

TAKING STOCK



Wind in the Willows p9/



When In Rome... p7/

Lucy Burgess Art workshop p12/

Little Red Riding Hood production p13/



MUN awards

Well done to pupils Marco Burns, Niall O'Reilly and Sam Sutton on picking up certificates at the inter-school Model United Nations Conference.

Representing Cyprus and Germany, Marco was named Best Young Delegate, Niall received Commended Delegate and Sam received a Special Mention and also won the Notepaper Competition!

Methane bubbles ignite inspiration

Second Year pupils had great fun as they took part in a methane bubbles experiment in Chemistry.

The experiment sees methane gas being blown into water and washing up liquid. The bubbles are flammable and ignite when a flame is introduced.

Sixth Form Finance talk

Financial Adviser Sadeef Latif was the latest speaker in the Sixth Form's Shaa Lecture series and her 'Everyday Finance' talk had the students fully engaged.

During her talk she spoke about bills, the risk of borrowing, buying your first home and saving or investing in stock.

She also covered the perils of payday loans and store cards, what bills are fixed and non-essential, the importance of being organised and offered tips on direct debits.

Bursary Fund

SGS was founded, in 1487, by philanthropy. Sir Edmond Shaa, determined to 'give back' to his home town and improve the lives of children, founded Stockport Grammar School to nurture intellect, foster character, and provide opportunity. The regular support of so many alumni, parents and friends has been essential to providing our means-tested bursaries at 11+ and 16+.

Unfortunately, we continue to disappoint many children due to insufficient funds. In 2022, we received 150 applications for only thirteen 11+ bursary places. Stockport has some of the highest levels of poverty in the country, highlighting why our focus on providing as many transformational 100% bursaries as we can is essential.

If you would like to make a gift to the Bursary Fund and help us do more to help local children who will excel at SGS, please contact Head of Development Aria Johnston or visit the Support Us pages on the website.

Computer club aces competition

Thirteen Second Year pupils were invited to take part in the Oxford University Computing Challenge.

They achieved a top 10% score in the UK Bebras Challenge and this demanding test gave them an opportunity to develop their skills further and produce programmed solutions to computational thinking problems.

Perfect Pillows

Pupils from First to Fourth Year have enjoyed bolstering their design skills in Textiles Technology.

First Years learnt how to use a sewing machine as they created cushion covers whilst Second Years used computer-aided design (CAD) to create their own digital print to be heat transferred on to fabric.

As part of their drawstring bag project, Third Years used CAD and a CNC embroidery machine and Fourth Years worked on designing and creating a soft educational toy for a target market of their choice.

STEM Club test density and electricity

First Year STEM Club members learnt about forces, density and electricity during their latest meeting.

The inventive pupils made boats out of recycled materials such as plastic bottles and tubs. They powered these with a battery, motor and propeller.

They then transported their creations from the classroom to the school's swimming pool to test them.

Pupils create unforgettable memories on Italian ski trip

Seventy-nine First to Third Year pupils enjoyed an unforgettable time in the Italian town of Bardonecchia where they skied and created memories that will stick with them for a lifetime.

Each day there was a full five hours of instructor-led skiing on the slopes. The temperatures fluctuated somewhat throughout the week, creating a mixed bag in terms of skiing conditions to which the pupils had to adapt and learn a new range of skills.

The après ski programme, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all of the travelling party, consisted of swimming, football, basketball, a ride on the alpine coaster, a quiz night and a private disco!

The pupils relished devouring tasty crêpes and a night out in a local pizzeria was enjoyed by everyone on the final night.

Amnesty Valentines

Sixth Form and Year Two students spread good vibes and demonstrated wonderful community spirit during Valentine's Day 2023.

Sixth Form students celebrated the occasion by raising money for Choose Love, a UK-based non-governmental organisation which provides humanitarian aid to, and advocacy for, refugees around the world. Students bought roses and wrote a note for each other in advance of the big day and on Tuesday 14th February the gifts were delivered to the recipients.

