

SINCE 1487

The Stopfordian

2024–2025

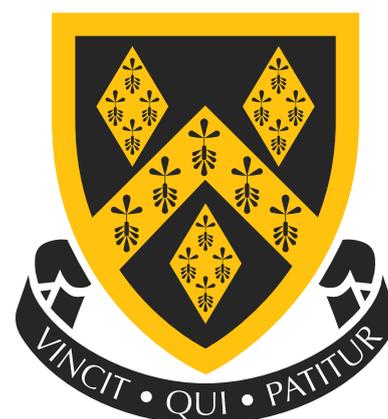
I am thankful to the following for their assistance in the production of this publication: Dave Ayre at Fine Print; the External Relations Department; front cover photo credit - David Howlett (OS 1982) whispermarketing.co.uk, back cover photo credit - Ellie Kurttz elliekurtz.com, Claire Wood Photography, Marcus J Perkins Photography and Owen Peters Photography, who have supplied the photographs; the army of proof readers and particularly the staff and pupils who sent in their contributions.

Julie Bullas

Editor

CONTENTS

The Year's News	4
Activities and Awards.....	19
Trips.....	30
Music, Drama and Art.....	45
Sport.....	70
Junior School.....	91
People.....	109
Old Stopfordians' Association.....	114



SINCE 1487

HIGHLIGHTS



Speech Day
p18



Ski Trip
p36-38



Sister Act
p55-57



Rugby
p74-75



Junior School
p91

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PATRON

THE PRIME WARDEN OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GOLDSMITHS

GOVERNORS

Chair: Mr J.M.R. LEE, BA, MBA, DipM, MSt (left 10/12/24)
Mrs H. TRITSCHLER, FCIPD, MCIPP, MSc, HRMPR(SA) (Chair from 10/12/24)

VICE-CHAIRS

Mr A.P. CARR, MA Mr T. FIRTH, BA

Mr N. BOOTH, LLB
Mr P. BREARLEY
Mrs K. CARFRAE, MLPM, MBA, CMLI, MRTPI
Mrs S.E. CARROLL, BA

Mrs S LATIF BOOK, BSc, JP (joined 10/12/24)
Mr A. GARDINER, MRICS, BSc (left 16/6/25)
Mrs D.L. HARRIS
Mr J. MILLINGTON, BSc, ACA

Mr T.J. POTTER
Mr J.A. SHACKLETON, MA
Mr A.C. SIMPSON, BSc, ACA
Ms J. SMITH

HEAD

Mrs S R CAPEWELL, MA

DEPUTY HEAD (Pastoral)

Mrs J. WHITE, BA

DEPUTY HEAD (Staffing & Co-curriculum)

Mrs J.L. SMITH, BA

DEPUTY HEAD (Academic)

Mr I.W. KENDRICK, BA, MA

BURSAR AND CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS

Miss J. CLAGUE, BA, FCA, CTA

DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Mrs R.M. HORSFORD, MA, MSc, MCIM (Left 18/10/24)

TEACHING STAFF

Mr C.J. WRIGHT, BA (retired 31/8/25)
Mrs S.L. BELSHAW, BA
Mr A.S. HANSON, BEd
Ms H.R. LAWSON, MA (retired 31/8/25)
Mrs H.M. FENTON, BSc
Mrs G.A. COPE, BA
Mrs C.L. MARSHALL, BSc, MSc
Miss S. WITHINGTON, BEd
Mrs K. WILKINSON, BA
Revd L.E.J. LEAVER, MA, BTh
Mrs H.R. ASHTON, BA
Mr E.H. CORBETT, BA
Dr T. KAMPELMANN, MA, PhD
Mr S.A. MOORE, BA
Mr J.D. WILSON, BA
Mrs R.J. UPTON, BA, MA
Mrs M. WHITTON, BSc
Mrs K.J. CHESTERTON, BA, MA
Mrs H. TADMAN, BEng
Mr M.G. DOW, BA, MA
Mr D. LORENTZ, MPhil
Mr A.G. EHEGARTNER, BA
Mr R.A. DAVIES, BA, MA, MSc
Mrs S. DAWSON, MSci
Miss Z.M. GIBSON, BA, MA
Mrs J.D. MASKERY, BEd (retired 19/1/25)
Mr R.D. HEYES, BSc
Dr E. ZANDA BURNS, BA, PhD
Mr R.J. BOWDEN, BA
Mrs K. CHRISTMANN, MA Diploma
Mrs R.C. TAYLOR, BSc

Mr N.S.J. CLARKE, BA
Mrs A.K. MOFFATT, BA
Mrs K.A.M. PSAILA-HARRIS, BA
Mrs D.H. MEERS, BA, MEd
Dr A.L. GLARVEY, MChem, PhD
Dr M. HAMILTON, MSc, PhD
Mrs C.M. HIRD, BSc
Miss C.L. STEVENSON, BA, MA
Mr J. SWANN, BA, MA
Miss A. CURTIS, MEng
Mrs A. DOWNING, MA
Mr G.D. FRANKLAND-WILKINSON, BSc,
(left 30/4/25)
Mrs K.L. BRITTON, BSc
Mr A. COOKE, BSc
Miss E. MacDONALD, BA, MA
Mrs J.S. MATTHEWS, BA
Mrs A.R. REID, BSc
Mrs R.V. CROSS, BA
Mr C. SHAW, MPhys
Mrs H.J. CROWLEY, BSc
Mrs H.K. LARKIN, BSc
Miss L.E. McALLISTER, BA
Mrs J.J. PLOWRIGHT, BSc
Mr D.J. STONE, BA, MEd
Mrs L. BURSLEM-CURL, BA
Mrs A. COLE, BA
Miss S. HODKINSON, BSc
Miss H. MORGAN, BA
Mrs J. PASS, BSc

Mr T. BUXTON-COPE, BSc
Mr M. EECKELAERS, BSc, MA
Ms C. GARETY-GOVIND, BSc
Miss C. MILLS, BSc
Dr K. OWEN, BSc, MA, PhD
Mr A. PHILLIPS, BA
Mrs R. REEVELL, BSc, MA, MEd
Mrs H.F. ODDY, BA
Mr P.K. ALLEN, BSc
Mr M.J. KING-SAYCE, BA, MSc
Mrs A.L. MARSDEN, BSc
Mrs A.C. NEALE, BA
Mrs R.L. JONES, BA
Mrs H.E. ROBERTS, BA, MA
Mrs K. GATE, BA
Mr S. NEWLOVE, BA, MMus
Mrs J. FITZGERALD, BSc
Mr P. CLEAR, MChem, BSc
Mrs C.E. HARVEY, BSc
Mr T.A. LENG, BA
Mr I. McGEOUGH, BSc, MA
Miss S. NICHOLS, BA
Mr T. QUINN, BA
Mr N.T. SERIFIN, BSc
Ms R. WALSH, BA, ME
Miss E. CARTWRIGHT, BA
Mr D. CERE, BA
Mrs H. CROSBY, BA
Miss C. HOCKADAY, BSc
Mr A. MARSH, MA

Ms L. MITCHELL, BA
Mr D. SHINGLER, BSc
Mrs A. SMITH, BSc
Mrs K. JENNER, BSc (left 31/8/25)
Mr A. KERSHAW, BSc
Mr J. TALBOT, BSc
Mr M. DIXON, BA
Mrs E. LOMAS, BA
Mrs S. O'BRIEN, BSc
Mr M. SCHOFIELD, BEng
Mrs N. CALDWELL, BSc
Ms L.E. BOWDEN, BSc (started 1/9/24)
Mr C. BROWN, BSc (started 1/9/24)
Mr J. CROWTHER, MPhys
(started 1/9/24)
Miss C. LE GRESLEY, BA, MSc
(started 1/9/24)
Miss H. LONGLEY, BSc (started 1/9/24)
Mr E. McCLAFFERTY, BA
(started 1/9/24)
Mrs M. OATES, BSc (started 1/9/24)
Miss R. READ, MMath (started 1/9/24)
Mrs Z. SHAH, BA (started 1/9/24)
Mr J. STONE, BSc (started 1/9/24)
Mrs L. HANSON, B.Ed (started 16/12/24)
Mrs A. WALKER, BA (started 1/1/25)
Miss O. DARLINGTON, BMus, MA,
NASENCO (started 1/1/25)
Mrs A. COLLARD BSc, MA
(started 22/4/25)

HEAD'S SECRETARY

Mrs V. DEANS, BSc, MA

BURSAR'S SECRETARY

Mrs K. SEWELL

ADMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

Mr C.J. WRIGHT, BA (retired 31/8/25)

ADMISSIONS OFFICER

Mrs M. CONNOR

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Mrs S. GAFFNEY

HEAD OF FINANCE

Mrs S. A GOODIER, ACMA

HR MANAGER

Ms R. ALLEN, BA, MEd Ass CIPD

HEAD OF ESTATES

MR M. LACHEVRE

HEAD OF DIGITAL SERVICES

Mr J. QUINN, BSc

HEAD OF SCHOOL

SACHIN GHOLKAR

DEPUTY HEAD OF SCHOOL

ENOCH AJAYI

HEAD OF SCHOOL

MAY NASSAR

DEPUTY HEAD OF SCHOOL

ANJALI ABRAHAM

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SENIOR SCHOOL - SUPPORT STAFF

**BURSARY
FEES LEDGER**
Mrs S. MILLWARD

PURCHASE LEDGER
Mrs K. JOHNSON

PAY ROLL
Mrs R. SMITH

IT DEPARTMENT
Mr K. GODDARD
Mr A. PARKER
Mrs H. MONTGOMERY
(joined 1/5/24) and (left 15/11/24)

NETWORK MANAGER
Mr M MASON

LIBRARY
Ms J. PAZOS, BA, PGDip
Mrs V. BATES
Mrs J. HOLT
Mrs G. GALLOIS

Mr J. DAVIES (left 4/7/25)

Mrs Y. CARTWRIGHT (left 4/7/25)

EXAMS OFFICER
Mrs V. ANDERTON

ASSISTANT EXAMS OFFICER
Mrs J. AMES

BIOLOGY LAB TECHNICIANS
Mrs C. CROSSMAN
Mrs S. LINDSEY
Miss J. WHYATT

FOOD TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN
Miss L. ALLEN
Mrs L. BROWN

FRENCH LANGUAGE ASSISTANT
JUSTINE DECLERQ

ADMINISTRATION
Mrs T. BUNBURY
Mrs S. GULSON
Mrs J. HOLLEWORTH
Mrs A. HORNE
Mrs S. LANSDOWN
Mrs P. ROBERTS
Miss G. HOPWOOD (left 4/2/25)

SITE SERVICES MANAGER
Mr R. COUPS

SITE SERVICES
Mr J. HUMPHREY
Mr J. MELLOWS
Mr L. MORREY
Mr G. PEARSON

DofE CO-ORDINATOR
Miss L. TURNER
Ms M. SCHOLES (started 27/1/25)

OUTDOOR EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR
Mr A. HUGHES, BSc

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS
Mrs M. MEHRA

PASTORAL SUPPORT
Mrs S. MATTY

SCHOOL NURSE
Mrs C. KENNY RGN/RSCN
Mrs P. WARD RGN Dip HE Com/Health
(left 19/12/24)

CHEMISTRY LAB TECHNICIANS
Mrs A. BARRATT
Mrs K. HUDSON
Mrs B. YAN (started 1/9/24)

ART TECHNICIAN
Mrs M. BROOKS

GERMAN LANGUAGE ASSISTANT
JULIAN HOPPE

EXTERNAL RELATIONS
Mrs J. BULLAS
Mrs H. ATENYAM, BA
Miss C. HUTTON, BA
Ms A. JOHNSTON, BA, BSc
Mr R. McPHERSON, BA
Ms L. TAYLOR, BA (joined 15/10/24)

MAINTENANCE MANAGER
Mr B. McGRATH

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT
Mr D. FARRELL
Mr J. WARREN

HEAD OF GROUNDS
Mr P. CHATWOOD (retired 25/3/25)
Mr R. BANCROFT (started 24/3/25)

GROUNDS DEPARTMENT
Mr T. BENNETT
Mr K. QUINN

Mrs K. WHINYATE

Ms E. STEWART (left 4/7/25)

MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR
Mrs S. JOHNSON

PHYSICS LAB TECHNICIANS
Mrs C. BARTLETT
Mrs I. MELLOR, BSc
Miss J. ROBERTS

D & T TECHNICIAN
Mr M. ALAYAN
Mr S. DYSON
Ms S. HALL
Mr R. BALLINGER (left 28/11/24)
Mrs C. HARRISON (started 19/3/25)

SPANISH LANGUAGE ASSISTANT
VALENTINA PISANO

CATERING DEPARTMENT

CATERING MANAGER
Mrs K. GOSLING

HEAD CHEF
Miss F. CUTHBERT

DINING ROOM SUPERVISOR
Miss K. BAMFORTH

Mrs D. O'HARA

Miss H. WRENCH

CHEFS
Mrs C. BRADDOCK

Mrs C. BATTERSBY

Mrs K. WALLACE

CATERING ASSISTANTS

Mrs H. BURTON
Ms S. CAMERON
Mrs S. CLARK
Miss A. KOSTADIINVA (left 28/3/25)
Mrs C. COLLEDGE
Miss M. COWDEN

Miss I. CUNNINGHAM (joined 25/11/24)
Ms M. DANIELS
Mrs J. GILL
Ms S. HILL
Miss H. MCCRAE
Ms L. HURST

Miss K. JACKSON
Miss K. JACKSON
Mrs B. LAVARONE
Mrs J. MELLOR (left 2/1/25)
Mrs P. MITCHELL (left 1/11/24)
Mrs T. MORRIS (joined 25/11/24)

Mrs D. NICHOLSON (joined 14/10/24)
Mrs A. POTTER
Miss B. POTTS
Miss T. TAYLOR
Mrs S. YATES (joined 13/5/25)

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS REPORT

It is with warmth and sincere pleasure that I greet you at the close of the 2024-2025 year, a year of navigation - of new terrain, new challenges, and renewed clarity. As Chair of Governors, I have had the privilege of working alongside a remarkable team of professionals and volunteers, all committed to the flourishing of our pupils and the integrity of our school.



We are once again exceptionally proud of the academic results achieved across the school, which reflect both the ambition of our pupils and the dedication of our staff.

- At A Level, 41% of grades were at A or A*, and 92% at A to C. Pupils secured places at leading universities including Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham.
- At GCSE, over 19% of grades were at the top mark of 9, and 58% at 9, 8, or 7. We were particularly pleased with the results in HPQ (Higher Project Qualification), Modern Foreign Languages, Music, Geography and Computer Science.

These outcomes affirm our commitment to providing a rigorous, rounded education that prepares pupils not only for exams, but for life. They also reflect the breadth of opportunity at SGS - from Olympiads and Aspire Clubs to music tours and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions - where academic excellence is nurtured alongside personal growth.

Strategic Stewardship

Following the Government's previously stated intention, VAT on school fees was formally introduced this year, alongside the removal of business rate relief for independent schools. The impact of these changes has been felt keenly across both household budgets and the school's financial planning.

Our response has been proactive and principled: rigorous financial modelling, scenario planning, and open dialogue. We continue to do all in our power to contain costs while safeguarding the quality and breadth of our provision -ensuring SGS remains a place of excellent and rounded education for children from as wide a range of backgrounds as possible.

Throughout the year, our Governing Body has focused on anchoring long-term sustainability while nurturing the distinctiveness that makes SGS exceptional. We have supported the Head and Executive Team in advancing key priorities:

- Strengthening financial resilience amid sector-wide pressures,
- Progressing estates development with clarity and care,
- Deepening our commitment to safeguarding, wellbeing, and inclusion.

We also marked important transitions within our Governing Body. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr Jonathan Lee, BA, MBA, DipM, MSt, who served as Chair of Governors during the early part of the academic year. We thank him for his contribution and wish him well in his future endeavours. We also warmly acknowledge Mr Andrew Gardiner, MRICS, BSc, former Chair of the Estates Committee, whose expertise and knowledge were appreciated, and we are grateful for his involvement. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Shazia Book, BSc, JP, whose professional insight and shared passion for the school's values strengthen our collective capacity. We also warmly welcome back Sam Lansbury, LLB, returning to the Governing Body with renewed energy and experience.

Recruitment continues, with two further governors expected to join in the coming months - bringing fresh perspective and ensuring our governance remains both robust and reflective of the community we serve. Inspection and Assurance

In November 2023, SGS underwent a full inspection under the new Independent Schools Inspectorate framework. The outcome was deeply affirming and guiding throughout this year. Inspectors described the school as a "vibrant and welcoming community" where pupils are "happy and

thriving” and “well prepared for life beyond school”. The report highlighted our strengths in pastoral care, academic ambition, and pupil voice -echoing the values we hold most dear.

We took the inspection’s reflections to heart, and they now live in our progress - informing our priorities, deepening our practices, and strengthening the way we listen, lead, and learn.

Culture and Connection

Beyond strategy, this year has been about presence. Many Governors have shown up - in classrooms, concerts, gatherings, and quiet conversations. We’ve ensured our connection with the pulse of school life, and I’ve been especially moved by the warmth, welcome and wisdom exchanged.

Looking Ahead: Branding with Intention

As we look to the coming year, we are preparing to launch a refreshed whole-school brand identity - a project shaped through thoughtful collaboration with pupils, staff, alumni,

and governors. This initiative will articulate the essence of SGS with renewed clarity and warmth, celebrating our values of curiosity, compassion, and courage. It is designed not just to modernise our visual language, but to deepen our shared understanding of who we are, our proud history, and how we show up in the world.

Closing Reflection

As we turn toward the future, our focus remains clear: to steward the school’s legacy with integrity, and to support our phenomenal Head and staff in shaping a future that is both ambitious and deeply humane. Stockport Grammar School is not just well-led - it is well-loved. And that, I believe, is our greatest asset.

I extend heartfelt thanks to my fellow governors, our Head, and every member of staff who has contributed to this year’s journey. May we continue to lead with integrity, listen with compassion, and learn with curiosity.

Warmly,

Hazel Tritschler
Chair of Governors



HEAD'S REPORT

As we reflect on the academic year, it is with immense pride that I share the many achievements and milestones that have shaped the Stockport Grammar School community. This year has been one of growth and resilience as pupils have embraced challenges and celebrated successes together.

From academic accomplishments to creative and sporting triumphs, every moment has contributed to the rich tapestry of our school life. It is a privilege to witness the dedication and enthusiasm that define our community, and I am delighted to introduce this year's 'The Stopfordian' as a record of all we have achieved.

The summer of 2024 brought outstanding examination results. At GCSE, nearly a quarter of all exams taken were awarded the highest grade 9. Indeed, 63% of all results were a 9, 8 or 7. And at A Level, nearly half of all results were A* or A and 71% were A*, A or B. Yet academic success at SGS extends far beyond examinations. Pupils excelled in a range of academic competitions, from Science and Maths Olympiads to national finals in language spelling bees and recognition for young translators. And our Model United Nations contingent represented SGS with distinction at local MUN conferences, with some particularly impressive performances from Lower School pupils.

Sport continued to flourish with exceptional team and individual performances. Our rugby 7s teams enjoyed a superb season, with the U18s winning the Birkenhead Plate and the U15s winning both the AKS Lytham Cup and the Audenshaw Cup. Our U15 girls triumphed in the National Netball Plate Final and secured the plate at the World School Games in Loughborough. Beyond these, our climbers reached impressive heights at the North West Independent Schools Climbing Competition, with six podium finishes for SGS; our fencing teams earned gold and silver in their first inter-school fencing competition at Stonyhurst College; and our golfers won the Cheshire Schools' Golf Competition.

Performing arts once again showcased the breadth of talent within the school. The spectacular production of 'Sister Act' brought together music, drama and dance to produce a show-stopping event, while 'Bad Auditions by Bad Actors' entertained audiences with its revolving cast. The January Dance Show highlighted the growing number of pupils participating in dance, and our musicians continued to impress through weekly MARS recitals, termly concerts, and the annual Music Festival – a celebration of the depth and diversity of musical talent at SGS.



Throughout the year, our formal events provided opportunities for the community to come together: the Remembrance Service; the Carol Service; Founder's Day and Shaa Lunch; and Speech Day. It was fitting that Reverend Canon Elaine Chegwin delivered the Founder's Day address at St George's Church as one of her final services before retirement, having supported the school so generously throughout her time as vicar at St George's. The year concluded with a memorable Speech Day, where local ultra-marathon runner Alex Welch inspired pupils, parents, staff and guests to aim higher and achieve more.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at SGS, whose dedication ensures we can provide an outstanding all-round education. Whether in the classroom, through our extensive co-curricular opportunities, or behind the scenes maintaining our site and catering for our community, their commitment is unwavering. This year we bid farewell to several colleagues, some after many years of service. Individual tributes appear later in 'The Stopfordian', but I wish to offer particular thanks to two of our longer-serving colleagues.

Mrs Lawson retired after nearly 30 years at SGS, including 12 years as Head of Lower School. Her leadership fostered a culture of kindness and community, and her passion for English and drama inspired generations of pupils. We wish her a very happy retirement and look forward to hearing about her travels! Finally, Mr Wright - whether you met him on one of his many admissions tours, knew him as a maths teacher, encountered him on the sports field, or perhaps most memorably as the form tutor to the legendary 1R, Mr Wright played an important role in the lives of countless pupils. After 36 years at SGS, he retired this year. We wish him a wonderful, restful and very well-earned retirement!

Mrs S Capewell
Head

DISTINCTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Amnesty +

Colours were awarded to: Eason Fong, Chloe Harmer, Benji Miller, Clara Minnock, Elena Patsias, Dylan Cort, and Magda Zelazny.

Art

An exhibition of work inspired by the architecture of Stockport and completed by pupils in the Third Year was held at St George's Church. Among the work displayed were examples of print, ceramics, 3D and drawing.

Biology

Biology Olympiad: Evie Poor – **Silver** awarded to Magda Zelazny. **Bronze** awarded to Blue Budd - Commended, and Beatrice Downing - Commended.

Biology Challenge Fourth Year: **Gold** awarded to Alfie McCluggage, Robert Arrowsmith, and Daniel Wears. **Silver** awarded to Paddy Everatt, Joshua Burgess, Niall O'Reilly, Sophie Bates, Aryn Ahmed, Mallika Wilson, Fiza Rasheed, Luke Arnfield, Emma Griffiths, Sophia St. Clair, Zach Hassan, Alex Powrie, and Sophie Davies. **Bronze** was awarded to George Mercer, James Pullen, Charlotte Sullivan, Benedict Woodworth, Archie Maughan, Haywood Tse, Mollie Farrar, Kobi Deale, Harry Chadwick, and Amelia Gauld.

Chemistry

In the Chemistry Olympiad, **Bronze** was achieved by Tabby Bloor, Sami Butt, Selwyn Cheung, Ella Clayton, Sean Sembaty, and Mohid Saleem. **Silver** was achieved by Christian Woodworth, and Dimitris Dimopoulos.

In the Chemistry Crest, **Silver** was achieved by Benji Miller and Elena Patsias.

Drama

Colours were awarded to: Dami Azeez, Ariana Twiss, Valeria Zamora Valdivieso, Toby Gleave, Thomas Harvey, David Hawkins, George Mason, June Moore, Umair Salahuddin, Anjali Abraham, and Beatrice Downing.

Eco School

Colours were awarded to: Dylan Cort, Elsa Mullins, Lucia Smart, and Magda Zelazny.

Industrial Cadets

Lower Sixth pupils Emma Broomhead, Maizie Farrar, Harrison Wilson, Tim Williams, Ben Williams, Seb Ogle, and Sean Sembaty.

Mathematics

Junior Mathematical Challenge (First Year) **Gold** was achieved by Emmy Darnley (Best in School), Kurt Mohan, Renie Harrington, Daoud Choudhary, Dylan Turner, Cara Acton, Alex Lingham, and Sam Faulkner. **Silver** achieved by Sumbal Butt, Muhammad Qureshi, Joshua Osinuga, Naya Panchal, Ethan Colledge, Fergus Dymock, Tamar Korn, Georgia Stevenson, Olivier Brobowski, James Woodsmith, Sophie Lomas, Luisa Bright-Thomas and Finlay Carrol. **Bronze** was achieved by Lilia Rowland, Luke Alderson, Julia Davis, Harry Halls, Nicole Woods, Charlie McCleary, Anna Donnelly, Norah Lill Bird Bolianatz, Hannah Woolley, Ethan Zhong, Tom Khattab, and Eve O'Reilly.

Junior Mathematical Challenge (Second Year) **Gold** was achieved by Zak Barkatali (Best in School), Emily Knight (Best in School) Chloe Montgomery, Shehroze Adeel, Laurence Glazier, Quinn Hamilton, Connor Whittle, George Kelly, Oliver Bryant, Megan Walker, Oscar Warrington, Hayden Chiu, William Lloyd, Pansy Wong, Eva Miller, and Sophie May. **Silver** was achieved by Hermione Aston Smith, Ayaan Ahmad, Esther Goodman, Maggie Sidell, Rose Ferguson, Naimah Orr, Fatima Athar, Sam Victoratos, Ben Gauld, Ben Lowe, Owen Reid, Sami Shaw, Gaby Di Gennaro, Joanna Oluwakayode, Joe Hargreaves, and Matthew Owens. **Bronze** was achieved by Oscar Hamut, Inaya Ansari, Lizzie Bamforth, Amelia Braid, Camille Donnai, Muhammed Hayyan, Hafsa Jannat Raza, Miles Annan, Louis Codd, Martha Cottam, Freddie Shaw, Jack Benson, Eleanor Mitchell-Dixon, Orrin Williams, Harry Buck, Leo Garvey, Alex Williams, Connie Goodman, Edward Jones, Jessica Loh, Isabelle Potter, Archie Warren, Hannah Akbar, Rishi Gunendran, Elliot Ingham, Chimunya Okoye, George Hartley, and Caspar Aminian.

Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (Third Year) **Gold** was achieved by Awais Raza (Best in School). **Silver** was achieved by Noah Cross, Lily Crowton, Grace McDonald, Isla Locke, Lucy Baagalayaze, and Rupert Davies. **Bronze** was achieved by Edward Calvert, Ethan Reid, Ariana Twiss, and Charlie Roberts.

Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (Fourth Year) **Gold** was achieved by Fiza Rasheed (Best in Year), George Mercer, and Rix Tang. **Silver** was achieved by Joshua Burgess, Raphael Leong, James Pullen, Angus Reid, Luke Arnfield, Mustansir Ganjifrockwala, Maya Soltan, Finlay Raynes, Harry Chadwick-Fincher, Haywood Tse, Niall

O'Reilly, and Amelia Gauld. **Bronze** was achieved by Mallika Wilson, Paddy Everatt, Emma Griffiths, Mehul Valluri, Mollie Farrar, George Culwick, Alfred McCluggage, Sumaiyah Daji, Howard Kam, Maya Gholkar, and Vy Tran.

Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (Fifth Year) **Gold** was achieved by Franz Xia (Best in School). **Silver** was achieved by Elena Patsias, Tom Stanton, Serena Ford, Amayah Grimes, Benji Miller, and Chun Ka Leong. **Bronze** was achieved by Clara Zelhof, Gina Vincent Bell, Jess Wiggetts, Ella Higgins, Will Jones, Sam Hill, and Annabel Bagshaw.

Senior Mathematical Challenge (Fifth Year) **Gold** was achieved by Elena Patsias (Best in School). **Bronze** was achieved by Amayah Grimes, Benji Miller, Chun Ka Leong, Hari Sen, Chris Parikh, and Franz Xia.

