give pupils coaching on, and experience of, different trails away from

what they usually ride. A big part of the days' riding has been to focus on riding smoothly, using the terrain and good line selection. Throughout the four days, everyone has shown

great improvement and coped with the hot weather well.

After the drive down from school on Monday, we hit the trails straight away. A quick lap of the Red Fox set the tone for what was to come. The mix of both technical ascents and descents is different to what pupils face on our normal day trips – highlighting some of the challenges ahead. Once around the trail, we spent some time in the skills area looking at line choice, before taking that idea back out onto a section of trail. A really successful day.

Tuesday took us away from the main side and over onto the Tarw Du (black) to sample the unique rock slabs on offer. For most, this was their first experience of features like this. We spent some time on the slabs and features around before heading down the varying sections of Snap, Crackle and Pop and back to the Visitors Centre.

After a spot lunch we did a chilled, fun lap of the Minator (blue) before spending some time in the skills area focusing on drops and gaps.

Wednesday was the day we had worked up to. A sneaky route that would take in most of the best sections of the Beast (black), without the long slog in-between. We started off climbing up to ride Cain, a tricky up and down section that really worked everyone. It was then a joy to hear the whoops and cheers as we flew down the flow, perfect berms, jumps and rollers of Adam and Eve. The psyche continued as we entered the woods again to hit the tight twisty technical Serpent's Tail. As we descended Abel, the tone changed. This was, by far,

the most technical section of trail of the trip. Silence came as the focus levels rose and only the sound of tyres hitting and skipping rock, suspension working hard, could be heard. The odd cry of shock or surprise occasionally thrown in as the ever increasingly challenging features appeared.

Once everyone was through safe we climbed back to the top of the trail centre to tackle the classic Adam's Family sections. Each one with its own character, they offer some of the best descending at the centre. After six flat out sections, everyone excited about lines and features, it was time for ice cream. We wrapped the day up with a short climb and the final three descents. It was fantastic to see the improvements and noticeable reduction in time gaps between everyone at the bottom as they improved and grew in confidence.

We broke up our journey home with a day at Llandegla. The easy climb up was more pleasant on tired legs. Linking fun sections of the blue and red gave us 10 miles of chilled, enjoyable riding. Time in the skills area on the jumps put big smiles on faces too. For some it was their first time clearing all the jumps on the bigger line. A fantastic way to end the trip.

I have had the pleasure to watch some pupils discover MTB and really develop over the last six years. It is also great to see others starting out on that journey and allow me to be part of it. I look forward to many more great trips like this one in the future.

Mr A Hughes
Co-Curricular Co-ordinator



This year's trip to Coed y Brenin made me realise how much I've progressed with my mountain biking. Going on the mountain biking school trips and local sessions have really helped me to develop my skills and confidence on the bike. When we first went 3 years ago, the trails seemed a lot harder and the terrain was very different to what I normally rode. This

year, my riding ability was much improved and I was able to get the best out of the trip. Being part of the mountain biking trips makes me feel part of the school as I'm not really into the traditional sports like rugby. This means we all had fun because we like the same sport.

Marcus Foster (4N)

ABERDOVEY



In the last week of the Summer Term, 120 pupils travelled to mid-Wales to take part in an Adventure Challenge and Leadership course at Outward Bound Aberdovey. The challenges pupils faced were not just physical after the effects of recent years. Covid has left pupils without residential trips and the skills acquired from those experiences.

For many the greatest learning experience came from being placed in groups and dorms with pupils outside their normal friendship group, this week gave them the confidence to move forward with the knowledge they can make new friends and work well with pupils they didn't yet know.

The first day started the same for all, with the customary jog and dip to set things up for the adventures ahead. The week was based around a challenging overnight expedition. Some groups went out on the Tuesday, with the rest leaving on Wednesday. An expedition is a great opportunity to either allow a group to start forming and developing (if at the start of the week) – or continue to develop and then establish roles and structure if later on.

On the days not spent on expedition, pupils took part in other activities, all with the focus of developing their understanding of their team and their role within it.



The final day gave pupils the chance to show how much they had grown and developed within their groups. The Outward Bound instructors said our pupils had been fantastic to work with and looked forward to us returning next year.

I hope that all the pupils took away new skills and special memories from this trip that they can use at school, home and for the rest of their lives.

Mr A Hughes



Going into this trip many of the year were unsure about who was going to be in their dorm and team; the reality was you did find yourself with people you wouldn't usually talk to, but ended being good friends and helping each other along the expedition and in the challenges. Throughout the 15km expedition we all tried our hardest not to be a protester or a prisoner, and we will always think about this when faced with anything we find difficult in everyday life.

Molly Steele (2Y)

I really enjoyed the Outward Bound trip, it was a nice mix between tough activities and fun activities. The tougher activities have taught me that resilience is key when dealing with trouble in life, and that stepping out of your comfort zone is the key to success.

Isaac Clowes (2P)

HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT & THE SUPREME COURT

before heading into Westminster Hall. For the historians, this allowed the opportunity to visualise the trial of Charles I in 1648 from where he was sat!

The students, all interested in the option of Law, History, Politics or International Relations at university, then took part in a workshop on voting and representation, working in three groups to devise manifestos, nominate a leader and discover how different voting systems can generate different outcomes, in terms of the number of MPs or other political representatives allocated to each party. This was then set against the outcome of the most recent General Election in 2019.

After some time for lunch on the South Bank, the group returned to Parliament Square, Whitehall, Horse Guards Parade and Downing Street.

The afternoon was spent in the Supreme Court, where the pupils were able to visit the two court rooms and learn about the distinct and important functions of the highest court in the UK. Sitting in the Justices' chairs, they were given some recent Supreme Court cases to consider and determine an outcome on; with the actual decisions and consequences being discussed within the group.

The time spent in the Supreme Court concluded with a visit to their exhibition/museum, which gave the group the opportunity to consider more of the challenging points of law the Justices are asked to rule on and also see some of the artefacts and gifts given to the Supreme Court by visiting foreign dignitaries.

The day provided an informative and exciting opportunity for the students to place themselves at the heart of our political system.

Fifteen Lower Sixth students headed to London during the Summer Term, on a trip that saw them visit the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court.

They enjoyed a guided tour of the House of Commons and House of Lords, led by a member of the Parliament Education Centre's team. The group were led through the Robing Room and the Division Lobbies into the two chambers themselves, each getting the opportunity to stand at the dispatch box and imagine themselves being in the shoes of the Prime Minister!

While the usual hustle and bustle of Westminster was absent due to a Friday visit, the group spent time in Central Lobby



MUSIC



I was concerned that two years of major disruption would result in students permanently drifting away from Music. I underestimated our pupils – massively! It has been wonderful to see so many return to our multiple ensembles and enjoying the buzz of concert days, trips and tours again.

It has been great to see our choirs flourishing again, with around 130 pupils participating. Chorus has delighted audiences with uplifting performances of medleys from *Guys and Dolls* and *Phantom of the Opera* and Will Todd's fabulous *Jazz Missa Brevis*. Chamber Choir sang beautifully at events such as the Carol Service and Spring Concert, performing a *cappella* sets of madrigals, spirituals and jazz numbers, the latter of which were beautifully arranged by Old Stopfordian Sam Gilliatt. Junior Chamber Choir gave delightful performances throughout the year and they should be immensely proud of their success in the Alderley Edge Music Festival in May. Vox and Boys Vocal Group greatly enhanced the Carol Service and performed a number of lighter arrangements with energy and verve in other concerts and recitals.

First Orchestra gave sparkling performances of medleys from *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Jurassic Park* at the Autumn and Spring Concerts. It was also a great pleasure to perform Upper Sixth Form pupil, Oscar Williams's composition entitled *Microconcerto for Drum Kit and Orchestra*, in which he featured as soloist; an innovative and joyful classical-jazz fusion piece, which showcased perfectly his wonderful skills as both composer and performer. Members of Second Orchestra gave polished accounts of a number of well-known orchestral arrangements and it is great to see younger players coming through and doing so well. String Orchestra also played beautifully in concerts throughout the year, featuring works by Purcell and Latin American arrangements such as Piazzolla's *Libertango*.

Strength in depth has also been evident in our wind bands for many years and this remains the case. Wind Orchestra delighted audiences in several concerts with a wide range of pieces in different styles. A great highlight was the performance of Horowitz's *Concerto for Euphonium and Wind Orchestra* at the Spring Concert, featuring Dan Vincent as an outstanding



soloist. Concert Band played with great energy in a number of lighter arrangements such as *Soul Bossa Nova*.


Jazz remains a very important part of the Music department and we have been blessed with a wonderful Senior and Junior Jazz Band in recent years. Both bands gave stylish virtuoso performances of pieces such as *The Girl from Ipanema* and *Sway*. We bade farewell to most of the members of the Senior Jazz Band this year and thank them for all the energy and enthusiasm, not to mention considerable flair and skill. Big Band also continues to thrive and entertain audiences and they delivered a number of fantastic performances on occasions such as Speech Day and the Summer Concert. Likewise, Brass Ensemble performed as always with gusto and style in arrangements such as *Liberty Bell* and *Carmen* and it is great to see our brass players continuing from strength to strength.

We now have three percussion ensembles, all of which continue to amaze audiences, with their eclectic and colourful arrangements. Our guitarists have also excelled in their ensemble performances across the year. We were sorry to say goodbye this year to our guitar tutor, Mr Girling, and wish him all the best with his re-location to Norway.

For me, one of the great delights of this academic year has been the emergence of our new "junior" ensembles (beginner level to grade 2), intended to allow all pupils, irrespective of whether they own an instrument or not, to enjoy playing in groups with other students. Around 50 pupils have participated in Junior Strings, Junior Woodwind, Junior Brass or Junior Percussion and they have all conquered their nerves to play in at least one of our concerts or recitals.

We also strive to provide opportunities for chamber-music (small) ensembles and it has been great to see so many of these groups perform in our various concerts and recitals. These range from cello choir and string quartet to brass quartet, oboe trio, clarinet quintet and piano duets amongst many others. We have also enjoyed seeing *The Lakes* rock band continue to develop their skills and produce two fabulous recordings over the summer. Multiple other individual and ensemble performances have taken place through MARS recitals, music in assembly and other informal occasions.






Our instrumental scheme continues to provide fantastic opportunities for all First Year pupils to learn instruments in small groups in class. This has enabled them to try oboe, clarinet, saxophone, flute, bassoon, cello, double bass and the full range of brass instruments. It has been great to see so many then opt to have individual lessons in order to develop their skills further.

Another welcome development in recent years has been the creation of our own YouTube page, which now contains over 200 performances accumulated over the last couple of years. These performances are regularly shared through the school's social media pages, and it has been lovely to share so many individual and ensemble performances with the wider community.

The year ended with a wonderful and memorable tour to London, which included performances in historic venues such as St James' Church, Piccadilly and St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, as well as the bandstands at Victoria Embankment Gardens and Alexandra Gardens in Windsor.



Finally, I would like to put on record my wholehearted thanks to all of the Music staff, who do such an amazing job motivating, guiding and inspiring our students. Thanks also to the parents and friends; you do so much to support our events and encourage behind the scenes and we really appreciate this.

Mr M Dow
Director of Music

MUSIC CONCERTS 2021 - 22



Throughout this past year, SGS musicians did what they love doing most, showcasing their awesome talents to parents and teachers alike, on many occasions, in a variety of concerts and recitals.

We began with the Autumn Concert, a display of impeccable talent that started off with Concert Band, playing *Dune Buggy*. Everyone played enthusiastically, setting the scene and starting the year on an extremely positive note. The show ended with Chorus singing a medley from *Guys and Dolls*, putting everyone in a joyful mood.



The next concert threw everyone into the magical musical world of Christmas! String Orchestra started off this incredible evening with *Purcell in Miniature*, which consisted of various pieces, which were played splendidly, earning them a fantastic round of applause. Wind Orchestra ended the show with *Mancini Magic*, and a brilliant rendition of *Sleigh Ride*, a fun SGS tradition with bells and all, leaving everyone with a glowing festive feel.

The next recital to wow the audience was the Winter Concert, where we witnessed the Junior Woodwind Group, made up of pupils who have only just started learning their instrument. Their take on *Drunken Sailor* and *Bare Necessities* showed great determination, playing in front of an audience at such an early stage.





The Spring Concert was a very special occasion, performed in St George's Church. It started with String Orchestra playing *Libertango* and *Chaconne in G Minor*. Next up was Chamber Choir, performing a range of madrigals, spirituals and jazz numbers. The next group to play was Wind Orchestra. They performed *Crown Imperial* followed by the *Euphonium Concerto* by Horovitz, with a phenomenal solo performance by Daniel Vincent displaying unbelievable talent. To end this magnificent evening, Chorus sang the *Jazz Missa Brevis*, by Will Todd with jazz band accompaniment.

The Summer Concert put everyone in a happy mood, with Brass Ensemble opening the show followed by String Quartet, who played *String Quartet in D minor* by Sixth Form pupil Lily Amet. Big Band ended the night on a high playing *I Can't Turn, You Loose, Blue Train* and *Doxy*.

Our next concert was also a very special night because it was our last chance to see the amazing skills, sense of humour and dedication of the Upper Sixth. The highlight of the night was

when all of the Upper Sixth formers got together to perform a song they had put together in honour of the music teachers. It was a hilarious way to end a thoroughly entertaining night!

To end this incredible year of music, SGS Lower School got their chance to shine in the Lower School Concert, with Junior Woodwind, Junior Strings and Junior Brass Band showing that everyone is welcome and encouraged to get involved and have fun in the Music department

Overall, 2021/22 was a great year for making music at SGS. It was so lovely having everyone back together doing what they love. What a fantastic way to make a comeback!

Anna Stevens (4H)



LONDON MUSIC TOUR

The Music department ventured down to London for the first tour since our trip to Valkenburg in 2019.

Before the tour had begun, the students and staff were committed to rehearsing during and after school for a number of weeks, so when the morning of the tour finally arrived, we set off in high and, quite possibly tired, spirits. After unloading and unpacking, we headed to Pizza Hut for our evening meal which was an enjoyable end to our first day.

On the Saturday, like every day of the tour, we were up and out of the hostel early in the morning, after the enthusiastic Scottish wakeup call from our alarm clock, otherwise known as Mrs Matthews, ready for our first informal concert at the Victoria Embankment Gardens bandstand. There were many performances from various groups, all of which impressed the sizable crowd in attendance. After our morning in the sun, we packed up and headed to the formal concert venue at St James' Church, Piccadilly, which featured Oscar Williams' composition for First Orchestra *'Micro Concerto for Drum Kit and Orchestra'*, Dan Vincent's performance of Horowitz's *Euphonium Concerto* with Wind Orchestra, and of course, the awesome *Jazz Missa Brevis* sung by chorus.

On the Sunday morning, we set off for our informal concert at the Alexandra Gardens bandstand in Windsor, a lovely outdoor venue overlooking Windsor Castle. Before the performance, we had some time to wander around and buy ice creams to help us cope with the heat wave. After the concert, we headed to dinner, which was followed by an interesting and informative guided bus tour of London.