Meanwhile, children in Year Two made a glow-in-the-dark gift to show how much they care for a loved one. What a sweet gesture!

Second Year Daisy Garside said:

"The trip was absolutely fantastic! Since day one of skiing, we made so much progress and have come on so much."

"I really liked the activities after skiing – especially the alpine coaster and the games in the sports hall. Altogether it was a great trip and, if I had the chance, I would definitely go again!"

Trip organiser and Head of First Year Mr Alex Ehegartner added: **"There is more than meets the eye when joining a trip of this magnitude."**

"It seems like a euphoric experience on paper, but the reality is that it builds real character and is hard work for all of them at times."

"I was impressed by the effort that all of the pupils put in and how much they all progressed throughout the week – they were amazing!"



Miss Cartwright completes her second novel

English teacher Miss Cartwright stopped by the Library to give a 'Spotlight On...' talk about her new novel, 'The House of Sorrowing Stars'.

Her book centres around a house that sits alone on an island. When a young girl, Liddy receives an invitation to the island she must discover the secrets of the house before it's too late.

Miss Cartwright said: **"I have always written stories, it's something I have always done since I was little."**

"It took me around ten years to write my first book, but only eight months to write this, my second book, because I wrote it in lockdown. When I am writing, I like to start with the place in mind then I build everything from there. I find this really helps me to visualise the setting and the world the story takes place in."

During the talk, Miss Cartwright spoke about the process of becoming published and read an excerpt from her book.

CO-CURRICULAR

Historical reflections in Poland

Fifth Year pupils studying Religion, Philosophy and Ethics and History at GCSE spent a snowy, but enlightening, time in the Polish city of Krakow.

The four-day, three-night excursion extends the work that pupils cover in class and gave them the opportunity to visit sites of historical and religious significance.

The trip started with a tour around the Jewish Quarter (Kazimierz). The pupils noticed that very few synagogues remain in the town, despite its rich Jewish heritage, which reflects the horrors and destruction of the Holocaust.

The pupils then moved onto the site of the former Jewish ghetto, little of which remains, where

they inspected a very moving art installation commemorating the many Jewish lives that were destroyed by Nazi persecution.

Schindler's Factory Museum was the final venue for the day and the pupils found out more about the German industrialist and the people he employed and helped.

Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest and most infamous concentration camp in Europe, was the location for day three of the trip. Fifth Year pupil Dylan Cort said: **"To visit a place with such historical significance was both enlightening and disturbing. Walking upon the ground on which so many innocent people were beaten and killed was surreal, and indescribably melancholic."**



Second French Spelling Bee starts with a bang

Twelve First Year pupils put their knowledge to the test as they took part in the second annual French Spelling Bee.

The competition is organised by Routes into Languages and each contestant was tasked with memorising 150 words which they had to spell using the French alphabet. They had just one minute to spell as many words as possible. After their time was up, Daniel Spriggs was the winner and Lucy Baagalayaze came second. Both pupils will compete in the Regional Final, learning another 50 words.

Head of Modern Foreign Languages Miss Sylvia Gibson said: **"Everyone worked extremely hard to learn the spellings. It's difficult to translate a word and spell it in such a short space of time so everyone who took part should be really pleased with themselves."**



Triumphs in Languages Competition

Sixth Formers Tom Manton and Oli Bird (French team), Oliver Brindle and Charlie Harrison (German team) and Joshua Kitchen, Jake Collier and Aman Mulchand (Spanish team) gave outstanding performances and displayed excellent linguistic and debating skills as they represented the school at the 2023 North Schools' Modern Languages Debating Competition.

Well done to the Spanish team who won their section and to the German team who were runners-up in their section.

Dragons' Den

The SGS Dragons' Den team visited the brand-new Timpson-owned venue The Nest Manchester to deliver their final presentation to the Dragons.

The team raised over £430 for Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity selling mug cake kits and, on the day, the students gave an excellent presentation and impressed the judges with their product.

CEO James Timpson was the keynote speaker and he provided inspirational tips for the students on how to be successful.