Senior Mathematical Challenge (Lower Sixth) **Gold** was achieved by Owen Morriss (Best in Year), and Christian Woodworth. **Silver** was achieved by Vladislav Tkachuk, Iwan Barrowcliff, Rosie Moore, Liam Pountain, Joshua Hodgson, Nehan Butt, and Toby Wells. **Bronze** was achieved by Yusuf Ashraf, Ella Clayton, Sean Sembatya, Selwyn Cheung, Reuben Barraclough, Rosa Hughes, Seyed Mousavi-Khoshrou, Cameron Reid, Muhammad Qureshi, Amelie Joubert, and Harrison Wilson.

Senior Mathematical Challenge (Upper Sixth) **Gold** was achieved by Edward Griffiths (Best in School), Dimitrios Dimopoulos, and Emilia Krywonos. **Silver** was achieved by Dylan Cort. **Bronze** was achieved by Mohid Saleem, Oscar Love, Sachin Gholkar, Thomas Morrison, and Jack Rafter.

Modern Foreign Languages

Adam Ullah and Cara Acton came third and fourth respectively in the Regional Final of the German Spelling Bee held at the University of Liverpool. Both pupils have made it through to the National Final to be held at the University of Cambridge in July.

In the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators, Second Year pupil Laurence Glazier was highly commended for his Spanish translation of a passage from La Tribu de Kai by Raquel Diaz Reguera.

Sixth Former Hannah Johnson was the North West Area Winner for Ab Initio Russian with her translation of an absurdist poem by Daniil Kharms.

Model United Nations

Outstanding Delegation and Overall Winners at Manchester High School for Girls Conference: Cara Bell, Sophia St Clair,

Niall O'Reilly, Luca Scorer, Amelia Gauld, Marco Burns, Cathleen Liu, William Lloyd.

Music

Halle Youth Choir: Reeyan Walie-Rahman, and Bella Rich. Halle Youth Training Choir: Amelia Gauld, Sadie Norris, Will Lightening, and Jessie Williams. Halle Children's Choir: Penny Norris, and Sophie Lomas. Halle Youth Orchestra – James Caine (trombone), Clara Zelhof (violin).

National Children's Choir: Sophia Hemmings. Junior Royal Northern College of Music: Clara Zelhof (violin), Nathan Monk (organ), Christina Wong (violin), and Amelie Manson (singing). Fodens Youth Brass Band: Finn McIlwraith (Baritone).

Grade 8s: Sachin Gholkar (G8 alto sax merit), Zac Dow (G8 cello merit), Amelie Manson (G8 singing distinction). Grade 8s - Max Reeves - drums (distinction), Thom K - drums (distinction), Howard Kam – violin (merit).

Chester Young Musician of the Year (first runner up): Christina Wong. Oundle for Organists - Recital Award: Nathan Monk (organ). ABRSM flute diploma: Dan Wood. ATCL Diploma Distinction violin: Christina Wong. Junior Singer of the Year - Alderley Edge Music Festival 1st place in classical singing class: Emily Knight. Alderley Edge Music Festival - 1st place in woodwind solo class (Third Year – Upper Sixth) and the Sir Hamilton Harty Cup: Dan Wood. Alderley Edge Music Festival - 1st prize in Duet Singing class: Anvita Nehru and Jessica Storey

Colours were awarded to: Arya Abraham, Thomas Collins, Agnes Gooda, Cece Hashmi, Alicia Holden, Thom K, Sophia Krywonos, Lillian Lewis-Clarke, Max Reeves, Anya Wells, Jessie Williams, James Caine, Eva Davies, Thomas Harvey, Bella Rich, Harriet Thomson, Clara Zelhof, Anjali Abraham, Beatrice Downing, Sachin Gholkar, Mia Krywonos, Thomas Mo, Nathan Monk, and May Nassar.

Physics

Physics Olympiad: **Silver** was awarded to Dimitrios Dimopoulos.

Intermediate Physics Challenge: **Silver** was achieved by Franz Xia and George Culwick. **Bronze 1** was achieved by Niall O'Reilly and James Caine. **Bronze 2** was achieved by Amelia Gauld.

Senior Physics Challenge: **Silver** was achieved by Owen Morriss, Christian Woodworth, Iwan Barrowcliff, and Tim Williams. **Bronze** was achieved by Ben Williams, Sean Sembatya, Hari Sen, Ruhaba Butt, and Ella Clayton.

Physics Experimental Project: **Bronze** was achieved by Ella Clayton, Rebecca Peet, Rose McDonald, Iwan Barrowcliff, Owen Morriss, Christian Woodworth, George Culwick, Niall O'Reilly, Harry Fretwell, and Amelia Gauld.

Lower School Physics Challenge: Third Year **Gold** was achieved by: Jessica Lewis-Gill, Rupert Davies, Noah Cross, Hannah Rose Ward, and Sophia Krywonos. Second Year **Gold** was achieved by: Laurence Glazier (joint second in the country - out of 6,300 pupils), Reece White, Hermione Ashton-Smith, Eva Miller, Muhammad Hayyan, Oliver Bennington, Chloe Montgomery, Edward Jones, Joanna Oluwakayode, Isabelle Potter, and Lyra Sokun. **Silver** was achieved by: Percy Gibbons, Megan Walker, Sophie May, Ayaan Ahmad, Thomas Mungall, Ava Ogden, Hafsa Raza, and Imaz Ahmed. First Year **Gold** achieved by Emilia

Darnley, Alex Lingham, Harry Maddock, and Frank Threlfall. **Silver** achieved by Adam Khan, and Haris Ahmed.

Junior Physics Challenge: Fourth Year **Gold** was achieved by: George Culwick, Niall O'Reilly, George Mercer, Howard Kam. **Silver** was achieved by: Amelia Gauld, Alfie McCluggage, Burhanuddin Salem, Vy Tran, Merryn Koke, Sophie Davies. **Bronze** was achieved by: Mollie Farrar.

Junior Astro Challenge: **Gold** was achieved by Yining Xia, and Niall O'Reilly. **Silver** was achieved by Hannah Rose Ward, William Lloyd, and George Culwick. **Bronze** was achieved by Emily Knight, Vy Tran, Percy Gibbons, Chloe Montgomery, Megan Walker, Amelia Croyston-Part, Lucy Baagalayaze, and Dami Azeez, Chun-Ka Leong, Valeria Zamora Valdivieso, Imaz Ahmed, Thomas Mungall, Howard Kam, and Hannah Akbar.

ANNUAL CHARITY REPORT

Fundraising and charity work has continued to grow in the Senior School this academic year. Once again charity projects have given opportunities to our pupils to plan, lead and deliver projects, helping them develop a range of transferable skills, whilst also giving to local and international charities.

As is tradition, in September the Senior Charity Prefects led assemblies across the Senior School to raise awareness of charity work across the school. At the end of the assemblies Senior School pupils voted for a local charity to support this year.

The Charity Prefects Freya, Grace, Penny, and Sara presented four different charities, with Francis House Hospice being chosen as our local charity for the year ahead. Francis House Hospice is based in Didsbury and supports approximately 2,000 people at any one time with respite care, homecare, sibling support, end of life care, as well as emotional and bereavement support. To support the Hospice, the Charity Prefects have sold House themed accessories at both the Senior School sports days, raising over £270.



As in previous years, we continue to support our international charity, EducAid. This charity works in Sierra Leone by providing free education to some of the most deprived children in the country. The charity also runs teacher training programmes with the aim to extend education throughout the country. Our three termly non-uniform days are always popular and this year we have raised over £4,100 for EducAid.

At the end of the Autumn Term, a team of very enthusiastic Sixth Form pupils lead by the Charity Prefects hosted the annual First Year disco. With nearly all 181 First Years in attendance it was an opportunity to celebrate reaching the end of their first term at Senior School whilst raising funds for both EducAid and Francis House. Well over £800 was raised!

The Eco-School group has also been heavily involved in fundraising this year. Before Christmas the group organised 'secret santa candy canes' for Middle School pupils. The money raised was sent to Toilet Twinning which enabled the group to twin the new toilets with a toilet in Zimbabwe, to improve hygiene and sanitation provision in a community. Eco-Schools have also planned and organised two awareness days: International Day of the Forest, and World Ocean's Day. Pupils were encouraged to attend events and wear either a green or blue accessory in exchange for a donation. Proceeds of over £490 were sent to the WWF and Water Aid.

The Amnesty+ group have once again taken a lead on several fundraising and collection initiatives. They organised a stall at the annual SPA Christmas Fair, running tabletop games



to support Unicef. Later in February, the group continued with the popular traditional of selling 'Palentines day roses' amongst Sixth Form with all proceeds being sent to the British Heart Foundation.

As well as raising funds for charities, our pupils have continued to show their support for charities in other ways. The annual Harvest Collection for The Wellspring saw hundreds of items being delivered to stock up their shelves prior to Christmas. Food bank collections for the Chelwood Food Bank in Adswold were also well-supported, both as part of our Reverse Advent Calendar Challenge in December and in the summer term by all the Fourth-Year pupils. We have continued to support the Bare Necessities Toiletry Bank by sending hundreds of items to the local charity for distribution in South Manchester and Stockport to those experiencing hygiene poverty. Like last year, the charity was particularly keen to receive make-up that they offer in the Prom-Packs for young people who otherwise would not have these items.

New for this year, a group of Fifth Year pupils from our Amnesty+ Club, also organised a shoe box appeal to support the Shoe Box Fairies. This charity, based in Greater Manchester, distributes filled shoe boxes to anyone experiencing hardship and poverty in the area. Forms were

encouraged to work together to fill a shoe box with small gifts and useful items. Over 40 shoe boxes packed with items were sent to the charity in December.

Another addition to the calendar this year was an initiative led by the Senior School library. Pupils were encouraged to support a book drive by gifting used books that they had outgrown and no longer needed. Hundreds of books were sent to the Children's Book Project, a charity that redistributes books to children and families in deprived areas experiencing book poverty, with the aim to address the reading attainment gap.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us with our fundraising and collections this year. Thanks to everyone's support Stockport Grammar School pupils continue to make a tremendous impact beyond our school gates and into the wider community.

Dr Kirsten Owen
Charity Co-ordinator

**Freya Niven, Grace Lorimer,
Penny Horsford and Sara Watson**
Charity Prefects

CHAPLAIN'S PAGE



Harvest

The Charity Prefects spearheaded the Autumn Term Harvest initiative, focusing on gratitude and generosity. They gave presentations in assembly and organized a school-wide collection. One of the prefects, Penny Horsford, volunteers at The Wellspring, adding extra insight into their work. Together with the Junior School Charity Prefects, they visited The Wellspring to deliver the donations. As always, the visit left us with a deep sense of gratitude and admiration for the incredible work carried out by the The Wellspring team.

Carol Service

There was standing room only as the wider Stopfordian community gathered for the annual retelling of the nativity story in readings and music. The service featured a moving solo start to *'Once in Royal David's City'*, candlelit prayers, and a stunning acapella performance of Holst's *'Lullay My Liking'* by the Chamber Choir, who encircled the congregation with light. First Year pupils brought joyful energy with Mr Newlove's arrangement of *'Masters in the Hall'*. This is a highlight of the school year.



Founder's Day

Founder's Day brought together pupils, staff, governors, and Old Stopfordians in a celebration of our shared heritage. The singing of the psalm was, as ever, superb. The Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin-Hall, outgoing vicar of St George's Church, delivered a thought-provoking sermon encouraging us to reflect on where God might be at work in our lives. First Year pupils visited St Mary's Church, Stockport - the original site of the school - to experience the psalm in its historical setting. This tradition continues to foster a sense of purpose and gratitude within our community.

Confirmation

The Bishop of Stockport visited the school to lead our annual Confirmation service. His memorable address and the moving liturgy were enriched by contributions from pupils. Music provided by Mr Dow added to the reverent atmosphere, making the occasion a significant milestone in the spiritual journey of those confirmed.

Faith Groups

Faith development is supported through a variety of pupil-led and staff-supported groups. Sixth Form pupils meet weekly for Bible study, while younger pupils gather to explore and discuss the Christian faith. Muslim pupils meet for Jummah prayers each Friday, and daily during Ramadan. We are grateful to Cheadle Masjid for their generous donation of new prayer mats.

Faith Visits

We are grateful for the warm welcome from the many faith communities represented in the school community. This year's visits included:

- First Year: St Mary's Church, Stockport and Manchester Gurdwara
- Second Year: Yeshurun Hebrew Congregation (Gatley Synagogue)
- Third Year: Chorlton KMC Buddhist Centre and Gita Bevan Hindu Temple

Pupils participated in a range of activities designed to deepen their understanding of different faiths and cultures. Feedback from pupils was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing how much they enjoyed and learned from these experiences.

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

Name	University	Course
Anjali Mary Abraham	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Nora Aden	University of Manchester	Psychology
Zara Ahmad	University of Manchester	Medicine
Mohammed Amaan Ullah Ahmed	Manchester Metropolitan University	Accounting and Finance
Enoch Ajayi	Solicitor Apprenticeship - Law at DWF Law LLP	
Neena Anand	Gap Year - UCAS or Apprenticeship 2026	
Alfie James Anderson	University of Stirling	Management
Frazer Laurence Assheton-Smith	University of Liverpool	Law
Charli May Barnett	University of Leicester	Physiotherapy with Foundation Year
Niamh Bentley	University of Liverpool	Marketing with a Year in Industry
William Bowes	University of Leeds	Politics
Shania Monica May Broderick	University of Nottingham	Economics
Blue Budd	University of Sussex	Biology
Priya Burrow	University of Oxford	History
Francesca Burton	University of Liverpool	Geography (Science)
Bethany Burton	University of Nottingham	English
Alexander Canty	Liverpool John Moores University	Business Management
James Carr	University of Birmingham	International Relations with Economics
Jeremy Adan Chi Yin Cheung	University of Southampton	Law
Daniel Christopher Church	Newcastle University	Bus Accounting and Fin (inc bus place) (4 yrs) PWC Flying Start Deg App
Luke Constantine-Williams	Gap Year - UCAS 2026	
Ezra Cooke	Flight School - Pilot Training	
William Copeland	University of Liverpool	Geography
Dylan Floyd Cort	University of Sheffield	Biomedical Science with an Industrial Placement Year
Brandon Thomas Cross	University of Sheffield	Civil and Structural Engineering with an Industrial Placement Year
William Daniels	University of Liverpool	Business Management
Eve Rose Davies	Brunel University of London	Law
Dimitrios Dimopoulos	UCL (University College London)	Physics
Malaek Djebali	Gap Year - UCAS 2026	
Beatrice Lilian Downing	Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London	Costume Production
Eris Elsby	Gap Year - reapply 2026 (sitting extra A Level)	
Tamsin Emery	Motorsport engineering apprenticeship role at Ric Wood Motorsport	
Thomas Anthony Farrelly	University of Sheffield	Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Robert Andrew Martin Ferguson	Liverpool John Moores University	Biomedical Science
Kiera Field	University of St Andrews	English and Modern History
Charlotte Fretwell	Gap Year	
Charlotte Frisby	University of Chester	Psychology
Matthew Galligan	King's College, University of Queensland	
Sachin James Gholkar	Durham University	General Engineering
Bradley Gleave	Loughborough University	Product Design and Technology (with placement year)
Serena Grierson	Loughborough University	Physics
Edward Joseph Griffiths	University of Oxford	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Ahmed Haj	Sofia Medical University (Bul)	Medicine
Conor Hallworth	University of Sheffield	Economics
Rory Hicks	Setting up furniture making and repurposing business	
Ella Hitchen	Manchester Metropolitan University	Psychology
James Hood	University of Warwick	Politics and International Studies
Nathan Hopley	Golf Scholarship at King University, Tennessee (USA)	
Penny Horsford	Gap Year - UCAS 2026	
Fawaz Hussain	University of Central Lancashire	Software Design
Zimar Jatoi	Sofia Medical University (Bul)	Medicine
Nathan Job	University of Nottingham	Chemical Engineering
James Kelly-Cooper	Gap Year - UCAS or Apprenticeship 2026	
Eliza Raya Khan	Liverpool John Moores University	Law
Hadi Khan	University of Manchester	Dentistry (BDS first-year entry)
Emilia Magdalena Joan Krywonos	University of Manchester	Medicine
Ben Lavender	Hartpury University	Sport and Exercise Sciences
Peter Alexander Law	Gap Year - UCAS 2026	
Nathan Liu	University of the Arts, London	Fashion Foundation Year
Grace Lorimer	The University of Edinburgh	History of Art
Oscar Warren Love	University of Nottingham	Economics
Ahmar Malik	University of Sunderland	Pharmacy

Tess McCarthy	Newcastle University	Sociology
Thomas Jun Hei Mo	University of Manchester	Computer Science with an Integrated Foundation Year
Nathan Edward Monk	University of Cambridge	Music
Thomas Arthur Morrison	King's College London, University of London	Physics with Astrophysics and Cosmology
Elsa Carol Mullins	University of Nottingham	Medicine
May Gwen Elizabeth Nassar	Newcastle University	Archaeology
Freya Niven	University of Central Lancashire	Medicine and Surgery
Amelia Mae Nuttall	Northumbria University, Newcastle	Quantity Surveying
Dhiraj Pal	Degree Apprenticeship at EY	
James Patel	Manchester Metropolitan University	Business Management
Evie Moonflower Jacqueline Poor	Bangor University	Marine Biology and Oceanography
Anna Lisa Porter	University of Liverpool	International Management with a Year in Industry
Jack Patrick Rafter	University of Sheffield	Aerospace Engineering
Ahnaf Rahman	Gap Year - UCAS 2026	
Joshua Thomas Roberts	Sheffield Hallam University	Geography
Mohid Saleem	University of Manchester	Biomedical Sciences with Industrial / Professional Experience (4 years)
		Geology
Matthew Scott	University of Leeds	Biomedical Science
Simrah Semun	Liverpool John Moores University	Counter Terrorism, Intelligence and Cybercrime (Dual Degree)
Lucia Helena Smart	University of Portsmouth	Psychology
		Chemistry
Ben Smethurst	Manchester Metropolitan University	Primary Early Years Education with QTS
Joshua Timothy Sparrow	University of Liverpool	Business Management with Economics with Professional Placement Year
Amber Sullivan	Edge Hill University	Pharmacy
Ben Summersgill	University of Salford	
Yamin Talukdar	University of Huddersfield	
Isabella Taylor-Stokes	Golf Scholarship at East Carolina University (USA)	
		International Relations and Politics
Isabella Traynor	Northumbria University, Newcastle	Medicine
Joshua Varghese	Medical University of Plovdiv (BUL)	Microbiology
Ibrahim Vohra	University of Nottingham	International Relations
Frances Walmsley	University of Leeds	Geography
James Fraser Ward	University of Liverpool	Quantity Surveying
Jack Warren	University of Salford	Quantity Surveying
Luke Mark Warren	Northumbria University, Newcastle	Chinese Studies (with Year Abroad)
Zack Waterhouse	Durham University	Art History
Sara Watson	University of St Andrews	
Isaac Whittaker	Direct into work or gap year - Apprenticeship 2026	
		English Language and Literature
Jasmine Whittaker	University of Sheffield	Sustainability and Environmental Management
Eoin Wood	University of Leeds	Business and Management (with a Year in Industry)
Maximillian Lewis Woodward	University of York	Biological Sciences
Thomas Wright	Loughborough University	Medicine and Surgery
Magdalena Zelazny	Newcastle University	

OLD STOPFORDIANS

Mirzza Saaim Ahmed Begh	Imperial College London	Medicine
Jeya Belocura	UCAS 2026	
James Carr	University of Birmingham	International Relations with Economics
Sabir Chawdhury	UCAS 2026	
Fardeen Mohammad Khan	Edge Hill University	Medicine
Victoria Rees	Cardiff University	Psychology with Professional Placement
Ishan Sharma	Manchester Metropolitan University	History
Khadija Sohail	University of Huddersfield	Health Foundation Pathway leading to a BSc(Hons) Degree
		Electrical and Electronic Engineering with Industrial Experience (4 years)
Ryan Xu	University of Manchester	

LIBRARY LIFE



We love meeting First Year pupils in September as they seek out the Library to explore this wonderful space and to tell us what books they read from our Library Summer Book Bridge and all the other books they enjoyed over the holidays. It is a joy to hear them sharing their pleasure in reading, especially as recent studies by the National Literacy Trust report a decline in the enjoyment of reading. Parents will already appreciate that young people's reading drops off as they become ever busier with schoolwork and other pursuits. This fuels our endeavour to bang the drum for books so that our pupils benefit from the well documented benefits to cognitive performance and wellbeing.

Through regular Google Meets, I have been able to engage with Lower School pupils during form time to entice them with extracts, promote new books, share recommendations, inform them about library news and activities and author visits.

We welcomed five authors over the course of the year: Phil Earle, Matt Dickinson, Josh Silver, Curtis Jobling and Peter Burns. All of them spoke passionately about their reading journeys, the barriers, the highs and how their lives have been dramatically shaped and enhanced by the books they have read. Our pupils listen and engage, and books sales and library loans reflect the value of these visits.



Our library loans of graphic novels and manga, top the lot! Over the last year or so we have responded to the growth in popularity and extended our stock. One popular author and cartoonist, Terri Libenson, makes the argument that graphic novels are a gateway to reading all kinds of books. We definitely want to keep that gate wide open and we see that our readers keep coming back for more. Maths Teacher and graphic novel enthusiast, Mr David Shingler, gave an informative 'Spotlight on...' talk outlining the history and scope of the graphic novel which led to the audience to explore his recommendations.

Fiction in general is our most used section of the Library but we also seek to keep our non-fiction updated and to encourage pupils to try reading information books too. To this end, we signed up to form a Judging Panel for the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize and a number of Lower School pupils read the shortlisted books and submitted their scoring matrix and a video entry to the video competition. Whilst our panel's video entry didn't make the top three, a clip was included in the compilation shown at the prestigious Awards Ceremony.

Competitions are a well tried and tested trick to encourage participation, and we continue to run our Library Heroes – rewarding the most active Lower School forms each half term. This spring we launched our Shelfie Reads competition, merging our reading Heroes with our House reading competition. The Library window was filled with book spines in house colours documenting the books read in the weeks following World Book Day in March. 1R and 1W were very spurred on by the visual representation and really battled it out! 1W won the First Year prize (through 1R did win all the other half terms) and Warren House proved to be by far and away the biggest readers this year!

World Book Day remains a highlight in the Library calendar. Ahead of our weeklong celebrations, we took Book Club members on a trip to Waterstones to select new books to appeal to their peers. In addition to the various competitions and activities, we also signed up to the Children's Book Project and recruited Charity Prefects to help with our book 'drive'. Pupils were invited to drop off preloved books that are then "put into the hand of those that need them most" from babies to teenagers up to 14 in settings such as schools, prisons, foodbanks, community projects and women's groups. In total we donated over 30 boxes of books enabling so many more young people beyond SGS to benefit from reading.

Of course, whilst we are particularly aware of the need to encourage reading, we continue to provide pupils with opportunities to explore and expand knowledge in other ways. We continued with our programme of 'Spotlight on ...' talks which saw pupils presenting on a range of topics from nuclear weapons to colonisation and African poetry and



Jersey's cultural offer. Old Stops also generously shared their expertise and experiences. On Friday 13th December Geographer Rebecca Hill (OS 2017) addressed an audience on 'Catastrophe Management' and in March Anna Davies

(OS 2019), spoke about careers in law. A high-profile event with Dr Anthony Freeman (OS 1976) organised by the External Relations team was also held in the Library. We were also happy to act as venue for talks organised by the Politics Department and the Religious Studies Department.

For many years the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) has provided Sixth Form pupils with an opportunity to embrace independent research. Now younger pupils have the opportunity to take an HPQ (Higher Project Qualification). After running a session at the beginning of their research journeys, it was a privilege to watch their fabulous end of project presentations in the Library.

Finally, we wrapped up our year of reading around our 'library campfire' swapping stories about the experiences and adventures we have reading. Our First Year pupils were still bursting with things to say and recommendations to share. Wherever you are destined this summer, you can escape to virtually anywhere between the pages of a book!

Ms J Pazos

YEAR FIVE ART COMPETITION

Now in its 12th year our annual art competition inspired 107 artists from 15 local schools to create spectacular portraits. The artwork brightened up a cold February evening for parents and teachers at the celebration exhibition.

Each year SGS judges Mr Richard Davies, Head of Art and Mrs Becci Upton, Art Teacher are astounded by the entrant's imaginative interpretation of the theme of 'self-portrait'. Pieces are created in a range of medias, from photography to out of this world pastels to multi-layered collage. The high quality and care put into the pieces makes it very difficult to choose winners, all artists were congratulated on being chosen to represent their schools.

As with all competitions, there had to be an overall winner, and Caroline L from St Ambrose Preparatory School captured the judge's attention with a multi-layered portrait that explored textures to create a masterpiece that felt like it was emerging from the canvas.

Runners-up prizes were awarded to Jarvis O from St Thomas' CE Primary School and Aizah A from Lum Head Primary School. The judges also introduced two highly commended awards this year as a result of the high standard of entries, these commendations went to Ayden J from Adswold Primary School and Eva B from Mottram CE Primary School.



Mr Davies commented: "It was a delight to judge the competition, the inspiring pieces created by the children showed considerable care taken. It is always fascinating to see the range of interpretations of the brief, I hope the artists enjoyed viewing each others work and have taken away some new ideas to continue creating."

During the evening, the children also enjoyed taking part in art activities led by SGS art students and sampled the delicious home-made bakes from the SGS kitchen. All the artists went home with a small gift to help them continue to capture their creativity for others to enjoy.

YEAR FIVE MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE



In June 252 young mathematicians from 33 primary schools across Greater Manchester gathered at Stockport Grammar School for the annual Maths Challenges for Year 5 children.

The popular maths challenge ran three sessions over two days 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.

The challenge, now in its fourteenth year, is the creation of the Maths Department, designed to inspire and enthuse Year 5 pupils to enjoy the subject.

Maths teacher Miss Charlie Mills, who organises the competition, commented: "It is always a pleasure to host so many enthusiastic mathematicians. The energy, sportsmanship and teamwork are fantastic. All the children should be very proud of themselves for being chosen to represent their schools."

SCIENCE LIVE

It was thoroughly inspiring to listen to real scientists, such as Prof Robert Winston, speak so passionately about their subjects.