On the Monday morning, we had a tour of the National Theatre, which was an exclusive insight into what goes on behind the scenes in a professional theatre and was of particular interest to those who enjoy acting and musical theatre. We then headed to Covent Garden and enjoyed some free time to shop and take in the



picturesque scenery around the area. After our evening meal, we performed our last formal concert of the tour in the historic setting of St Paul's Church. Although we were all melting from the heat, we put on an impressive performance, taking pictures at the end to mark the end of our concerts.

However, the fun didn't end there.

On the Tuesday, like true London Tourists, we went on a Thames boat trip and then a ride on the London Eye, which provided a chance for the staff to flaunt their tour-leading expertise! We visited the Royal College of Music for a tour of its museum and experience a different genre of music in the Indonesian Gamelan workshop. After dinner, we watched the West-End show *Wicked*, which was a fantastic experience for those of us who have studied or are studying *Defying Gravity* at GCSE.

To end the tour, we went to an exhibition at Tower Bridge and were able to watch the bridge open to let a ship through before we headed back on the coach for our journey back to Stockport. At our final service-station stop, Mr Dow held an awards ceremony, giving thanks to the staff and our coach driver, and to give recognition to each student for what they had brought to the tour.

Ella Moran (L8)



MUSIC FESTIVAL WINNERS

This year's Festival was adjudicated by Mr Aidan Bradley, Director of Music at Manchester High School for Girls.



First Year Instrumental Solo
Commended

Nathan Hutchinson
Howard Kam

Intermediate Ensemble

Alfie Anderson
Marcus Foster
Thomas Mo
Gideon McDermott-Swann
Bea Downing
Yuna Kim
Anna Stevens

Second Year Instrumental Solo
Commended

Clara Zelhof
James Caine

Commended

Third Year Instrumental Solo
Commended

Brian Liu
Dan Wood

Junior Vocal Solo
Commended

Rosie Moore
Maan Munir
Charlotte Sullivan

Sixth Form Instrumental Solo
Commended

Liv Dow
Dan Vincent
Oscar Williams
Ben Wood

Junior Ensemble

Zac Dow
Will Harvey
Dan Wood

Sixth Form Vocal Solo
Commended

Ella Moran
Nicholas Othen

Most Promising Lower School Musician **Dan Wood**

Fourth and Fifth Year Instrumental Solo
Commended

Anna Stevens
Jeya Belocura

Senior Ensemble

Commended

Dan Vincent
Oscar Williams
Clara Zelhof
Charlie Harrison
Ella Moran;
Ben Wood
Jonathan Hyde
Talia Zelhof
Lily Amet
Liv Dow

Fourth and Fifth Year Vocal Solo
Commended

Mia Krywonos
Lucy Smith
Tilly Wolstenholme

Adjudicator's Cup
Dan Vincent

Brass Cup
Dan Vincent

String Cup
Liv Dow

Pianoforte Cup
Brian Liu

Woodwind Cup
Ben Wood

DRAMA

Drama continued to go from strength to strength this year: two productions, theatre visits, pupils completing their LAMDA exams, supporting the Junior School's Year Six production of Roald Dahl's *Goldilocks & The Three Bears*, GCSE performance showcases and the introduction of A Level Drama & Theatre.

As I look ahead to 2022-23, I am excited by our extensive trips and visits, our upcoming collaborative work with Stockport Local Cultural Education Partnership, the Writing Squad and several local schools, as well as preparing for our upcoming productions of *The Wind in the Willows*, which will be performed in March, and a reimagining of *The Play That Goes Wrong*, which will be staged in the Summer Term.



LAMDA AWARDS

A group of pupils had a great start to the new academic year after they received their marks for their LAMDA assessment.

The acting qualifications were run in addition to Drama lessons and saw each pupil prepare and perform two or three solo monologues. Of the 30 students that took part last year, each of them achieved a Distinction or Merit grade.

Drama teacher Mrs Alison Moffatt said: "It's becoming a really popular lesson and we have around 60 pupils that want to take part this year. It can really help build confidence or aid with public speaking skills."

Fourth Year pupil Cara B took part and said: "It's a fun environment and you get pushed out of your comfort zone. I really enjoyed taking part and I am really happy with my grade."

POETIC DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Budding poets had their work published as part of a landmark initiative to help celebrate the Declaration of Human Rights.

The first Greater Manchester Poetic Declaration of Human Rights was created by students from across the area in a bid to highlight the importance of the original document – which was created in 1948.

Of the 30 poems that appeared in the book, five of those were written by SGS English and Drama pupils; Mia Fovargue, Emma Griffiths, George Hammond, Alex Powrie and Jess Wiggetts, which was the most from any contributor.





ARTS AWARD

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

Arts Award is a national qualification, which is certified by Trinity College and Arts Council England. The award is run at different levels, which is Bronze, Silver and Gold in the Senior School. 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



DNA

will own up to what they've done. The play tackles the themes of friendship, morality and responsibility in odd circumstances.

The Drama department pushed the boundaries yet again to stage the piece as a promenade performance with the audience moving between locations.

Ezra Cooke, who played Richard, said: "It was a really fun and unique play to put on and unlike any others we have done before. We were moving around and it had a much smaller cast than other plays."

Lily Clarke, who played Leah, added: "I enjoyed the fact that the play was a promenade performance as it made you think on your feet and consider the best entrances and exits for a scene."

Fourth Year GCSE Drama pupils staged an imaginative version of *DNA* by Dennis Kelly.

The central premise focuses on what happens when a group of young friends are faced with a terrible accident; they deliberately make the wrong choices to cover it up and find themselves in an unusually binding friendship where no one

Director of Drama Mr Matt King-Sayce said: "We wanted to use this production as an opportunity to challenge both our pupils and the audience to engage with performance in a different way. We are incredibly proud of the pupils, many of whom have never performed in a school production, for the energy and enthusiasm they brought to staging this gritty and challenging dark comedy."



THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE



Audiences at the Drama Production were transported from Stockport to Narnia during three amazing performances of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*.

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 White Witch.

The production, which took place in the Main Hall, was a culmination of six weeks of intensive work and was a real team effort from everyone involved. The pupils who were in the cast and the production team worked tirelessly to perfect the show and they were brilliantly supported by the Directors and the staff who helped with artwork, costumes, front of house and backstage.

Director 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 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."*

First Year Charlotte Sullivan remarked: *"It was a great opportunity to get to know other people that like drama too."*



NOTES FROM LEONARDO...

In a previous 'Notes....', I mentioned that I hoped the educational challenges we were to face would be short-lived; it was a sense of optimism that was not realised, and the extent of the subsequent disruption meant that at the start of the academic year there remained some residual doubt that this year would escape further restrictions. Thankfully, this time, those fears were not realised.

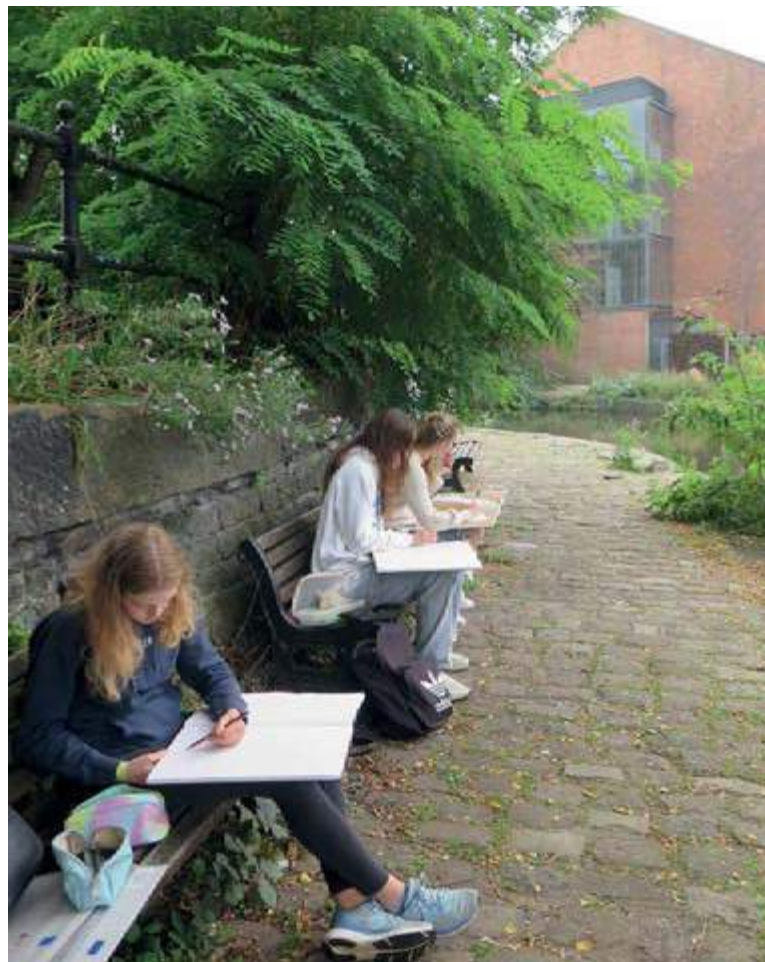
Among the many observations noted by staff in the period immediately following the return to school, was seeing the pupils' apparent enjoyment of some of the more technical aspects of the subject that require a sustained level of focus. Whether this was because they enjoyed being able to 'lose' themselves in the quiet intensity needed to draw accurately I cannot say, but they were certainly keen to re-engage with the subject. Indeed, the department quickly established itself as a second home for many of the pupils studying the GCSE course, and it was a pleasure to see so many of them prepared to use lunchtime and after school to continue developing their coursework portfolio.

It is important that practical skills are balanced against a contextual and theoretical knowledge, so that pupils develop a broader understanding of the subject. To that end, I was excited when I was contacted by Old Stop and current School Governor, Jonathan Lee, at the end of the previous Summer Term. As an expert in the history of architecture, he was keen to encourage pupils in the Sixth Form to look more closely at one of the School's buildings, and hence to submit a short written analysis in response to the statement, *'The Main Hall at SGS – Stockport's Brutalist architectural gem. Discuss.'*

This interesting brief elicited a fascinating range of responses, and while all contributed strong arguments both for and against the title, because they fully addressed the proposition, the winner and runner-up prizes were awarded to:

Winner: Charlotte Bradley-Potts
Runner-up: Olivia Firth.

We are fortunate in Stockport to be able to access interesting landscapes and visit exciting galleries with relative ease, and there is tremendous value gained from both these activities.



Organising trips remained difficult during the Autumn Term, although we did take the Lower Sixth group into Manchester, where they spent the day drawing and photographing the architecture, noise, and general hustle-and-bustle associated with the urban environment.





permanent display on the platform at Woodsmoor station in the *More Woods for Woodsmoor* community arts project.

Mrs Upton arranged for pupils in the Third Year to visit Victoria Baths and The Whitworth Art Gallery. Following an introductory talk to explain something of the historical, as well as architectural, importance of the baths, they completed several photographic and drawing tasks, that were developed back in the classroom. The afternoon was spent at The Whitworth Art Gallery where the pupils were able to explore the collection and consider the comparison between the new extension and the original façade of the building. Pupils from both the Lower Sixth and Fifth Year spent a day at The Walker Art Gallery and Tate Liverpool, gathering source material and research for their respective coursework portfolios.

In March we welcomed 89 artists from 12 local primary schools to an exhibition of their work. The theme of 'self-portrait' produced some spectacular work, with the children interpreting the brief in a range of ways. The high quality of entries made judging very difficult to select winners, and all artists were congratulated on being chosen to represent their schools.

The department is keen to have work seen by a wider audience; Chloe Chew, Nathan Lui and Lauren Storey had their work displayed at this year's Living Edge Schools' Art Competition, while another exciting opportunity saw work by pupils from both the Senior and Junior schools form part of a

The Annual GCSE and A level Art and Design Exhibition is held each year in May. It represents the culmination of two years of sustained study and offers pupils the opportunity to show their work to an appreciative audience made up of parents, staff and governors. The breadth of media employed is often remarked upon by external examiners and, in conjunction with the diverse and, often, personal response, the show rightly draws praise from the large number of visitors to the school on the night. In one sense, it is only one among the many events and activities that take place throughout the year, however, it is the show that serves to draw together everything that has gone before it.

We look now to the future and to continuing to foster and encourage the enthusiasm so many have for the subject.

Richard Davies
Head of Art





▲
Beth Callaghan - Mixed Media



▲
Hannah Gall - Silk



▲
Thomas Culwick - Pastel



▲
Thomas Stanton - Acrylic



▲
Louisa White - Mixed Media



▲
Eleanor Thomas
Silk Printing



Lauren Storey
Silk Printing ►

Innai Bjedov - Pencil
▼

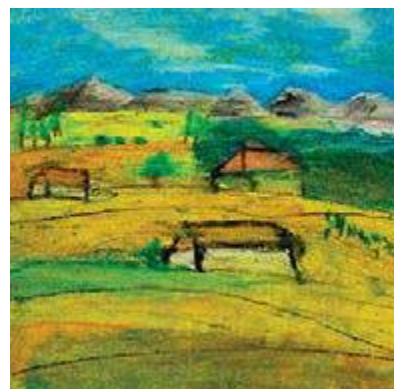




▲
Alexa Ashwood - Card Relief



▲
Norah Junejo - Pastel



▲
Aryn Ahmed - Oil Pastel



▲
Edward Daniels - Oil Pastel



▲
Eliya Norman - Acrylic



▲
Ella Clayton - Acrylic



▲
Fatimah Hassan - Ink



▲
Lily Groves - Ink



Aimee Reynolds - Pencil Crayon



Alice Thomson - Linocut



Tuguldur Zolzaya - Acrylic



Alex Bloor - Mixed Media



Amelia Newton
- Screen Print



Alice Finnie - Acrylic



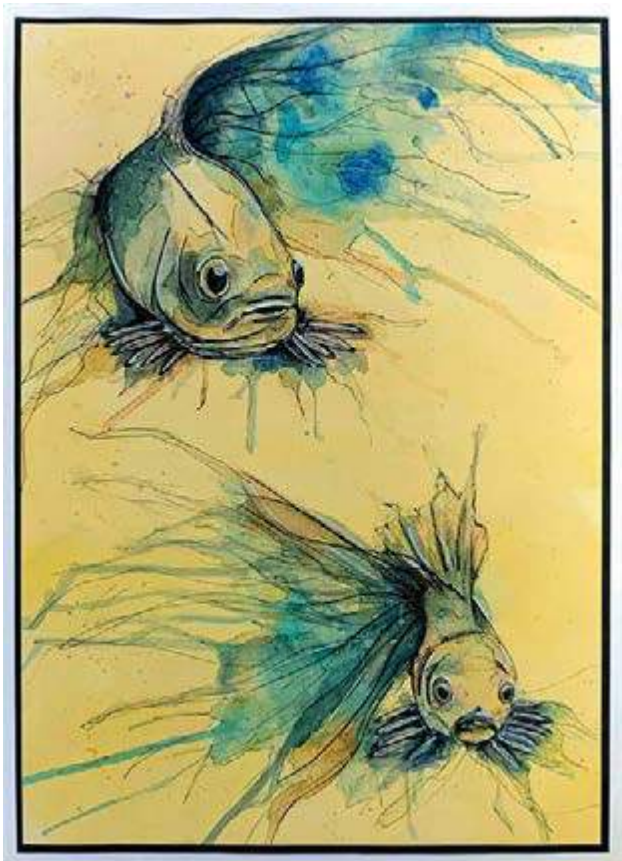
▲
Ebony Murdoch - Acrylic



▲
Aurelie Duckworth - Pencil



▲
Antonia Mills - Acrylic



▲
Brooke Richards - Watercolour



▲
Charlotte Taylor-Berg - Acrylic



◀ Priya Anand - Acrylic



▲ Kirsty Hope - Acrylic

Katie Dignan
Batik ▶



▲ Alex Harteminck - Oil Paint



◀ Matthew Darbyshire
Mixed Media



▲ Scarlett Potkins 'Phoebe' - Acrylic



Lucy Brook - Silk Screen



Merryyn Summersgill - Collage



Charlotte Bradley-Potts - Acrylic & Ink



Angela Zhui - Acrylic

Chloe Chew - Acrylic



▲
Rachel Bramley - *Oil Paint*



▲
Caroline Jenks - *Oil Paint*



▲
Olivia Patton-Lane - *Acrylic & Charcoal*



▲
Darcy Entwistle - *Acrylic*



▲
Rafe Howgate - Acrylic



▲
Phoebe Kelly-Cooper - Oil Paint



▲
Oscar Williams - Acrylic



SPORT OVERVIEW

As my time as Director of Sport comes to an end, I would like to thank everybody: the SGS staff, parents and, most importantly, the pupils. The return from Covid has seen over 1000 fixtures on offer for the pupils, with over 60% of the school population representing SGS. On top of this we have provided more than 20 sports and just short of 100 clubs for all pupils. Thank you to all who have been involved in creating these opportunities.