The group were then treated to a talk and lunch by local new start up Wiggle's Pizza, much to their enjoyment!



When in Rome...

Pupils studying Classics at GCSE and A-Level visited Rome to appreciate the unparalleled excitement and atmosphere of the city.

Over the course of three days, they visited the Ara Pacis, the Colosseum, Trevi Fountain and even the Vatican.

They also saw the Circus Maximus, an ancient Roman chariot-racing stadium and the Theatre of Marcellus.

Looking back on the trip, Lower Sixth student Amelie Batey said:

"During my GCSEs I loved studying the ancient architecture, such as the temples, so being able to see the sheer scale and size of the temples, like the Pantheon, really conveyed the power of the Roman Empire and the devotion they had for the Gods."

"You could see the development of the city from the time of Romulus all the way to Augustus, and even Mussolini. To be able to view monuments such as the Ara Pacis and Prima Porta with the knowledge gained in my studies gave an insight that simply looking at a picture in a textbook could never do!"



Action-packed Munich trip delights Modern Foreign Languages students

Pupils from Third Year to Sixth Form enjoyed an action-packed few days in Munich during a Modern Foreign Languages trip.

The trip started with lessons at Inlingua Language School. Then a visit to the BMW Museum where they learnt about the car brand's history via a range of exhibitions.

The pupils then scaled the Olympic Tower before making their way to the Allianz Arena – home of the football club Bayern Munich.

The last full day of the trip saw the linguists stop off at Linderhof Castle and then the town of Oberammergau where they did a tour, visited a reptile zoo and had coffee and cake at a local hotel.

Fifth Year Lucia Smart said:

"It was an amazing experience and I learnt so much. I spoke as much as possible in German and this reinforced what we have been learning in lessons. I enjoyed the reptile house and all of the information boards were in German – this was a good test of our understanding of the language!"

ARTS



A Royal Focus

Pupils and staff took part in a photography competition to earn points for their House.

They were encouraged to take inspiration from Saudi illustrator and fashion designer Shamekh Bluwi and use a silhouette of Queen Elizabeth as a viewfinder to create their own response in a creative, imaginative and original way.

In the Lower School competition, Vernon's Alexis Atenyam came first, Nicholson's Lily Crowton was second and Arden's Jessie Williams finished third. The winner of the Middle School competition was Arden's Emma Broomhead.

The staff competition was won by Mrs Christmann (Warren), Miss Withington (Nicholson) was second, Dr Glarvey (Vernon) was third and Mr Prudham (Arden) finished fourth.

Dancers excited to perform at the Lowry

The school's Dance Company are thrilled to have been chosen to perform at the U.Dance North West Regional Festival at The Lowry.

The pupils have been working hard in sessions with Dance Teacher Mrs Downing and professional dancer Helen Le Roux. The Festival's Regional Panel praised the "exciting piece of work" that featured "really joyous movement quality and movement structures."

They added that "it felt like the dancers had true ownership over the movement performed, as well as enjoying their time on stage, which came through in the performance."



Students sparkle at stunning Spring Concert

The school's musicians delivered amazing performances in the stunning surroundings of St George's Church as they impressed an enchanted audience at the 2023 Spring Concert.

The Junior Chamber Choir started the concert with a trio of excellent pieces – 'Sumer is Icumen in' (anon), 'Wild Mountain Thyme' by McPeake (arr. Hunt) and Milloy's 'Take Flight'.

The Wind Orchestra followed this wonderful opening by performing Holst's 'Second Suite in F'. The suite consists of four movements and the SGS musicians delivered the first movement, 'March'.

'Allegro' from Bach's 'Concerto No. 3 BWV 1048' was then expertly delivered by the String Orchestra. The First Orchestra was the last ensemble to perform before the interval with their rendition of 'Allegro' from von Weber's 'Clarinet Concerto No. 1 in F minor', which featured a solo from Upper Sixth student Ben Wood.