The day commenced with Dr Tim Gabriel speaking of his career path and using a student from the audience to help conduct an experiment on the science behind nano structure fabrication, using a shirt and water to

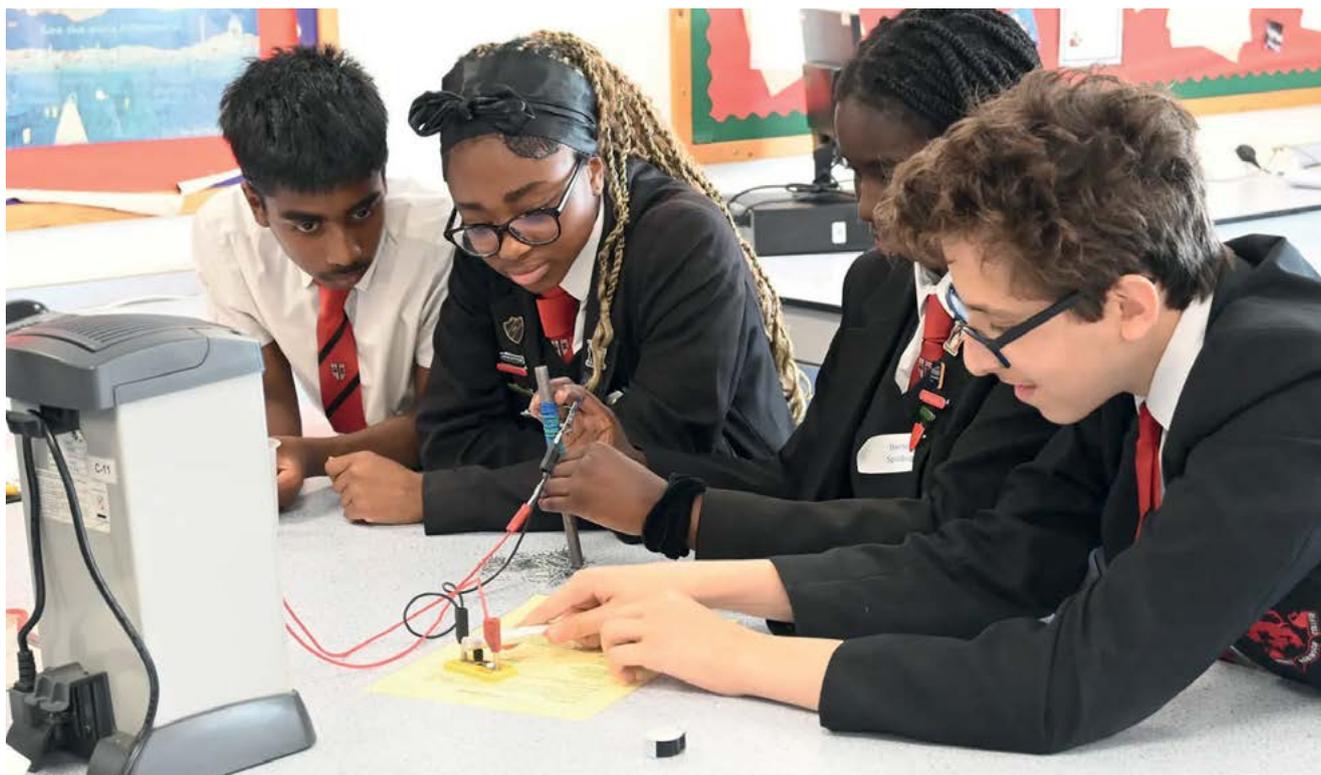
demonstrate. Additionally, an experienced chief examiner gave us some practical advice to help us achieve success in our exams. My favourite talk of the day was by Prof Sophie Scott, who spoke about the science behind laughter, which interested many of us as it is something we do frequently without actually knowing the rationale behind it. It was both a great opportunity and fun experience to see where science can take us in life outside the classroom.

Charlotte Underwood (Fourth Year)

Science Competition

Stockport Grammar School played host to 40 Fourth Year scientists from local high schools, challenging them to put their scientific brains to the test with a 'Whodunit' style competition.

The young scientists competed in groups of four with each team taking the name of a famous scientist renowned for their historical contributions to the fields of forensics, pathology, medicine and toxicology to complete hour-long tasks in each of the sciences.



On arrival the scientists were met with the breaking news of a major theft at Stopford General Hospital's Pharmacy, a number of medications had been stolen. Police had apprehended eight suspects with their forensics teams having gathered the crime scene evidence. However, Police labs were experiencing a backlog of cases, teams were asked assist in the labs to process the evidence to bring the case to a quick close.

Did you know that even identical twins have unique fingerprints! Pupils' first challenge was to identify characteristics and patterns of fingerprints to narrow down their suspect list by matching samples to those taken from the scene.

In Biology, crime scene forensics had discovered from samples taken at the scene that the suspects were diabetic, the teams' task was to test fresh samples to identify a match. Police theory is that a strong electromagnet was used to override the security system on the Pharmacy doors, the Physics Department had the teams battling it out to construct the strongest electromagnet, creative thinking and learning from trial and error were key attributes here. Chemistry challenged pupils' knowledge with new equipment and methodology to identify which medications found on the suspects matched the specific chemical makeup of those taken from the Pharmacy.

The level of competition was high with results very close, overall victors were Team 'Marie Maynard Daly' from St James' Catholic High School, Team 'Johann Ludwig Casper' from St Anne's RC High School in second place and Team 'Mathieu Orfila' from Parris Wood High School in third.



The competition aimed 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: "Like detectives, scientists learn from clues that we find through experiments, then figure out how the clues piece together. The more we learn, the more questions we find to ask! Science requires us to continually challenge the status quo, to hypothesise and then to back up these ideas with experimental evidence. Today's competitors displayed exemplary team working skills to carry out their experiments with accuracy. It was a pleasure to host such an enthusiastic and inquisitive group of scientists. A number of our SGS Lower Sixth Form scientists were on hand in the sessions to assist with the use of equipment and it was nice to see the sharing of knowledge and interest."

SPEECH DAY

The grandeur of the Stockport Plaza’s art deco auditorium set the perfect stage for a memorable Speech Day, as the school community came together to celebrate the highlights and achievements of the 2024–2025 academic year.

This year’s keynote speaker was none other than Alex Welch, the inspiring winner of the 2025 ‘Beyond the Ultimate’ Ice Ultra Marathon. Alex captivated the audience with a powerful account of his physical and emotional journey – sharing the grit, setbacks, and triumphs that shaped his path to victory.

The event was attended by pupils, staff, parents, governors, and distinguished guests, including the Deputy Mayor and Consort, Councillor Gary Lawson and Mr Timothy Wane, who joined in the celebration of the school’s collective success.

Chair of the Governing Body, Mrs Hazel Tritschler, opened the ceremony with a heartfelt welcome and warm congratulations to pupils for their diverse accomplishments. This was followed by the Head’s Statement from Mrs Sarah Capewell, who reflected on the strength found in facing challenges and the vital role of community support – illustrated with a humorous and relatable anecdote about being stuck halfway up a climbing wall.

The prize-giving ceremony was a proud moment for pupils across all year groups, as they took to the stage to receive awards recognising their hard work and dedication.

Alex Welch’s address was a highlight of the day. He spoke candidly about his initial failure to complete the Marathon des Sables and how that experience became the catalyst for personal growth. Determined to overcome his own doubts, he returned stronger, completed the race, and went on to win the Ice Ultra Marathon.



Now training to complete the remaining three races in the ‘Beyond the Ultimate’ series, Alex aspires to become the youngest person to win all four. He

left pupils with a powerful message: greatness isn’t something we’re born with – it’s something we build through ambition and perseverance.



The ceremony concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks from Heads of School, May Nassar and Sachin Gholkar. They reflected on their time at Stockport Grammar with warmth and gratitude, before officially welcoming the incoming Heads of School and their deputies.

Adding to the celebratory atmosphere, the school’s Big Band delivered energetic performances of ‘The Chicken’ by Ellis and ‘You Can’t Stop the Beat’ by Hefti, showcasing the school’s musical talent.

Prior to the main event, guests enjoyed a lunch in Hallam Hall, and following the ceremony, award winners and Upper Sixth Form leavers were invited to a reception in the Sixth Form Centre, where families gathered for drinks and light refreshments.



ARDEN

Senior Prefects (House):

Brandon Cross Charlotte Fretwell
Enoch Ajayi Frazer Assheton-Smith

Heads of House:

Mrs H R Ashton
Miss C Hockaday



Farewell to our amazing House Prefects

To our departing **House Prefects**, Brandon Cross, Charlotte Fretwell, Enoch Ajayi and Frazer Assheton-Smith, thank you for your dedication, creativity, and tireless efforts throughout the year. You've led with heart and helped shape a House culture that's inclusive, ambitious, and full of fun. Your legacy will live on, and we're so proud of everything you've achieved.

Arden House: a year of triumphs, teamwork, and tenacity!

What a phenomenal year it's been for **Arden House!** From start to finish, the energy, spirit, and determination of our House members has been nothing short of inspiring. We're thrilled to celebrate a trio of outstanding achievements that have truly cemented Arden's place as a powerhouse of excellence.

First up, **the Philpott Trophy** – awarded for the highest number of recognitions across the school. Arden absolutely smashed it! This win is a testament to the kindness, hard work, and positive attitude shown by every single member of the house. Whether it was helping others, showing resilience, or going the extra mile, Arden students were recognised time and time again – and rightly so!

Next, we proudly lifted **the Brown Cup** for the best ATL (Attitude to Learning) grades. This incredible achievement reflects the dedication, focus, and academic drive that Arden students bring to every lesson. You've shown that success isn't just about talent – it's about effort, consistency, and a love of learning. Well done!

And if that wasn't enough, Arden made an **epic comeback** to finish a close **second in the Fallows' Shield**. From the bottom of the leaderboard to a nail-biting finish, the House rallied together with passion and perseverance. It was a comeback story worthy of a standing ovation – and you delivered!

A massive thank you to Mrs Ashton! None of this would have been possible without the incredible leadership of **Mrs Ashton**, our brilliant Head of House. Her unwavering support, enthusiasm, and belief in every student has been the heartbeat of Arden's success. As she steps into her exciting new role as **Head of Lower School**, we want to say a huge THANK YOU and wish her all the best. Arden will miss you dearly, but we know you'll continue to inspire wherever you go!

Welcome Dr Owen!

As we look ahead to a new chapter, we're absolutely delighted to welcome **Dr Owen** as our new Head of Arden House! With her passion for student success and her infectious enthusiasm, we know she'll bring fresh energy and exciting ideas to the role. Arden is in safe hands, and we can't wait to see where she leads us next. Here's to new beginnings and even more victories!

Welcome to our new House Prefects!

We are excited to welcome the **new Arden House Prefect team of Jessica Pennington, Cameron Reid, Sophie Seymour Mead and Ava Perfect!** You're stepping into big shoes, but we know you're ready to bring fresh ideas, boundless energy, and your own unique spark to the role. Whether it's leading House events, supporting your peers, or keeping the Arden spirit alive, we can't wait to see what you'll achieve.

Arden House – more than just a House

This year has proven that Arden is more than just a name – it's a family. A place where effort is celebrated, challenges are embraced, and every voice matters. Here's to the memories made, the trophies won, and the friendships that will last a lifetime.

Let's carry this momentum into next year and keep the Arden spirit alive and thriving!

NICHOLSON

Senior Prefects (House):

Alfie Anderson Dimitrios Dimopoulos
Ben Lavender Frances Walmsley

Heads of House:

Mr Phillips
Miss Withington



A plethora of events were organised throughout the school year with pupils in all year groups battling it out to obtain points for Nicholson in the pursuit of a long-awaited Fallows' Shield triumph. All in Nicholson demonstrated the traditional grit and enthusiasm that has come to be expected of every member of the House.

Nicholson flew out of the blocks in the Autumn Term, taking an early lead in the Fallows' Shield with excellent displays in House Countdown, across several year groups, and a tactical masterclass in Sixth Form chess. The traditional sporting events saw pupils compete against one another whilst new events continued to enter the programme. Events such as House Uno, House Enterprise and a House Sunflower Competition burst on to the scene, adding yet more opportunities for pupils to engage in the House system. The year culminated in the spectacle which is Sports Day. It was a fantastic day filled with camaraderie, as pupils encouraged one another, celebrated each other's efforts, and everyone - pupils and staff alike - actively engaged in the House system. Unfortunately, the early momentum couldn't be sustained in pursuit of the Fallows' Shield, but pupils competed valiantly and, most importantly, had fun.

The launch of the Philpott Trophy saw pupils eager to obtain recognitions in their lessons or within and around school. Pupils were keen to demonstrate academic excellence, grit and social intelligence to be recognised and contribute to helping their House to be the first to be awarded the Philpott Trophy. With three pieces of silverware up for grabs, there was certainly a buzz around the school and there is something for everyone to compete for throughout the year. This can only be beneficial for the House system.

A huge thank you and well done must go to Alfie Anderson, Dimitrios Dimopoulos, Ben Lavender and Frances Walmsley. They were superb Senior Prefects House, who led by example and were tremendous role models for younger pupils. Their commitment to the House could not be questioned, they

were ever present, enthusiastic and threw themselves into everything they did. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours. Acting as Senior Prefects: House will have been an invaluable experience and set them up with several additional skills for a life beyond SGS.

The end of the academic year 2024-2025, sees widespread change in Nicholson. Both Miss Withington and Mr Phillips will be stepping down after four years of leading the House. Their enthusiasm and passion for the Nicholson will be missed. As a result, Nicholson welcomes Mr Buxton-Cope and Mr Shingler into the roles of Head of House and wish them success. They will have the pleasure of working with Bella Evans, Florence Hughes, Nima Mousavi-Khoshrou and Oliver Walker as the new Senior Prefects: House. They will make an excellent team, and I am confident that will continue to engage pupils across the school whilst fostering the sense of community within Nicholson.

Here is to hoping that Nicholson is etched on the Fallows' Shield in the near future!

Mr Phillips

My first highlight would be Nicholson collecting the most points in Upper School Sports Day - while not yet being a captain, I thought this brought out my love for the House, and the sheer enjoyment of competing and ultimately triumphing. Then, in our first duty as House Captains we ran the Lower School Sports Day on a hot, chaotic afternoon, when we somehow managed to fill almost every slot to come out on top again, clean sweeping the Sports Day thanks to the brilliant participation levels of all involved. The Lower School Swimming Gala certainly stands out as a great event too. However, I have also enjoyed all our assemblies, whether ran by us or Mr Phillips and Miss Withington (Miss With). Notable mentions go to Mr Phillips' 'Eric the Eel' presentation, and when Miss With passionately portrayed her love for the Olympic Games, consolidating her whole summer glued to the games into one half an hour assembly! Going back to visit the Junior School just before Easter made for a fantastic morning, seeing all our old teachers, along with an abundance of enthusiasm from the younger Nicholson lot was another highlight. Lastly, I hope that we have inspired the younger generations of the house to want to be in our position one day, and I believe that we have set a good example as house captains over the past 12 months, as I look back on my time as a Nicholson House Captain very fondly.

Alfie Anderson

VERNON

Senior Prefects (House):

Shania Broderick Matthew Galligan
Ahmed Haj Millie Nuttall

Heads of House:

Mr Quinn
Mr Talbot



Vernon enjoyed some early successes in their pursuit of the Fallows' Shield, with First, Second and Third Years victorious in tag rugby. Vernon also excelled in the pool, with outstanding performances in First Year swimming time trials and a narrow defeat in the annual gala. In addition, winning First Year hockey along with Fifth Year football and netball enabled Vernon to climb the table. Special mention must also go to our First Year cross country runners.

A particular highlight for myself personally was the performance of the Lower Sixth quiz team, who secured sufficient points to coast to victory, with several questions to spare. Secondly, Heyla Gault's Fourth Year entries into the 'Where's Vern?' depicted our new House mascot in stunning locations. Well done to all involved.

Sports Day saw Vernon House narrowly finishing second and some outstanding individual performances in Junior House (First and Second Year) from Archie Buck, Oliver Tang, Joanna Oluwakayode, Jemima Diggle, Barney Moriarty and Jaden Anderson.

In Inter-house (Third and Fourth Years) Sports Day victories were achieved by Jack Warburton, Seb Disley, Holly Stead, Orla Roberts, Tom Waite, Anika Sijuwade and Will Crabtree.

I would like to thank our outgoing Head of House Mr Talbot for his innovative approach and his friendship, and welcome Mr Shaw to the team from September onwards.

Mr Talbot:

"After stepping down from my role as Head of Vernon to take on new responsibilities as Head of Year, I want to say an enormous thank you to all the Vernon pupils. Your energy, commitment, and sense of community have made leading the House a truly memorable and rewarding experience. I've loved seeing your achievements, your spirit at House events, and the way you've supported one another — it's been a genuine privilege to be part of it all."

"Though I'll no longer be leading from the front, I'll remain one of Vernon's biggest supporters from the sidelines. A sincere thank you as well to Mr Quinn, whose support and good humour made working together such a pleasure."

Mr Shaw:

"I am looking forward to taking on the role of Head of Vernon in September and supporting everyone in the assemblies and competitions. Vernon have had a lot of achievements this year and I hope to help them continue."

Congratulations go to the newly appointed Senior Prefects House: Bella Clark, Lily Courtney, Christian Kalaydjiev and Louisa White, who emerged successfully from a challenging selection process. Here, they share their thoughts on this year...

Bella Clarke:

"My Vernon highlight of 2025 was the First to Fourth Year Sports Day. It was a thrilling day with Vernon coming so close to beating the reigning champions, Warren. The best part of the day was watching the 1,500m, this really highlighted our strong determination. Despite the loss, I really enjoyed encouraging the younger pupils to participate, celebrating their victories and being part of a team!"

Lily Courtney:

"The highlight of my year with Vernon were being awarded House Captain - I was so happy and pleased - winning House netball another year in a row, and helping out with the Senior School Sports Day; everyone was so committed and determined and it was so much fun to be a part of."

Christian Kalaydjiev:

"This year in Vernon has been brilliant. One of my highlights was leading the House in the Inter-house Sports Day, where everyone showed such fantastic team spirit and determination. It's been a privilege to serve so far as a House Captain and see so many people get involved and support one another."

Louisa White:

"Becoming integrated and helping other year groups with House activities is one of my highlights; also seeing so many people getting involved and enjoying our Senior Sports Day"

Mr Shaw and I look forward to working with you next academic year.

Mr Quinn

WARREN

Senior Prefects (House):

Francesca Burton Nathan Job
Matthew Scott Joshua Sparrow

Heads of House:

Mrs K Wilkinson
Mr A Hanson



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 for many, many years. Success breeds success and it is down to the loyalty, dedication and commitment of all our House members, that we continue to thrive. Warren have always had depth and strength in numbers and have never failed to turn up to every event, with desire and hunger to participate. It was the showing up in numbers and always flying the flag that won it for us yet again. Warren always do this well.

If we're honest, this year didn't run without its pressures, we showed up but struggled to compete on occasion, Arden on our tail for many weeks in the Summer but, thankfully, we held it together and won the Fallows' Shield yet again. Congratulations to Arden for winning the Brown Cup and the Philpott Cup – we are yet to capitalise on these trophies.

I know Mr Hanson and I have been involved in this system for a while but the House system just gets better and better each year. There are now over a hundred events! It's phenomenal! Fact Finders, badminton, rugby, Countdown, chess, Spelling Bee, table tennis, swimming gala, netball, basketball, quizzes, Scrabble, hockey, cross country, Sports Days, Reading Competitions, rounders, tennis, Uno, Connect, House Enterprise, cricket, Music Festivals and last but not least, the Sunflower Competition.

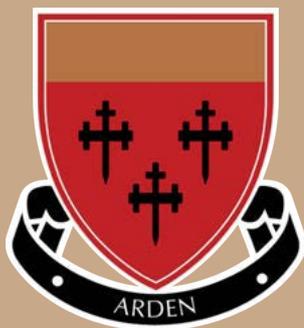
Huge praise to our Senior Prefects who did a sterling job in motivating the House once again. Francesca Burton, Nathan Job, Matthew Scott and Joshua Sparrow – we applaud you and wish you well for the future. Your confidence in public speaking and presentation went from strength to strength and we are so proud of you.

The Junior School have played a very active role in the house system once again and we thank the staff and pupils for everything they do to fly the Warren flag across the site. Thank you for making us feel so welcome.

Huge thanks to the staff who helped out at assemblies and events, and to Mr Wright who has administered the points system for all these years.

Thanks to all of you for what you do to make Warren great and for going above and beyond as always.

Let's go again Warren!



MATHEMATICS

This past year has been filled with remarkable achievements for our pupils, both in and outside of the classroom. Our enthusiastic mathematicians have embraced the wealth of opportunities available to them, working independently in tackling a range of mathematical challenges.

Individual Competitions

The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) plays a vital role in fostering a love for mathematics. As a registered charity, it is dedicated to advancing the education of children and young people in the subject. Through national competitions and enrichment activities, UKMT provides 11–18-year-old school pupils across the UK with exciting opportunities to challenge themselves and develop problem-solving skills.

At senior level there were five Gold awards (Dimitrios Dimopoulos, Edward Griffiths, Mia Krywonos, Owen Morriss and Christian Woodworth). Edward Griffiths scored the highest mark in the school and all five qualified for the Senior Kangaroo round.

At intermediate level there were five Gold awards (George Mercer, Fiza Rasheed, Awais Raza, Rix Tang and Franz Xia). Franz scored the highest mark and he, along with Fiza and Awais, qualified for the next round. Fiza achieved a Bronze award in this follow-on round.

There were 24 Gold awards at junior level with Shehroze Adeel, Zak Barkatali, Emmy Darnley, Laurence Glazier, Quinn Hamilton, Renie Harrington, George Kelly, Emily Knight, Kurt Mohan, Chloe Montgomery and Connor Whittle all qualifying for the Kangaroo round. Zak, Emily and Emmy all achieved joint best in the school for the junior competition. Kurt should also be congratulated on achieving a Gold certificate in the follow up Kangaroo round, a fantastic achievement!

For the Maths Olympiad for Girls there were four entries, with Mia Krywonos, Rosa Hughes and Rosie Moore gaining a Merit. Rosie Moore achieved the best score in the school.

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 clearly setting out their solutions. Chloe Montgomery achieved third prize overall and the 'Best in School' for First and Second Year. Archie Lingard came in the top 15 (out of approximately 950 entries) and achieved a Highly Commended for First and Second Year and Angus Reid achieved 'Best in School' and Highly Commended for the Senior Challenge. Stockport Grammar were the third best overall out of the hundreds of schools that took part from all over the country. Many congratulations to Chloe, Archie and Angus, and to all the pupils who participated in the competition.

The members of the department have worked tirelessly to provide a diverse range of opportunities for enrichment beyond the classroom while upholding the highest standards of teaching. Their dedication has ensured that pupils not only deepen their mathematical understanding but also engage in challenges that inspire curiosity and collaboration.

Maths Inspiration Show

Maths pupils from the Lower Sixth attended the 'Maths Inspiration' show at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

The show included talks from contributors to the popular 'Numberphile' YouTube channel (Aylean Macdonald and Ben Sparks) and Civil Engineer Paul Sheperd, who has worked on incredible buildings all over the world, including Arsenal's Emirates Stadium and the Millennium Dome.

They shared stories about their favourite maths and how they use it in the real world, including what fractal art tells us about cell division and how noise cancelling headphones work.

NORTHERN SCHOOLS MODERN LANGUAGES DEBATING COMPETITION

In January the Modern Foreign Languages Department fielded two teams in the annual Northern Schools' Modern Languages Debating Competition. Every year our pupils must prepare arguments for all debate titles and sides in advance, which they then practise with our Language Assistants.

This year's debate motions included 'Modern society encourages gender equality', 'Success is more important than happiness', 'We can never know what's true' and 'Youth is the best time of one's life'.

Our Spanish team did brilliantly well and beat both Sale Grammar School and Tarporley High School in their two debates and narrowly missed out on the final by a few points.

Our French team lost their first debate against Withington Girls' School but won their second against St Bede's School.

The teams were composed of Nathan Liu (Upper Sixth), Annabel Huxley (Lower Sixth), Cara Bell (Lower Sixth) for Spanish, and Caitlin Hill (Lower Sixth) and Lucy Johnstone (Lower Sixth) for French. Given that the competition is aimed at Upper Sixth pupils, our teams not only showed excellent language skills but also real determination to go up against their opponents and we are very proud of them.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS



Twenty pupils attended the annual Manchester Grammar School Model United Nations (MUN) Conference.

Delegations represented United Kingdom and Belarus, with a day of fruitful debate and problem-solving. Our UK delegation featured many decorated delegates, who achieved the following awards in the closing ceremony:

- Outstanding Delegate in Health Committee for Niall O'Reilly (Fourth Year)
- Best Young Delegate in Economics Committee for Marco Burns (Third Year)
- Best Young Delegate in Future Committee for William Style (First Year)

- Highly Commended Delegate in Security Council for Sam Sutton (Lower Sixth)
- Commended Delegate in Human Rights Council for Cara Bell (Lower Sixth)
- Best Young Delegate in Human Rights Committee for Sophia St Clair (Fourth Year)
- Highly Commended Delegate in EnviroScience Committee for Cathleen Liu (Fourth Year)
- Special Mention in Future Committee for Tamar Korn (First Year)

Eight pupils competed in the Manchester High School for Girls conference along with other local schools such as Cheadle Hulme School, Withington Girls School, Manchester Grammar School, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys and Altrincham Grammar School for Girls.

Our Yemen delegation won the entire conference, receiving the Outstanding Delegation award. This is a significant achievement, as our pupils were mostly Second, Third and Fourth Years competing against Sixth Form. The delegation, and individual awards, were made up of:

- Outstanding Delegate in Human Rights Committee for Cara Bell (Lower Sixth)
- Outstanding Delegate in Health Committee for Sophia St Clair (Fourth Year)
- Outstanding Delegate in Special Committee for Niall O'Reilly (Fourth Year)
- Highly Commended in Disarmament Committee for Luca Scorer (Fourth Year)
- Commended in Youth Committee for Amelia Gauld (Fourth Year)
- Best Young Delegate in Future Committee for Marco Burns (Third Year)
- Special Mention in Environment Committee for Cathleen Liu (Fourth Year)
- Delegation Representative William Lloyd (Second Year)

In June 2025 three delegations of pupils attended the Withington Girls' annual conference, representing Argentina, Denmark and DPRK.

For many of our pupils this was their first conference, and we were delighted with the number of individual awards. The following awards were given out:

- Human Rights Council - Special Mention for Cara Bell (Lower Sixth)
- Justice Council - Special Mention for Sean Sembatya (Lower Sixth)
- Commended for Christian Woodworth (Lower Sixth)
- Historical - Commended for June Moore (Fifth Year)
- DISEC - Special Mention for Luca Scorer (Fourth Year)
- WHO - Highly Commended for Sophia St Clair (Fourth Year)
- Commended for Edward Calvert (Third Year)
- Youth - Highly Commended for Rix Tang (Fourth Year)
- Political - Special Mention for Daniel Storey (Fourth Year)
- Commended for William Lloyd (Second Year)
- SPECCOM - Best Young Delegate for Ivan Manson (Fourth Year)
- Commended for Cathleen Liu (Fourth Year)
- Future - Best Young Delegate for Raphael Liu (Fourth)
- Health - Special Mention for George Culwick (Fourth Year)
- Best Young Delegate for Niall O'Reilly (Fourth Year)



W.S. Johnston Prize

Our annual creative writing competition for the Lower School returned with another wide-ranging and challenging brief this year. Our judge, former SGS Teacher of English Mrs Rayna Johnson, asked pupils to evoke 'A Sense of Belonging' in their writing, and the response was truly impressive. Over 100 high quality entries that encompassed a multitude of genres were submitted, making finalising a shortlist of just 12 an incredibly difficult task for the English Department.

However, our shortlisted entries and certificates were received by:

- Eva Miller (Second Year) – Winner
- Emmy Darnley (First Year) - Runner Up
- William Lloyd (Second Year) - Runner Up
- Charlie Roberts (Third Year) - Runner Up
- Grace Minnock (First Year) - Highly Commended
- Theia Birmingham (Third Year) - Highly Commended
- Bethan Morriss (Second Year) - Commended
- Sophie May (Second Year) - Commended
- Maggie Sidell (Second Year) - Commended
- Evie Lord (Second Year) - Commended
- Elizabeth Long (Third Year) – Commended
- Sophia Carr (Third Year) - Commended

GERMAN SPELLING BEE

This year I competed in the German Spelling Bee. It took place throughout the school year, starting in our classrooms for round one, all the way to Cambridge for round four – which was the nationals! Adam Ullah and I were the best in the First Years school competition, we then represented SGS at the regional final where I came fourth and Adam came third. The goal was to spell as many of the set words as you can in a minute. Every round we got new words to spell in German. For round one there was a hundred, but by nationals we had to learn three hundred in total. I got to the nationals and enjoyed the whole experience, even though at times it was challenging, but taking part in the Spelling Bee enriched my vocabulary massively.