This year and over the past three years, the key philosophy for the Sports department has been to develop the mindset of “be the best you can be” throughout the sporting community, through PE & Sport lessons, co-curricular sessions, workshops, webinars and in everyday life. This means giving it your all in everything you do, and most importantly not comparing yourself to other people.

The philosophy has been to look at development over winning; this doesn’t mean winning is not important; it means if you develop people in the right way and in the right environment,

winning happens naturally. We want to teach our pupils how to be part of a winning team, teach them to be fiercely competitive, to prepare and train in the right way and, most importantly, we want to help every individual to maximise their potential. Don’t worry about what everybody else is up to, but worry about being better than yesterday, last week and last year. If this happens you only get better and better.

Be the best you can be, enjoy the moment and appreciate where you are.

Mr D Thomson
Director of Sport

HOCKEY

Coaches took us far and wide, both on Saturdays and mid-week. In addition to the fixtures played at home, we also hosted travelling schools. Home fixtures were well supported and my thanks go to those who came, those who cheered and those who acknowledged progress as well as success.

The 1st XI were runners-up in the Greater Manchester Tournament and were narrowly defeated in the Independent Schools' Cup. They were also runners-up in the Greater Manchester Schools' Tournament. Mr Kenefick and Miss Berry worked hard with this squad and my thanks go to them. There have been some close and competitive matches on Wednesday afternoons and it has been fabulous to be able to include some boys in the squad. As always, valued team members in the Upper Sixth depart and I would like to wish them all well for the future. A special mention to the joint Captains Emily Edwards, who was again selected for the Wales U18 squad, and Lucy Stead who was selected to represent Greater Manchester.

The U15s have grown, developed and progressed this year, playing with confidence and flair. This came from their hard work in training and their willingness to develop a positive mindset, leaving poor results behind as they left the pitch and setting goals for the next encounter. Charli Barnett, the captain, was selected for the County alongside Sara Watson with the latter also representing Alderley Edge in the National Indoor Finals with Ella Buddle.

Enthusiasm and fun was boundless for the U14s. Now confident to explore every area of the pitch and gelling as a team, they promise much for the future. They have scored some spectacular goals this season and entertained the crowd who have been ever present both home and away. Lilly Cook also played in the National Finals for her club.

Top goal scorers were the U13s, who regularly reached close to double figures on a Saturday morning. Gritty and determined, they are more than ready to move to the 11-a-side format next season, where they will have more room to showcase their skills and move the ball around. Always full of energy and smiles they are an absolute pleasure to work with.

This season marks the end of an era with Mrs Jones leaving SGS; for 18 years she has nurtured and developed the U12s and been my right hand woman. National Champions and England Internationals started with Mrs Jones in the First Year and I wish her well as she departs. On the pitch the U12s made up for their lack of numbers with their desire and enthusiasm and I am looking forward to facilitating their continued progress. Charlotte Underwood, Ella Hales and Maya Gholkar played in the National Finals for their club too.

I am indebted to my colleagues who have stepped in to take practices or accompany away Saturday morning matches. My thanks also go to the Grounds Team who keep the pitch looking immaculate and the catering staff who keep us fed and watered. The final thanks go to Mr Thomson, our former Director of Sport, a bundle of enthusiasm, which is completely infectious. He has been there to encourage and motivate, relighting the fire in not only the pupils, but also myself. I would like to thank him for all he has done during his time at SGS and wish him all the best for the future.

Miss Sharon Withington
(Head of Hockey)



RUGBY



The saying that ‘you don’t know what you’ve got until it’s gone’ had really been to the fore in recent times, no more so than in the world of school sport. It has also enabled us to re-connect with the values that we hold so close to us, that are epitomised by a group of pupils striving to do their best on the rugby field, supporting their teammates at all times and always giving their all. Learning that although we cannot always control the outcome, we can control the way in which we play the game and the values that we live by.

I would to thank all of the many staff involved with the teams: Mr Wright and Mr Clear for lighting the fires within the new crop of U12s; Mr Cooke and Mr Longshaw for taking the U13s through the next step of their rugby journey; Mr Hanson for sharing his vast experience with the U14s and helping them to understand the similarities between the game of rugby and chess; Mr Bowden for bringing his unique ‘edge’ to the U15s, and Mr Sturgess and Mr Jones for bringing their top level insights to the Senior Squad. Many others operated behind the scenes to ensure that the season ran so smoothly; the referees from Stockport Grammar, Stockport Rugby Club and MADREFS, the grounds staff, the medical staff, the catering staff. I am extremely grateful to all those who give up their time so freely.

I would like to congratulate all the players whose hard work has paid off and enabled them to gain representative honours for Cheshire County, Sale Sharks DPP and Sale Sharks Academy. For those players who were disappointed not to do so, keep persevering, keep learning, keep working hard and your time will come.

Frank Chatterton (1st XV) should be congratulated on earning the highest honour possible in the game, being selected to represent his country. Frank was selected for the England U18 tour to South Africa in August 2022, an outstanding achievement. Unfortunately, having sustained an injury during a pre-tour match, Frank was unable to travel with the squad.

Highlights of the season include the 1st XV progressing all the way to the semi-final of the National U18 Vase, before losing to the eventual winners Stowe School; the annual U12 Festival with Bolton School in which every boy in First Year represents the school in a format of the game. However, the true highlight of the season was seeing pupils, parents, grandparents, supporters and staff all back on the fields at Stockport Grammar School enjoying the values of our game. I would to thank all the players for their time and effort and all the parents for their ongoing support.

Mr H Corbett
(Head of Rugby)

NETBALL

The 2021–2022 Netball season has been an incredible and unforgettable return to sport, with our netball programme firing on all cylinders. There have been over 137 fixtures with nearly 250 girls playing from U9s to U18s. We have been able to field A, B and where possible C teams to ensure that we are providing an opportunity for all to compete. This season, pupils have had a detailed training programme with lunch time, after school sessions, specific focussed skill clinics, strength and conditioning access, friendly matches, tournaments, competition fixtures and morning training sessions.



A highlight has been the U16s success. In November they attended the Greater Manchester stage of the National Schools' Competition. With such strong talent within the area it was going to be tough. After a long day we found ourselves in the semi-final against a confident and strong Withington side. Five down at half time, we were not sure how it would finish. With grit and determination in a squad (three integral players down), with girls playing out of position, we pulled it out of the bag taking the win, seeing us successfully through to the next round. Proud to represent the North West in the next round, we had a successful day combatting the weather and again some unexpected team changes. A close and unfortunate loss in the group stages saw us line up against the other strong North West representative in the semi-final. It was a great game displaying impressive talent from both sides but it wasn't our day. The entire squad represented SGS in such a mature and impressive manner and they should be very proud of their performance and contribution to Netball. Meanwhile, finishing competition winners of the Stockport Schools Tournament was a great way to finish off their season. Further achievements have been the U14s and the U12s getting to

the semi-finals and quarter finals of the Sisters n Sport Plate Competition. The U14s also came second in the Stockport Schools Tournament.

I want to give a special mention to the Senior Squad members. Captained by Lizzy Griffiths and Vice-Captain Mia Hutchinson, they have worked extremely hard, made huge improvements, increased in confidence and beaten some talented opposition for the first time in their school careers. We wish those leaving us good luck as they continue with their Netball at University.

I would like to thank Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Maskery, Mrs Britton, Miss Withington and Mr Goddard for their hard work, support and commitment. The team have worked tirelessly to ensure that we can offer a well thought-out experience that caters for all abilities, that strives to facilitate friendships and memories which will last a life time.

Miss P Kindred
(Head of Netball Development)

FOOTBALL



There are a number of highlights for me in my first full season as Head of Football.

We have made progress both on and off the pitch, with a number of new initiatives now in place to develop the person as well as the player.

Pupils have access to over 30 football related sessions a week, including strength and conditioning and pool recovery.

Community links are now being made, including Cheadle Heath Nomads FC, where we played a number of matches this season including the ISFA cup.

We have had some great results on the pitch this season; most recently, the U12s were finalists at the Manchester Grammar School 8s Cup. The U18 first team beat Cheadle Hulme School 5-2 in the final game, playing, in one parent's words, "total football". The U18 team only lost one league game all season!

Our overall win ratio is better than it has ever been; I hope you will agree that the holistic approach I have introduced for football is already bearing fruit.

During the Summer Term, where the girls football takes centre stage, we introduced another first, taking the lead, along with ISFA, by introducing a mini U15 league with other Grammar schools in the Northwest.

Lily Groves has represented U14s Greater Manchester Schools team. Lily also plays for Stoke FC and is the U14 England goalkeeper. Oliver Feehan, Jack Williams and Oisin Atkinson have represented Stockport Schools U14s.

I would like to thank all the academic staff, the team coaches, Danny Thomson, the grounds and catering teams, the players and especially the parents for getting the pupils up and ready to play.

Mr W Pybus
(Head of Football)

ATHLETICS REPORT

Our Athletics programme is now well established and successful. We have a two pronged attack in trying to get as many pupils involved in representing the school, whilst also trying to push on our most talented athletes to represent Stockport in the Great Manchester Championships.

The season always starts with our inter-form events which allows us to cast our eye over the new First Year talent, whilst also giving the Second Year pupils an early season trial. Very early in the Summer Term we managed to squeeze in the First and Second Year inter-form events on a lovely April afternoon. The First Year competition was won by 1P (105 points). More importantly, over 80 pupils from each year group took part.

Much earlier than normal saw the start of League Athletics. The first round of the Stockport Schools' Athletics took place at SGS with over 300 athletes from seven local schools taking part. SGS had a very successful afternoon, winning seven out of the eight categories.

The English Schools' Cup is now a permanent fixture in our calendar and this year we were at Longford Park, Stretford. The Inter Boys finished first out of seven teams, with Rhys Watson top scoring with 41 points (800m/Javelin). The Junior Boys' team were second out of seven teams, with Chris Parikh top scoring with 39 points (300m/Shot). This meant that both Boys' Squads qualified for the prestigious 'A' final back at Longford Park later in the season, where both squads finished fifth.

The Stockport Championships are the highlight of the season and we normally do well against the best schools in Stockport.



Unfortunately the date clashed with Third Year exams so we could only take the Second and Fourth Year pupils. Both boys' teams retained their Stockport Schools crown and the girls finished third in both categories. A record ten athletes were selected from SGS to represent Stockport in the Greater Manchester Championships. They were Josh Muamba (100m), Chris Parikh (300m), Will Jones (Triple Jump), Reis Patel (Triple Jump), Rhys Watson (Javelin), Harry Cook (Discus), Molly Mills (Long Jump), Albert Bradshaw (200m), Tom Farrelly (1500m) and Tom Manton (1500m)

In June all the squads travelled to Woodbank Park for League Match 2 and this time every team ran out winners. This positive performance resulted in all eight squads making finals day later that month.

The Athletics Cup for 2022 was awarded to Molly Mills (Second Year) who is one of our most promising Junior Athletes.

Mr A Hanson



DANCE

This year has been a wonderful year for Dance at SGS and being part of the Dance community has been so enjoyable and special.

The range of dance clubs offered is impressive, including Boys Only Dance, Dance Company, Contemporary Dance, Lower School Lyrical and Tap Dance – both run by talented Lower Sixth pupil Fiona Telfer – and First Year Dance, assisted by Upper Sixth Form pupil Phoebe Kelly-Cooper.

In March, we put on an incredible dance show *Night at The Movies*, which included fantastic group pieces as well as stunning duets and solos. For the Upper Sixth members of the dance community, it was their last dance show and what a fantastic send-off it was! With a wide range of styles from tap, to contemporary and ballet, there was something for everyone and it was truly an amazing experience that was a privilege to be part of.

We have also been lucky to have had the opportunity to take part in workshops run by Helen Le Roux, an inspiring professional dancer. The workshops were met with great enthusiasm by pupils, and we thoroughly enjoyed the both challenging and fun experience! Ms Le Roux also began running extended Contemporary Dance Masterclasses on Wednesdays, allowing plenty of time to explore a range of things like partner work/lifts, sequences of choreography to



various music and creating our own pieces. We cannot wait to see what she shares with us in the coming year! Meanwhile, the Boys Only Group have had fun working with professional dancer, Cameron Woolnough.

A huge thank you to Mrs Downing; dance at SGS has truly been a very valuable, memorable part of school life - for which we have been so grateful - and we hope to make more great memories next year.

Alice Thomson (5U) and Antonia Mills (5C)



ARCHERY

As a sport, archery's beauty lies in its simplicity. The action of collecting your thoughts to focus on releasing your arrows closest to the centre of the target, is a real challenge. Much of the sport is a mental game, trying to keep concentration and synthesise the body and mind to perform in the way you want. Chasing minor improvements in form, accuracy and precision are key to the principles of archery.

Time allocated to practice often disappears faster than you can believe as the level of focus and determination is constantly high. This mental and physical challenge drives myself and many others to pursue perfection. The satisfaction derived from placing three arrows into the inner gold section, is something I have failed to find in any of the other sports I have competed in.

Another aspect to archery, like many other sports, is the need to pull yourself out of a low performance rut. Sometimes a run of poor performance or inconsistency can derail your concentration and have a lasting effect. However, with the help of the coaches, and a good shot, it feels great to return to form once again. Again, this idea of the intense mental

challenge, that many people don't realise, is involved in all levels of training and competition.