Following a short break, the Chorus thrilled the audience with all 12 movements from Vivaldi's 'Gloria'. Singers Liv Dow, Ella Moran and Lucy Smith displayed their vocal talents during this piece.

Amang amazes artists

Second and Fourth Year pupils took part in an engaging and expressive workshop with artist Amang Mardokhy.

Amang was born in Kurdistan and his work is part of a larger project run by Curious Minds and supported by Arts Council England called 'Pushing Boundaries'.

After hearing about the themes and processes Amang uses to produce his work, pupils were able to create their own piece in response to music by working 'directly' on to paper using charcoal and paint, and producing outcomes that were full of energy.



Wind in the Willows

More than 60 students took part in a whimsical production of Wind in the Willows.

The play, based on Kenneth Grahame's classic children's novel, follows the escapades of Toad, Rat, Badger and Mole as they fight to reclaim Toad Hall from the Wild Wooders.

Lower School pupils played the main roles and a number of our older pupils worked backstage to ensure the lighting, sound, costumes, make up and set were of high quality.

Fourth Year pupil, Hannah J said: **"It has really been enjoyable working with pupils from younger years and being able to create a really inclusive ethos amongst the cast and crew."**

Director of Drama, Mr King-Sayce added:

"The production is a culmination of several months of work from the students on and off stage."

"The acting, as well as the lighting, sound and costumes were of such high quality. It's been a pleasure to bring this classic children's story to life."

Dido and Aeneas

A multi-departmental production was staged in the Hallam Hall as audiences stepped back in time to Ancient Greece to watch the musical performance of Dido and Aeneas.

The play as we know it now is based on Virgil's poem, the Aeneid, which was written in the first century BC. The poem follows the tragic love story of Dido, Queen of Carthage, and the Trojan Prince Aeneas as they discover whether their loyalty is to their heart or their duty. Composer Purcell set the fourth book of the epic poem to music in the 17th century.

The production was created collaboratively between the Dance, Music and Classics departments.

Our Chamber Choir and Orchestra expertly brought Purcell's compositions to life and our dancers interpreted the story with expressive choreography. Drama students also created three exclusive scenes which portrayed the thoughts of Dido throughout the play.

Ben Wood, who played Aeneas in the play said: **"Performing in Dido and Aeneas was definitely a great experience, especially studying the Aeneid in Classics. Having the opportunity to perform as a key figure such as Aeneas was a great experience for my musical future and my Classics enjoyment."**



SPORTS

Hockey Team Success

Our Hockey teams have done the school proud in competitions across the country.

Congratulations to The U15s who reached the semi-finals of the Independent Schools' Plate with a long journey to Ipswich School.

Despite being beaten by the opposing team the U15s showed their determination with a win not 24 hours later in their Saturday fixture.

The U13 team also battled hard in the Greater Manchester round of the National Schools' Competition, coming third overall.

Head of Hockey, Miss Sharon Withington said: **"Success should not only be judged by results – progress and development are just as important. The enthusiasm and positivity seen on the Astro this season so far makes me immensely proud. Hard work and commitment pay dividends – from the pupils, the staff and the support of the parents."**

Fallows Shield

The Fallows Shield scores at the end of the Spring Term are as follows:

Nicholson 175

Warren 173

Vernon 167.5

Arden 162.5

England Rugby

Well done to Sixth Form pupils Albert Bradshaw and Frank Chatterton who have been named in England Rugby's U18 squad. The talented First XV players will join the ranks of the team who competed in South Africa last summer.



Netballers Are Shield Champions

Huge congratulations to the U13 netball team who have been crowned the Sisters n Sport Shield Champions.

In a competitive and entertaining final, the SGS girls won the decider with a score line of 32-22.



Plate Winners

Amazing results from our U18 rugby players who have emerged as winners in the Birkenhead School's 7's Plate Cup competition.

Football Presentation

Towards the end of the Spring Term, SGS's footballers gathered in the Hallam Hall to celebrate the season.

The players received many awards from Coach's Player of the Year to the Players' Player of the Year – with someone named to win the prize from every team.