Cara Acton (Second Year)

Frau Christmann, who ran the competition at school, said “I was very impressed by the pupils’ excellent recall of vocabulary and spelling. Well done, everyone and congratulations to the finalists!”

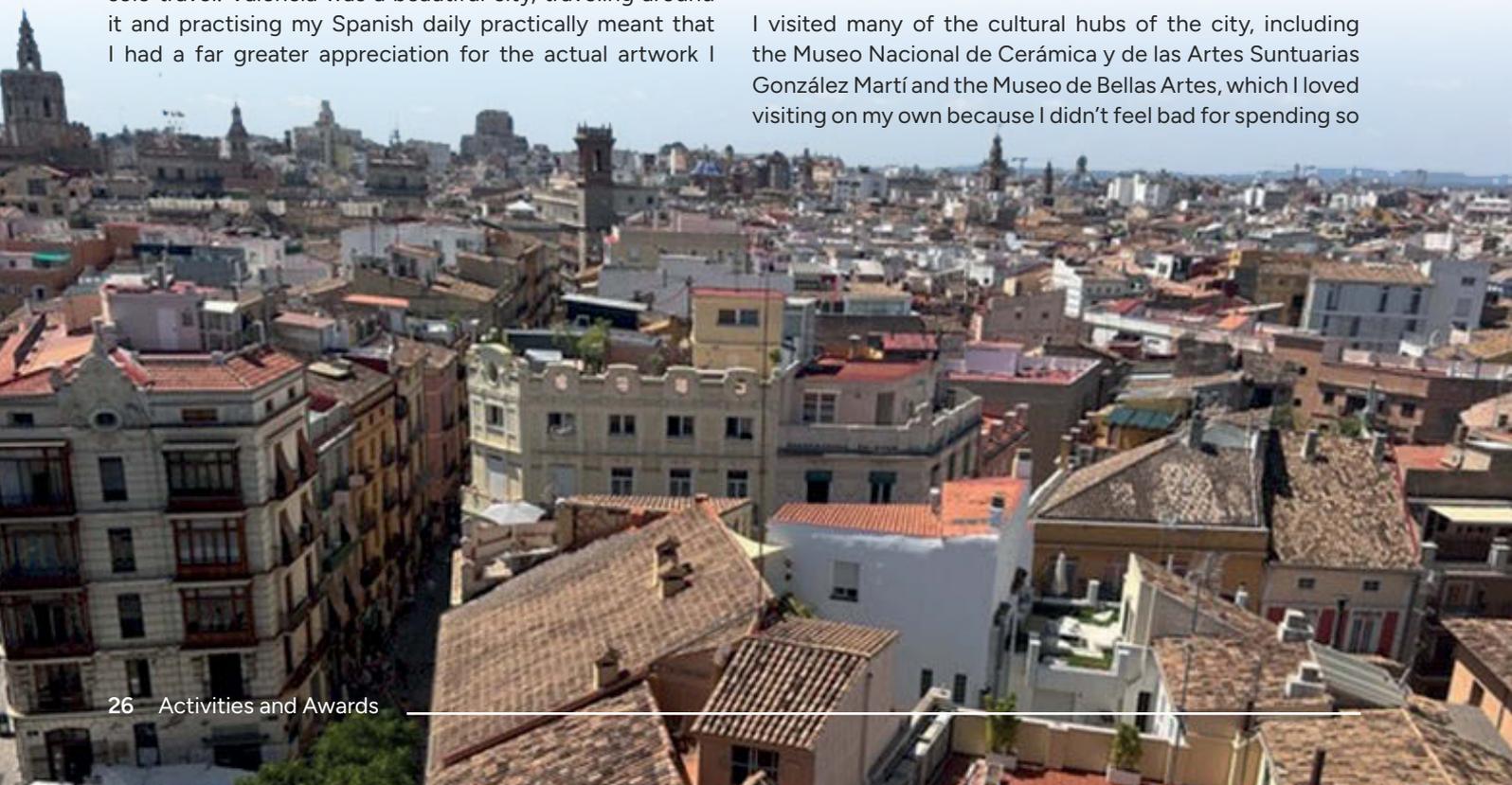


ALBERT JOHNSTON AWARD

My trip to Valencia felt like a truly once in a lifetime experience, I’m so grateful for the Albert Johnston team. It set me up for going to university this year, learning how to live by myself and dealing with the first night wobbles of solo travel. Valencia was a beautiful city, traveling around it and practising my Spanish daily practically meant that I had a far greater appreciation for the actual artwork I

was there to see and the wider context of the Spanish Impressionist movement. Whilst they are often overlooked on a global scale, it was great to see their local acclaim, whole floors of galleries dedicated to them.

I visited many of the cultural hubs of the city, including the Museo Nacional de Cerámica y de las Artes Suntuarias González Martí and the Museo de Bellas Artes, which I loved visiting on my own because I didn’t feel bad for spending so





long in each. But even outside the museums and galleries, the general architecture was stunning which you could see from the historic towers surrounding the old town. My room had a balcony that was great for hiding from the end of summer midday heat and looked down on a town square, creating a lovely atmosphere well into the evening. I also had great experiences meeting expats and other tourists from all over the world, giving me recommendations on places to see or restaurants to eat in, and even letting me through the passport line when my flight was delayed in Frankfurt, which was so amazingly kind and made my first solo trip a lot less intimidating.



By the end of my trip, I didn't want to leave. Valencia's old town has such a rich and varied history, it's clear to see the wealth the artists had to draw off and it's especially evident in their town and beachside scenes, the galleries were set out beautifully and created a really immersive experience, all in all an amazing trip.

Grace Lorimer
(Sixth Form Pupil)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Stockport Grammar School has had another busy year with multiple expeditions over the year and over 180 pupils receiving their DofE award at Bronze, Silver or Gold level.

We had another huge intake of 143 pupils who started their DofE Bronze award attending this year. Pupils completed training days at Lyme Park and Tegg's Nose before

completing their assessments in September. All teams passed their assessments in the Peak District completing a two-day, one night expedition from Monsal Head and camping near Monyash.





There was also a huge intake of Silver DofE pupils this year with 48 starting their award in September. Walking team pupils completed a training day up Kinder Scout before their practice expedition was unfortunately postponed due to the heatwave in June.

Our Silver Fifth Year canoe team completed their assessment in York on the River Ouse and were incredibly lucky with three perfect weather days! This team worked fantastically well together, and I look forward to seeing some of them at Gold level. Yet again we have had some great feedback from members of the public who have let me know how polite and pleasant team members are.



It has been great to see so many Lower Sixth pupils taking part in the DofE Gold award this year. We had five walking teams and one canoe team. With such huge numbers this required a lot of equipment, and a big thank you must go to the SPA for funding the DofE Department with 12 new tents.

The walking teams completed their four-day three-night assessment in the Lake District and all teams set themselves some amazing challenges over the assessment. For the first time three teams decided to wild camp up Scarfell Pike which pushed the teams out of their comfort zone. The weather was not kind, and they did amazingly to camp up high over 700m facing the elements. One team managed to complete ten Wainwrights over the four days!

The DofE Gold canoeing team undertook a new challenge for the Gold canoe assessment. Taking part in a four-day three-night canoe expedition in the River Wye on the Welsh border. Over four days the team paddled from Hereford to Monmouth on some of the hottest days of the year. The highlight being paddling some grade two rapids on the last day!

All teams have coped with varied conditions, and all worked extremely hard to complete their expeditions whether it be walking or canoeing.

Every team who does DofE faces their own challenges during the expedition, whether it be a two-day Bronze expedition or a four-day Gold expedition, so congratulations to everyone for completing each expedition along with their physical, skill and volunteering sections.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who give up their time to help out with the DofE expeditions, without you the DofE Award could not run, and we value all your help and support.



Miss L Turner
DofE Co-ordinator

INDUSTRIAL CADETS AWARD



Upon entering the 2025 Industrial Cadets Gold Award, Stockport Grammar School was tasked by Luxfer Mel Technologies to design an intermediate storage tank for their Zirconium slurry. The tank had to prevent the corrosive and abrasive slurry from settling and serve as a storage tank in the middle of the production process.

The team got to work straight away on developing potential solutions and conducted a research section on the properties and characteristics of the material they were working with. In this case the material was Zirconium.

The pupils presented initial ideas on how to approach the problem at hand. Within the group of seven, they split up tasks and responsibilities. Ben, Tim, Harrison and Sean focused more on the scientific and mathematical strategies along with the initial CAD designs.

Maizie, Emma and Seb focused on the research and presentation of the project which included the visual poster and stand for the awards day. Following six months of collective research, designing potential solutions and two site visits to Luxfer to test multiple options, the team collated all of their research and started to build the final model. This was done using the DT workshop at school

with the support of Mr Schofield (Design and Technology teacher) and Mr Alayan (Design and Technology Technician).

After the assembly of the 3D model, Ben and Tim conducted further testing and design work to decide on the final impeller choice. Once that had been determined and the presentation rounded off, work started on the report and poster to showcase and summarise the teams work over the last eight months. Upon the completion of all the necessary outcomes, the team had their online assessment where they presented their work and answered questions from the judging panel at Industrial Cadets.

The final stage of this project was to attend a celebration day at The University of Liverpool where the pupils met other competitors and the respective judges. The day ended with the presentation of awards, for which Stockport Grammar School won 'The Most Innovative' project of the 2025 cycle. Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable project, one that was very useful for the future engineers in the group as they followed and understood the step-by-step process when designing and engineering in industry. The pupils were incredibly grateful for all the hours their supervisor Mr Schofield dedicated towards providing guidance and support.

Industrial Cadets 2025: Emma Broomhead, Sean Sembatya, Maizie Farrar, Tim Williams, Ben Williams, Harrison Wilson and Seb Ogley (Sixth Form Pupils)

FIRST YEAR RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO TAWD VALE



A Celebration of Adventure and Friendship

As the school year drew to a close, our First Year pupils embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Tawd Vale Activity Centre - a place where adventure meets nature, and where children are free to explore, play, and grow. This end-of-year experience was more than just a getaway; it was a celebration of their first year at Senior School and a chance to bond beyond the classroom.



Tawd Vale proved to be the perfect setting for young minds to unwind and reconnect with the simple joys of outdoor life. Surrounded by woodland and fresh air, the centre offered a safe and exciting space for pupils to be themselves, try new things, and build confidence through shared experiences.

The range of activities on offer was nothing short of impressive. From climbing trees to rafting canoes, each challenge encouraged teamwork, resilience, and plenty of laughter. Whether pupils were navigating obstacle courses or paddling across the lake, every moment was filled with energy and enthusiasm.

We were fortunate to enjoy fantastic weather throughout the trip, which made the outdoor adventures even more enjoyable. The sunshine added a vibrant atmosphere to the experience, allowing pupils to make the most of every activity and spend quality time together in nature.

This residential wasn't just about fun - it marked a meaningful milestone. After a year of growth, learning, and transition into Senior School, the trip gave pupils a chance to reflect, celebrate, and look ahead to Second Year with excitement and confidence.

Tawd Vale delivered everything we hoped for and more: a place to laugh, learn, and create memories that will last a lifetime. Here's to the next chapter - and many more adventures to come!

Mr A Ehegartner
Head of First Year



MUNICH TRIP



I really enjoyed the German trip as I loved the experience of visiting the landmarks in the country as well as developing my skills in the language too.

When we first arrived in Germany (both excited and tired after waking up at 1am!) we first did a tour on foot around Munich. We got to look at the beautiful architecture in the city, including the famous town hall with its clock tower. There were also well-preserved statues everywhere and buildings still containing bullet holes from World War Two. There were also walls from hundreds of years ago that were used to protect the city. It felt like going back into the past and exploring it. We also went to a German Language school where they only teach in German. It was very engaging and easy to comprehend, so we were able to develop our German skills.

The rooms in the youth hostel were very clean, and it also had a wide space to move around. The food service was varied and delicious whenever we had our breakfast or dinner.

On our second day at the Deutsches Museum of Science and Technology, we had so much fun as not only were the exhibits engaging but also there was loads to see - including 3D printed robots and laser machines. Even the museum building looks so amazing. We then went to the Allianz Arena to take a tour around the stadium. It looked modern and huge. The pitch also looked like it had been kept well. After that, we went to the Hofbrauhaus restaurant where Hitler made speeches. The ceilings were so decorative and stylish with their detailed paintings. Finally, we went bowling and had a great time.

On the third day (which was my favourite day), we went to Neuschwanstein Castle built by King Ludwig II. It was snowing so the scene was absolutely amazing with horse drawn carriages adding to the beautiful scenery. Then we took the long (and slippery as it was still snowing) walk to the entrance, where we took pictures of the astonishing castle. We had a tour inside the castle, which was preserved

beautifully just as it had been many centuries ago. We also learnt about the history of both the castle and the king, including how the castle got its name and how it was actually unfinished. Then we did a tour around the nearby town of Füssen and learnt about the history of the street names and buildings; we saw a street called Brotmarkt which got its name from a bread market which used to take place there. In my opinion it was a very pretty town that you should visit. Later that evening we went to the cinema to watch Captain America - all in German.

On our last day, we went to the BMW Museum to look at the car exhibits. There was a lot to see, including engines through the years, and even Elvis Presley's BMW. Lots of people bought souvenirs here. Then we took a final tour around München before we left Germany.

Overall, I really enjoyed the different experiences I had in Munich. I would like to thank the teachers for taking us on this trip and Miss Gibson for organising it. We all really enjoyed the tours around.

Raphael Leong (Third Year)



RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND HISTORY TRIP TO KRAKOW, POLAND

Fifth Year Religious Studies and History pupils visited the Polish city of Krakow to expand their contextual understanding of topics covered in school. The conditions that led to World War Two, the Holocaust and other subsequent events were the main focal points of the four-day trip.

The enthusiastic GCSE pupils were eager to explore their surroundings. As they walked around the Old Town, they admired the stunning architecture of Krakow's main square – one of the largest in Europe – as well as taking in the sights of the cathedral, castle and a number of churches.

Kazimierz, the city's historic Jewish Quarter, was the first stop of the following day. The fact that few synagogues remained was a clear sign of the horrors and destruction of the Holocaust. One of the synagogues that is still standing is the Remuh Synagogue. The neighbouring cemetery contains the graves of many significant historical figures and pupils took time to reflect on the past. The group continued their tour with a visit to Schindler's Factory Museum as they discovered more about the German industrialist and the people he employed and helped. The final location for the day was dinner at a traditional Jewish restaurant with live Klezmer music, followed by an evening of tenpin bowling.

The third day was spent at the largest and most infamous concentration camp in Europe - Auschwitz-Birkenau. Approximately a million people - the majority of the victims of Auschwitz Concentration Camp - died in Birkenau and a large number of these were Jews. In the evening, the group enjoyed a meal at an Italian restaurant before having some free time to explore Krakow's Christmas markets.



The final location of the trip was the UNESCO-listed Wieliczka Salt Mines. The immersive tour gave the pupils the opportunity to explore the deep, 13th century, mines as they took in the fascinating art and architecture – including the beautiful etched walls.



Pupil Clara Zelfhof said: "The school trip to Poland was an incredibly meaningful and educational trip. Visiting Auschwitz helped me remember one of the saddest times in history, and I learned so much about the past and how people at the time had to live. In contrast, in Krakow we visited the Christmas markets where I enjoyed a lot of food and got some presents for my family. Overall, it is definitely a trip I'd recommend as it was one of the best trips I've been on."

Head of Religion and Philosophy, Mr Jamie Swann said: "The trip to Krakow is an incredibly important trip in the school calendar. Over four busy days in one of Europe's most beautiful and important cities, the pupils gained a deeper understanding of the broader historical and cultural conditions that led to World War Two, the Holocaust, Soviet occupation and the eventual break from Communist rule in 1991. The trip really brought learning to life, and it was an extremely rewarding experience."



CLIMBING TRIP



Twelve pupils travelled to the Costa Blanca to experience some of the best sport climbing available, improve their skills, experience communal living, and help manage a food budget for eight days. This has always been a fantastic trip, with busy and tiring days, but the pupils and staff attending this year made it feel easy. There was a wonderful mix of characters spread across the pupils from Fourth Year to Upper Sixth that all brought the best out of each other. Some had previously attended, and they led by example, both at the crag and in the villa. Even the standard of pupil cooking was high, which is rare thing indeed when they are cooking for 14.

This year's trip did suffer from unhelpful weather, and we experienced more rain than we ever had previously. Despite this we managed to climb every day, and pupils were able to progress and pick routes to either consolidate or

challenge their climbing. Miss Withington and I were really impressed by the pupil's determination throughout the week. The physical challenge of climbing every day is perhaps the easiest aspect to manage. The mental energy and strength needed to push yourself throughout a week is not something they will often experience, especially when combined with the physical element and the additional responsibilities of cooking, cleaning etc. It was fantastic to see how they supported and encouraged each other, and I could see how much each person took away from the week.

The trip was a great success! Everyone enjoyed eight days of warm if sometimes wet weather, great climbing, good company, nice food in the villa and out in town, as well as many beach walks and ice creams in the evenings.

Adam Hughes

Outdoor Education Co-ordinator



I really enjoyed the Spanish climbing trip and feel as if I got a lot out of it. My confidence in climbing (and lead climbing in particular) has really improved and I feel as if my skills have too. It not only improved my confidence, but the trip helped me to push myself more and, due to that, I was able to achieve my goal for the trip that seemed very difficult at the start. Climbing in Spain gave me the possibility to see many amazing crags and experience many different styles of climbing. Overall, the trip was one of my favourites I have been on and not only did my climbing improve, but so did my friendships with other people on the trip, even those who are school years ahead of me.

Mollie Farrar

(Fourth Year)

MATHS TRIP TO DISNEYLAND PARIS

Fourth Year mathematicians visited Disneyland Paris early in 2025. The budding 'Imagineers' learned all about how different rides subject the body to different forces. After a seminar on this and other aspects of the maths that are a daily part of life in the park (such as ride capacity and profitability), our pupils conducted their own experiments to gather data on what they had learned.

Using special scientific measuring apps, they recorded the forces as they were thrown from side to side, up and down and round and round on some of the most extreme rides in the park. They collected and pooled their data for further analysis. When they weren't collecting data, they were having a great time just feeling the forces and soaking up the atmosphere.

Trip leader and Maths Teacher Mr David Shingler said: "The great thing about this trip is that it really brings home to our pupils quite how integral maths is to so much in life. People ask 'what has maths got to do with Disneyland?' But, as we learn, it has everything to do with it!"



BATTLEFIELDS



During the Autumn Half Term, Third Year pupils made the annual trip to the battlefields of France and Belgium where they learnt more about the importance of remembrance. The first day of the trip, which is organised to complement work done in history lessons, saw pupils head to the Somme to visit sites and museums in the area.

Pupils were amazed at the size of the Lochnagar Crater, a truly visual reminder of the impact of war that was created when British mines exploded and marked the start of the Battle of the Somme.

Pupil Dan Sullivan said: "It was amazing to see the sheer size of the Lochnagar Crater. It was so surreal, and to think that it was normal to have explosions killing people so often is tragic."

The Somme 1916 Museum, which is located in the heart of the battlefields and in the centre of Albert – a city that symbolizes the First World War – gave the pupils an incomparable insight into what the life of a World War One soldier was like. Whilst there they also examined a number of artefacts from the period.

Dan observed: "Walking through those tunnels, surrounded by artifacts and displays, really brings the history to life in a way that's both educational and deeply moving. I got a sense of what the soldiers went through and the harsh realities of trench warfare. I felt more connected to the past and the people who lived through it."

Several of the travelling group laid a wreath in memory of Old Stopfordians lost in battle at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, a reminder of the local impact of the global conflict.



To round off an eye-opening first day, pupils visited Newfoundland Memorial Park. Whilst there a guide took them around a trench system and spoke to them about the horrors of this type of warfare.

Dan commented: "Walking through the area, with its preserved trenches and the staggering Caribou Monument, I got a real sense of the courage and sacrifice of the Newfoundlanders during the Battle of the Somme."

On the second day the historians crossed the border into Belgium to visit Ypres. In the First World War the town was flattened but it has now been rebuilt to its previous magnificent medieval architecture.

Inside the Cloth Hall on the market square – a building that was largely destroyed by artillery during the war – was the In Flanders Fields Museum, the next stop of the journey.

The museum pays great attention to the contemporary landscape as one of the last tangible witnesses of the war history and, from the restored Belfry tower, visitors can look out over the city and the surrounding battlefields.

The pupils then visited Tyne Cot Cemetery, an area where Commonwealth, French, Belgian and German forces fought almost continuously throughout the First World War.

Pupil Pearl Hughes said: "I found Tyne Cot Cemetery very moving because almost 12,000 servicemen were buried in that one cemetery. There were white headstones as far as the eye could see."

They moved on Langemark Cemetery, a World War One burial ground of around 44,000 German soldiers.

Pearl noted: "This cemetery was very different because the gravestones were flat like tiles on the ground, grey and had the names of at least 8 people on each stone. I was especially affected by the mass grave which held almost 25,000 German soldiers."

A highly poignant moment of the trip was the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, a service for everyone to reflect. During the ceremony, pupils George Maxwell and April Murison laid wreaths.

History Teacher and Head of Lower Sixth Mrs Heather Ashton said: "Many Old Stops remember their Battlefields trip as a highlight of their time here, which fuels our determination to ensure that current, and future, pupils continue to be offered the experience."

"We try to make the memory of the Old Stopfordians who gave their lives in the Great War as relevant as possible to our pupils; commenting on age and relating experience of

teenagers and young adults, linking them geographically to where current pupils live, and even what house they were in when at SGS."

Head of History Mr Tom Leng concluded: "Here at SGS our department has a long tradition of running overseas tours to places of historical importance. However, out of all the trips we organise, the Battlefields trip is by far one of the most poignant for both pupils and staff.

"Visiting such sites at this time of year adds an extra layer of emotion with the tour being so close to Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. Experiencing the sites of the Somme region and Ypres allows our pupils to imagine what life was like for all the British soldiers and volunteers who travelled across the country towards the South of England and over the sea to the Western Front over 100 years ago."

SKI TRIPS



Second Year

Early on a Sunday morning in December, 67 excited Second Year pupils embarked on a journey to Sestriere, Italy, for the much-anticipated school ski trip.

A long day of travel followed, arriving at the Villagio Olimpico Hotel late afternoon, setting the stage for an unforgettable week.

The skiing adventure began the following day, with pupils' abilities ranging from complete beginners to seasoned veterans of the slopes.

Over the next five days, pupils participated in intensive skiing lessons, spending hours each day honing their skills. It was remarkable to see their confidence grow through the week. The instructors were impressed with the pupils' progress, noting how quickly they adapted to the challenges of skiing.

Outside of lessons, the pupils quickly settled into the routine and became more organised. Meals at the hotel

were varied, with the highlight being the fresh pizza available daily, much to the delight of the pupils.

Evenings were filled with a variety of activities designed to entertain and engage the pupils. Highlights included a trip to the cinema where they enjoyed the showing of 'Red One',



a lively disco at a local nightclub, which provided a fun and energetic atmosphere, and a magic show that captivated the audience with its impressive tricks and illusions.

One of the most memorable evening events was the game of 'Taskmaster', superbly hosted by Mrs Jenner and Mr Allen, which brought out the competitive spirit in everyone and resulted in lots of laughter and memorable moments.

Throughout the trip, the pupils were a credit to the school, demonstrating excellent behaviour and camaraderie. Their positive attitude and willingness to support each other were evident in every activity, both on and off the slopes. The teachers and staff were proud of how the pupils represented the school.

The trip was a resounding success and provided the pupils with an experience they will likely cherish for years to come.

Third Year

This year's ski trip for Third Year pupils was nothing short of spectacular! With excellent snow conditions, beautiful scenery, and unforgettable experiences on and off the slopes, it was truly a trip to remember.

Set against the stunning backdrop of Passo Tonale the group was met with excellent December snow conditions and pristine pistes. The fresh, crisp mountain air and clear blue skies provided the ideal setting for pupils to hone their skiing skills.

From beginners taking their first tentative turns, to more experienced skiers carving confidently down challenging slopes, there was something for everyone.

The pupils' enthusiasm was infectious, with laughter and camaraderie echoing through the snowy landscape.

Under the guidance of skilled instructors and supportive teachers, the pupils made impressive progress, showing resilience and determination throughout the trip.



Equally commendable was the outstanding behaviour of the pupils, who demonstrated teamwork, respect, and responsibility at every turn.

Teachers and staff couldn't have been prouder of how the pupils represented Stockport Grammar School, both on and off the slopes.

Beyond skiing, the trip offered a variety of memorable activities, including evening entertainment that helped strengthen friendships and create lasting memories.

One pupil summed it up perfectly: "It was an amazing experience. The snow was fantastic, and I loved spending time with my friends. I'll never forget it!"

The ski trip was more than just a holiday; it was an adventure filled with personal growth, teamwork, and new challenges. The memories created will undoubtedly last a lifetime and serve as a testament to the incredible spirit and camaraderie of the Third Year pupils.

MADRID

In June 29 pupils from different year groups took a trip to Madrid which included a variety of enjoyable and educational activities. On arrival we enjoyed a fun game of bowling before heading back to our cosy hostel for rest. Our hostel had a terrace in which all pupils could hang out and relax every night.

The next morning the hostel provided us with lots of delicious options for breakfast to energise us for our busy day ahead. We took the metro to visit Real Madrid's Estadio Santiago Bernabeu where we learnt a lot about the history of Spanish football and their passion for the sport. Afterwards, we all put on our aprons, rolled up our sleeves and began to cook traditional Spanish dishes, such as

paella. The food was mouthwatering, and many pupils even asked to eat more! Then, we visited Retiro Park. Despite the hot weather, we all enjoyed the many activities the park offered us, including the boating and ball games. We also experienced Spanish culture by finishing off our evening watching a heart touching and vibrant flamenco show. We all watched in awe and were amazed by the talent of the dancers and the musicians. The singer and guitarist were very kind and even took a picture with us after the show!

Fully excited, we woke up energized for the third day to come. We were dropped off at the impressive Las Ventas bullring to find out about the art of bullfighting. We had a personal guided tour which showed us the history of the





art, and we also got to see the bulls (from a distance, of course.) Many pupils were thrilled to find out where we were going next...

Not long after, we arrived at the famous Parque Warner Theme Park. We got to go on many different rides, such as the Batman roller coaster. There was even a different section with smaller rides for those who weren't as experienced with roller coasters. Pupils were given the freedom to ride as many rides as they pleased! After our exhilarating experience we headed back to the hostel for a quiz game night. The winners won a big chocolate bar and the people who came last (us) won a wooden spoon which marked our loss! We then went back to our rooms to rest and prepare for our final day.

On the last day we collected our belongings and visited the El Rastro flea market and other local sites in the city to buy souvenirs for us, our family and friends. We bought our lunch and then set off to the Madrid-Barajas Airport for our return flight.

Overall, we found the trip extremely entertaining, and enjoyed finding out more about Spanish culture outside of the classroom. We got to talk to many locals who were very kind and welcoming. This trip was really successful with amazing weather and plentiful activities. We hope to go again one day.

Mina Farooq and Erina Kader (Fourth Year)



HISTORY TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES

At the start of the Easter holidays, 47 students and five staff set off on an exciting adventure across to the United States, diving into some of the most important moments in American history.

The trip took in three major cities – Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and New York – each packed with iconic landmarks and fascinating stories.

The first stop was New York City, the country's most populous city, where students explored the 9/11 Memorial, the Statue of Liberty, and Ellis Island.