Whilst we strive for improvement, our coaches are always providing us with pointers to hone our technique and offering various challenges to test accuracy and shooting endurance in different dimensions than regular practice. These challenges can range from using different arrows, changing bows from compact to longbow, aiming for balloons, knocking objects down off the targets or even long-range shooting.

One of the main benefits of the club is meeting people from across the school years, who you might not have encountered otherwise. Even though archery is very much an individual activity, the community and spirit surrounding it is quite special, with everyone working towards the same goal of self-improvement.

I would highly recommend archery to anyone looking to challenge themselves at a personal level. Be warned, it can be addictive.

Alex Beer (L8)

FENCING

I have been going to Fencing Club after school for four years. It has been a joy to learn and to practise the sport in both sabre and épée fighting styles. These two different types of swords are both fascinating and it stops the club from becoming repetitive at times.

The coaches, Dave and Pete, welcome people of all skill levels and help to expand your skillset. They are encouraging to all members of the club and help develop your skills as a fencer and also as a referee. I would like to thank them for their outstanding teaching.

With regular footwork exercises and one-on-one sessions our prowess in the sport continues to be enhanced. The majority of members are novices so newcomers will fit right in. Those who are more skilled always welcome new members as it gives them the opportunity to meet and fence with new people.

The fencing club has expanded my horizons in terms of sporting activities and friendship groups. This is a great activity for the Duke of Edinburgh Award as a skill or a physical activity and it is both a physical and mental challenge, so it is really satisfying to learn.

Jack Rafter (4P)

SPORTS COLOURS 2021-22

Commendations are awarded in First, Second, Third, Fourth Year and Upper Sixth for excellent attendance, reliability, attitude, teamwork, organisation, willingness, commitment and a good standard of attainment. Commendations awarded in Upper Sixth will reflect contributions made as part of the Senior sports teams during the Fifth Year and Lower and Upper Sixth.

In addition **Colours** are awarded to a small number of pupils in these year groups who meet all of the above criteria and, alongside regularly representing the school in fixtures and other competitions, demonstrate exceptional performance, unquestionable quality and leadership.

FOOTBALL

COMMENDATIONS

Under 12

Ronan Baur
Daniel Booth
Blake Chapman
Casper Hague
Toby Jennings
Harvey Mason
Angus Reid
Harry Stevenson
Marley Stones

Under 13

Lucas Dunnington
George Hammond
Patrick Hegarty
Robbie Jack
Oscar Miller
Jaden Russell

Under 14

Harry Brace
Christian Kalaydjiev
Leon Porter
Toby Wells

Under 15

Alfie Anderson
Alex Canty
Tom Farrelly
Conor Hallworth
Archie Hoyle
David Hughes
BenLavender
Reis Patel
Matthew Scott

Senior

Harry Dare
Joseph Farrelly

COLOURS

Under 12

Ted Deans
Thomas Huxley
Haroon Rashid
Evan Rodgers
Lucas Sullivan

Under 13

Joe Barlow
Sam Duckworth
Joshua Muamba
Raf Sullivan
Stanley Tombs

Under 14

Roman Deans
Sean Duckworth
Oliver Feehan
Vuso Munaiwa
Cameron Reid
William Shilton
Jack Williams
Alex Young-Jimer

Senior

Jack Rogan
Daniel Stevenson

The winner of the **FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR TROPHY** was **Dan Stevenson**





HOCKEY

COMMENDATIONS

Under 12

Alexis Atenyam
 Florence Batey
 Sophie Morelli
 Emily Smith
 Charlotte Underwood

Under 13

Annabel Bagshaw
 Orlagh Bentley
 Isabel Collins-Room
 Dilys Gibbons
 Chloe Harmer
 Robyn Hyde
 Molly Keenan
 Evie Mozejko-Buckle
 Ava Mungall
 Elena Patsias
 Edith Rose
 Serena Tirsahar
 Sasha Turnock
 Lexie Whittaker

Under 14

Alexa Ashwood
 Katie Billings
 Bella Clark
 Bella Evans
 Grace Hadfield
 Caitlin Hill
 Bethan Holding
 Amelie Joubert
 Klara Joubert
 Sophia Lipniski
 Eleanor Thomas
 Amy Yates

Under 15

Shania Broderick
 Ella Buddle
 Elizabeth Jordan
 Eliza Khan
 Millie Nuttall
 Uma Rathoe
 Magda Zelazny

Senior

Eliza Arif
 Katie Hewetson
 Zoe Hon
 Jessica Horsford
 Megan Phillips
 Georgia Thorogood

COLOURS

Under 12

Sara Anand
 Sadie-May Feehan
 Maya Gholkar
 Ella Hales
 Elin Holding
 Holly Stead

Under 13

Daisy Birds
 Guilía Burns
 Phoebe Fox
 Grace Garbutt
 Matilda Martin
 Ella Merryweather
 Molly Mills
 Viola Phillips
 Thiana Quinn

Under 14

Holly Batey
 Lilly Cook
 Keziah Forde-Smith
 Florence Hughes
 Jessica Pennington
 Louisa White

Under 15

Charli Barnett
 Minnie Buchanan
 Lara Mathen
 May Nassar
 Kimberley Nguyen
 Freya Niven
 Anna Porter
 Sara Watson

Senior

Katie Barr
 Lucy Dale
 Kat Davies
 Yasmine Doyle
 Emily Edwards

The **CLAIRE CUP** (awarded to the player who has contributed most to Hockey) is won by **Emily Edwards**

NETBALL

COMMENDATIONS

Under 12

Sara Anand
Heidi Armitage
Esme Birkett
Amber Bright-Thomas
Eleanor Margo
Fiza Rasheed
Lucy Roberts
Emily Rogan
Emily Smith

Under 13

Isobel Carter
Scarlett Cross
Emily Flint
Phoebe Fox
Dilys Gibbons
Amelia Handley-Gibbs
Robyn Hyde
Harriet Ogley
Elena Patsias
Amelia Smethurst
Sasha Turnock
Lexie Whittaker

Under 14

Darcey Appleton
Hephzibah Bangudu
Amelia Blakeley
Hannah Gall
Rosa Hughes
Ella Jones
Maisie Keyes
Lauren Storey

Under 15

Neena Anand
Evie Davies
Malaek Djebali
Charlotte Fretwell
Aryanah Latif
Elsa Mullins
Amber Sullivan
Emilie Wellens
Jasmine Whittaker

Senior

Lucy Brook
Isabella Byrne
Lucy Ferris
Charlotte Jackson

COLOURS

Under 12

Ava Anderson
Lola Ferris
Melika Mortazavi

Under 13

Orlagh Bentley
Sadie Canty
Marleigh Coster
Harriet Hanger
Viola Phillips
Erin Roberts
Molly Steele

Under 14

Lily Brown
Mia Brown
Lily Courtney
Ava Perfect

Under 15

Niamh Bentley
Francesca Burton
Emily Carolan
Penny Horsford

Senior

Phoebe Ferris
Libby Goodman
Annalisa Griffiths
Lizzy Griffiths
Sophie Harris
Amelia Massey
Aimee Reynolds
Brooke Richards
Anna Wilkinson
Holly Williams

The **NETBALL CUP** (awarded to the player who has contributed most to Netball in the School) is won by **Lizzie Griffiths**





RUGBY

COMMENDATIONS

Under 12

Felix Dushaj
Harry Stevenson
Zach Walmsley

Under 13

Connor Atkinson-Lamb
Sam Burden
Lucas Dunnington
William aDyson
Freddie Fox
Joshua Muamba
Arun Patel
Christian Stevenson

Under 14

Zac Dow
Matthew Ediker
Isaac Finnie
Will Harvey
Luke Mackey
Matthew Stewart-Peak

Under 15

Frazer Assheton-Smith
Ashley Bennett
Brandon Cross
William Daniels
Dimitris Dimopoulos
Jack Rafter

Ben Smethurst
Jack Warren
Luke Warren
Rhys Watson
Thomas Wright

COLOURS

Under 12

Ted Deans
Thomas Huxley
Niall O'Reilly
Benedict Woodworth

Under 13

Alfie Boler
Harry Boler
George Byrne
Oliver Cresswell
Jasck Hunter
Haider Nisar
Sam Tyley
Arthur Wolstenhome

Under 14

Roman Deans
Jordan Ikeh
Nima Mousavi-Khoshrou
Vuso Munaiva
Oscar Reeder-Hirst
Toby Wells
Tom Woodside

Under 15

Harry Cook
Santiago Danson
Sachin Gholkar
Bradley Gleave
Ben Lavender
Reis Patel
Joshua Sparrow
Robert Stanton

Senior

Felix Bowler
Harry Brown
Jack Brown
Ewan Curran
Thomas Emery
Thomas Galligan
William Gould
Nicholas Houghton
Joshua Martin
Ali-Hamza Peerzade
Harry Reeder-Hirst
Oliver Setchfield
Joe Timmins

The **BLOOD CUP** (awarded to the most promising player in the School) is won by **Ewan Curran**

ATHLETICS

COMMENDATIONS

Under 12

Sara Anand
Florence Batey
Dylan Daw
Caesar Evans
Ella Hales
Joe Lam
Sophie Morelli
Finn Raynes
Sofia Tkachuk

Under 13

Hannah Ayari
Annabel Bagshaw
Emily Flint
Sam Hill
Robyn Hyde
Abby Lam
Robert Morrison
Amelia Smethurst

Under 14

Cara Bell
Caitlin Hill
Bethan Holding
Annabel Huxley
Jordan Ikeh
Maisie Keyes
Seb Ogley
Toby Wells

Under 15

Ashley Bennett
Niamh Bentley
Harry Cook
Santiago Danson
Kiera Field
Charlotte Fretwell

Sachin Gholkar
Archie Hoyle
Robert Stanton
Emelie Wellens
Jasmine Whittaker

COLOURS

Under 12

Ted Deans
Daisy Garside
Eleanor Margo
James Pullen
Lucy Roberts
Holly Stead
Charlotte Underwood

Under 13

William Jones
Oscar Miller
Molly Mills
Joshua Muamba
Chris Parikh
ThianaQuinn
Edith Rose
Zach Rose
Arthur Wolstenholme

Under 14

Amelia Blakeley
Bella Evans
Lily Groves
Florence Hughes
Vua Munaiwa
Oscar Reeder-Hirst

Under 15

Zara Ahmad
Francesca Buton
Emily Carolan
Nancy Dawkes
Tom Farrelly
Ben Lavender

May Nassar
Reisd Patel
Uma Rathose
Lucy Vine
Rhys Watson

The **WALTON ATHLETICS TROPHY** was won by **Molly Mills**

CRICKET

COMMENDATIONS

Under 12

Florence Batey
Ted Deans
Poppy Furness
Thomas Huxley
Angus Reid

Under 13

Alfie Boler
Harry Boler
James Caine
Daniel Dadge
Sam Duckworth
Lucas Dunnington
David Hawkins
Robbie Jack
Ayaan Mann
Katherine Monk
William O'Neill
Arun Patel
Qasim Quaiyoom
Rohan Sarupani

Under 14

Holly Batey
Katie Billings
Lucy Brindle
Sami Butt
Annabel Huxley
Seb Ogley
Cameron Reid
Nick Vadhri
Toby Wells

Under 15

Frazer Assheton-Smith
David Hughes
Zimar Jatoi
Stephen Monk
Tom Morrison
Matthew Scott

Senior

Ben Dadge
Jojo Mills
Tahseen Syed

COLOURS

Under 12

Finn Raynes
Adam Siddique

Under 13

Jack Hunter
Nikolaus Needham
Sam Tyley
Arthur Wolstenholme

Under 14

Sean Duckworh
Yusuf Khan
Alex Young-Jimenez

Under 15

James Patel

Senior

Umar Chughtai
Joshua Patel

The **CRICKET CUP** was won by **Josh Patel**

TENNIS

COMMENDATIONS

Under 12

Ava Anderson
Alexis Atenyam
Sophie Davies
Zack Joubert
James Pullen
Evan Rodger
Harry Stevenson

Under 13

Ananya Abraham
Hannah Ayari
Isobel Carter
Scarlett Cross
Alexander Gately
Chloe Harmer
Sam Hill
Alexander Hilton

William Jones
Harriet Ogley
Chris Parikh
Umair Salahuddin
Harriet Thomson
Serena Tirsahar
Sasha Turnock

Under 14

Alexa Ashwood
Cara Bell
Jaya Bright-Thomas
Emma Broomhead
Bella Evans
Grace Hadfield
Finn Haisley
Armaan Sawhney
Eleanor Thomas
Patrick Zhu

Under 15

Alfie Anderson
Lucas Bennett
Ezra Cooke
Evie Davies
Malaek Djebali
Kiera Field
Bradley Gleave
David Hughes
Ben Lavender
Lara Mathen
Dhiraj Pal
Nick Turner
Sara Watson

COLOURS

Under 12

Gerard Borrell Shchelokov
Dylan Daw
Casper Hague

Under 13

Cameron Brooks
Eva Davies
Lucas Dunnington
Joseph Fenton
Emily Flint

Dilys Gibbons
Patrick Hegarty
Clara Minnock
Thomas Stanton
Flo Whittle

Under 14

Evie Garside
Amelie Joubert
Klara Joubert
Shashi Patel

Under 15

Minnie Buchanan
Emily Carolan
Charlotte Fretwell
Rory Hicks
Nathan Job
Elizabeth Jordan
Anna Porter
Joshua Roberts
Lucy Vine

The **TENNIS CUP** was won by **Libby Porter**

DANCE

COLOURS

Under 14

Rosie Moore

Senior

Jessica Barraclough
Phoebe Kelly-Cooper

Antonia Mills
Alice Thomson

The **CHRIS MUSCUTT DANCE TROPHY** (awarded for outstanding contribution to Dance) was won by **Fiona Telfer**

The **Boys' Games Cup** was awarded to **Dominic Hanson**

The **Girls' Games Rose Bowl** was awarded to **Emily Edwards**

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR JUNIOR SCHOOL

Headmaster
Mr M. COPPING, BEd NPQH FRSA

Deputy Head
Mr S. MILNES, BA

Assistant Head (Curriculum)
Mrs C.M. NICHOLS, BEd

Assistant Head (Infants)
Mrs C. BAILEY, BA

Assistant Masters and Mistresses

Miss H. BAKER, BEd
Mrs S. BARROWMAN, BA, MSc
Mr J. BOWDEN, BA
Mr M. BURNS, LLB
Miss H. CARROL, BEd

Mrs E. COULSON, BA
Mrs K. EHEGARTNER, BSc
Mrs L. HUDSON, BA
Mrs N. HURST, BEd
Miss S. KNOWLES, BSc

Mrs J. NOBLE, BA
Mrs K. ROBERTS, BEd, MA
Mrs C. SMITH, BA
Mrs A. SULLIVAN, BEd

Mrs L. TURNER, BEd
Mr M. VERNON, BA
Mrs K. WELLS, BA
Mrs C. WOODROW

SPECIALIST TEACHING STAFF

Modern Foreign Languages
Mrs L. CARR, BA

PE/Games
Mr M. COOKE, BA

Learning Development Assistant
Mrs C. FLAHERTY, NVQ Level 3

Learning Development Assistant
Mrs A. HUTCHINSON, NNEB
Mrs L. SHEPHERD, BTEC

Computing
Mrs V. HUTCHINSON, BA, MA

Swimming
Mr D. JONES, ASA Level 2
Miss J. PEPPER, BA, ASA Level 2

Music
Mrs A. MICKLETHWAITE, MA (Cantab.)