Well done to all the players!



JUNIOR SCHOOL



Nursery gets involved with Birdwatch

Nursery children were excited to take part in the RSPB annual Birdwatch. The children were happy to see how the Cheerio bird feeders they made went down. They ventured out to see if any birds were eating them and, although they didn't see any birds, they know birds must have visited as there were very few Cheerios left!

Everyone also enjoyed the book 'Robin's Winter Wish', and collected materials from the garden to make their own robin picture.



Alice's plank challenge

Year 6 pupil, Alice M set herself a challenge to do the plank every night to raise money for charity.

Alice planked every night for 82 days.

At the beginning of her challenge, she could only plank for around a minute but after her hard work she can now hold the position for 4 minutes 10 seconds!

She raised £450 in total which will be donated to charity.



Lucy Burgess visit

Year 6 pupils were pleased to welcome local artist Lucy Burgess into school for two days of art workshops.

Lucy's art is heavily influenced by Stockport's buildings and landmarks and she shared much of her work with the children before giving them the opportunity to create their own mixed media picture.

The children were very focused throughout the workshops and thoroughly enjoyed the extended opportunity to be creative.



Exceptional Year Six Production delights captivated audiences

Year 6 pupils had a blast as they delivered a number of amazing performances of their production, Roald Dahl's 'Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf'.

The story sees Mr Wolf going up against Little Red Riding Hood and her little piggy pals.

The children expertly played a range of characters, dressed in a wonderful array of outfits and sporting perfectly crafted make-up.

The show's Musical Director Miss Anastasia Micklethwaite said:

"Year 6 worked incredibly hard during rehearsals and put on fantastic shows for Junior School pupils and parents to watch."

"It was lovely to see the whole year group on stage performing really well, and there has been so much wonderful feedback from audience members."

Shape of Instruments

During the past few weeks, Year 3 pupils have been getting to grips with shapes and brass instruments.

As part of their Maths lessons, they headed outside to the playground to look for shapes. They recognised that the basketball court was a rectangle belonging to the quadrilateral family and is a polygon. They also calculated the perimeters by measuring the sides with metre rules. They checked their calculations with a trundle wheel.

This term the children have been learning about the orchestra. In a recent lesson the budding musicians enjoyed finding out more about the brass family including the horn, trumpet, trombone and tuba instruments.



Chinese New Year

Ahead of Chinese New Year, Year 1 children made paper chain dragons and learnt that dragon dances are performed to bring good luck to the community. They also discovered that everyone in the year group was born during the Year of the Monkey or the Rooster.

Year 2 also created some colourful paper dragons and in Year 3 Make It Club, pupils thought about the dragon parade that takes place in Manchester. The children made their own moving dragons with a concertina body that required them to measure, cut and stick accurately.

This year is the Year of the Rabbit and the animal is the symbol of longevity, peace and prosperity in Chinese culture.



Inspired by David Attenborough

Pupils in Years 2 and 3 have been putting their research skills to good use in lessons.

In their Humanities lessons, Year 2 learnt about broadcaster, historian, author and environmental advocate Sir David Attenborough.

They discussed how they can help sustain the planet and the simple things they can do daily. The children were fascinated to look at the frozen planet and focused on the Arctic and the many animals that live there. Using iPads and non-fiction books, they learnt a host of amazing new facts.



Ancient Egypt fascinates Year Four

Year 4 pupils learnt all about how the Ancient Egyptians created their successful civilisation with the help of Nick from Dan Tastic Education.

During their session for Ancient Egyptian Day, the children held ancient artefacts, tried on chain mail, played a game called senet and marvelled at how old the Egyptian coins were.

They found out about the social hierarchy in Ancient Egypt - the pharaoh being at the top, his priests and nobles next and the scribes, who could write in hieroglyphics, following them. A pupil from each class was 'mummified', teaching them how the pharaoh's body was preserved for the afterlife before it was placed in a tomb.