History was brought to life by local guides on both days. There was also time for a spot of retail therapy in the iconic Times Square.



Philadelphia offered a glimpse into the early days of the USA, with stops at Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.

It was a brilliant mix of education and adventure and a trip that won't be forgotten anytime soon.

Students also got to experience a political rally with thousands descending into the city. This obviously wasn't planned as part of the itinerary, but it was a unique opportunity and a moment none of us will forget.

Head of History and Politic Mr Tom Leng commented: "As always this was a trip crammed full of history, culture and American food."

Finally, in Washington, students visited the Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, and several museums, including the powerful National Museum of African American History and Culture.

"The students got a lot out of the trip, and it was an experience they will never forget. I just want to thank them for being amazing company and Mrs Ashton for organising such a special trip as always"

As well as learning loads, the group had a great time soaking up the culture, trying new food, and experiencing life in some of America's most famous cities.



ABERDOVEY



In the last week of Summer Term 60 pupils made the journey to Aberdovey (Aberdyfi) in Mid-Wales to take part in an outdoor personal development week with the Outward Bound Trust. This is not your typical activity centre course but it instead uses the activities and environment to challenge and teach pupils about themselves, their roles within a team and how to overcome and manage tasks. The week is centred around a tough two-day expedition, which often is the first time pupils will have carried a large rucksack with all their own tents, stoves, food, etc. Once you add in the mountainous terrain similar to that found on Gold DofE, pupils really are stretched and need to pull together to make it to the end in good spirits.

When it comes to rising to the challenge, our pupils certainly did SGS proud. From the very start they embraced the experience and emersed themselves in the activities and challenges. No group had the same activity programme, but the overall experience was tailored and adapted throughout the week to allow them to get the most out of their course. The standard of activity and high level of challenge they experienced during the expedition was a testament to their attitude and effort to push themselves. With the nice weather, a number of groups completed their expeditions without tents. Even after nine years of running this trip I don't remember a better star-filled sky than the one experienced this year.

I hope that those who attended enjoyed their week and will be able to take some of the things they have learnt and experienced with them into the rest of their time at SGS and beyond.

Adam Hughes
Outdoor Education Co-ordinator

My trip to Aberdovey was one of the best experiences I've ever had. Before we went I was quite nervous because I worried that I wouldn't make many friends. But once we got there I quickly realised how friendly and supportive everyone was. By the end of the week I had made loads of new friends and grown much closer to people I didn't know as well before, which made the whole experience even more special.

One of the moments I'm most proud of was jumping off the pier. At first I felt a mix of excitement and nerves, but I decided to be brave and go first. Not only did I do it once, but I was so happy with myself that I went back and jumped again! That moment showed me that if I push myself, I can achieve more than I think, and it gave me a lot of confidence.

The overnight expedition was the biggest challenge for me. Carrying my rucksack and walking such a long way felt difficult at times, but the views along the way were absolutely stunning, which made it worthwhile. When we set up camp, I loved sleeping in a cosy tent with my friends - it felt like a real adventure. Waking up in the morning and opening the tent to see the lake and the beautiful scenery around us is something I'll never forget.

From Aberdovey, I've learnt so much about myself and about working with others. I discovered that I'm stronger than I thought, both physically and mentally, and that challenges feel much easier when you support each other as a team. Back at school and at home, I want to remember how important it is to try new things, step outside my comfort zone, and work together with the people around me. I know the confidence I gained in Aberdovey will help me in the future too.

Holly Stephenson
(Second Year)



ADVENTURE AWARD



This summer, having received the Adventure Award, we stayed a week at 2,800 metres in the Swiss Alps. Over the course of the week we learnt key glacier skills such as using crampons for walking up and down steep ice, using pulley systems for crevasse rescue and walking across ice in pairs roped together in case one of us fell down a crevasse! On the first day, before we walked up to the mountain hut, we did some slab climbing and the guide taught us the knots we needed to know for the coming days. On one of the first days up in the mountains, we got up at 4:30am and hiked up to 3,500 metres, arriving there before 9am to see the beautiful view in the morning sun. On another day we did multi-pitch climbing and then descended down a boulder slope back to the refuge in time to eat a quick lunch before heading back to the van. We were done by about 1pm most days so we had the time to sit and drink free tea and enjoy the views from the refuge. We really enjoyed this amazing experience and hope to use these skills in future adventures.

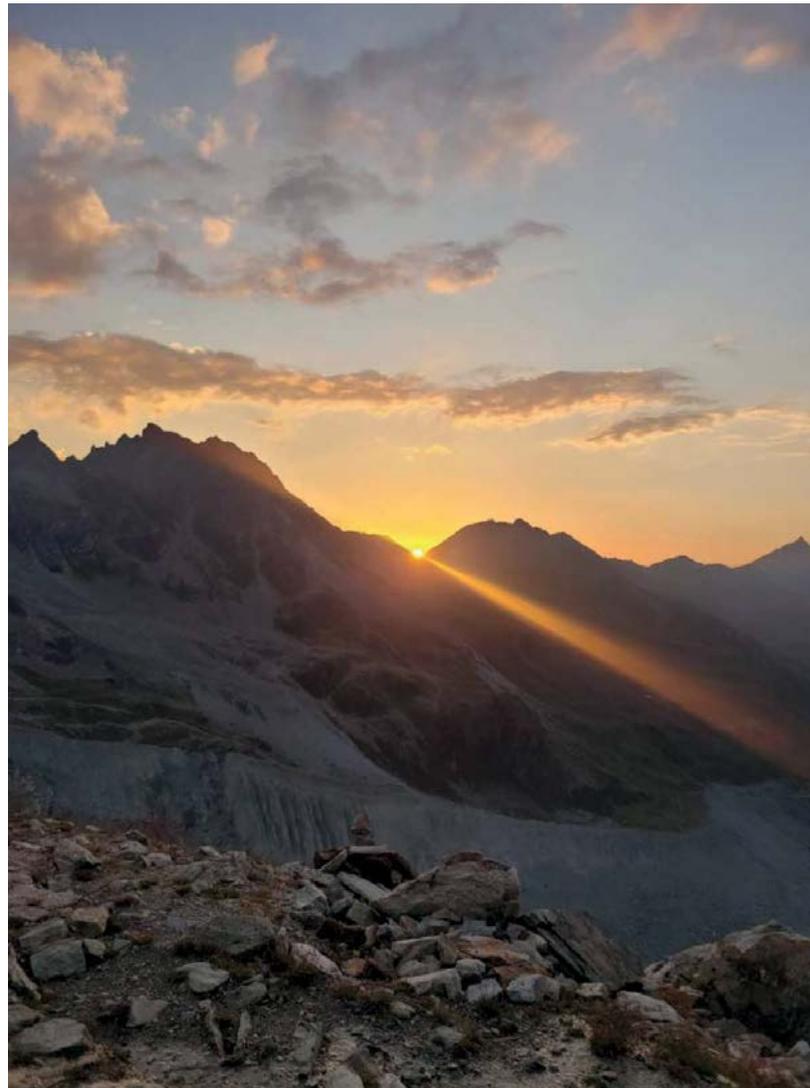
Caitlin Hill (Lower Sixth)
Ella Higgins (Fifth Year)

With the support and collaboration of some generous Old Stops, we have been able to create the Adventure Award to help provide and support pupils with opportunities that may otherwise be out of their reach.

The main experience on offer is a chance to go to Switzerland and take part in a week long Introduction to Alpine Mountaineering course through International School of Mountaineering (ISM). Sixth Formers Caitlin Hill and Ella Higgins were the first lucky recipients to receive this award.

The course provided a great opportunity, not just for its technical input, but also the experience of independent travel, exposure to new environments, new people and culture. We hope that more pupils will be able to take advantage of this Award and experience ISM in the summer of 2026.

Adam Hughes
Outdoor Education Co-ordinator



USA PHYSICS TRIP



Middle School and Sixth Form Physics pupils embarked on the trip of a lifetime, spending six action-packed days in the United States to deepen their understanding of space and science in the real world.

The adventure began as they arrived in Orlando, Florida, where pupils settled into their hotel and enjoyed a relaxing evening with pizza and leisure time – recharging for the exciting days ahead.

Day two was spent at the Kennedy Space Centre, Florida's gateway to space. The scientists explored the venue and found out more about the story of space exploration as they looked closely at spacecraft including the Space Shuttle Atlantis and the Saturn V moon rocket. An exciting day was concluded with Mexican food at the impressive ICON Park.

The travellers didn't have far to go on day three as they crossed the street to iFLY where they experienced the thrill of indoor skydiving – bringing the dream of flight to life.

The evening was spent at WonderWorks, an indoor wonderland of Physics experiments, simulations and games combining education and entertainment thanks to over 100 hands-on exhibits. The pupils enjoyed dinner with a difference as they attended the hilarious Outta Control Magic Dinner Show.

On day four the group spent the morning at Cocoa Beach, visiting the well-known Ron Jon's surf shop and, of course, the stunning beach. Then the physicists made their way back to the Kennedy Space Centre for their unforgettable Astronaut Training Experience. At the out-of-this-world venue the pupils trained like the next generation of space explorers and enjoyed making their way around the activities that included using immersive simulation technology and authentic NASA science.

Day five was spent at Universal Studios and the Island of Adventure Orlando – and



the intrepid pupils loved having the whole day to explore. A highlight for everyone was the high-speed Jurassic World VelociCoaster – the fastest and tallest launch coaster in Florida!

After checking out of their hotel on the final day the pupils headed to Boggy Creek where they boarded an airboat and took in the incredible beauty of nature, including the wetlands and wildlife.

There was time for some last-minute shopping at the Florida Mall before they hopped on their coach for one last time to head to the airport for their flight home.

The pupils arrived back mid-morning the next day – tired from the long flight but buzzing with excitement and unforgettable memories.

Pupil Isaac Clowes hailed it as the “trip of a lifetime”, Toby Gleave commented: “I enjoyed learning about the topic that interests me more than anything” and Alfie Kermod added: “I really enjoyed learning about life in space – best trip ever.”

Excursion organiser and Head of Physics Mrs Heather Fenton said: “The pupils were amazing throughout the whole trip, and it was a joy to spend time with them. When I asked each of them what their highlight was, they all said different things – showing how many great activities were packed into the itinerary!”

The activity organisers said that they were impressed with how eagerly the pupils threw themselves into everything and remarked that they were “exceptional” – which is always wonderful to hear.

Pupil Reviews

The early start on our first full day in Orlando was well worth it as we headed over to the Kennedy Space Center for a full day of exploring. We especially enjoyed seeing the suspended Space Shuttle Atlantis up close in one of the buildings, not to mention the legendary Saturn V rocket - it is impossible to comprehend the scale of these machines until you see them in person. Of course, not to be forgotten was the gift shop, a sight itself to behold! Although each day was amazing, I think out of the entire trip my top day would have to be the morning at Cocoa Beach followed by astronaut training in the afternoon. After being kitted out in our matching t-shirts, in groups we took part in some incredible simulations including a Mars rover landing, VR walking on Mars and my personal favourite, the microgravity simulator. In each simulation we would work as a team to complete tasks in a friendly competition that my group sadly lost. All in all, at the end of the week I was very sad to have to head home again after a fantastic week I will remember for a long time to come.

Ella Clayton (Lower Sixth)

Arguably, the best part of the trip for me was Universal Studios. There were so many things to do in both Islands of Adventure and Universal Studios however, and we decided to start the day strong with the VelociCoaster, the fastest ride in the park. The 0-70 mph in 2.4 second launch really woke us up and got us ready to go for the day. We spent the day wandering round the two parks, from the delight that was Minion Land to being transported into a Marvel comic at Marvel Superhero Island Universal, was by no means short of things to experience. A large variety of rides were on offer including the 3D Escape from Gringotts and the

Incredible Hulk coaster, which looked amazing, illuminated by its green lights in the evening. The hardest part of the day was trying to not spend all of our money in the many, many shops, from interesting yet delicious ice cream flavours to iconic fluffy unicorn hats and minion slippers (a personal favourite), the vast amount of merchandise available was far too large to comprehend. The day came to an end with dinner at the Hard Rock Café and one final walk around the parks. Watching the fireworks at Hogwarts and seeing the lights switched on when it got dark was a great way to end an unforgettable day at Universal.

Rebecca Peet (Lower Sixth)

After a Mickey-Mouse-waffle breakfast, we headed over to the nearby iFly centre, where we had a blast experiencing indoor skydiving in the high-speed wind tunnels, as well as learning about the technicalities behind how the wind tunnels are designed for safe indoor flight. We also experienced the Wonderworks Museum, where there were rooms full of interactive games/exhibits and a variety of sensory activities, including an adrenaline-inducing two-person gyroscope (which I was glad took place before dinner) and wonder coaster simulator, which were both exhilarating, and a good intro for the astronaut training later. The high-ropes course was especially popular, and a comedy-magic show over pizza at Wonderworks, then evening swimming, finished off a great day. Finally, the trip concluded with a high-speed airboat ride across the vast Florida Everglades, spotting wild alligators, herons and even a snapping turtle.

Rose McDonald (Lower Sixth)

MUSIC

It has been another busy and rewarding year in the Music Department. This included the first fully staged musical production since Covid alongside a rich and varied concert programme. Over 300 pupils in the Senior School have engaged in musical activities in one way or another, from the complete beginner to those that have their sights firmly set on a career in music. We greatly welcome the contributions of all those that have participated.

For many the highlight of the year was the production of 'Sister Act' in the Spring Term. Months of planning and intensive rehearsal culminated in an incredible spectacle of music, dance and drama that will live long in the memory both of those involved and those that came to watch. The standard achieved was phenomenal and a huge credit to all involved. One long-standing member of staff commented that this was the best production she had ever seen here in 30 years. The whole show fizzed from start to finish with an electrifying mix of vibrant vocal harmonies, accomplished solos and energetic instrumental accompaniment. In many ways the show epitomised the great strength of our school community and the exceptional quality evident in the Arts.

Our choirs remain incredibly strong across the full age range with around 150 pupils actively involved one way or another. Chorus delighted audiences with their performances of Vivaldi's 'Magnificat', complete with outstanding solos and instrumental accompaniment, and a medley from 'Les Misérables'. Chamber Choir enjoyed a wonderful trip to Oxford in January, in which they collaborated with University College Oxford, where one of our recent pupils is now a choral scholar, in a performance of Choral Evensong in the historic college chapel setting. Junior Chamber Choir excelled in the Alderley Edge Music Festival and Vox gave uplifting performances in occasions such as the Lower School Recital. The magic of the Carol Service continues to inspire with the mix of candlelight and soaring descants, and it was great to have all of the first-year pupils involved once again, with their spirited rendition of 'Masters in this Hall'.

First Orchestra enjoyed lighter repertoire in the Christmas Concert with medleys from 'Chicago' and 'Guys & Dolls' followed by the obligatory festive rollick through 'Sleigh Ride'.

String Orchestra delighted audiences with repertoire ranging from Sibelius and Purcell to Latin Dance medleys. Second Orchestra also continues to thrive, and it is great to have so many players coming through on multiple different instruments.

Wind Orchestra, Concert Band and Brass Ensemble gave us a fantastic selection of traditional pieces and more contemporary medleys throughout the year. Big Band again entertained wonderfully at Speech Day with toe-tapping numbers. The two jazz bands impressed all with their bravura improvisations and likewise our three percussion ensembles with their eclectic arrangements.

All First Year pupils continue to enjoy the wonderful opportunity to have introductory lessons on a variety of orchestral instruments and it is great to have around 300 pupils actively learning instruments in one-to-one lessons. Guitar Ensemble, Junior Strings, Junior Woodwind and Junior Percussion Ensembles provide further opportunities for all pupils, irrespective of prior experience, and it has been lovely to see them perform so well in concerts throughout the year. Many of our pupils have performed in informal MARS recitals, which provide further opportunities to gain confidence and experience in solo performance. We also had a very enjoyable trip to the Bridgewater Hall to see the Hallé Orchestra and it was inspiring to see some of our instrumental staff perform in a professional concert setting.

The summer term included a chance to say a huge thank you to our outgoing Upper Sixth Form in the Leavers' Concert. They have made a wonderful contribution and we wish them every success in the future. The final highlight of the year was the annual Music Festival, adjudicated by our former colleague, Mr Phil Robinson, now Director of Music at Birkenhead School. This event was a wonderful showcase of instrumental and vocal solos and ensembles from Senior pupils of all ages.

So many pupils have participated in Music activities across the year, and I would like to express my sincere thanks and congratulations to everyone involved. We are immensely proud of all that you have achieved. I would also like to thank the wonderful team of music staff that work so hard to encourage our pupils and enable them to develop. Additionally, my thanks too to the other academic, catering and caretaking staff that do so much to facilitate the multiple events. It has been a great team effort from everyone involved.

Michael Dow
Director of Music

AUTUMN CONCERT



The 2024 Autumn Concert, the start of the SGS concerts over the coming year - was an incredibly enjoyable experience. After venturing my way through the snow to the warmth of the school, I sat down in my seat, anxious to hear our first act of the evening: the Second Orchestra, expertly conducted by Mr Newlove. We started off the evening with 'Ragtime Roundup', a light jazzy number before following that up with 'Yellow Bird' and 'Capriccio Espagnol,' which, with their light and toe tapping nature, were cheery starts to the evening.

We then enjoyed The Dysfunktionals, one of the school's two jazz bands, whose skills are unmatched by any jazz quartet I've seen in a long time. Led by bass player Mr Hamilton, they started off with 'Black Coffee', by Burke and Webster, which pulled the audience into the world of jazz. With beautiful vocals provided by Mia Krywonos, we were all hooked and waiting for more which was provided by the next song, 'A Night in Tunisia.' Fast, toe-tapping, and with great sax playing by May Nassar, this one certainly had the whole room in awe, with the cherry on top being a short but sweet drum solo by Enoch Ajayi. When the song was finished, the applause was most deserved.

Shortly afterwards we were treated to the Big Band, conducted by the master of horns, Mr Evans. Starting off with 'I Wanna be Like You' from Disney's The Jungle Book, the audience certainly swung to the catchy rhythm. This was followed by 'The Chicken' and a little bit of Michael Jackson with 'I Want You Back', a pleasant and incredibly welcome surprise!

After a lovely interval, we moved on to the second half with the Wind Orchestra, once again conducted by Mr Newlove. We started with the fittingly named 'Flourish for Wind Orchestra' and then followed up with the favourite TV Classic 'The Simpsons' which for any Simpsons fan proved a highlight of the evening. We then rounded off with the charming 'Liberty Bell', a jolly marching song.

We then enjoyed the second of SGS Jazz Bands, the S Club Diminished Sevenths, who were once again accompanied by Mr Hamilton on bass and a guest arrival, Mr Johnson on drums. We first enjoyed the lovely 'Petit Fleur' before following with one of my personal favourites of the evening, 'Blue Skies', wonderfully sung by Anjali Abraham, and with backing piano from Dan Wood and woodwind from Sachin Gholkar. This piece was enjoyable through every second: the vocals and the rhythm were sweet and a wonderful way to finish up the jazz scene for the evening.

For the final act of the evening, we had the Chorus (in which I was involved) singing a musical finale with the medley from the popular musical 'Les Miserables'. We went through seven of the songs from the hit musical: 'At the End of the Day', 'I Dreamed a Dream', 'Castle on a Cloud', 'Do You Hear the People Sing', 'On my Own', 'Bring him Home', and 'Finale' - all expertly conducted by Director of Music, Mr Dow, and accompanied by the incredible pianist Nathan Monk. The performance was beautiful and breathtaking, with incredible solos from Harriet Thomson, Dan Wood, Ella Jones, James Caine, Annabel Huxley, Bella Rich, Sean Sembatya, Rosie Moore and May Nassar. A formidable list of soloists, all of whom made the whole performance feel especially wonderful! Overall, I had the most incredible experience at the Autumn Concert!

A wonderfully varied evening of amazingly talented pupils and brilliant performances! I look forward to returning for the next concert.

William Lightening
(Fourth Year)



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Christmas Concert 2024 was an enchanting evening filled with mesmerizing music and the festive ambiance that defines the holiday season. Each performance was a testament to the dedication and passion of the pupils and the dedicated staff who nurtured and supported them. The concert truly embodied the spirit of Christmas, and the packed hall reflected the excitement and enthusiasm of the pupils, their families, and the entire school community.



The concert program was truly impressive, showcasing a remarkable variety of musical styles. This ensured that there was something for everyone's taste, making it a delightful experience to witness the performers effortlessly transitioning between genres and styles with remarkable versatility. Their consistent high-quality production was evident throughout the performance.

Each of these groups brought their inimitable performance to the stage, which was further enhanced by the successful nature of the evening. The choirs shone, the orchestras performed exceptionally well, and the bands delivered amazing vocals, precise playing, and a strong sense of teamwork. The effort was evident in every performance, leading to a seamless transition from one ensemble to the next.

The First Orchestra performance was definitely my favourite. As a member of the group, I had a fantastic experience contributing to the orchestra. We performed medleys from 'Guys & Dolls' and another iconic musical, 'Chicago'. The way these pieces came together was incredible. The medleys were full of energy and charisma, and the transitions between songs were seamless. The cohesion between the different instruments was amazing, showcasing the professionalism of each player. Leroy Anderson's 'Sleigh Ride' brought the night's best moment

to a close. It was an absolutely perfect Christmas piece - a bright and airy melody that everyone would love to hear. As this piece unfolded, everyone could feel the energy in the room, with playful rhythms and tempo. We performed it not just for the sake of performance, but to celebrate and enjoy the moment. The concert wasn't just about the performances; it was also about the atmosphere and the sense of community it created. The enthusiastic applause after every single piece underscored how much this meant to those performing. The palpable feeling of togetherness in the room was evident as pupils, staff, and families joined together in celebration of the festive season through music.

The organisation of the evening was also impressive. The seamless transition between groups and refreshments while waiting for the concert to resume after the interval were exceptional as always. Orchestrating such a diverse ensemble of musicians and an eclectic repertoire presents a formidable challenge, yet the evening progressed seamlessly. I want to express my most sincere gratitude to the teachers and staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, ensuring that everything ran smoothly without a hitch.

Overall, the Christmas Concert was an absolute resounding success. It showcased the incredible talent in music at Stockport Grammar School and brought the school community together for a joyous celebration. From the soulful choirs to the lilting strains of the brass ensemble, and the resounding finale of the concert band, each segment of the concert delighted the senses. It was an evening that was both a privilege to perform in and an absolute delight to be an audience member.

Howard Kam
(Fourth Year)



CAROL SERVICE



As 2024 drew to a close, Stockport Grammar had the honour of returning to St George's Church to perform our annual Carol Service. The church was overflowing with proud parents and spectators eager to enjoy the carols. The concert commenced with Chamber Choir's annual rendition of the beloved 'Gaudete', performed, unlike all other carols, from the back of the church, allowing the music to travel up the aisle. This song was shortly followed by 'Once In Royal David's City', but before the choir began to sing, the soloist Erin Windas captivated us all with her performance of the first verse. Every congregational carol from the first to the last created a sense of unity amongst us all, due to the mix of the audience singing the tune and the Choir's harmonies and descants, which we all revelled in singing. After some congregational carols, our wonderful 70 pupil/staff Chorus had the opportunity to perform an exciting and original rendition of 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' by arr. Nicholson. The blend of different voices and rhythms allowed the choir's talent to be heard. Chamber Choir also had the chance to display some technically difficult pieces: 'A Boy was Born' and 'Angels Carol'. These pieces allowed the audience to witness not only the capabilities of the choir members, but also the conductor Mr Dow, who taught and practised these



pieces with us. We also had the privilege of watching all the members of the First Year perform 'Masters in this Hall' conducted by Mr Newlove.

This impressive performance allowed the children to experience the magic of being in Choir and hopefully encourage them to join one! Moreover, Mrs Mathews' Junior Chamber Choir amazed us with 'All on a Silent Night'; it really demonstrated the musical abilities of the lower school. The concert concluded with Chamber Choir's version of 'Lullay My Liking'. The only light came from the small candles in the hands of the singers, who were dispersed throughout the church to immerse the audience in the song. This song showed the talents of the four soloists: Sophie Bates, Hannah Gall, Abigail Sullivan and Anjali Abraham, by allowing them to stand alone and project their voices throughout the church. The choice of having no accompaniment really allowed all voices to be heard and appreciated and was truly a spectacular start to the Christmas season.

Annabel Huxley
(Lower Sixth)



WINTER CONCERT 2025



The Winter Concert started off the new calendar year in style and there was a great array of potential and talent shared with the parents who came to watch their children perform.

There was a lot of fresh talent on show throughout the concert as many of the players had only been playing their instruments since September. The Hallam Hall was filled with many excited performers and parents whose expectations were fulfilled more than they ever could have imagined. Senior Percussion, who were mostly made up of older pupils, kicked off the concert with a tuned percussive piece called 'Caravan'. They then played a piece on buckets which was called 'Recycled'. The piece looked really impressive, but also fun to play, and it gave the less experienced pupils a great idea of how fun it can be to be part of the ensembles and travel further within their musical journey.

Next, Junior Strings took us on a tour of the world starting off in Brazil with an 'Open String Samba' which was extremely impressive, especially seen as most of the group were reasonably new starters. They then took us somewhere a little closer to home across to Ireland with 'The Wind that Shakes the Barley', which was a more challenging piece for the group to add to their repertoire, but the performers rose to the challenge and performed it brilliantly.

Junior Percussion, just like Junior Strings, with lots of new starters played a piece composed by Mr Landon called 'The Crossover'. It was full of creativity and was extremely entertaining and exciting to watch. They then played a piece on the tuned percussion called 'The Balafon', which contained lots of texture changes within the music, which will have put their counting skills to the test (an important skill to learn for new starters especially if you're a drummer)!

We became time travellers when we were taken back in time by Junior Woodwind to our Christmas concert with 'Dusty the Binman' which was a brand-new take on the well-known traditional Christmas tune, 'Frosty the Snowman', Baloo bear then featured with a rendition of the 'Bare Necessities' from the well-known story and Disney film, 'The Jungle Book'. The new starters within the group were tested and challenged by the difficulty these pieces brought. However, they rose to the challenge with enjoyment and style.



Mr Landon then made another appearance conducting Intermediate Percussion, who used the tuned percussion to perform one of Europe's most well-known songs, 'The Final Countdown'. To finish their set they played a more classical yet still well-known piece 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' which showed off a range of talent within the ensemble.

The concert finished with Mr Newlove's Second Orchestra taking to the stage. Their opening piece was an arrangement of 'Battle Zone', which features within one of the orchanics books. 'Slavonic Dance no. 7' was an interesting way to close the concert. Finn, our Baritone player, played the challenging baritone part wonderfully in canon with a selection of the other instruments. The piece also featured some extremely loud trumpet playing by Charlotte Sullivan, Anya Wells and Thomas Collins which I'm sure Mr Newlove may even say was too loud!

Overall, the concert was a brilliant night. It was incredible to see how many new starters the Music Department have gained again this year and also how much they have progressed, despite being relatively new starters. I enjoyed the evening, and it looked like everybody enjoyed themselves too. The first concert was a great experience for many of the performers, and it was pleasing to see new faces within the audience. The future of music at SGS looks bright.

Anya Wells
(Third Year)



SUMMER CONCERT

The much-anticipated Summer Concert in the Dining Hall proved to be an evening filled with musical excellence and diverse performances that captivated the audience from start to finish.