Art & Design Technology
Mr A. Taylor, BSc

Teaching Assistants
Mrs N BOOTHROYD, NNEB
Miss M GAY, NNEB

Mrs L GILMOUR, NNEB
Mrs A HUTCHINSON, NNEB

Mrs A JOHNSON, BTEC
Mrs D KOZIEL, MA

Miss D LEONARD, NNEB
Miss C PEAKE, BTEC

NURSERY STAFF

Teacher
Mrs C. HAMPSON, BA

Assistants
Mrs C. CHADWICK, BTEC

Miss H. CLARKE, NVQ Level 3

Mrs J. NEWHOUSE, NNEB, EdA (Early Years)

ADMINISTRATION STAFF

*Headmaster's Secretary
& Admissions*
Mrs B. CHEYNE

School Secretaries
MRS A. CHAWNER
MISS A. MARIET

Librarian
Mrs L. CARROLL

After School Care & Holiday Club Manager
Ms C. JONES

Breakfast Club
Mrs E. BRAKEWELL
Mrs J. CONNOLLY

Playground Supervisor
Mrs C. TONGE

Mrs J. CONNOLLY
Miss L. DUNSTAN

Miss L. HATTON
Mrs J. KELLY

Playground and After Care
Mrs A. LOMAS
Mrs P. MITCHELL

Mrs S. PARDON
Mrs C. STEELE

Ms V. TIN

Gap Year Students

Miss F. MUGGERIDGE

Mr S. VIDLER



HEADMASTER'S REPORT



Writing this report has given me the opportunity to take stock of the last year in the Junior School. In the busy life of school it is so easy to be caught up in day-to-day activities and not take time to reflect. Our assemblies provide a regular opportunity for the children to reflect but it is important that as a community we allow time for this reflection too!

Having revised our school values at the start of 2021, I have structured my report around each value.

Togetherness: This year, as every year, the children have worked tremendously well as a team - both within the classroom and during the huge array of co-curricular opportunities afforded to them. We encourage the children to always think of others and to be kind and thoughtful in their words and actions. An important element of this is our charity work. This year we created the new role of Charity Rep to assist Mrs Turner in our charitable events. Both reps have worked extremely hard, delivering assemblies, meeting visitors and getting fully involved in the planning and logistics of each event. Over £6,000 has been raised during the year supporting many causes from the Disaster Emergency Committee to our local food bank. The Stopfordian Parents' Association has continued to flourish this year with uniform sales, the Christmas Fair and Quiz Night to name just a few events that bring the school community together.

Curiosity: Spend just five minutes walking around our classrooms and you will see children asking numerous questions. Whenever I visit Nursery or Reception the children are full of questions for me - often random and not related to the initial conversation (!) but nonetheless demonstrating a great deal of curiosity. Our new wildlife areas, near the Nursery, have been used by classes across the school to investigate nature and have prompted great conversations.

Respect: Our wonderfully diverse school community demonstrates mutual respect on a daily basis. We encourage the children to celebrate difference and the rich opportunities that this brings. Our curriculum, including PSHE, provides the opportunity to explore diversity all year round. Black History Month also provides an important opportunity for celebration. The children created some wonderful work around this subject which was displayed in our reception area. Respect for our environment is also so important and our Eco Committee have worked to improve our environmental awareness; from switching off lights, to a recycling container in the playground for disposing of uneaten fruit.

Resilience: With the privilege of visiting classrooms across each working week, I witness children demonstrating great resilience. From Early Years children mastering pre-cursive writing to Year Six tackling algebra. Reinforcing the importance of making, and learning from, mistakes being key. Learning that we can't always get something 'right' the first time is such an important skill. Earlier in the year I spoke in an assembly about Sir James Dyson and how he produced 5,127 prototypes before success! Another opportunity to build resilience is during our residential visits. This year, each Junior class (Years Three to Six) had the opportunity to participate in a residential. I visited our Year Five children in Castleton earlier in the year. Seeing the children tackling new challenges on the high ropes course was an absolute pleasure. The smiles of joy on their faces when they succeeded was a highlight!

Enthusiasm: Both staff and children display endless enthusiasm on a daily basis. Over the last year we have averaged 55 co-curricular activities each term. Before school, at lunch time and after school the children are involved in a huge range of activities from rock climbing and archery to STEM and book club. Each year our Year Six children are given additional responsibilities - Head Boy, Head Girl, Sports Captains, House Captains, Music Captains and Prefects. Again, I am always immensely proud of the energy, enthusiasm and commitment that the children demonstrate when undertaking these roles.

We ended the year with our Prize Giving Ceremony. Celebrating the success of our Year Six pupils and wishing them well in the next stage of their educational journey is so important. This year, for the first time, we also recognised children in Years Three, Four and Five with School Value awards, identifying great role models within our school community.

I must finish by thanking all the staff for their dedication and commitment over the last year in ensuring the children get the very best opportunities both within the classroom and beyond.

Mr M Copping
Junior School Headmaster

CHARITY

Our ethos as a school is to help those in our community. Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts, either through participation or donation, you really have made a difference to so many worthy causes.

The Christie Appeal raised over £1800, a truly magnificent total. The children enjoyed a non-uniform day in exchange for a donation to this worthy cause.



The boys and girls enjoyed a day of fundraising for **Children in Need**. The children were invited to wear their 'messy clothes', something they didn't mind getting paint, glitter or glue on, as they participated in crafting activities throughout the day. A total of £1355 was raised.



A Sky News film crew joined us when we held a special **999 Emergency Services** charity day, which coincided with a national appeal to raise money towards a permanent monument in London to recognize the hard work and dedication of all our Emergency Services personnel and front-line workers. £495 was raised.



A huge number of food donations were brought into school to support the **Trussell Trust**, allowing SGS to support many families in Stockport over the Christmas period.



The children had a rib-tickling day raising £1393 for **Comic Relief** and the **DEC for Ukraine**.

A charity event for **Maggie's**, who provide free cancer support and information in centres across the UK and online, raised an amazing £1266.

The final charity event of the year, organized by our Year Six children, was in support of our two nominated charities **East Cheshire Hospice** and the **Ukrainian Centre**. The boys and girls took part in many fun games and visited the stalls; unsurprisingly there was a long line of children waiting for their turn at the 'splat the teacher with a wet sponge' stall. A total of £1939 was raised.

AWARDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Cricketing brothers Azaan and Mustafa A received awards as part of the U9 team at Stockport Trinity CC. They helped the team to an amazing record of 17 wins with no losses.



Congratulations to Ellie R who has been selected to play for Cheshire Girls' U11s. Ellie took up cricket about 5 years ago at her local club Stockport Georgians.

Well done to Alex W who obtained his purple belt in Mixed Martial Arts early in the Autumn Term.

Pearl H, Georgiana H, Isabella H and Anabelle W represented their team Didsbury Northern Hockey Club at a tournament at The Armitage Centre. They played in four matches, winning all four games without conceding a single goal. A fantastic performance.



Congratulations to Ophelia S, Katy P and Gabriella D-G, who competed at Wrekin Dance Festival and successfully qualified for The All England Dance Regional Finals. The girls danced their way to a clutch of medals: Ophelia was awarded 7 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze, Katy won 4 golds, 1 silver and 2 bronze and Gabriella achieved 4 golds, 2 silver and 1 bronze. Katy and Gabriella also won the Aggregate Mark Trophy.



Stanley C played in an U12 tennis tournament at The Northern in Didsbury in early Spring. Stanley played three matches in total, beating the No 2 seed on his way to the final, where he was up against the No 1 seed. He was unlucky not to take the second set to a tie break, just missing out on a sudden death point after saving three match points.

Vocalist and pianist, Emily K took part in the Alderley Edge Music Festival where she won first place in both of her vocal classes and was placed 3rd in her two piano classes. Christina W was awarded first place in the Orchestral String Solo and second place in Junior String Recital. Emily then took part in the finale concert where she sang *I Could Have Danced All Night*, and received a medal for her performance.



Holly B competed at Selston Equestrian Centre with her pony, Tinsel. Holly won a red sash in the category 'Best Turned Out' and a blue sash for Reserved Champion. Holly also qualified for The Royal International Horse Show. Competition was fierce as the whole of Great Britain attempt to qualify for this prestigious event. Well done Holly and Tinsel!



Sanuk G came in second place at the Mow Cop Killer Mile U12 race, with a grueling run which included a 500ft ascent over a one-mile distance. A great result Sanuk.



Hockey player Billy B competed for Stockport U10s at the Derby Grand Slam Indoor Hockey Tournament. Billy was very excited to be playing in the Arena and the team held their own in eight matches against some of the country's top hockey clubs.

Issy A, took part in the Junior Great Manchester Run. She ran 2.5k around the Etihad Stadium and the Athletic Arena in an impressive 13 minutes and 51 seconds. Issy is quite rightly very proud of her medal, a super achievement.



Tameside U11 netballers, Poppy D and Bella H, took part in the SCI Sports Netball Festival in Somerset. They made it through to the final, taking the match to extra time before their team scored again and were crowned victors at the final whistle.

CURRICULUM

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

As part of National Poetry Day, all children in Years Three to Six performed a poem, which they learnt off by heart, to their class. Each class nominated a performer to represent their class and perform their poem to a larger audience in our Junior KS2 Poetry Competition.

It was a wonderful event with children reciting their poems with confidence and flair, which made choosing an overall winning performance for each year group a tricky task for guest judge, senior school English teacher, Mr Ollie Johnson. Mr Johnson regularly visits the junior school to deliver English lessons to our Y6 children as part of their transition to the seniors.

The winning performance for each year group was presented with a beautiful poetry book.



Children in each class were given a black role model to learn more about during Black History week. Each year group created some wonderful work, which was displayed in our main Reception area.

Year One enjoyed learning about the artist Sonia Boyce. They learned about Sonia's life and looked at her works of art. They were inspired by her artwork entitled 'Pillowcase' and made t shirts using a similar pattern and colours. Year One also wrote a report about Sir Lewis Hamilton. The children found out that he is the most successful driver in the history of Formula 1. He also launched Mission 44, a charitable foundation to help young people from underrepresented



BLACK HISTORY WEEK

backgrounds into science, technology, engineering and mathematics and pledged 20m of his own money to help narrow the education and employment gap.

Year Two children used *Ready, Steady, Mo!* as the starting point for their lessons about Sir Mo Farah and his achievements.

Meanwhile, Year Five used a book called *Coming to England* written by Floella Benjamin. It is Floella's memoir of her journey from Trinidad to London. Year Five decided to take a section of the book each: 5C beginning when she lived in Trinidad, 5S looked at her journey to England, and 5W at how Floella had to adapt to life in a new country. The children

read the text, discussed it and picked out the most significant parts to represent in picture form.

Nursery enjoyed the story *Baby Goes to Market*. This story tells the tale of 'Baby' who eats one of every food given to him by the market sellers without mama knowing. Mama is busy doing her shopping and doesn't see what baby is given or what he puts in her basket. Baby tries lots of different foods, is carried in a sling on Mama's back and Mama carries her shopping home in a basket carried on her head. This sparked lots of imaginative play and talk in Nursery and they had lots of fun carrying 'baby' in their own sling. The children painted their own African pattern after noticing the patterns on Mama's skirt.



TIMELINE

To aid our pupils with their understanding of history, a new timeline board has been created and installed outside the hall. The timeline, which features events from Ancient Egypt and Iron Age Britain right up to the modern day, will help children from all year groups get their head around the chronology of major occurrences from 3000BC onwards.

The timeline was funded by the Stopfordian Parents' Association – many thanks to them for this valuable resource which will help pupils with their studies. (January)

SAFER INTERNET DAY

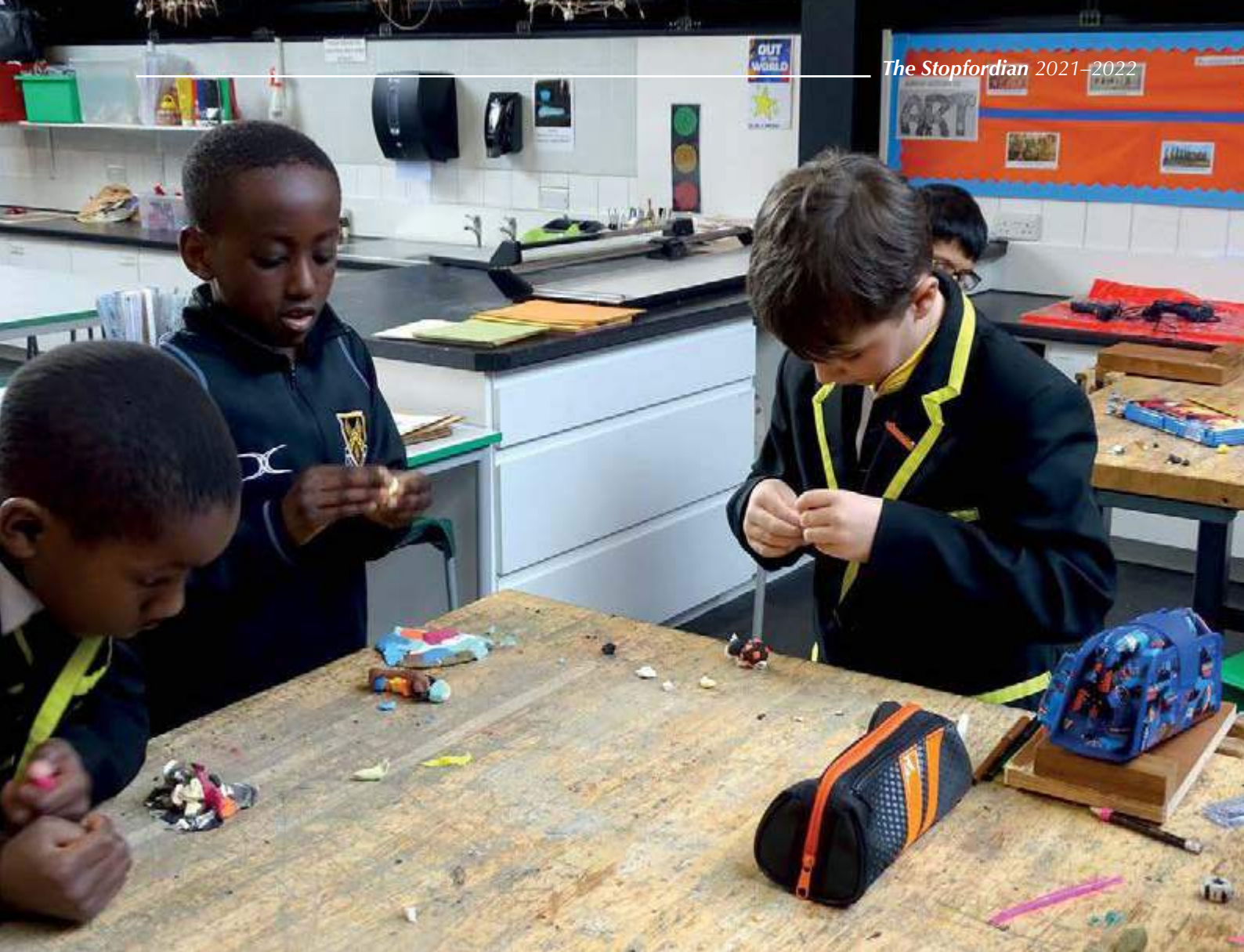


Learning about how to keep safe when using the computer during Safer Internet Day our Nursery children were

enthralled to listen to a story called *The Adventures of Smartie the Penguin*. Throughout the story Smartie asked the children to help him learn how to use I.T. and what he should do when a pop up appeared on screen. The children told Smartie to show his mum and dad, who could fix the problem and help him.