Understanding gases

Scientists in Years 2 and 4 have been conducting experiments to further their understanding about materials and gases.

In Year 2, pupils looked at foil, cellophane, tissue paper and kitchen towel to see which material would make the best tea bag. They found that the kitchen towel kept the tea leaves intact but also allowed the water to move between the membrane making the perfect tea bag.

Year 4 have been learning about the properties of gases. Although it can't be seen, they learnt that air is all around us and they carried out a range of investigations and made careful observations.

They were surprised to find out that when you lower an empty beaker into a tub of water, the air stops the water getting in. They also squeezed sponges under water to feel the bubbles of air escaping and they investigated the gas in fizzy drinks by making raisins 'dance' when the bubbles attached to the raisin then popped on the surface.



Lions and tigers and bears

Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Chester Zoo where they saw lots of fascinating animals and took part in a workshop.

The children were thrilled to see pythons, tigers and a baby lowland tapir and they loved seeing the giant otters being fed.

During their workshop, the children played a game of true or false and learnt many mind-blowing facts about herbivores, omnivores and carnivores.



Oral hygiene on top of agenda

Year 4 children set up an investigation to find out the effects of different drinks on your teeth.

Using egg shells to represent the surface of their teeth, they chose different liquids to place the egg shells in and made close observations over a few days.

They discovered that blackcurrant squash completely dissolved the surface of the egg, with coke staining the surface. They then had the opportunity to speak to Years 1 and 2 and tell them how and why they should look after their teeth.

As well as their presentation, Year 4 children also read a book to the younger Junior School pupils.

Audience thrilled with Junior School Spring Concert

The audience in a packed-out Junior School Hall were treated to a wonderful range of musical pieces at the Year 5 and 6 Spring Concert.

The Orchestra opened proceedings with a performance of ABBA's 'Thank You For The Music' and the pop theme continued as a number of soloists delivered hits including 'Radio Ga Ga' and 'Mr Tambourine Man'.

Traditional themes from across the globe saw a number of vocalists, trumpeters, guitarists and piano players display their talents. A cello, flute and the marimba also made an appearance. The concert concluded with the Year 5 and 6 Choir fantastically delivering a trio of hits, namely 'Hear The Wind', 'The Rose' and 'Candle On The Water'.



World Book Day

Junior School pupils marked World Book Day by taking part in a wide range of creative and thought-provoking activities.

Nursery's focus story for the day was 'The Sea Saw' by Tom Percival. The children loved the story and it prompted lots of talk about how teddy and Sofia were feeling when teddy fell out of Daddy's picnic bag.

Year 3 and 4 children were mysterious, sporty, colourful, stripy, exhilarated, freezing, royal, agile, happy, nocturnal, evolving, calm and unkempt during World Book Day! They enjoyed the story 'The Invisible', also by Tom Percival, and considered the many reasons they should feel gratitude.

As one of their activities, each class created a 'Gratitude Jar' and decorated it with uplifting pictures as well as writing a note explaining what they have to be grateful or thankful for. Year 5 started their celebrations off with an adjective 'catwalk' where each one of the children acted out their chosen adjective for the class to guess. They then went on an 'adjective hunt' within the class, collecting as many effective words as they could.

Padraig takes America

Keen Martial Arts competitor, Padraig D of Year 4 not only won all 4 of his fights but also his weight category in points whilst competing at the WKKC English Championships.

This means Padraig now qualifies for the World Championships in Florida in October.

What a fantastic achievement!



Junior School Sport

Pupils have had a busy sporty time with lots of tournaments and matches.

The Under 11 football team travelled to Manchester City's Academy to play in the annual City tournament against a number of other schools from around the North West. The pupils performed brilliantly to reach the semi-final.

Under 10s competed against King's School Macclesfield in several netball and rugby games. The netballers showed how they have improved over the term, whilst in rugby 49 pupils played and performed to a high level.

Finally, Year 3 and 4 girls had their first experiences of playing competitive sport and representing the school in netball fixtures against King's School Macclesfield and Withington Girls' School.