After a brief, but warm, welcome from Mr Dow, the Director of Music, the concert kicked off with an energetic performance from Senior Percussion. Under the expert direction of Mr Landon, the group impressed with their renditions of 'Low Life' by Bedford and 'Quadratics', an original composition by Mr Landon himself. The second piece was particularly noteworthy as the quartet circled a drum kit, maintaining flawless rhythm - a truly impressive feat that showcased both their coordination and skill.

The Second Orchestra, led by Mr Newlove, took the concert in a more classical direction with their performances of 'Sword Life' (arr. Phillips), 'Take Five' (arr. Cerulli), and the lively 'Trepak' from Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker'. Each piece brought out the beauty and complexity of the orchestra's range, and their performance was a beautiful tribute to classical music.

The String Orchestra, also under Mrs Matthews' guidance, followed with a performance of Purcell's 'Rondeau' from 'Abdelazer', a majestic piece that led into the spirited 'Trio of Latin Pieces' by Martin. These lively Latin compositions – 'Beguine', 'Serenata', and 'Huapango' - infused the hall with vibrant energy and a warm, sunny atmosphere.

Next up was Big Band, who truly energized the audience with their dynamic set. They opened with 'You Can't Stop the Beat' from Hairspray, followed by a high-energy rendition of Toto's 'Africa', they ended with a fun and playful performance of 'The Incredibles' theme. Their spirited performance was a clear crowd favorite, creating a lively atmosphere that set the tone for the rest of the evening.

After a well-deserved break with refreshments in Edmond's Café, the concert resumed with the Concert Band, who started their second half with 'Processional Overture'



by Sparke. They continued with 'Dune Buggy' by Ford, a playful and rhythmic piece that had the audience tapping their feet. One of the highlights of the set was their performance of the 'Wallace and Gromit' theme - this fun, quirky tune had everyone clapping along and was met with great enthusiasm.

The concert culminated with the Chorus, who performed Vivaldi's 'Magnificat'. Several pupils shone in the solo sections, including myself, Rosie Moore, and Sean Sembatya. The highlight of the piece was the beautiful duet by sisters Abigail and Charlotte Sullivan, whose voices blended seamlessly during the sixth movement. Head Mrs Capewell, in her closing remarks, praised the Chorus' performance, commenting that the singers' sound was so polished it could rival professional choirs.



Overall, the Summer Concert was a brilliant display of talent and hard work. The variety of performances - from classical to Latin to contemporary - kept the audience engaged throughout the evening. Each group and soloist showed impressive dedication, and the joy of music filled the room. It was a fitting end to a year of musical achievement, leaving the audience eagerly anticipating next year's concerts.

Amelie Manson
(Fourth Year)



LEAVERS' CONCERT



The Leavers' Concert rounded off a fantastic year of music at SGS. It is always a night of bittersweet emotions where the music community joins to celebrate and bid farewell to the members of the Upper Sixth.

Brass Ensemble set the standard high for the evening, with a fantastic Beatles medley, and Mrs Johnson delighted the audience with a few jokes. It was great to see the audience swaying along to 'Penny Lane' and the lower brass instruments shone through in a lovely rendition of 'Hey Jude'.

S Club Diminished Seventh entertained us all with two crowd pleasers, 'Midnight at the Oasis' sung by Anjali Abraham and 'Ain't that a kick in the head' sung by Dan Wood. Both pieces were absolutely fabulous!



To round off the first half, Chamber Choir delivered an acappella rendition of 'I get around', an imaginative arrangement by Director of Music, Mr Dow. This was followed by an equally flamboyant arrangement of 'September' written by Old Stopfordian Sam Gilliatt. In Mr Dow's words, it as a very fitting piece for a concert in April!



Opening the second half with a rousing rendition of 'William Tell Overture', followed by 'Palladio' - adding some culture to the evening was Wind Orchestra. They finished with a fantastic medley of Van Halen hits chosen by Mr Newlove. Some seriously tapping tunes!

Our second jazz band of the evening, The Dysfunktionals, with lead singer Mia Krywonos and pianist Nathan Monk entertained us with 'Misty', 'Four' and 'Birdland'. They truly showcased the high standard of music at SGS.

Finally, to end the year of fabulous music entertainment, the 2025 Sixth Form leavers, tearful but still smiling - held it together to pay tribute to all of the hardworking staff who make up the Music Department. The audience enjoyed the quiz show, 'Time for Musical Moments', which featured Mr Hamilton's wise words 'Girls come and go, but piano is forever'. The leavers finished the evening with a unique rendition of 'I'll be seeing you'. We really hope this is the case as we will miss our 2025 music leavers enormously.

Sophia Horne
(Lower Sixth)

LOWER SCHOOL RECITAL

On the evening of 5th June, the Hallam Hall was transformed as the Lower School, supported by older pupils and teachers, shared with us a range of joyful and enthusiastic performances, ranging from classical masterpieces to contemporary hits.

The recital opened with a super performance by Intermediate Percussion, led by Mr Landon, of 'Smoke of the Seven Nations' by Deep Purple /The White Stripes, followed by 'Chop Suey' (System of a Down), which had all our toes tapping!

Junior Chamber Choir, conducted by Mrs Matthews, were next on stage. A beautiful version of 'Agnus Dei' was followed by their rendition of John Rutter's 'A Flower Remembered', which set a reflective tone. 'Ave Maria' by Morris Gray was a standout moment. The choir continued with the soaring 'High Flight' by Farnell and finished with the optimistic 'Canon of Hope' by Burrows.

Next, the Junior Strings, led by Mr Cashell, brought energy to their performance of the finale from Dvořák's 'New World Symphony'. This was the first time many of the pupils had performed in public and we were all impressed by the support they gave each other.

Their performance was followed by the Junior Woodwind Ensemble, led by Mrs Walton, who delighted the audience with a lively rendition of ABBA's 'Super Trouper' and a rousing version of 'The Final Countdown'. The young musicians handled the rhythmic challenges with flair and enthusiasm, earning well-deserved applause.

The spotlight then turned to Vox, under the direction of Mrs Matthews, who delivered a wide ranging and expressive set. A soulful interpretation of 'Wings' by Birdy was followed by a heartfelt performance of 'Lean on Me' by Bill Withers. A vibrant performance of 'My Shot' from Hamilton delighted us all in the audience. We were very impressed with their rhythmic performance of the 'Cup Song', including their own accompaniment with cups! They closed with a spirited rendition of 'Six' by Moss and Marlow, leaving the audience uplifted and inspired.

The 2025 Lower School Recital was a demonstration of the strong sense of community felt by all the pupils involved in Music. The audience greatly enjoyed this celebratory event featuring the young talent at SGS.

Emily Smith
(Fifth Year)



MUSIC FESTIVAL 2025



- | | |
|---|--|
| First Year Instrumental Solo | Norah Lill Bird Bolianatz (piano) |
| Second Year Instrumental Solo | Christina Wong (violin) |
| Third Year Instrumental Solo | Max Reeves (drum kit) |
| Junior Vocal Solo | Emily Knight |
| Junior Ensemble | Theia Birmingham (voice)
Lillian Lewis-Clarke (piano)
Anya Wells (trumpet)
Max Reeves (drum kits) |
| Fourth and Fifth Form Instrumental Solo | James Caine (trombone) |
| Fourth and Fifth Vocal Solo | Charlotte Sullivan |
| Intermediate Ensemble | Charlotte Sullivan (voice)
Amelie Manson (voice)
Sophie Bates (voice) |
| Sixth Form Instrumental Solo | Will Harvey (drum kit) |
| Sixth Form Vocal Solo | Anjali Abraham |
| Senior Ensemble | Dan Wood (voice & piano)
Zac Dow (cello)
Enoch Ajayi (bass guitar)
Will Harvey (drum kit) |

Most Promising Lower-School Musician
Christina Wong (violin)

Adjudicator's Cup
Dan Wood

String Cup
Clara Zelhof (violin)

Brass Cup
James Caine (trombone)

Woodwind Cup
Dan Wood (flute)

DRAMA

The Drama Department continued to be a hive of activity with two productions, which included a joint project with the Music Department, 'Sister Act', numerous theatre visits, workshops, pupils completing their Arts Awards and LAMDA

exams, theatre-in-education performances, workshops in local primary schools, and GCSE and A Level examination performances. The academic year was rounded off with a two-day visit to London.

LAMDA EXAMS

Seventy pupils took acting and public speaking exams at the end of the last academic year. All of the pupils excelled with merits and distinctions. A particular congratulations to Blue Budd who achieved a distinction in the highest grade, GOLD

Acting. The LAMDA exams not only provide a platform for the pupils' creativity and love of drama to grow, but also help to develop their confidence speaking in front of others.

THEATRE VISITS

GCSE and A Level Drama pupils visited The Lowry to watch the National Theatre's award winning production, 'War Horse'. Originally directed by Old Stopfordian Marianne Elliott, this powerfully moving and imaginative World War One drama, filled with stirring music and songs, is a show of phenomenal inventiveness.

Pupils then returned to the same venue to watch one of the longest-running musicals, 'Blood Brothers'. This was especially engaging for Third Year pupils who study the play practically as part of their course.

At its heart are astonishing life-sized horses by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company, who bring breathing, galloping, charging horses to thrilling life on stage. Pupils were in awe of the outstanding staging and felt engaged and excited to be using this as the basis of their live theatre evaluation work as part of their academic courses.

Third Year Max Reeves said: "I really enjoyed the performance. It helped me a lot with my own performance work in class." Matha Frew added: "the gunshots added to the ambience and created an engaging atmosphere."

Fifth Year pupil June Moore said: "It was immersive. The horses, puppets and lights made me feel like I was actually in no man's land! It was really enjoyable, and the puppeteers made the horses appear very lifelike."

In a hat-trick of performances at The Palace, pupils watched the Tony award-winning 'Wicked', which tells the story before the famous 'Wizard of Oz'. This trip ran in collaboration with the Music Department, whose pupils study this as one of their GCSE set texts.

Seventy pupils visited The Palace Theatre to watch the touring production of 'Chicago'. Set in 1920s Chicago and based on real-life murders and trials, pupils were in awe of the costumes, lighting and catchy numbers and found it "really enjoyable".

Sixth Form pupil Anjali Abraham said: "I really enjoyed the show. The costumes and scenery were amazing. I've lost count of how many theatre trips I've been on and this was one of the best."



ARTS AWARD

A group of First Year pupils started to work towards completing their Bronze Arts Award qualifications. This qualification, which is awarded by Trinity, develops young peoples' artistic abilities alongside their research and

communication skills. This level involves them in the arts as creators and audience members and encourages them to take their first steps towards leadership by sharing their learning with others.

SISTER ACT

Director of Music, Mr Michael Dow said: "The production of 'Sister Act' was a phenomenal success and I am immensely proud of what all the pupils have achieved. The standard of the singing, playing, acting and dancing was incredibly high, reflecting several months of dedication and very hard work in rehearsal."

The Main Hall was awash with music and laughter as four performances of 'Sister Act' took to the stage.

The musical, based on the 1992 film of the same name, follows club singer Deloris Van Cartier as she hides in a convent after witnessing a violent crime.

What follows is plenty of shenanigans, songs, and, of course, a nun or two!

The musical is the first performed at SGS since the production of 'Chicago' in 2019 and our pupils and staff put in a lot of hard work to make the show a success.

Not only did our pupils take to the stage, but they also played vital roles in the band, in lighting and sound, and backstage to help to keep the show running smoothly. In total more than 60 pupils took part in the production.

The standards of performance were fantastic from all pupils involved – with some audience members commenting that the show felt like a professional production!

Upper Sixth Form pupil Anjali Abraham played the lead role of Deloris Van Cartier who works hard to turn the subpar choir at the convent around. Rosie Moore played Mother Superior who butts heads with Deloris about her role within the convent, and May Nassar and Mia Krywonos played nuns Sister Mary Patrick and Sister Mary Lazarus respectively.

Fourth Year Charlotte Sullivan was novice nun Sister Mary Robert who stands up for what she believes in to help Deloris escape from her gangster ex-boyfriend.

Speaking of which, Fifth Year George Mason took to the stage as conniving gangster Curtis who is hell-bent on finding Deloris after she witnesses his crime. Along with his motley crew, he has one goal: make Deloris pay.

Fifth Year Toby Gleave played Eddie, a police chief who helps hide Deloris in the convent – and who may harbour feelings for a certain fake nun.

We were thrilled to receive so many great comments and feedback about the shows.

Pupil Sophia Horne said: "One of the best experiences! I made so many new friends amongst the year groups and it was so lovely to perform in front of so many supportive audiences."



Pupil Anya Wells added: "I loved being part of the show as not only was it extremely funny to perform, but the cast of the show were always exciting and fun to be around with many laughs shared. The cast and the staff worked very hard for the show to be put on, so I was glad that the audience on every night seemed to enjoy watching the show just as much as we did performing it."





Sister Act Reviews

I was so excited when I found out our school was putting on a production of the musical 'Sister Act'. I had never been in a musical before, so I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but I knew I wanted to try it. I auditioned and was thrilled to be put in the cast! From the very first few rehearsals, it was clear this was going to be something amazing. It was such a great opportunity to meet new people as well. Pupils from all years came together to put on this production.

Rehearsals were full of buzzing energy and hard work. We spent weeks learning all the dance moves, harmonies, and scenes, and it was incredible to watch everything come together - the singing, the choreography, the acting, the live band, lighting, costumes, and more. Thank you to all the members of staff involved, who were absolutely fantastic. Mr Dow led all the singing rehearsals and conducted the band. Mrs Downing created and taught all the brilliant dance routines. John Redfern and Dave D Events did a superb job with the sound and lighting. Mrs Johnson kept everything running smoothly behind the scenes with admin and tickets. Mr King-Sayce and Ms Mitchell directed all the scenes with expertise. And finally, Mrs Moffat did a wonderful job putting together the amazing sets and

costumes. Thank you also to everyone else backstage who helped make it all happen.

Performing the show across four nights was an unforgettable experience. There was so much joy in singing, dancing, and acting in front of a real audience each evening, wearing our amazing costumes and backed by a live band. The atmosphere was invigorating, and the audience reception was incredible. A big shout-out to Anjali Abraham, who was absolutely fantastic as Deloris, George Mason as Curtis, Luca Scorer as Monsignor O'Hara, and Toby Gleave as Eddie. Rosie Moore played a brilliant and stern Mother Superior, while May Nassar brought so much joy as Sister Mary Patrick. Mia Krywonos (Sister Mary Lazarus), Charlotte Sullivan (Sister Mary Robert), Hannah Johnson (Sister Mary Martin) and Sophie Bates (Sister Mary Teresa) were all amazing in their roles, as were Bea Downing and CeCe Hashmi as Tina and Michelle, and Tom Harvey, Reeyan Walie-Rahman and June Moore as TJ, Joey and Pablo. There were quite a few tears at the end of the final night. It was clear none of us wanted to stop. I can't wait to be part of the next school production!

Emily Knight (Second Year)

During March we staged a production of the musical 'Sister Act'. I was lucky enough to be able to take part in this production in the role of 'Pablo'. I personally found it to be an incredible experience, with the entire cast being highly supportive of other cast members, alongside a very supportive and kind cohort of staff members who aided us throughout the entire process. That process was a great commitment for all involved, encompassing two full terms

of the school year and dozens of hours of dance, music and acting rehearsals alongside the performances themselves.

The rehearsals helped to build a kinship between the cast that carried us to the final bows. I would like to give my greatest thanks to Mr Dow who oversaw the singing rehearsals, Mr King-Sayce and Miss Mitchell who oversaw the acting rehearsals and Mrs Downing who oversaw the

dance rehearsals. Their patience with us was unparalleled, even when we weren't always the easiest to work with, and due to my own struggles with learning the harmonies and dance moves, I have nothing but admiration for the teachers who helped us all along the way; without them there would have been no production.

Yet, they are not the only teachers I must thank, Mrs Moffatt who oversaw the costume design and set and helped with hair and makeup was also incredibly helpful to us all - even when my fellow gangsters were annoyed about having to gel and spray our hair each night and during the mad rush to change costumes for the final number.

Mrs Johnson, who served as head of administration and box office, was also an absolutely incredible staff member in helping out the cast and incentivising us to sell more tickets. I do believe we followed that request to sell more tickets with us performing to hundreds of people each night with the last two nights being completely full houses. In short, I have nothing but respect and thanks for the staff members who took part in this production.

However, it is not just the staff that make a production, but the pupils too. I will look back fondly upon the games of hangman we played in the dressing room to those pre-curtain pep talks that those who opened the show held and the little dances we did in the wings between numbers.

Special thanks of course to those who played the major roles. Anjali Abraham was an absolutely fabulous Deloris Van Cartier and she took control of the stage from her first line up until the final number and was definitely a standout performer, absolutely excelling in the role. Rosie Moore was an incredible Mother Superior, combining both warmth and kindness with cold, assertive sincerity in her character's performance alongside an amazing vocal performance.

I am still shocked that Toby Gleave was able to perform as Eddie with the triple costume he had to wear in first scenes of the show, and also change out of two of them live on stage during '*I could be that guy*'; I cannot imagine how hot he would have been. He combined a voice worthy of the West End and was able to completely embody the endearing and finally brave officer Eddie Souther.

George Mason's performance of Curtis was absolutely magnetic, both terrifying and electrifying when it needed to be - and no I am not just saying that since I played one of his henchmen. Charlotte Sullivan's performance as sister Mary Robert was an absolute standout with an incredible solo voice shown in the number '*The life I never led*'. Mia Krywonos was absolutely incredible in her rapping, stealing the show

as sister Mary Lazarus during those rapping sections. May Nassar absolutely embodied the bubbly sister Mary Patrick and was a comedic highlight for me personally.

Hannah Johnson was an incredible Mary Martin of Tours combining comedy, faux piano playing, vocal skill and almost striking me in the head during the final action scene. Sophie Bates was amazing as sister Mary Theresa, absolutely nailing the comedic and more serious elements of her role as the eldest nun character.

Both Bea Downing and Cece Hashmi embodied the sass and style of the characters of Tina and Michelle and it was an honour to open the show with them. Luca Scorer was hilarious as Monsignor O'Hara, absolutely taking command of the stage. I owe him a particular thanks for helping me with my Spanish throughout the rehearsal process. I also thank from the bottom of my heart both Reeyan Walie-Rahman and Tom Harvey who played Joey and TJ respectively; they were absolutely hilarious and it was the honour of my life to perform '*Lady in the long black dress*' with them. Their stage presence was so great and I struggled to hold back tears of laughter from how funny their parts were.

I am sorry that I cannot thank each ensemble member individually in this review, though I do want to thank you all for how amazing you were onstage and backstage. Everyone created an environment of fun, laughter and sincerity. I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Of course, there are those who do not get their own bow who should be thanked just as much as those who performed on stage. The orchestra was absolutely incredible, led of course by conductor Mr Dow. I still remember how exciting it was when we first performed with the orchestra and I want to thank all who were instrumentalists, be they staff members, pupils or those from outside the school community, who made this show all the richer by their participation. Then there are those who helped out throughout the performance nights, from Evie who was the stage manager, to the sound assistants who had to chase me up one night for my failure to hand my mic in to the front of house team, to the hair and makeup. You deserve all the thanks in the world for your patience with us and your enthusiasm.

I can still remember how much joy the audience felt throughout the productions, the laughter, the applause, and the cheers - It fuelled us to excel further. I remember being asked if I was a fluent Spanish speaker thanks to my performance, which was quite the compliment. To conclude, Stockport Grammar School's 2025 production of '*Sister Act*' was absolutely incredible to be a part of and I cannot fault it in any way, 10/10!

June Moore (Fifth Year)

THEATRE IN EDUCATION



Third Year pupils once again took their 'shows on the road' as they embarked on a module entitled 'Theatre in Education'. The task for pupils was to devise a bespoke piece of theatre

in response to a brief set by one of the local primary schools to support their learning module.

The Third Years took groups of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from Adswold Primary School, Norbury Hall School, The Ryleys School and St Thomas' C of E Primary School travelling through time, space and literature to create fun and educational sessions. The sessions started with a set drama piece and finished with audience participation in themed workshops.

Director of Drama Mr Matt King-Sayce was proud of our pupils for stepping up to the challenge with great enthusiasm and creating engaging work for their younger peers. He commented: "Our pupils benefit greatly from this experience as it not only boosts their confidence and challenges them to perform to an unknown audience in a space they are unfamiliar with, but it also provides the pupils with the initial skills and a framework for the devising component we embark on as part of the GCSE course."

BAD AUDITIONS FOR BAD ACTORS



Pupils in Second, Third and Fourth Year performed 'Bad Auditions by Bad Actors' directed by Drama Teacher Mrs Alison Moffatt. The audience were thoroughly engaged from beginning to end in this hugely entertaining and laugh-out-loud production. The play's fast pace and clever script were brought to life with great energy, timing, and confidence by the entire cast.

The pupils handled the comedy brilliantly, leaning into the exaggerated characters and absurd situations with real enthusiasm. Each performer brought something unique to the stage, whether it was physical comedy, deadpan humour, or over-the-top dramatic delivery. Their commitment to the ridiculous nature of the roles made every audition scene funnier than the last.

The cast worked brilliantly as an ensemble and clearly enjoyed every moment, which made the performance even more enjoyable for the audience. A fantastic showcase of developing talent and a real credit to the school!



DRAMA TRIP TO LONDON



Drama pupils from Third Year and above spent an action packed 48 hours in London, where they were entertained and terrified (in equal measure) at the London Dungeon, starstruck at the National Theatre and enthralled by 'Cabaret' at the Kit Kat Club.

Fifty pupils spent two action packed days in the capital, seeing two very contrasting shows: a highly surreal 'Here We Are' (Stephen Sondheim's final musical) at the National Theatre, which confused and enthralled at the same time. Pupils were very excited to linger at the stage door for selfies and autographs.

The second day highlights included time to explore Covent Garden and a much-anticipated visit to see 'Cabaret' at The Kit Kat Club. Pupils were entertained and moved by the themes in the play.

Sixth Form pupil Hannah Johnson was intrigued to find out which ending the director had chosen having spent



many hours watching different versions ahead of the production in preparation. Third Year Scarlett-Rose Somers commented that the trip had been "the best, I loved how busy we were, it was jam packed, we did such a lot. I loved Cabaret and can't stop singing it." She went onto say "the staff were amazing, I've never had a trip like it."

Third Year pupil Marco Burns also added: "I love how all the pupils interacted with each other, it was really fun, the plays were amazing, and I would definitely go again!"

As we look ahead to 2025-2026, we are excited by our extensive trips and visits, including 'Matilda', our continued collaborative work with Stockport Local Cultural Education Partnership, our work with the Classics Department to resurrect the annual Classics play, which will be 'Medea' in 2026, and our work on our Autumn Term production, which will commence in early September.

NOTES FROM LEONARDO...

Prior to starting a review of another year in the life of the Art Department, I always enjoy spending time going through and collating the range of activities and events that pupils have participated in over the preceding 12 months. While the nature of the academic year means that there is always a degree of repetition, the department is keen not to stagnate and to actively seek out new opportunities, or to fine tune those already in place.

To kickstart the A Level course in September, pupils in the Lower Sixth spent a day gathering source material at various sites around Manchester. Over the years, this has proved consistently valuable as a means of getting the group to engage with the range of visual sources that they are confronted with as they move through different areas of the city centre, and once back in school, it is always interesting to see how they develop and hone their source material leading to finished pieces.



It is important that the recording and gathering of source material through sketching and photographing is supported by a contextual and theoretical understanding, and to that end, visits made to galleries and exhibitions are invaluable and complement the excellent resources available to pupils in the school library. For pupils in the Sixth Form, the London gallery trip in November gave them the opportunity to explore the collections at The V&A, Tate Britain and The National Portrait Gallery. The

War Museum North and The Lowry. The decision to visit venues closer to home (we normally travel to Liverpool) was taken because Tate Liverpool is currently closed for refurbishment. We were not disappointed however, as each collection offered an impressive range of source material and, in addition, the pupils were able to see some fine examples of neo-classical and contemporary architecture as well.

A Level course requires pupils to follow an individual line of enquiry and to present a personal response; to that end finding examples of work by artists and designers relevant to them, that they can spend time analysing thoroughly, is greatly beneficial when developing their ideas.

In January, our Fifth Year pupils had the opportunity to visit the collections held at Manchester Art Gallery, The Imperial



Another trip that explored the rich and varied architecture on our doorstep was enjoyed by our Third Year artists early in the Spring term. Among the highlights of Mrs Upton's precision-planned walking tour were the perpendicular Gothic stonework of St. George's Church, the cast iron and steel structures underpinning the Market Hall, street art around Underbank, the Brutalist architectural design of the police headquarters, The Plaza theatre's white Art Deco exterior and the newly constructed Viaduct Gardens and bus station. With such interesting source material, it was no wonder that the 'en plein air' sketches produced by pupils on the day and developed back in school, were so impressive and we were delighted when St. George's offered to host an exhibition of the pupils' work in the church later in the year.



While trips, workshops and so forth are enjoyed by groups of children, attention should also be drawn to some notable individual achievements that were recorded over the last twelve months. Among them, the design for the cover of the Order of Service for the school Carol Concert, featuring a beautifully rendered Mother and Child pencil study, was produced by Emma Griffiths. Then, with the onset of spring, Amber Sullivan took willow cuttings gifted to her by the Grounds team, that she bent and twisted together, to produce sculpture based on flora and patterns in nature. Finally, at Speech Day this year The Margaret Rothwell Senior Art Prize was awarded to Nathan Liu and The Bielinska Prize for Drawing was awarded to Sara Watson.



the department. It was a pleasure to be able to catch up with Katie, who now lives and works in the United States, and she enjoyed seeing work produced by Brooke Richards, the recipient of the award in 2024.

As always, The Annual GCSE and A level Art Exhibition held in May was an opportunity for parents, staff and governors to come together and celebrate the work produced our pupils over the two years of the course. The department's determination to foster in all pupils the technical ability and confidence to explore possibilities and to present a personal response, results in a show that is always unique and, often, outstanding. The work rightly draws praise from visitors on the night and is a fitting end to the course and, for some, the stepping stone onto the next stage of their creative journey.

Richard Davies
Head of Art



St George's Art Exhibition

In February, we welcomed over 100 young artists from local primary schools to the annual Year 5 Open Art Competition. The title 'Self-portrait' had been interpreted in a range of ways, and some interesting and skilful work was displayed at the open evening and prize awarding event. The time, effort and care put into producing the work made judging very difficult and all the young artists were congratulated on being chosen to represent their schools.

In response to a day trip to Stockport and St George's Church, Third Year artists developed a range of responses from the architectural forms and features they encountered. Artists styles and approaches have also informed their work.



Another largely unplanned activity came when pupils in U5, who register in A3, asked me if they could use time during form period to learn how to sculpt using clay. Happy to oblige, I showed them a range of processes that they then used to produce a fish that, once fired, they were able to glaze. The group engaged enthusiastically at every stage of the process, and they were delighted with the result, many promising to take their fish with them to university as a memory of their time at SGS!