Year Two children discussed ways to stay safe on the internet and then produced a poster, using the SMART logo. Our boys and girls also discussed many important decisions about internet safety and the use of technology in the home. They created their own Safer Internet wheels, giving advice and helpful information in order to create a better internet.

Year Four children created a recipe on how to stay safe online and how to build positive online relationships. Our children included things such as '2 cups of respect', 'a sprinkle of teamwork', 'a pinch of enthusiasm' and 'a bagful of safety'.



STEAM DAY

Some of the activities our Year Two children did for STEAM Day (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) included 'surviving on Mars'. The children had to design an animal that could survive on Mars. As the theme was 'Growth' and doing physical exercise is good for pupils' growth and development, we also decided to set up an outdoor gym to introduce our boys and girls to the different ways in which people can exercise outdoors.

The Year Six children also designed animals that could survive on Mars; researching the conditions on the red planet and carefully considering what adaptations their Martian might need to survive. Issy A, Sophia S and Alicia H of Y6V explain: *We looked at an animal life form that we could create to survive on Mars. After researching Mars to find out what our animals needed to survive, we focused our designs on adaptations. We created them from polymer clay and other materials. When we had finished, we put our amazing designs on display in the classroom. Our class really enjoyed the activity and thought it tested our skills to be able to research effectively.*

ECO-SCHOOLS

Children in Years One to Four were treated to a visit from Sarah Roberts, an eco-expert who has worked in conservation all around the world and now visits schools with her picture books to promote environmental awareness. Children enjoyed a reading of her books and learnt animal facts linked to adaptations and food chains. With Sarah's experience in protecting the environment and her knowledge on the battle we face with plastic pollution, children in Years Three to Four

explored the history, present and future, of our use of plastic, trying to reach a conclusion about whether or not plastic is fantastic. The children engaged with the stories Sarah told about her travels around the world, and had the opportunity to share their knowledge and ask questions, thinking carefully about their own use of plastic and the things we can do to reduce single use plastics.

TRIPS

NURSERY

Nursery had the most exciting day at the farm! With packed lunches ready and wellies on, they set off to Reddish Vale Farm full of excitement for the day ahead. At the farm, our boys and girls fed Vera the shire horse lots of crunchy carrots, met one day old lambs and kids, and tickled a new born calf's nose! In the small barn, they were delighted to hold a duckling, a chick, rabbits and guinea-pigs. At that moment, you could have heard a pin drop as the children went very quiet, holding the animals with such care and wonder.



RECEPTION

On a sunny Friday, Reception children went on the train from Davenport to Buxton. The children really enjoyed gaining experience of getting on and off the train as well as meeting the train conductor and driver. The children noticed that as they got closer to Buxton, there were more sheep, horses and fields. Some children even saw a canal boat! In the Pavilion Gardens the zip wire, slide and climbing frame were the children's favourite playground equipment and everyone enjoyed having a picnic together in the park. The highlight of the day was the delicious ice cream!

YEAR ONE

The Year One children visited Lyme Park where they went on a nature walk looking at plants and mini beasts. Following a walk to The Cage where they looked at the views from the top, they finally visited Lyme Hall, where they learnt about life hundreds of years ago and saw the William Caxton Sarum Missal, which was printed in the year that our school was founded. The boys and girls ended their exciting day with a delicious ice cream in the sunshine.





Year Two children had ‘the best day ever’ at Wild Discovery. The sun was shining and it remained a perfect day from start to finish. The morning was spent doing lots of interactive activities linking their ‘habitats’ work in Science, including stroking some of the animals. In the afternoon, pupils were

treated to their own private bird show. During lunch, they had the pleasure of watching a Binturong, lazing high above in a tree as they sat at picnic tables. Our children even had some free time to explore animals like capybaras, marmosets, wallabies, porcupines, Philippine crocodiles and many more.

“When can we go again?” said Jacob S; “I can’t wait to go again” commented Lizzie S, and Zenna A told everyone “I liked stroking all the animals.”

YEAR TWO

Having taught at Stockport Grammar School for many years and having had the pleasure of many school residential visits, Mr Taylor realised that the Year Three Grasmere trip was one that he had not ticked off. He shares his diary of the trip here:

“Having arrived at Lake Windermere late on Monday morning and creating their own photo frames using sticks and other materials that Mother Nature provided, the children took the boat up the lake to Bowness where the staff thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to marvel in the beauty of the area and the children had a good chat with their friends. On arrival in Bowness, everyone boarded the coach to make the short

trip to Grasmere. On arriving in Grasmere, an orderly queue was formed at the Ice Cream kiosk and we all enjoyed the very best that Lake District ice cream has to offer. We then took our cases up to the Youth Hostel, had tea and the children then revelled in the opportunity to play in the grounds and become ‘free range’ children, before a highly competitive teddy bear competition and a story time eloquently delivered by Mrs Peters. After a good night’s sleep, we enjoyed a lovely walk around Aira Force before setting off back home.”

YEAR THREE



Mr Milnes reported back about the Year Four Residential Trip to The Woodland Adventure Centre.

“The centre, nestled in a small forest, focuses on ‘back to basics’ and good old rustic camping and outdoor

activities. I can confirm that no advertising standards were contravened – it was rustic and back to basics camping.

Upon arrival, the children were shown to their tipis and given time to unpack. They then had time to explore

YEAR FOUR



the two large coppices where our tipis were set. Den building, hide and seek, tree climbing and general good old fashioned fun was enjoyed by all for the next hour or so.

Following lunch, sat around the camp fire, the children went into their four groups and took part in one of the activities: axe throwing, bush craft, orienteering and night-line.

The next afternoon we visited the West Midland Safari Park which was just across the road from the centre. The children spent 45 minutes exploring the penguins' enclosure, Ice Age exhibition, reptile house, rainbow lorikeets and bats' house. Next, they enjoyed a half-hour workshop where the children were shown a corn snake, chinchilla, cockroaches, ferrets and snails and given the opportunity to hold or stroke some of the animals. Lastly, they finished off the visit with an hour in the theme park where they enjoyed numerous rides on the log flume, pirate ship, mini roller coaster, merry-go-round and

spinning tops. We returned to camp for the evening meal, followed by marshmallows and songs around the campfire."



The Year Four children visited Chester Zoo and got to meet the orang-utans and gibbons they had read about in Kensuke's Kingdom. Whilst they were there, they also enjoyed a workshop where they used their knowledge from Science lessons to discuss the different types of teeth animals have and how this helps them to eat different foods. After that, they had an opportunity to explore more of the zoo. A favourite was the black panther who appeared just as they entered the enclosure.

YEAR FIVE

Year Five children enjoyed a fabulous three days of outdoor activities and team building adventures during their residential trip to the Hollowford Centre in Castleton. The very excited pupils started their trip by getting kitted out and stuck into a range of activities from team challenges, low rope courses and much more, all before lunch. After they had eaten it was time to pick up the challenge. Some groups went up to Higgar Tor for a spot off weaselling, others down Giant's to cave, whilst the rest remained on site to raft, zipwire and complete the high challenge.



Day two brought more of the same as pupils rotated around the activities. The very cold weather presented a challenge, with those in the cave thankful to escape the bitter wind. The pupils managed really well and continued to throw themselves into the experience.

The final day started with the difficult task of repacking all their bags, stripping their beds and cleaning their rooms, all before breakfast. Before they knew it they were all back out and enjoying their final activities.





Year Five also had a fantastic time on their trip to Chester Zoo. As well as having the opportunity to see a wide variety of animals, they also took part in conservation workshops led by the Education Team at the zoo. This supported their Science topics on the lifecycles of animals and plants, and gave them the opportunity to learn more about endangered species in the world and the many ways Chester Zoo are supporting conservation projects. They also learned how our own actions can help too, such as buying sustainable palm oil products and supporting Fair Trade goods sold in supermarkets.



YEAR SIX

Year Six children enjoyed a day trip to the Stockport Air Raid shelters, complete with 1940's style costumes and lunch!

Gemma W said: *"We learnt about WW2. We role-played as evacuees and we even had a rations packed lunch. The tunnels were really interesting but nobody was very keen on the toilets! We were shown the beds, toilets, medical room, meeting room and more."*

Once we had finished our lunch, we heard what an actual air raid siren sounded like. We split into two groups and did some housework, looked at gas masks and bombs".

The children were shocked by the fact that pets could not be taken into the shelters with their owners during a raid.

In the week before the Easter holidays 43 Year Six pupils, accompanied by six staff, headed to Glasgow for what was the first Year Six Sports Tour for both boys and girls. Pupils had an action-packed time training for hockey, netball and football at venues including the commonwealth games stadium, St Mirren Academy and the Glasgow Sirens netball campus. Pupils experienced coaching from elite level players and coaches and got to meet many high performing sports stars including St Mirren's first team. In the fixtures, SGJS were successful in both A and B hockey and netball before finding a tough Glasgow football club side difficult to overcome on the final day.



The Year Six children enjoyed a few days away on their Residential trip to Castleton. Evangeline C and Anabelle W told us: *Our Castleton Trip was an amazing experience because we were all very supportive and kind towards each other and worked well in our team groups. The abseiling, climbing and*



other activities at the quarry took most of us out of our comfort zones but it was a great opportunity to try something new! Most of the activities we had never tried before so it was exciting to try something different. As Castleton is in the Peak District there is lots of wildlife and nature to see. It was a great opportunity to get off our phones and ipads and have fun outside



MUSIC AND DRAMA

Junior School pupils received a super set of external music exam results this year. Some children have performed at music festivals in the area, with great success. Well done to everyone

who has taken an exam or taken part in a festival. Some children have performed in assembly or to their classes during the year, which has been really wonderful to hear.

Twenty one piano pupils from Years Three to Six enjoyed performing in an informal concert for their friends, teachers and family members. For many of the children it was their first ever concert, giving the pupils valuable performance experience, a very important part of learning an instrument alongside lessons and practise. The pupils performed a range of pieces, including piano duets and a jazz improvisation.



All the children in Reception and Nursery performed the nativity story *A Bundle of Joy* to a live audience. The children looked fantastic in their costumes which ranged from sheep, stars, angels, travellers, camels, kings, and of course Mary, Joseph and Grumble the donkey. Their singing, dancing and acting was outstanding and the confidence shown by all the children was lovely to watch. Parents were delighted to finally get the opportunity to watch their child perform in school and many happy tears were shed.



Great fun was had by Year One and Year Two performing the *Nativity Baubles*. The play was based on the story of Mr Potts the caretaker who was trying to decorate the school tree with baubles. Each bauble told a different part of the nativity story. The play was filled with rousing songs, culminating in the song *Ring Out Those Bells*, announcing the birth of Jesus. All of the children clearly loved performing and it made everyone feel that Christmas had arrived!



Budding musicians from Years Three to Six showed off their musical skills during two Spring Concert performances for their families. The school Orchestra started the Year Three to Four Spring Concert with a bang, with their vibrant performance of *Ob La Di*. The audience went on to enjoy a range of solo and ensemble items, with music ranging from Western Classical to Modern Pop, and Folk Traditions to Musical Theatre.

The school Orchestra also started the Year Five to Six Spring Concert, before vocalists and guitarists opened the lovely solo performances. Pianists, string players, flautists and percussion



players next impressed the audience, before the Choir closed the concert with a trio of lovely melodies.

Miss Micklethwaite commented: “After a long break we are delighted that live Spring Concerts have returned in the Junior School. It was fabulous to be able to share live music with each other and with families. We enjoyed a variety of music from different genres and from different countries, performed with enthusiasm and joy from the Choirs, the Orchestra and a wealth of soloists.

With expert instruction from senior school dance teacher Mrs Downing, and music teacher Mrs Micklethwaite, Year Six pupils performed a musical setting of Roald Dahl’s poem, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, for this year’s summer show. On trial for her crimes, Goldilocks looks like the sweet little innocent who’d give us her last sweetie. Could she really be the brazen crook who stole the porridge from under the snouts of the self-

respecting, harmless Bears? The Jury will decide (but who will have the last laugh?) - Let the trial commence!

The performances were the culmination of six months of hard work by our pupils as their time as Stockport Grammar Junior School drew to a close.



SPORT ROUND UP

FOOTBALL

The U11 Boys' team, captained by Toby Leech, had a very successful season winning a number of Friday afternoon fixtures against local state and independent opposition. The block fixtures allowed teams from A - E to compete against other schools in a number of fixtures. In the Stockport Cup a run of games took SGS to the semi-final stage, whilst in the ISFA North West finals, hosted by SGS, we were narrowly beaten on penalties in the quarter finals. The U9s have shown tremendous depth and potential which is exciting moving forwards. The U10s have also shown real potential as highlighted by their performance in the AJIS finals.



The U11 Girls' team ended up having the greatest success of all. In the ISFA North West finals they scored a last minute equaliser against Cheadle Hulme School. Scoring this goal and earning a point meant the team progressed to the U11 National finals at England's training complex St George's Park. An excited team performed excellently against schools from London, Essex and Bristol; unfortunately we missed out on qualifying for the semi-finals, but the run and experience will serve the girls well as they continue their sporting journey in the Senior School.

NETBALL

The number of girls playing netball both in school, and outside of school at local clubs, continues to grow. Under the coaching and guidance of Miss Kindred, who until recently was playing in the National Super League for Leeds Rhinos, the girls are developing a more dynamic style of play throughout the year groups. All girls from U9 to U11 had the chance to play in block fixtures against local schools, with the Year Five and Year Six girls also playing in a number of tournaments and festivals.



HOCKEY

Hockey continues to grow in popularity amongst Junior School pupils. The after school club is very well attended and has now been introduced for boys, as well as girls, in the curriculum and on the fixture list. The Year Six girls started off the season with a very strong showing at the Terra Nova tournament, making light work of the group stage and eventually progressing to the final, where they unfortunately lost against Sedbergh School.

The girls again performed strongly in the AJIS finals as well as the normal fixtures. For the first time a boys' team was sent to the AJIS finals, gaining valuable experience and were triumphant in the plate final. A number of Year Six pupils have been rewarded for their hard work and efforts with a place in the Manchester Schools training camps.