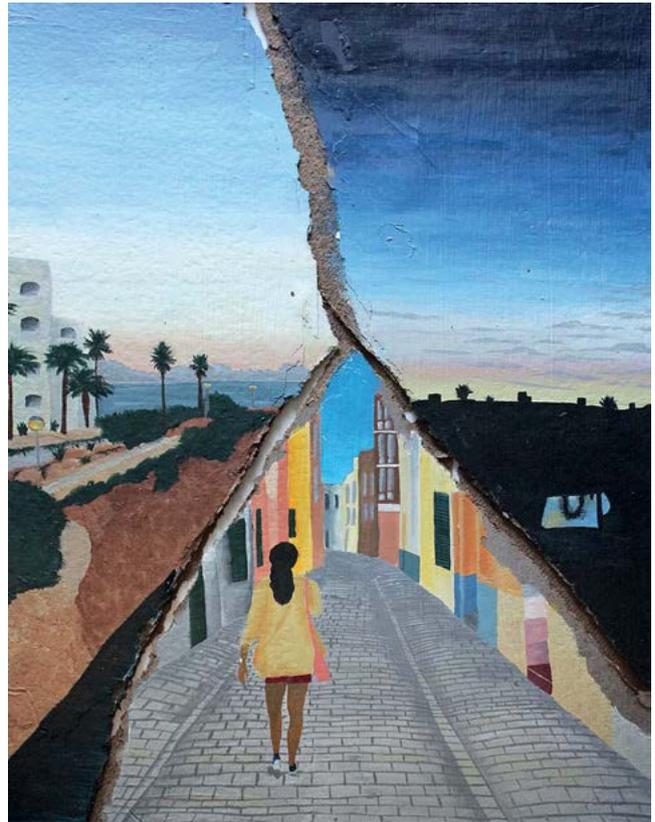
Midway through the year, we were delighted to be visited by former A Level pupil and Old Stop, Katie Bielinska. Katie's family gives its name to The Bielinska Prize for Drawing, awarded each year at Speech Day, having generously gifted art materials that had belonged to Katie's grandmother to

A huge range of media and techniques have been explored, including sketchbook research, silk paintings, mixed media studies on textured surfaces, photography and clay vessels and sculptures.

The pupils' work from the architecture project is now on display at the church until 14th September."



▲
Thiana Quinn - *Self-portrait* - acrylic on paper - GCSE



▲
Ananya Abraham - *Untitled* - acrylic on canvas - GCSE



▲
Phoeba Dileep - *Portrait* - pastel on paper - GCSE



▲
Harriet Thomson - *Untitled* - acrylic on paper - GCSE



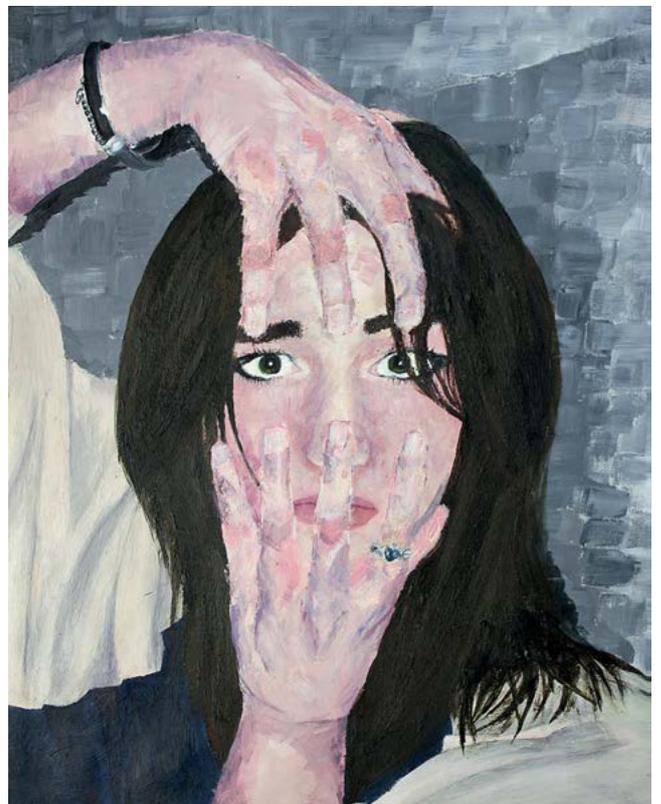
▲ Ava Mungall - *Butterflies (detail)* - mixed media on foam board - GCSE



▲ Bella Rich - *Lily* - acrylic on paper - GCSE



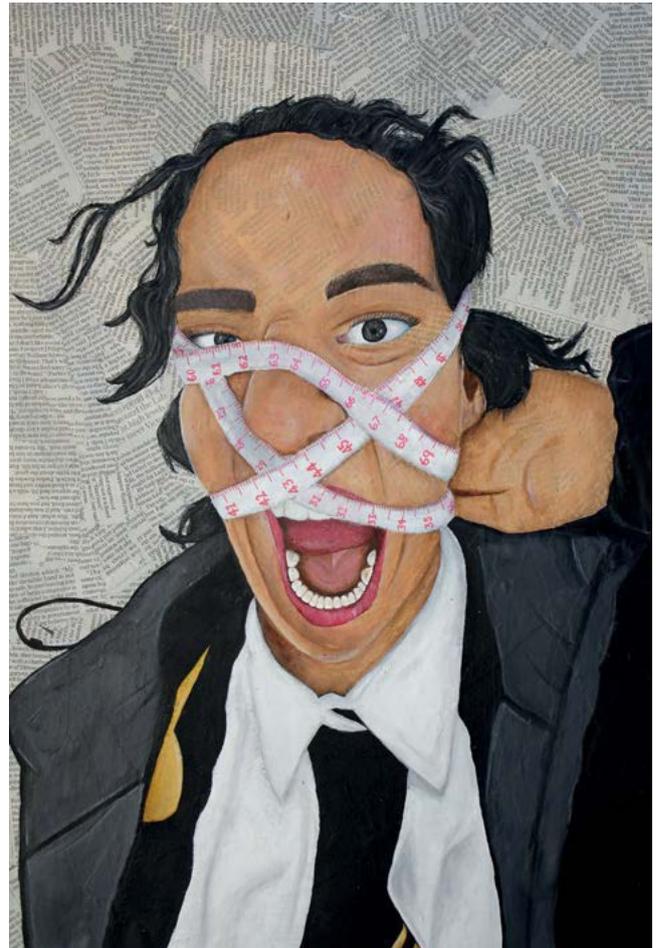
▲ Emily Flint - *Anatomy* - mixed media on paper - GCSE



▲ Annalise Round - *Self-portrait* - acrylic on paper - GCSE



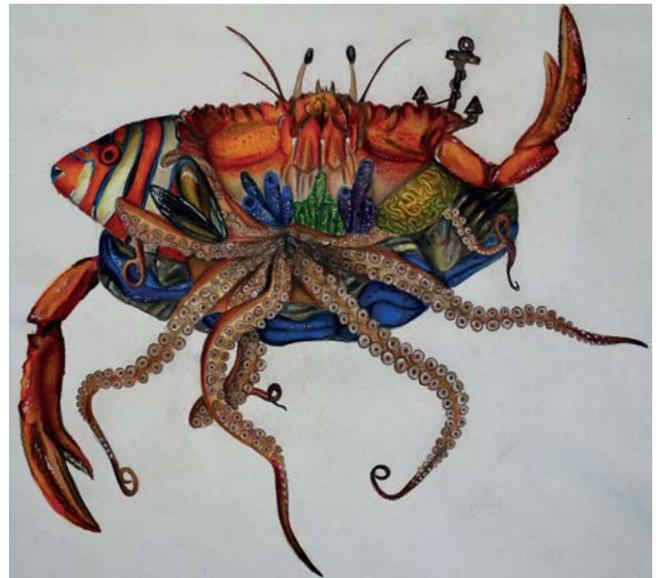
▲
Erin Roberts - *Portrait* - oil on canvas - GCSE



▲
Sophia Sparrow - *Gina* - mixed media on paper - GCSE



▲
Clara Minnock - *Portrait* - mixed media on paper - GCSE



▲
Jessica Hamer-Owens - *Crab* - mixed media on paper - GCSE



▲
Amber Sullivan - *Flowers* - mixed media on canvas - A Level



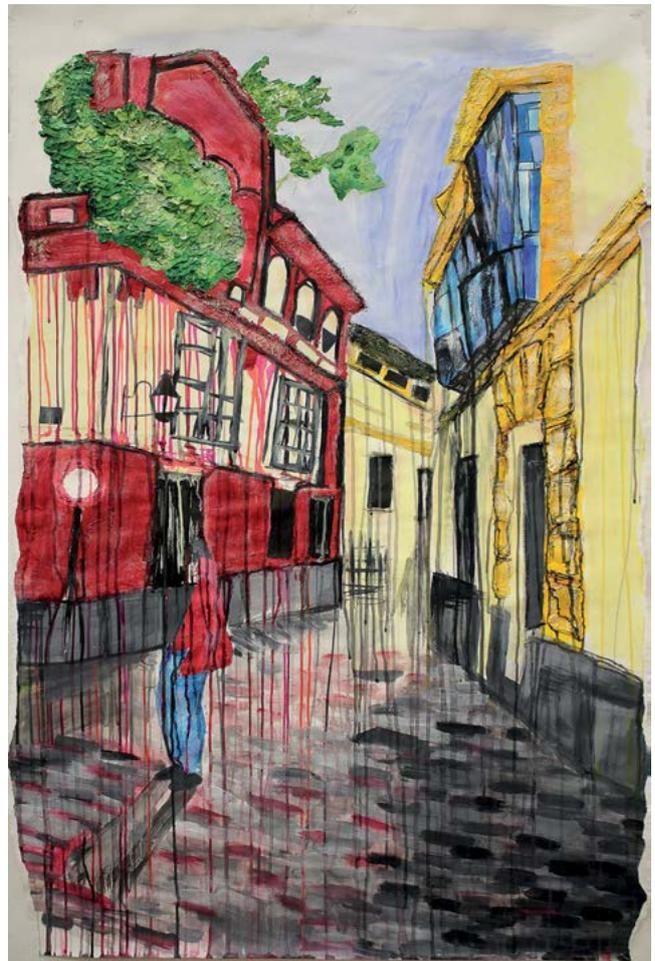
▲
Amber Sullivan - *Floral Repeat Pattern* - heat press on ceramic tiles - A Level



▲
Anna Porter - *Steam Inspired Dress*
- bubble wrap, tyvek & shibori - A Level



▲
Eliza Khan - *Collection* - cyanotype - A Level



▲
Eliza Khan - *Calleja De Las Flores* - mixed media - A Level



▲ **Bea Downing - Bustle Skirt & Jacket - mixed media - A Level**



Bea Downing - The Phoenix - card & marbling inks - A Level ►



▲ Grace Lorimer - *Perspective I* - oil on canvas - A Level



▲ Grace Lorimer - *Perspective II* - oil on canvas - A Level



▲ Sara Watson - *Eurydice* - pencil - A Level



▲ Sara Watson - *Portrait* - screen prints - A Level



SPORT OVERVIEW

At the end of my third year as Director of Sport at Stockport Grammar School, I still feel so lucky and proud to lead such a vibrant and forward-thinking Sports Department that places equal importance on participation and competition. Our vision is rooted in the belief that sport should be accessible, inclusive, and aspirational, offering every pupil the opportunity to enjoy physical activity, develop essential life skills, and, where ambition exists, pursue excellence in their chosen discipline by providing access to strength and conditioning, school practices, and competitive fixtures at both a regional and national level.

Our department is committed to creating an environment where all pupils, regardless of ability or experience, feel encouraged to take part in sport and physical activity and this has been evident in the high number of pupils we have had attending our practices. From the earliest years through to Sixth Form, we embed participation into the daily life of the school, providing a broad and balanced sporting programme that includes traditional team sports, individual activities, and recreational options - all of which happen, before, during, and after school. We actively promote the values of teamwork, respect, resilience, and perseverance which are all attributes that benefit pupils both in sport and in life.

Participation and competitiveness (like past years) is at the heart of everything we do. Through PE lessons, inter-house competitions, enrichment clubs, and lunchtime sport, we aim to instil a lifelong love of sport and wellbeing. It has been great to see so many pupils wearing their House colours and the black and gold of Stockport daily and having a passion for wanting to succeed.

Our inclusive approach ensures that all pupils have the opportunity to be physically active, make social connections, and experience the joy of sport. We are constantly evolving our offerings to reflect pupils' interests, which has seen an increase in the provision of boys' hockey and girls' cricket. We are always self-assessing our processes to ensure a varied and engaging programme.

Stockport Grammar has a proud tradition of sporting excellence, and we continue to invest in competitive opportunities for those who wish to challenge themselves

at higher levels. From Saturday block fixtures to national competitions and residential, we support and celebrate our athletes across a wide range of sports, including rugby, football, hockey, netball, cricket, athletics, tennis, dance and swimming.

Our practices are designed to nurture and grow talent throughout the different school year groups where excellent coaching and teaching in sport-specific environments has allowed us to enjoy some outstanding cup runs, fixtures, and enjoyable sports tours. Like years before me, many of our pupils have gone on (and continue) to represent clubs, academies, and national squads, and we take great pride in their achievements.

Balancing participation with competition isn't easy but as always, the fantastic department I get to lead work hard to ensure our pupils have a multitude of opportunities. We have high standards and high expectations of both ourselves and the pupils to ensure that sport at Stockport Grammar is both fulfilling and aspirational.

Beyond the playing field, we aim to instil in our pupils a deep appreciation for the role sport plays in society and in personal development and creating that sense of community we love at SGS.

Ultimately, the Sports Department strives to provide every pupil with a meaningful sporting experience. Whether they are participating for fun, for fitness, or to compete at the highest level, we ensure that every pupil is valued, supported, and inspired to be their best.

Thank you, as always, to the parents for your continued support and the groundsmen, facility managers, caterers and admin team who also contribute to ensuring our offerings are meaningful and valued.

Year three on a personal note has gone just as quick (if not quicker) than the other two. I really must be enjoying myself, and who wouldn't at a great school like this!

Mr A Marsh
Director of Sport

FOOTBALL

It has been another eventful and rewarding year for football at Stockport Grammar School. Despite the ever-unpredictable British weather, which once again threw several challenges our way, we were able to make great progress both on and off the pitch across all age groups.

One of the standout achievements of the year came from our 1st XI, who enjoyed a strong campaign in the National ISFA Cup. The squad showed fantastic commitment and resilience, putting in a series of excellent performances that saw them advance through the rounds with confidence and style. Their journey was a testament to the group's togetherness, maturity, and tactical understanding. Against some of the top footballing schools in the country, they held their own and demonstrated that Stockport Grammar School continues to compete at a very high level.

Another major highlight came from our U16 team who had an exciting run in the Stockport Schools Cup as they reached the semi-final. The squad played some fantastic football throughout the competition and represented the school brilliantly. Their attitude was exemplary, and many of these players will no doubt play a big role in our Senior teams in the years ahead.

Across all year groups, what has really stood out this season is the consistently high work rate, discipline, and team spirit displayed by our players. Whether it was training on a freezing winter morning, playing in challenging conditions,

or bouncing back from a tough result, the boys and girls showed impressive character and commitment throughout the year. Their willingness to learn and improve has been hugely encouraging, and they've laid the foundations for even greater success next season.

In addition to our competitive fixtures, training sessions have remained purposeful and positive across the board. The growing numbers of players participating in school football, especially among the younger year groups, is a fantastic sign of the enthusiasm and culture we're continuing to build here at SGS.

As ever, none of this would be possible without the incredible support of the staff and parents. A heartfelt thank you goes to all the coaches and teachers who have given their time and expertise to help guide our teams and support our players. Your dedication behind the scenes does not go unnoticed. To the parents, thank you for the countless lifts, your cheering from the touchline, and your ongoing encouragement it truly makes a difference to the players.

On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at Stockport Grammar School and have enjoyed helping the pupils develop their football skills for the last six years.

Mr M Elstone
Head of Football



NETBALL

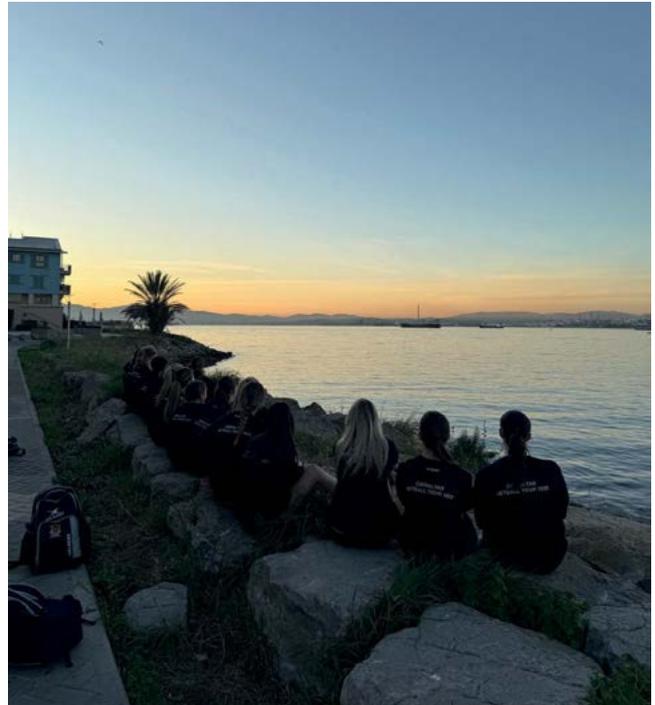
In my second year as Head of Netball at Stockport Grammar I am proud of the progress we have made across all the netball squads from the previous academic year and would like to provide an overview on the 2024/2025 season.

I would firstly like to start with thanking the pupils and parents for their commitment to the netball programme with fixtures fulfilled every Saturday in all-weather conditions, attendance at lunch time and after-school practices and further progressions in cup competitions.

In the Sisters n Sport competitions our U15 squad qualified for the top four finals competition at Loughborough University – a great opportunity to test themselves against some of the best competition in the country. The team retained their title from the previous year, winning the competition with special mention to Lola Ferris who was awarded MVPs of the competition.

Increasing our offer to the pupils, we launched our trip to Gibraltar for our Senior netball squad. Fourteen Fifth Year and Sixth Form pupils travelled with myself, Mrs Coster and Mrs Wilkinson to compete against local Gibraltarian sides and their national squad, who were preparing for their international commitments. Both squads remained unbeaten the entire trip, whilst also immersing themselves into the local culture.

For the second year we attended the World School Games in Loughborough. It was an exciting opportunity for our First to Fourth Years who were selected into our U13 and U15 performance squads and the girls continued to train in the Summer Term in preparation for the competition.



I would also like to thank Mrs Coster, Mrs Wilkinson and Mrs Hanson who support the netball programme, without them the netball season would not have been as successful as it has. Special thanks to those who operated behind the scenes to allow the smooth running of lunch and after-school practices and fixtures, the umpires, the grounds staff, the medical staff and the catering staff.

I am looking forward to the netball squads maintaining the momentum made this year and further progressing in the 2025/2026 academic year.

Miss R Towell
(Head of Netball)



HOCKEY



At the end of the 2024–25 hockey season, it is the energy, commitment, and progress of our players that stands out above everything else. Through the wind, rain, and occasional frozen pitch, our teams showed resilience and passion every step of the way.

The U12s had an incredible debut season at Stockport Grammar School, winning seven out of 11 matches. An impressive start to their hockey journey. Georgia lit up the pitch with some outstanding reverse finishes, more than once sending the ball soaring into the top corner. Charlotte provided calmness and control from the midfield, reading the game brilliantly. In the ever-rotating U12B squad, Jemima and Sophie were key figures, helping to drive performances forward each week. With so many pupils eager to play, selecting a team each week was not easy, but was a good problem to have!

The U13s experienced a season of ups and downs, facing their fair share of tough defeats, but also enjoying some convincing wins along the way. It was a year of development, where the team showed resilience and steady improvement which set the groundwork for what's to come this season.

The U14s showed fantastic progress this season as they adapted to full-pitch, 11-a-side hockey. Their development was clear in both their teamwork and tactical play, with back-to-back wins over Cheadle reflecting their hard work. A key figure in their success was Georgiana, who delivered consistently outstanding performances at centre back. Her calm control and vision were instrumental, and she will be greatly missed after relocating to New Zealand. Their cup run saw them face tough opposition, eventually being knocked out by a strong Repton side. Despite the result, the experience was valuable, and the team can be proud of their season.

The boys had a brilliant year in what was their first full season since the launch of the hockey programme. The progress they made individually and as a team was remarkable. They grew in confidence with every game, playing an exciting,

fast-paced style of hockey that made them a joy to watch. Their season was capped with an impressive run to the cup semi-finals, narrowly missing out on a place in the final. For a team still in its early stages, their commitment, teamwork, and passion for the game were outstanding.

The U15s had a standout year, with nine wins from 12 matches. A notable 3-0 win over Cheadle showed just how well they had come together as a unit, with consistency and tactical discipline at the heart of their success. Maya controlled the midfield superbly throughout the season, linking defence and attack with confidence and composure, while Ella proved to be lethal in front of goal, finishing the season with double figures, a fantastic return that reflected her sharp movement and clinical finishing.

The U16s enjoyed an outstanding cup run, reaching the Northern Final in a season full of memorable moments. In one of the most thrilling matches of the year, they pushed King's Macclesfield all the way to shuffles after a fiercely contested draw after trailing 3-0 at half time, narrowly missing out on victory. Throughout the campaign, the squad displayed remarkable grit, skill, and determination, embodying true team spirit. We would like to take a moment to say a warm goodbye to all the pupils who left Stockport at the end of Fifth Year. Thank you for your dedication and contribution to the hockey programme. You will be missed, and we wish you every success in your future endeavours.

The First Team began the season in impressive form, with three straight victories setting the tone. Standout performances from captain Charlie and centre-back Sara were key in those early successes. However, a narrow 3-2 loss in Round 3 of the National Cup, which was a fiercely contested match, proved a turning point, momentarily halting the team's momentum. They bounced back with a solid win over Newcastle-under-Lyme, but unfortunately, a string of injuries led to the cancellation of several fixtures in the latter part of the season. Despite this the First Team demonstrated quality, leadership, and resilience throughout. We wish all the pupils who have left Stockport Grammar School the very best and hope they continue to play hockey at university and beyond.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Niemand, who joined us in September after relocating to Manchester. Originally from South Africa, Mr Niemand quickly became a valued member of the coaching team, bringing his expertise and passion to the school's hockey programme. His presence and commitment will be greatly missed, and we wish him all the very best as he takes up a new role at Sedbergh School. Good luck, Mr Niemand!

Mr M Anderson-Delahoy
Interim Head of Hockey

RUGBY

A second year as Head of Rugby ended for Mr Sturgess in May as he left Stockport Grammar School after five years of service to pursue new opportunities. A great year of rugby under his tenure was once again had, and as we reflect on the 2024–2025 rugby season, it was certainly a year filled with far more highs than lows, both on and off the pitch.

When it comes to player development, this year proved to be both busy and highly successful for the school. Several pupils earned selections for prestigious pathways including the Salford City Reds Academy, Sale Sharks Developing Player Pathway, Cheshire County, Sale Sharks U18s, and even the England U18s. A heartfelt congratulations to all those who achieved recognition through these outstanding opportunities and we continue to support and wish you all the best on your sporting journey.

One standout achievement this season came from our current 1st XV captain, Jordan Ikeh, who earned the incredible honour of being selected to tour South Africa with the England U18 squad and he managed to hold onto his starting jersey across several matches. Jordan is the perfect role model for our younger pupils — he embodies the core values we strive to promote in rugby at Stockport Grammar School: honesty, a strong sense of community, resilience, and a tireless work ethic. His journey serves as a powerful reminder to all our pupils that with dedication and commitment, aspirations can become reality. A lot of hard and unseen work off the pitch has certainly helped his game progress to the next level and he thoroughly deserves his opportunity to showcase his talents.

It's difficult to single out just one highlight from such a memorable season, but a few moments do stand out in my mind as Director of Sport.



The return to Rosslyn Park was certainly a highlight as we had roughly 50 pupils who took part in a fantastic week of rugby and enrichment. They faced tough but physical opposition in the suburbs of London and faced a wide variety of schools across the UK. With the customary Nando's thrown in for good measure under the lights of Windsor Castle we hope that these friendships and memories will last a lifetime. My own personal highlight (albeit biased as I was coaching the U16s) was when this team faced off against the National Champions in Wellington College, who later went on to win the tournament for a second consecutive year. The crowd swelled and our boys rose to the occasion, limiting them to a single try in the first half. Whilst we were eventual losers, the last-ditch tackling, effort and enthusiasm typified the qualities of all our players on show. By the end of the match, everyone was aware who Stockport Grammar were and what we stood for.

In addition to this trip, another standout was the 'mini trip' to Leicester Grammar School as part of our 7s programme, where in very cold and wet weather, the U14 squads represented the school brilliantly, showing great character and sportsmanship both on and off the pitch.

The weekly fixtures were in full flow throughout the season and there was a good representation across all year groups week in and week out. Participation numbers were as high as they have ever been. The U15s proved to be the standout team in the 7s competition, and whilst they would openly





acknowledge their struggles at 15s they certainly put this to bed making three out of three finals of 7s competitions entered, winning both the Dean Schofield 7s and the Nora Liscombe 7s and finishing runners up in the Cheshire U15s.

Rugby at Stockport Grammar School simply wouldn't thrive without the outstanding dedication of our staff. This season, more than any before, has really highlighted to me just how much time, energy, and passion goes into creating meaningful opportunities for our pupils. The commitment required to lead a team extends far beyond match days - it's the hours of planning, coaching, and mentoring that truly make the difference.

Seeing pupils enjoy themselves on the pitch, smiling with a ball in hand, is the perfect reminder of why we invest so much into the sport. With that in mind, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the staff for the incredible work they've done in nurturing a love for rugby and helping to inspire the next generation of players.

I'd like to take this final opportunity to thank all the pupils for their dedication and enthusiasm throughout the rugby season - it's been a pleasure to see their passion for the game shine through. We're already looking forward to doing it all again in September. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and guardians for their unwavering support of rugby at Stockport Grammar School over the past year - your encouragement makes a real difference.

Mr Marsh
Director of Sport

ATHLETICS



The athletics programme at SGS always starts with Autumn Term Running Club and the Stockport Schools' Cross Country in October at Hazel Grove High School. We took 64 runners and seven of them finished in the top 10 of their respective races and therefore were selected to run for Stockport in the Great Manchester Cross Country Champs.

After February half-term we started our athletes on a pre-season programme and then, come summer, they were ready to go. Fixtures came thick, and fast throughout April,

May and June culminating with our First - Fourth Year Sports Day in the last week of term. The weather dictates the mood with athletics and this year it was absolutely fantastic. For eight straight weeks we baked in record temperatures and perfect running and throwing conditions. Our inter-form events, which allow us to cast our eye over the new First Year crop, whilst also giving the Second Year pupils an early season trial went ahead in perfect conditions. The First Year competition was won by 1R, with 1W and 1Y sharing the silver medal and the Second Year competition was won

by 2P, with 2R back in silver medal position and 2U taking bronze. More importantly, over 80 pupils from each year group took part in what was a hugely enjoyable evening.

The English Schools' Cup is now a permanent fixture in our calendar and this year we were at Longford Park, Stretford on Friday 9th May. The competition was very strong against some well-established schools from across the North West. This meant that three of our four squads qualified for the North West B Final in Ellesmere Port on 4th June. The Junior Girls' team finished first in their competition and therefore progressed to the A final at Stanley Park, Blackpool. This was a fantastic effort from the 12-pupil squad.

Local competition saw us compete in two rounds of the Athletics League. Round 1 took place at Woodbank Park on Wednesday 14th May, followed by round 2 four weeks later, back at SGS, on the 4th June. All eight squads performed well, but with a change to the scoring system, now a combined boys' and girls' score. The First, Second and Fourth Year Teams were all overall winners, with the Third Year team placed second.

The Stockport Championships on 21st May are still the highlight of the season and we normally do well against the best other schools in Stockport. With the new combined scores, the Second Year were champions, whilst the Third and Fourth Years finished in second position.

The final League athletics took place on Wednesday 18th June at Woodbank Park and with all eight teams qualifying, it was a busy end to the season. More great performances from the SGS athletes crowned us Second and Fourth Year League winners, with the First and Third Years finishing in a very creditable second position to Cheadle. So, honours shared between the local rivals.