RUGBY

It was great to once again see all year groups from Year Four upwards playing contact rugby and developing their tackling skills. The Year Six team showed their running rugby skills in the various festivals and matches, the future for the Senior School rugby teams looks bright. After building a connection

with Sale Sharks the girls have also had rugby added to their curriculum. Sale Sharks provide coaches once a week to teach the girls in Year Five the skills necessary to access the game. The girls were fortunate enough to meet a few of the Sale Sharks players in the final session.

CRICKET



Cricket has been introduced as a sport for both boys and girls to play in the Junior School and this has really helped develop the quality and quantity of pupils involved in both fixtures and clubs. The U11s, captained by Daniel Buckley-Ingham, went on an excellent cup run which took them all the way to the AJIS final. On route to the final they had some very close games, eventually putting in an excellent batting or bowling performance in order to secure victory. This was particularly evident in the semi-final against Newcastle Under Lyme School in which the game was won in the last over. With the term running out the final was played against Manchester Grammar School in weather not suited to Cricket! The game went ahead and the game was affected by rain throughout, with MGS proving too strong with bat and ball to take the victory. Reaching the final was a real achievement particularly with a number of pupils playing for the year above.

Mr M Cooke
Head of Junior School Sport

NEIL YOUNG

Neil has had a long and distinguished career in education, spanning more than 33 years. He arrived at SGS in 2001, the new Design Technology building had just been built and he was excited at the prospect of using his experience to fit out the building. In school we all have to be aware of Health and Safety and it is a testament to Neil's management just how safe and secure his department is now.

During Neil's time at SGS he was a Form Tutor for Third Years for six years and has worked with Middle School for the past 15 years. I know the care and consideration he has for his tutees is hugely appreciated by them.

During the nineties and early 2000's we used to run a camping and walking holiday for pupils at Wasdale in the Lake District. When this annual trip ended we then took the Second Year pupils to Grasmere and if they were keen they could go to Snowdonia the following April. Neil was an absolute stalwart offering all his walking and climbing skills. It also involved cooking for staff and about 30 pupils. Due to a lack of culinary expertise amongst the staff, Neil took over the cooking duties quite quickly!

Neil has been hugely involved in climbing at school and been an ever present supporter of the Climbing Wall activities with Mike Pinder, who commented:

"Neil has done more Climbing Club sessions than anyone ... the kids love him".

Neil has forged long standing friendships with colleagues. He shares a particular love of 80's rock bands with Heather



Fenton that has morphed into both their families meeting in some field to enjoy Rock Festivals!

Neil and I share a love of walking in the mountains. We walk regularly with two former SGS teachers and I was slightly perturbed when I shared this information with a colleague, who immediately likened us to characters from *The Last of the Summer Wine*. Robbie Burns once wrote: "O, wad some Power the giftie gie us. To see ourself as others see us!" I don't think we see ourselves as quite that old just yet. I too hope our friendship will last well beyond the walls of SGS and that we will have many hills still to walk together.

I wish Neil the very happiest and healthiest of retirements.

Mr P Grant

ANNE LARKIN



Anne joined SGS in 2001 as a Mathematics teacher. She has been an excellent member of the department and she has always been willing to take on additional responsibilities to support colleagues and pupils when required. She has a firm

but fair approach in the classroom and has played an integral pastoral role in the Lower School; for many years she was a First Year Form Tutor.

Anne has also been widely recognised for her commitment outside of the classroom; she has run the popular Tactical Games club for many years and she even took our Warhammer team to the national finals. She was also an enthusiastic member of the Nicholson House, regularly attending and supporting House events.

Anne will be hugely missed, especially for her devotion to keeping the kitchen area of the Maths Office clean and tidy! We also hope that she will be able to maintain her routine of a daily morning swim. We wish her all the best in her retirement and look forward to hearing about all her holidays and other activities which will occupy her time. Thank you, Anne!

Mr G D Frankland-Wilkinson

RACHEL GREY

Rachel joined the Chemistry Department 11 years ago in September 2011 as an NQT. It does not seem that long ago when I was giving her a tour of the School at interview.

Her support of all of the pupils that she has taught over the years has been hugely appreciated by all, including those wishing to apply to Oxbridge and succeed in competitions such as Chemistry Olympiads and CREST awards.

She has contributed to many other aspects of the department and has always promoted change. She also played a crucial role in the assessment process of GCSE and A Level in the summer of 2021.

In her time here she progressed by taking on the role of Head of First Year, followed by Head of Fourth/Fifth Year, where she has cared for and supported three cohorts through their GCSE years. Jude Fitzgerald, Head of Middle School commented:

“She has superb pastoral instincts and provides exceptional support to the pupils in her charge. Her insight and understanding of pupils’ needs is second to none and seems to hone in on the issues at hand, even when the pupils themselves aren’t quite sure what’s wrong. She is a brilliant colleague; professional and positive. She has also become a friend and I will miss her being around school and sharing a laugh together. I am sad that I have only had the chance to work with her for one year but I am thrilled that she’s following her heart into Academic leadership where she will thrive.”

Beyond the classroom, she has assisted on challenging expeditions to three continents. The first of which went to



Rwanda, spending 25 nights under canvas, helping in an Orphanage and trekking through rainforest. Bolivia and Peru took in sights such as Machu Picchu and where she successfully thwarted the theft of a pupil’s passport by chasing and apprehending the assailant. Borneo by all accounts was a much more serene affair.

She has organised many departmental social events over the years which have all been great fun and helped team building.

We would like to wish her every success in her new role as Head of Chemistry. We have had many laughs over the years and we will all miss her very much, but we also know she is only a phone call away and she has the most outstanding telephone voice!

Mr R Heyes

GITA MILES



Mrs Miles joined SGS in September 2013 and has been an integral and popular member of the Geography department with both students and staff. Known for her great humour, excellent geographical local and global knowledge and positive moral stance on environmental issues, she will be greatly missed.

She has been hugely supportive of all pupils, giving up lots of extra time to aid their development in the subject and help achieve excellent value added. Gita has been a stalwart of many Geography field trips including Iceland (2014) Azores (2018), China (with the Economics Department in 2018) and numerous field days in Manchester.

We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Mr A Cooke

OLLIE JOHNSON



The English department were very sorry to see the inimitable Ollie Johnson leave Stockport for Ripon Grammar, but we know he will be an incisive, energetic, dynamic and charismatic leader of their English department.

In addition to being Head of Vernon House, he was involved with so many areas of school life, including football, Public Speaking and MUN. He accompanied many school trips,

from the ski slopes to digging his own 'convenience' on the Bushcraft trip. Selfless in his use of his time, Ollie ran well attended extra support sessions for GCSE pupils, as well as delivering outstanding, creative and inspirational English lessons to pupils from Year Six in the Junior School, to the Upper Sixth.

He was a caring and entertaining First Form tutor, who developed a knack for finding lost bags, as well as compiling quizzes with strange breeds of dog! This was especially evident through the long days of lockdown, as his technical expertise and innovative suggestions for engaging online lessons meant that pupils forgot they were not actually in the classroom as they acted out plays, complete with costume items and props.

He developed many elements of the Lower School English Curriculum and is a great believer in making the literary canon 'fire,' so that pupils can savour a rich cultural heritage.

We wish him every success in his new role.

Mrs G Cope

DANNY THOMSON

Danny became Director of Sport just before one of the biggest challenges in education in a long time.

Danny came to SGS with vast amounts of knowledge and experiences from all over the world in a number of top educational establishments. His enthusiasm, flexibility and holistic approach to sport was what was needed and ideal for SGS, not only to survive but thrive, through the Covid restrictions.

The *Be the Best you can Be* program was a huge success seeing pupils, staff and families engage in the many new initiatives he developed.

He was always available for students and staff if needed. This could be a chat, guidance on futures anything; Danny if he could, was always willing to help. His ethos was to always ask and not tell, lead from the front, reflect and get better next time.

The SGS Sports department grew in personnel, as was needed to fit the department's new vision. A number of new roles were created and new staff brought fresh ideas from other environments.

The fruits of his labour are starting to show results but sadly for us, Danny, his wife and children had a dream offer of a new adventure in Switzerland at Aiglon Boarding School.



Danny was always happy to be outside his comfort zone, practising what he preaches, "Be the best you can be!"

I am sure Danny and his family will make their dreams come true in Switzerland.

SGS will miss his chatter and energy and we wish nothing but the best for him and his family in whatever life's new adventures come along.

Mr W Pybus

ANN-MARIE THOMSON

Ann-Marie joined SGS in 2019 and made a lasting impact on many pupils by facilitating their progression beyond the Sixth Form.

Her calm and caring nature shone through in her teaching. There was never a moment where she would come across as flustered, taking everything in her stride. She cared deeply about the pupils, ensuring their academic success was never in doubt and looked out for their personal well-being. Resultantly, this led to a superb learning environment where pupils flourished as they felt valued. Everything Ann-Marie did was in the pupils' best interests.

Her lessons were always carefully planned, taking into consideration all of the needs of the pupils, and extremely stimulating. In both Business and Economics, she was able to draw upon real world events and business case studies to engage pupils. This instilled curiosity within the pupils, making them eager to ask thought provoking questions and develop a love for both subjects. She upheld high expectations throughout all of her lessons, only wanting the very best outcome for her pupils, so that they could obtain the A-Levels necessary to take them to the next stage in their lives.

Beyond the rigours of the day-to-day timetable Ann-Marie was always on hand to support pupils in their studies. She would often be found assisting pupils at lunchtime, developing their understanding of concepts that they may have found more challenging. The pupils were always extremely appreciative of the time that she dedicated to helping them. In addition, she offered pupils the ability to undertake an additional GCSE subject, after school. Whilst many staff had finished teaching by 4pm Ann-Marie would be ready to begin her IGCSE Business Studies class and provide a riveting lesson to fulfil pupils' enthusiasm for the subject.

It was a pleasure to work with Ann-Marie. She was an extremely valued member of the department and helped see it grow over the years.

We wish her and her family all the best for the future in their new adventure in Switzerland.

Mr A Phillips



ALISON SULLIVAN

I would like to wish Alison Sullivan a fantastic retirement following 25 years' service at SGJS. Alison has contributed significantly over her time here with boundless enthusiasm and energy. She has taken a leading role for many years in the production of end of year performances, ensuring that they are always at a very high standard. Alison has a natural rapport with children and we know that she will be missed.

Very best wishes Mrs Sully!

Mr M Copping



CATHERINE BAILEY

Catherine Bailey joined SGS as Assistant Head of Infants in 2015 and, in her seven years with us, made a substantial impact to so many aspects of school life.

As Assistant Head of Infants, she was involved in many of the key changes. She was highly supportive of staff in terms of encouragement and advice.

First and foremost, Catherine loved being with and teaching her pupils. She was an excellent classroom practitioner and brought a wealth of experience into the classroom. She was known for her remarkable management and set high expectations for all pupils. Her enthusiasm and care was apparent to the parents, staff, and the pupils that she taught. She was dedicated and talented, rightly held in high esteem by those in her care, who knew that their well-being, welfare and progress was central to what she did.

Catherine was also a fastidious organiser. She planned many events, including Grandparents and Art afternoons, surprise story tellers and the nativities. She even performed in a ‘fame’ dance with Year One and Two colleagues to support a charity event.

During remote learning, Catherine’s support to parents, children and staff was exceptional. It was because of her compassion and listening ear that all her staff could easily swap to online teaching. At the end of each week, she was always there to support her department and offered encouragement and advice. I will never forget our preparation for online assemblies.

On behalf of all the pupils, staff and parents we wish her a very happy retirement. I know she will be enjoying time with her family. Catherine was a very creative teacher and will continue to be creative in her retirement making her own jewellery.

Mrs L J Turner



STEVE ‘DJ’ MARKHAM

During the 29 years he worked at SGS, the fabric and foundation of the school were his major concern. His knowledge of how the mechanical aspects of the school worked was second to none. If he didn’t have a tool to fix something he would invent one. Look at every window and door around the school and you’ll see his fingerprint.

Steve always had a cheery disposition, which meant that we sometimes had to listen to the same jokes over and over again, but we appreciated him all the same.

He earned his sobriquet ‘DJ’ by spinning the vinyl at weddings and birthday parties. In his spare time he enjoys running, looking after his grandchildren and going on exotic holidays.

We wish him well in his retirement.

Mr P Croft



BARBARA KERSHAW

Barbara joined Stockport Grammar School in December 1999 as Assistant Bursar to the then Bursar, John Leay. Chris Watson joined SGS as Bursar in 2006 and Barbara continued to work closely with Chris.

In overseeing the School's Bursary Award Scheme, Barbara made countless visits across Greater Manchester to potential Bursary awardees.

During Barbara's tenure as Assistant Bursar she transformed the accounting operation substantially, to the extent that the Auditors had nothing but praise for the way the annual accounts were prepared. Barbara also had the very significant task of ensuring all staff were paid!

In her retirement Barbara will be able to enjoy spending time with her family and visiting her daughter in Dubai. An avid gardener, Barbara will also appreciate being able to spend time tending her garden.

We wish Barbara a very happy retirement.

Miss K Sewell



ELAINE GAUNT

Elaine joined Stockport Grammar School in November 2007 as Accounts Assistant (Fees Ledger). Elaine always worked with diligence, discretion and professionalism in ensuring school fees were collected. Her calm demeanour and witty humour will be missed in the Bursary.

The Biology department were very grateful to Elaine for looking after the animals during the school holidays and with her care and attention, she managed to keep them alive.

Elaine left Stockport Grammar School to work for a Market Research company and has welcomed the addition of her new puppy, Remi.

We wish Elaine every happiness for the future.

Miss K Sewell



MICHELLE HURST

Michelle joined the Grounds department in October 2012 with a BSc (Hons) Degree in Horticulture, along with landscape design qualifications and a NEBOSH qualification in Health and Safety. She previously worked at Ness Botanic Gardens and, before retraining in horticulture, had a career in the Xerox company.

Michelle is a force of nature, incredibly hard working and focused, with exceptional attention to detail and organisational skills, it became very clear how capable she was in all aspects around the school.

Michelle was the driving force behind many things; we had our greenhouse built to allow for more in house production and care and delivery of plants for the floral displays at school events. We bought an extra vehicle, and under her guidance, split the site up in to two halves and worked separately to make things more efficient .

Michelle did the design for what is now the carpeted main play area at the Junior School, the area being raised up by at least 300mm as it was prone to flooding. The carpeted area is a triumph and one of the best things the school has developed .

The legacy that Michelle leaves though is the design, delivery and co project management of the new Nursery area, previously the Headmaster's House. It was a huge challenge for all concerned but she has designed a completely unique area, using the existing contours to deliver a stunning garden for generations to enjoy .

Michelle left the school in November 2021 and was a fantastic colleague and friend. She now works as a Head Gardener at a hospice where she is applying her magic!



Mr P Chatwood

LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS

As I reach the end of my second and last year here at SGS, all I feel is an overwhelming amount of gratitude, most specifically to everyone in the Language department, you have made these last two years so delightful and instructive. I want to give a special thank you to Miss Gibson, for giving me the confidence I needed for my first years as a teacher in the making. Thank you for always finding time for me, advising me every step of the way and making this whole adventure so much fun. Special mention goes to Carmen and Ceyda – the best Language partners I could have ever asked for - I'm so grateful I met you and that I get to call you both my friends; I will really miss working with you.

I also want to thank the students I had the opportunity to get to know. From the occasional times I worked with the First Years to seeing the Sixth Formers every week, it has been an honour to see you grow and become such strong linguists. I'm so proud of the Fifth Years - I hope your GCSEs have gone well!



To sum up, I could not have ended up in a better place to start my teaching career and I realise this more than ever as I leave to begin my teacher training. These two years will always have a very special place in my heart so I will miss you SGS,

but I am keeping with me all the wonderful memories I have made here.

Merci Stockport Grammar School et à bientôt !

Lois Lardon

After getting the notification that I had been accepted for the position as a language assistant in the UK, I wasn't aware that a whole new episode of my life was going to start.

A lot of work was waiting for me. Brexit challenged the whole program and the global pandemic was of no help either! Everything started to feel more tangible when I received a mail from Stockport Grammar School, offering me the position of the German Language Assistant in their school. I couldn't believe my luck and was thrilled as well as anxious about living in a foreign country.

I felt very welcomed and started to consider myself as an important part of the school staff. This is thanks to the amazing teachers in the Languages department, who supported and motivated me and were always helpful, polite and never missed a time to have a laugh.

I am indebted to my Second Years, who came up with the idea of a German Club, which I enjoyed preparing until the last day. I'm grateful for the polite and interested Third and Fourth Years who were always hard-working, and the lovely and funny Fifth Years who never failed to greet me when they saw me in the corridors. I hope their GCSEs went well.

A special thanks goes to the Sixth Formers. I always had interesting and brilliant conversations with the Lower Sixth students and their language competency clearly developed over the year. It was always a pleasure to work with them. My Upper Sixth students had exceptionally good language skills which allowed us to have interesting conversations and discussions about various topics and they also taught me a few new things about the English language and culture.

Learning the German language can be hard sometimes - considering for example the three genders or the four cases - but every pupil did an excellent job. However, I hope they were able to see beyond mere grammar to appreciate the German culture and see the advantages of learning a foreign language. I think this is the main task of a Language Assistant - to make pupils curious about and interested in the culture of a language - and I hope I was able to fulfil this role.

Vielen Dank für die schöne Zeit!

Ceyda Ünlü

These two years in SGS have been a wonderful experience, I've learnt a lot from both teachers and students, have always felt welcomed, and have loved being your Spanish Assistant. Sadly, it's time to say goodbye, therefore I want to say thank you to all of you.

Firstly, Mrs Psaila, Mrs Cole, and Mr Kendrick who I've been working with during the Spanish lessons. Thank you for giving me the opportunity of sharing this work with you, and passing on your passion for Spanish to pupils.

To the rest of the MFL department, you're the best colleagues, always welcoming, supporting, very helpful and also very funny. I'm so glad I got to know all of you, despite not working directly with you. I wish you all the best.

To my Sixth Formers, being with you and seeing all your

improvements couldn't make me prouder. You've really been a wonderful group and I'm sure you'll rock in life.

To the rest of the pupils, I've had so much fun with you and I would like to ask you to keep learning and improving your Spanish. I hope that meeting me has given you a better idea of the importance of Spanish and Hispanic culture, and as a good friend once told me "If you speak Spanish and English you can communicate with half of the world!".

Lois and Ceyda, I couldn't have asked for better fellows in this adventure. We were very lucky we could do all these activities and create memories with you.

¡Hasta siempre!

Carmen Ortola Mas

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a difference a year makes. When I took over as President of the Old Stopfordians in March 2021, there was no formal handover and no events for me to attend because we were still in the grip of covid restrictions. It was a case of virtual committee meetings and planning meetings with the External Relations team, with the focus very much on planning, in the hope that some sort of normality would return and key events in the school calendar could resume. Thankfully they have.

I went to the Careers Convention last October with some colleagues from Barclays, to talk about careers in banking, and it was the first time I'd been back in the main hall since I was in there doing my A-Levels.

The Careers Convention didn't happen back in my day, but so many other events did. It's the traditions and history of SGS that contribute to its uniqueness and link us all – that's special and something we shouldn't forget. Many schools don't continue traditions or try to keep former pupils connected to the same degree.

One of the privileges of being President is the nostalgia and all the memories that come back, particularly when you walk down the corridors and attend the events that we were all part of when we were at school.

The Remembrance Day service in November was the first event to be held at school since before lockdown, but even though our lives have been tough for the last couple of years, hearing about the memories of some of those who were at SGS during the Second World War, serves as a reminder that previous generations have been through a lot worse.

In March it was Founder's Day and it was great to see the sea of black and yellow blazers walking down the A6 as I arrived at St George's – and sing the school psalm again. The Founder's Day service moved to St George's Church during my time at SGS so I have memories of it there, but also at St Mary's, in the centre of Stockport.

After the Founder's Day service in the day, it was the Annual Old Stopfordian's Dinner in the evening. I'd been quite



nervous about the speech I had to give – not quite sure what to say or how it would be received. I'd also roped Charlotte Garvey in, my best friend who I'd met while we were at SGS, and she had to do a speech too – something I knew she definitely wasn't looking forward to! But it was all ok – the speeches went down well, and it was great to see some familiar faces as well as speak to people we'd never met before.

Then in June, there was Speech Day, which is something that has changed over the years – the ethos is still the same, but it used to be held in the school dining hall back in my day, so it felt a much grander occasion going to The Plaza and well done to all of those who received awards – there were a lot of them but the incredible organisation meant the event ran smoothly. That day also marked the opening of the new Nursery and Sixth Form area.

I went to the Reunion BBQ in July and fortunately the weather was kind – I'm sure the cricketers were thankful for that! It was lovely to see some of my teachers and show my son where I went to school. He now wants to go to SGS for secondary school – it was all the tools in the D&T workshop that sold it to him – so we'll have to see if he makes it, and if like many other Old Stops, there's another generation of Francis' that goes through the school.

I'm writing this in October and it's hard to believe the first half term of the new school year is nearly over and many of those who left Upper Sixth in the summer will have survived Fresher's Week and university life will be in full swing. While life seems to whiz by, pupils and teachers change, but lots about the fabric and traditions of SGS remain the same through the years - and that's quite special.

Clare Francis
OS President (OS 1994)

FROM THE HELM...

BBC CHILDREN'S HOUR BROADCAST

On the 6th February 1952 the late Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the throne of the United Kingdom but in the same year the Grammar School marked another event much closer to home. The school was invited to take part in a BBC radio series entitled *Other Children's Schools*. In conjunction with the school a script was to be composed and acted out by pupils and staff. It

would take the form of a series of scenes reflecting events in the school's history as well as contemporary aspects of school life.

A BBC production team with recording equipment was brought into the school for three days and the recording was broadcast on Sunday the 27th April 1952 for BBC Children's Hour.

The programme was presented by the then Headmaster, F H Philpott, and a distinguished Old Stopfordian, Professor F C Williams.* Their delivery was very formal as was that of the boys who acted out the scenes very much in the theatrical style of the day.

Today we would consider the language and pronunciation used as somewhat pedantic, but it reflected the articulation delivered by the BBC and other organisations in the 1950's, when news readers were formally attired in Dinner Jackets and spoke in very crisp precise tones. Commentaries on sports and other events followed a similar style.

The script, however, gives a fascinating insight into the nature and life of the school 70 years ago and it holds an important place in the archives. The recording was made on a number of reel to reel tapes but more recently a copy was made digitally and transferred to CD.

* Professor F C (Freddie) Williams CBE, FRS along with Tom Kilburn and Geoff Tootill built the first electronic stored-programme digital computer at Manchester University. A replica of this machine is currently on display at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry.

Stuart Helm
Archivist

REMEMBRANCE DAY REUNION

Pupils and staff of Stockport Grammar School were this year joined by more than eighty guests, including Her Majesty's representative of Greater Manchester Vice Lord-Lieutenant Mrs Sharman Birtles JP DL; the Worshipful Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport, Councillor David Wilson and Ms Jeanette Slavinski; the Old Stopfordian President Clare Francis and fellow Old Stopfordians.

Headmaster, Dr Paul Owen led the service 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 from an Infantryman's Diary in 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. Prayers were

led by Reverend Leaver, with a call to remember those who have given their lives in service across the globe.

Following the service guests were invited to a reunion lunch in the School's Hallam Hall which included pre-dinner music by pupils Clara Zelhof on violin, Dan Wood on flute and Jeya Belocura on piano. Deputy Head Girl Shanzay Hanuk, Deputy Head Boy Gabriel Keeble and Prefect Chrysa Dimopoulou gave readings of the wartime recollections of former pupils Christopher Willcock (OS 1948), Denys Lingard (OS 1946) and Neville Stott (OS 1947).

Old Stopfordian and School Archivist, Mr Stuart Helm (OS 1964), spoke about the development of change at Stockport Grammar School since the war years.

School Governors, guests and Old Stopfordians were able to reunite during their lunch. After lunch guests were invited to take a tour of the school and view the newest facilities, including the new Sixth Form Centre and purpose-built Nursery.

Mrs R Shawcross



FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER



We were delighted to welcome back Old Stopfordians, governors and guests for the annual Founder's Day dinner on Friday 18th March in the delightful surroundings of the Hallam Hall.

The four course meal, provided by Old Stopfordian and Director of GL Event Services Ltd, Gaz Edwards (OS 2000), brought together Old Stopfordians from all generations.

Old Stopfordian, Archivist and Master of Ceremonies, Mr Stuart Helm (OS 1964), proposed an insightful toast to the school and the pious founder.

Senior School Headmaster, Dr Paul Owen, responded on behalf of the school with dry humour.

Old Stopfordian Charlotte Garvey (OS 1994) proposed the toast to Old Stopfordians and the President, Clare Francis (OS 1994), recollected on how their friendship grew unexpectedly and on many of the highlights along the way.

The President's response was enjoyed by all, noted with humour, humility and inspiration.



Reflecting on the evening, Clare noted:

I felt like Dumbledore last night! I love everything Stockport Grammar School does to help keep former pupils connected and up-to-date with what's happening at the school. Planning my speech for last night's dinner brought back lots of memories and it was great to go back to school and reminisce.

Mrs R Shawcross

BBQ AND SUMMER REUNION





On Saturday 9th July, we welcomed back former pupils from the classes of 1972–2017 to catch up with each other and reminisce about their school days, as part of our Summer Reunion Barbecue.

With 350 bookings, the event was our largest to date and also marked an opportunity for former pupils and staff to say goodbye to attending SGS Staff who had recently left or retired, or did so over the course of the pandemic, including; Mr Wheeler OBE - Former Junior School Headmaster, Dr Smith - Former Head of History, Mr Young – Former Head of Design Technology, Mrs Vernon – Art & Textiles, Mrs Morgan – MFL, and Mr Markham – Maintenance.

The day was blessed with blue skies and warm weather, perfect for our Old Stopfordian cricketers who joined us for

the day and to celebrate the life of the late Martin Argument (OS 1988). Our thanks to James Stewart (OS 1988) for organising this very popular match and welcoming Old Stops of all generations.

To end the event guests were invited on a tour of the school to view our archive collections and the latest developments on site, including the new Sixth Form facilities and the new Nursery building.

Our thanks to Paul Croft and the caretaking team, Michael Harte in I.T. for the event set up, to Kathy Gosling and the catering team for our fabulous bar and to the PE and Grounds departments for enabling the cricket matches to go ahead.

Mrs R Shawcross

HUGH WRIGHT AFTERNOON TEA

Former Headmaster, Mr Hugh Wright (OS 1979–1985), revisits SGS

We were thrilled to welcome back Former Headmaster, Mr Hugh Wright (1979–1985), as well as Former Staff and Pupils who taught and attended SGS during Hugh's leadership, for a reunion and afternoon tea as part of our Alumni event series.

Mr Wright entertained us with a discussion on the significant developments that shaped the future of Stockport Grammar School under his leadership and also highlighted the importance of our Founder Sir Edmond Shaa's will, and the Bursary Fund in being instrumental in continuing to fund talented, local pupils to access the exceptional education Stockport Grammar School can offer, regardless of family income.

The event offered us the opportunity to showcase our new Sixth Form Facilities, introduced by Headmaster, Dr Owen. Upper Sixth Form pupil Matthew Schofield also discussed the



opportunities and support he has received since joining the Sixth Form in 2020, to give visitors an insight on life at SGS today.

Mrs R Shawcross

QUINCENTENARY RUGBY TOUR REUNION

On Saturday 25th June we were delighted to welcome back members of the SGS Quincentenary Rugby Tour group to celebrate 35 years since the tour.

Ahead of the game Former PE Teacher, Mr Steve Dunn, shared with us:

“35 years ago Leonard Kynaston and I had the great pleasure of taking these boys on a World Tour to celebrate Stockport Grammar School Quincentenary. Tomorrow we reunite again as good friends and brothers in arms.”

We were surprised to see the original SGS shirts sported by Peter Mycock, who had travelled from Australia, Mark Simpson and Phil Browne! You can read more about the Quincentenary Rugby Tour, which saw the team fly to San Francisco, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Los Angeles in 1987, by logging into the SGS Community website.

With thanks to Danny Adamson (OS 1988) for organising the gathering.

We look forward to seeing everyone back again in 2027!

Mrs R Shawcross



Back row: Colin Nevett, Matthew Birt, Steven Foster **Middle row:** Tony Carlin, Phil Browne, Ian Mehta, Danny Adamson, Dom Huxley, Dave Schofield **Bottom row:** Steve Dunn (Master), Leonard Kynaston (Master), Peter Mycock, Mark Simpson

DEATHS

Geoffrey Dale Smith (OS 1954)
died **01/09/2021**

David A G Coleman (OS 1959)
died **08/10/2021**

J Brian Boyle (OS 1958)
died **01/11/2021**

Muriel Blunden-Ellis (former staff)
died **04/11/2021**

Roy Stansfield (OS 1942)
died **09/11/2021**

David Anthony Oldham (OS 1963)
died **13/11/2021**

Stephen Russell Cross (former staff)
died **15/11/2021**

Peter Jackson (OS 1952)
died **25/11/2021**

Ralph Neville Watts (OS 1948)
died **30/11/2021**

Geoffrey Stewart Bowring (OS 1945)
died **17/01/2022**

Derrick Short (former staff)
died **06/02/2022**

Richard Hackney (OS 1957)
died **28/02/2022**

Gordon W Jones (OS 1964)
died **06/03/2022**

Christine Wilshaw (former staff)
died **08/03/2022**

Anthony ‘Tony’ P Redfern (OS 1955)
died **10/03/2022**

Robert Barry Rose (OS 1953)
died **03/04/2022**

Ernest R Johnson (OS 1946)
died **27/04/2022**

Robert Furniss Riding (OS 1958)
died **11/05/2022**

Robin Nightingale (OS 1961)
died **13/05/2022**

Kenneth Heath (OS 1950)
died **26/05/2022**

Trevor Haughton (OS 1959)
died **14/06/2022**

William J Tobin (OS 1972)
died **07/07/2022**

Michael T Whalley (OS 1958)
died **18/08/2022**

Max Longton (OS 1956)
died **18/08/2022**



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