First to Fourth Year pupils put their best foot forward as they represented their House at Sports Day on Friday 27th

June. An energetic crowd voiced their support as athletes from Arden, Nicholson, Vernon and Warren competed in a range of track and field events. The morning activities focussed on the field events – long jump, high jump, triple jump, discus, shot and javelin. After lunch the attention turned to the track with race distances varying from 100m to 1500m.

In each year group, the Victor Ludorum and Victrix Ludorum were awarded to the boy and girl respectively who competed in at least three events and, in turn, contributed the most points to their house by means of podium finishes.

In First Year, Alex Bailey (Nicholson) picked up the Victor Ludorum and Emmy Darnley (Warren) was awarded the Victrix Ludorum. Archie Buck (Vernon) and Hali Dealey (Nicholson) were presented with the awards in Second Year, Rudy Whittle (Arden) and Anika Sijuwade (Vernon) were the Third Years picked up the awards and Ted Deans (Warren) and Holly Stead (Vernon) were the outstanding Fourth Year athletes.

The Athletics Challenge Bowl, which is given to the winning House once the points from all four year groups are counted, was won by Warren.

Reflecting on the day, Head Mrs Sarah Capewell said: "Sports Day brought a spirited display of teamwork and determination, as pupils competed passionately for the coveted Fallows' Shield."

A massive thank you to all the pupils who competed for SGS this season.

Mr A Hanson and Mrs K Wilkinson

CRICKET

The cricket season at Stockport Grammar School began all the way back in November, with early morning sessions taking place before school. These continued every morning right through to the start of the Summer Term. I'd like to thank the pupils for their outstanding commitment and for bringing great energy to every session. A huge thank you must also go to the staff who gave up their mornings to make these sessions possible.

Unlike previous years, the Summer Term began with glorious weather - a welcome surprise after several seasons of rainy Aprils. The dry conditions gave the ground staff a

rare opportunity to work their magic early. This year, the pitches prepared by Mr Bancroft and Mr Quinn were among the finest on the school circuit in the North West, offering pace, bounce, and spin in equal measure. I would like to thank them both for all their efforts.

It was a tough start for the boys' 1st XI, who suffered a narrow defeat in their opening match away at Merchant Taylors' Crosby. From there, the team set their sights on the National T20 competition. This year the boys opted to enter the main tournament rather than the 2nd XI competition we'd entered in previous years. The first round saw us



travel to King’s School, Macclesfield, where the team put in a solid performance but were ultimately beaten by a more experienced side.

As the season neared the end of term, all eyes turned to the annual cricket festival—a highlight of the summer, featuring the same four schools each year: SGS, Newcastle-under-Lyme School, AKS Lytham, and King’s School, Chester. This year, it was our turn to host, and the team rose to the occasion. After winning our final two games, we finished the festival in joint first place—a fantastic way to round off the season. A special thank you goes to James Patel, Zimmar Jatoi, and Qasim Quaiyoom for their outstanding commitment to cricket at SGS. We wish them all the best in their next adventures beyond Stockport Grammar.

Age group cricket was a huge success this year, with over 120 pupils representing Stockport Grammar in competitive fixtures. A special mention must go to the U12 boys’ team and the U15 girls’ team, both of whom made it all the way to the semi-finals of the Cheshire Cup. Unfortunately, both teams came up against strong Cheadle Hulme sides in their respective semi-finals and narrowly missed out on a place in the final. Nonetheless, their efforts and progress were a real credit to themselves and the school

Girls’ cricket at Stockport Grammar School continues to flourish, and I couldn’t be prouder of the U13, U15, and 1st XI teams this year. Their effort, attitude, and passion for the game have been outstanding throughout the season. One of the standout moments came from the 1st XI, who delivered a commanding 111-run victory over Wrekin College - a testament to their skill and teamwork. The school is incredibly fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated group of young cricketers, and it’s been a privilege to watch them grow and thrive both on and off the field.

A sincere thank you to the staff who helped deliver the cricket programme this year by taking teams and running training sessions. Mr Bowden, Mr Corbett, Mr Sturgess, Mr Wright, Mr Clear, Mr Dixon, and Mr Niemand.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that 28 pupils will be heading to Dubai in February 2026 for an overseas cricket tour. This is a fantastic opportunity and will provide unforgettable experiences both on and off the field.

On a personal note, this marks the end of my time as Head of Cricket at Stockport Grammar School. I leave with immense pride in the cricketing culture we’ve built, and the progress made. It’s been a privilege to help nurture the game at SGS, and I hope the strong foundations laid will continue to support future success.

Mr F Yates
Head of Cricket



TENNIS

The 2024–2025 tennis season at Stockport Grammar School was one to remember, filled with competitive fixtures, personal milestones, and unforgettable experiences on and off the court.

The season began with an energetic internal tournament, welcoming over 50 pupils from First to Fourth Year. This inclusive event set the tone for a term of enthusiastic participation and high-level play.

Throughout the summer, our boys' and girls' teams competed in weekly fixtures against a range of schools including Altrincham Grammar, Stonyhurst College, and Queen's Chester. The matches were fiercely contested, with some teams finishing unbeaten and others showing remarkable improvement week by week.

Midweek fixtures saw both our girls and boys teams excelling in the LTA Schools League. Their performance was a testament to their determination and teamwork.

One of the season's standout moments was the school's participation in the *Play Your Way to Wimbledon* tournament. Over 60 pupils entered the school stage, competing in singles and doubles formats with passion and precision. Following a series of impressive wins at local and county levels, Sophie Davies and Poppy Furness qualified to play at Wimbledon in the national finals. Competing on the iconic grass courts of SW19 was a dream come true, and both players represented SGS with pride, skill, and sportsmanship.



The House Tennis Competition returned with great enthusiasm, featuring teams from First Year to Sixth Form. Matches were fast-paced and competitive, with final standings decided by the narrowest of margins.

Throughout the term, pupils benefited from expert coaching led by Ben Bush of Davenport Tennis Club. His lunchtime and Games sessions catered to all ability levels, helping players refine their technique and build confidence.

This year's tennis programme has seen pupils of all ages embrace the sport with commitment and joy. Whether competing in national tournaments or enjoying lunchtime rallies, the spirit of tennis has been alive across the school. A huge thank you goes to Mr Marsh and Ms Coster for their tireless support of the tennis programme. Their dedication ensured another unforgettable season for Stockport Grammar School tennis.

Mr M Anderson-Delahoy
Head of Tennis

DANCE

The Dance Department had a very busy year, full of workshops, shows and a large variety of clubs on offer! Pupils have been able to get involved in lyrical, ballet, jazz, commercial and musical theatre.

There have been specialist clubs such as Boys Only Club and Contemporary Masterclass Club on offer. Both have visiting dance teachers, allowing more advanced dancers that are willing to push themselves to be stretched. At Stockport Grammar, there is a Dance Club for every one of every ability and experience.

This year's annual Dance Show was entitled 'Pictures at an Exhibition' and consisted of 25 dances with a total of 104 pupils performing, which is a school record! It consisted of a range of styles of dance, with pupils from First Year to Upper Sixth performing.

Inspiration was taken from many famous paintings and sculptures including 'The Scream' by Edvard Munch, 'The Six Portraits of Henry VII's Wives', the 'Cancan' by Toulouse Lautrec, 'Starry Night' by Van Gough and 'Campbell's Soup Cans' by Andy Warhol.

Music to accompany these dances varied from 'Vienna' by Billy Joel to 'Ex Wives' from 'Six the Musical'. Several pupils also choreographed and performed small groups and solos, showcasing their wide range of talent. This included dancers Eleanor Jones, Rosie Moore, Cece Hashmi and Katy Parker, Penny Horsford, Gaby Di Gennaro, Isobel Carter and Alice Mills, Shania Broderick and many more!

There are several pupils who run clubs and choreograph dances for other pupils to learn, these include Anjali Abraham, Phoebe Fox and Rosie Moore. All pupils worked extremely hard to pull off the show, no matter how many



dances they were in. There was also a total of eight people helping with sound, lighting and costumes - without them the show would not have been as successful as it was.

We have also been lucky to have welcomed multiple professional dancers into school for them to share their expertise with the pupils. These include Helen Le Roux, Cameron Woolnough and Shannon Platt. Both Miss Platt and Mrs Le Roux have worked with the contemporary masterclass pupils allowing them to further develop their contemporary skills and allowing them to try new skills such as lifts and partner work.

Mr Woolnough has been at Stockport Grammar for three years now and has allowed the boys dance community to grow in numbers, as well as skill and talent. They are able to grow their knowledge in contemporary dance as well as improve technique. This year they created two dances - one with inspiration from cavemen artwork and one from modern graffiti, based on Banksy.



The Boys Dance Club was lucky enough to earn a place at the prestigious U.Dance Northwest Festival. Unfortunately, due to logistical issues, they were unable to perform at the Lowry, but it shows the depth and community that we have in the SGS Dance Department. It is an honour that they were offered a place as it is a great opportunity to try workshops with new choreographers and to watch other young performers.

Towards the end of this year, we also welcomed professional dancers Fern Wareham and Rachel Maffi from Coalesce Dance Company to give a contemporary floorwork workshop to our Third and Fourth Years, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all of the participants.

At the very end of the year, we were able to put together a Summer Showcase, with a 'Wicked' theme, including songs 'I'm Not That Girl', and 'One Short Day'. The dance pupils were able to pull together multiple pieces in a more relaxed, but still professional, atmosphere as we showed off choreography that we made between the Dance Show and the end of the year in Hallam Hall.

Thank you so much Mrs Downing for organizing and planning all the clubs and performances this year. You have been brilliant at including pupils of all ages and always making it enjoyable for everyone. We can't wait for next year!

Eleanor Margo
(Fifth Year)



ARCHERY

In my opinion archery is a club well worth joining. Not only will you learn impressive techniques, but it's also a popular gathering place for enthusiasts. You'll have the opportunity to develop skills while trying out a variety of fascinating equipment, from medieval longbows to modern laser guns.

Additionally, it's a great environment for making friends. The instructors are friendly, and the atmosphere is really joyful. I highly recommend this club to anyone interested in giving archery a try in the future!

Raphael Leong (Fourth Year)

FENCING

Fencing is an exciting and enjoyable sport that combines skill, mental strategy and timing. I have been fencing for a few years; it is not taught biased towards one gender or another. The coaches are excellent fencers themselves and teach you whilst making the whole experience feel comfortable and helping you improve in a pleasant environment. In addition, fencing is both mentally and

physically stimulating from guessing your opponent's attacks to learning new moves. What makes fencing even more fascinating is its deep connection to history and the French language. Fencing is not just about the technique; it is also about the heritage and tradition of the sport which has shaped it over centuries.

Noor Mohyuddin (Third Year)

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

ARCHERY

Colours were awarded to: Charlie Roberts.

CLIMBING

Colours were awarded to: Rupert Davies, Sam Hill, and Harriet Thomson

ATHLETICS

Molly Mills (U16 4x international selections (4 England vests); English Schools National Champion in Heptathlon; English Schools silver in 300m Hurdles; Schools International Bronze medallist in 300m Hurdles). William Jones (U16 National level competitor in the 400m indoor English Athletics; Greater Manchester Representative in the Octathlon).

CRICKET

Adam Siddique (U15 Greater Manchester Cricket League (captain); Lancashire Development).

BADMINTON

Julia Davis (Cheshire U13 and U15).

CROSS COUNTRY

Emmy Darnley (U12 Stockport Schools Champion; Greater Manchester Schools Representative).

BASKETBALL

Jermain Brown (U12 Manchester Magic Academy).

DANCE

Ella Livingstone (U12 Team England; Dance World Cup in Burgos, Spain). Gabriela Di Gennaro (U13 Elmhurst Ballet School Audition Finalist). Colours were awarded to: Giulia Burns, Isobel Carter, Phoebe Fox, Eleanor Jones, Ella Merryweather, Alice Mills, Jess Wiggetts, Anjali Abraham, and Penny Horsford.

BOCCIA

Jacob O'Neil (U12 National Team Selection; 2 x Gold Medal Heathcoat Cup).

EQUESTRIAN

Sadie-May Feehan (U15 England Representative at the Youth Home Nations; Winner of National Schools Equestrian Association National Elementary Dressage Championships).

FOOTBALL

Barney Moriarty (U13 Stockport County FC Academy; Stockport Schoolboys Town Team; NW Region Independent Schools FA team). Annalise Wild (U14 Burnley's ETC; England Player Pathway). Margot Hartley (U13 FA Girls Youth Cup Final Winner).

GOLF

Jasper Hughes (U17 Cheshire).

HOCKEY

Georgia Stevenson (U12 Greater Manchester County Hockey; Tensworth Academy). Ella Mayweather (U16 England Hockey Talent Program). Katherine Monk (U18 Greater Manchester County). Ivan Manson (U15 England Hockey Talent Pathway). Evan Craven (U14 Greater Manchester County). Sophia Morelli (U15 Greater Manchester County). Maya Gholkar (U15 Greater Manchester County). Charlotte Kenney (U12 Greater Manchester County U12 team; Tensworth Development Squad). Frankie Knighton (U12 Greater Manchester County). Sadie-May Feehan (U15 Greater Manchester County). Holly Stead (U15 Greater Manchester County). Louis Whitehurst (U13 Greater Manchester County Hockey team; Tensworth NW Squad). Pearl Hughes (U14 Greater Manchester County).

LACROSSE

Tilly Botterman (U14 Cheshire County). Will Crabtree (U15 Selected for Cheshire County and England Development Pathway). Alex Crabtree (U13 England Development Pathway). Evie Garside (U18 Cheshire County; National - Wales Academy). Daisy Garside (U15 and Under 18 Cheshire County; North A Team; National - Wales Performance Squad). Orla Roberts (U14 Cheshire County). Henry Duckworth (U17 Cheshire County). Frankie Taylor (U17 Lancashire County).

NETBALL

Lola Ferris (U15 and U17 Nottingham Forest; Scotland National Netball Squad (Thistles) U17 squad). Lucy Roberts (U15 Cheshire PDP). Marleigh Coster (U17 Northern Ireland International Netball team). Hali Dealey (U13 Manchester Thunder Pathway; National U14's Kingsway Power Netball Club). Jess Wood (U14 Kingsway Power; Greater Manchester County U15; Manchester Thunder Pathway U14). Elena Raynes (U13 Manchester Thunder Pathway; Cheshire County U13).

RUGBY

Jordan Ikeh (England U18). Ben Lavender (U18 Cheshire County; North of England). Will Crabtree (U15 selected for Sale Sharks Academy). Bradley Gleave (U18 Cheshire County). Ted Deans (U15 member of the Sale Sharks PDG; Salford Red Devils Academy). Samuel Tyley (U16 Sale Sharks PDG). Kobi Dealey (U15 Sale Sharks PDG). Connor Atkinson Lamb (U16 Sale Sharks PDG).

SQUASH

Ernest Fleeting (U13 Cheshire Training Squad). Heidi Mayo (U13 Lancashire; North West Girls U13; England Talent Pathway).

SWIMMING

Oliver Tang (U12 Stockport Metro; National Qualifier - Top 5 Fastest U13 50m Free; 10 Regional NW Qualifications). Ruslana Blakey (U12 Stockport Metro; Regional and National Qualifier).

TENNIS

Matthew Owens (U13 Runner Up Cheshire Country Championship; Cheshire County Representative; 2 x Tennis Europe and 1 x LTA Nationals Qualifier). Oliver Daw (U13 Cheshire Winter League Finalist).

WATER POLO

Rafael Cabrera Otero (U12 City of Manchester Selection).

SPORTS COLOURS 2024-25

Commendations will be awarded in First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth 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 may be 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.

HOCKEY

Commendations

Under 12

Cara Acton
Eleanor Briggs
Sophie Brown
Isabelle Cutts-Brewis
Jemima Diggle
Anna Ferris
Francesca Harrop
Maisie Hodges
Evie Jones
Hargun Kaur
Heidi Mayo
Lottie McAdams
Martha McLaughlin
Lucy Mercer
Grace Minnock
Jessica Storey
Ashleigh Thorp
Olivia White
Erin Windas

Under 13

Reese Appleton
Orla Asar
Annabelle Blakeley
Martha Cottam
Hali Dealey
Evie Lord
Bethan Morris
Isabella Potter
Qailah Quaiyoom
Maeve Sibthorpe
Isabella Sobukunola
Isla Spencer
Mercan Temizal

Under 14

Issy Adderley
Lucy Baagalayaze
Harriet Bagshaw
Lily Crowton
Adara Dahou
Amelia Delaney
Ella Given
Gracie Hadfield
Minnie Harrison
Lillian Lewis-Clarke
Stanley Calladine
Louis Whitehurst
Freddie Forrester
Alex Bailey
Fergus Dymock
Frankie Knighton
Seb Guy
Harry Maddock
Sam Raines
Marco Burns
Jack Heaps
Evan Craven

Under 15

Alexis Atenyam
Florence Batey
Amber Bright-Thomas
Grace Ferguson
Eva Kaligotla
Iris Kennedy
Olivia Smith
Charlotte Underwood
Eleanor Margo

Under 16

Annabel Bagshaw
Anisah Dewan
Phoebe Fox
Katherine Monk
Ava Mungall
Edith Rose
Serena Tirsahar
Grace Garbutt

Senior

Eliza Khan

Colours

Under 12

Norah Lill Bird Bolianatz
Emmy Darnley
Charlotte Kenney
Eve O'Reilly
Georgia Stevenson
Laina Thompson

Under 13

Sophia Hemmings
Alice Margo
Isabella Smith
Maggie Sidell

Under 14

Isabelle Bailey
Megan Burns
Georgiana Hallam
Pearl Hughes
Isabella Hunter
April Murison
Anika Sijuwade
Gemma Whitehall
Harry Buck
Archie Buck
Daniel Hyde
Alex Lingham

Under 15

Holly Stead
Sophia Morelli
Sadie Feehan
Maya Gholkar
Ella Hales
Elin Holding
Sara Anand

Under 16

Giulia Burns
Ella Merryweather
Molly Mills
Thiana Quinn
Sasha Turnock

Senior

Charli Barnett
Shania Broderick
Sara Watson
May Nassar

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

FOOTBALL

Commendations

Under 12

Muhammad Ahmed
 Alex Bailey
 Rufus Crank
 Miles Dakin
 Harry Davies
 Sam Faulkner
 Frankie Fish
 George Fitton
 Joel Garvey
 Seb Guy
 Gabriel Higginson
 Oliver Jim
 Tom Khattab
 Frankie Knighton
 Riley Knowles
 Bobby Leech
 Alex Lingham
 Charlie McCleary
 George Mounfield
 Orry Mylrea
 Arthur Poole
 George Rudd
 Jamie Sullivan
 Krishna Vicknesh
 Nicholas Wears
 Daniel Welch
 Sebastian Williams
 Alekos Zachariades

Under 13

Thiago Meta Patel
 Harry Buck
 Oscar Hamut
 Vaughn Stewart
 Stanley Calledine
 David Matthews
 Zak Barkatali
 Louis Whitehurst
 Asher Lawrence-Maguire
 Ben Stratford-Smith
 Sami Shaw
 Owen Reid
 Will McCormick
 Ethan Evison

Under 14

Daniel Buckley Ingham
 Aaban Butt
 Rohan Clemens
 Harry Groom
 James Gumberly
 Will Harvey
 Sam Johnson
 Hadi Ismail
 Ralph Kiff
 Oliver Littler
 Harry Matic
 Muaaz Syed
 Tom Thorpe
 Jack Warburton
 Nat Wilson
 Theo Zacharides

Under 15

James Pullen
 Kobi Dealey
 Haroon Rashid
 Evan Rodgers
 Casper Hague
 Robert Lord
 Archie Maughan
 Ted Deans

Under 16

Joshua Muamba
 Uso Uraih
 Lucas Dunnington
 Stanley Tombs



Colours

Under 12

Jepp Browne
 Pierre Carlson-Webber
 Finlay Carroll
 Rayyan Fadahunsi
 Adam Hayes
 Archie Hollins
 Saboor Wahid

Under 13

Patrick Toal
 Terry Adediran
 Oli Daw
 Archie Buck
 Leo Garvey

Under 14

Dan Ferris
 Jack Green
 Tom Hammond
 Charlie Kempson
 Oliver Hyde
 Jack Porter
 Josh Hughes
 Enzo Corbelli

Under 15

George Mercer
 Lucas Sullivan
 Daniel Booth
 Harvey Mason
 Thomas Huxley

Under 16

Christian Stevenson
 George Hammond
 Joe Barlow
 Joe Hoyle

Senior

Alfie Anderson
 Danny Church
 Matthew Scott
 Alex Canty

The winner of the **FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR TROPHY** (awarded to the player who contributes the most to Football) was **Danny Church**

NETBALL

Commendations

Under 12

Laina Thompson
 Ruslana Blakey
 Luisa Bright-Thomas
 Charlotte Brown
 Eva Greatorex
 Evie Jones
 Charlotte Kenney
 Orla Lugsden
 Lucy Mercer
 Scarlett Mills
 Grace Minnock
 Nella Peill
 Anna Rochford-Haq
 Sophia Thornton

Under 13

Amelia Braid
 Martha Cottam
 Erin
 Naimah Orr
 Qailah Quaiyoom
 Isla Spencer
 Holly Stephenson
 Phoebe Swettenham-
 Davey
 Ilysia Blackburn

Under 14

Anabel Brazier-Cabrejas
 Arshma Butt
 Alicia Holden
 Noor Mohyuddin
 Khadeja Alkholany
 Tallulah Phythian
 Maddie Swales
 Sophia Traynor
 Daanya Khan

Under 15

Renae Devaney Jones
 Anais Wood
 Neave Stafford
 Jenna Newman
 Mina Farooq
 Emily Smith
 Fiza Rasheed
 Bethan Warburton
 Cathleen Lui
 Sophie Davies

Under 16

Orlagh Bentley
 Beverley Kwangari
 Robyn Hyde
 Erin Roberts
 Emily Flint
 Viola Carter-Phillips

Colours

Under 12

Heidi Mayo
 Anna Donnelly
 Hannah Woolley
 Nicole Woods
 Jess Storey
 Georgia Stephenson
 Zoe Ogunmakin

Under 13

Orla Asar
 Hali Dealey
 Annabelle Blakeley
 Ellie Raynes
 Evie Lord
 Rose Ferguson
 Josie Stone

Under 14

Lucy Barker
 Georgia Davies
 Agnes Gooda
 Bella Hughes
 Poppy Dyson
 Jess Wood
 Minnie Harrison
 Hannah Ward
 Annabelle Whereat

Under 15

Melika Mortazavi
 Matilda Wigglesworth
 Lola Ferris
 Heidi Armitage
 Lucy Roberts
 Esme Birkett
 Sofia Tkachuk
 Ava Anderson

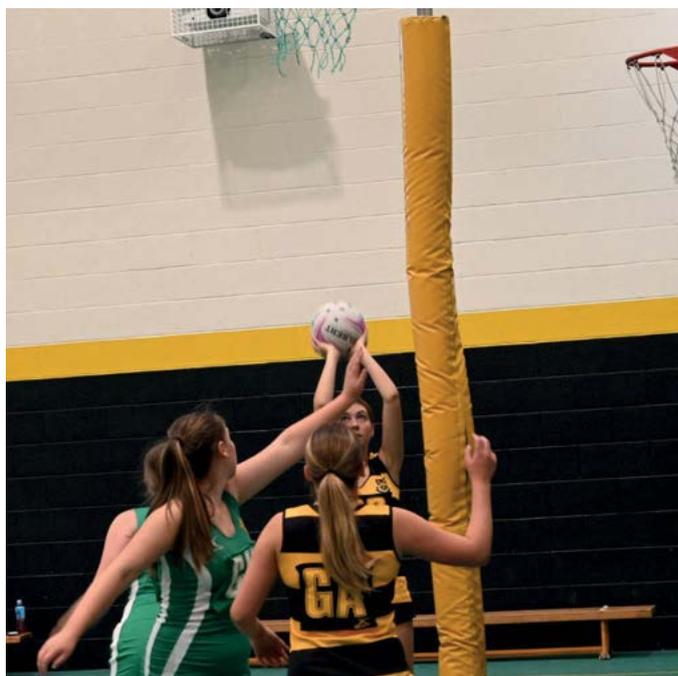
Under 16

Marleigh Coster
 Molly Steele
 Sadie Canty
 Harriet Hanger

Senior

Niamh Bentley
 Francesca Burton

The **NETBALL CUP** (awarded to the player who has contributed most to Netball) was won by **Niamh Bentley** and **Francesca Burton**



RUGBY

Commendations

Under 12

Joshua Ademola Agbaje
Misimi Akeju
Harry Davies
Charlie Dean
Fergus Dymock
Frankie Fish
Seb Guy
Tom Khattab
Riley Knowles
Alex Lingham
Harry Maddock
George Mountfield
Sam Raines
George Rudd
Sam St Clair
Nicholas Wears
Daniel Welch
Arthur Williams

Under 13

Orrin Williams
Alex Williams
Gaspard Wittershein
Caspar Aminian
Zak Barkatali
Matthew Lowther
Tom London
Matthew Owens
Tommy Doyle
Charley Ingham

Under 14

Abdullah Aremu
Adam Atkinson
Tom Boyd
Sam Eccles
Hamza Fahm
Declan Fitzgerald
Dan Ferris
Will Foyle-Gardner
Alex Griffin
Tom Hammond
Owen Henderson
Ralph Kiff
Harry Lucas
George Maxwell
Finn Newbury
Jack Porter
Sarim Rafique
Ethan Reid
Daniel Sullivan
Jacob Thorpe
Tom Thorpe
Jack Warburton
Oliver Wroe
Arthur Wright
Theo Zachariades
Seb Disley

Under 15

Syrus Aminian
Ollie Cottam
Will Crabtree
Caesar Evans
Stanley Dean
Hari Nadarajah-Tennant
Niall O'Reilly
Harry Stevenson

Under 16

Quasim Quaiyoom
Arun Patel
Will O'Neil
Freddie McEwan
Robbie Jack
Daniel Dadge
Sam Burden
Connor Atkinson-Lamb
Hamish Morton
Arthur Wolstenholme
Lucas Dunnington
Oliver Cresswell
Josh Goulden
Ben Jacks
Callum Kennedy

Senior

Ben Lavendar
Josh Sparrow
Tom Wright
Luke Warren
Josh Sparrow
Bradley Gleave
Will Daniels
Brandon Cross
Frazer Asherton-Smith

Colours

Under 12

Al-Amin Aremu
Alex Bailey
Jermain Brown
Jepp Browne
Rayyan Fadahunsi
Harry Halls
Harry Keenan
Jamie Sullivan
Alekos Zachariades

Under 13

Elliot Ingham
Matthew Savage
Owen Reid
Dan Munnely
Lucas Fowler
Vaughan Stewart

Under 14

Aaban Butt
Oliver Dutton
Jack Green
Harry Groom
Josh Hughes
Toby Jones
Ewan Meanwell
George Mutch
Tom Waite

Under 15

Daniel Butterworth
Ted Deans
Kobi Dealey
Isaac Groombridge
Thomas Huxley
Benedict Woodworth

Under 16

Sam Tyley
Jack Hunter
Harry Bolar

Senior

Jack Rafter
Jack Warren

The **BLOOD CUP** (awarded to the player who contributes the most to Rugby) was won by **Bradley Gleave**

CRICKET

Commendations

Under 12

Tobias Audsley
Jermain Brown
Finlay Carroll
Rayyan Fadahunsi
Frankie Fish
Sebastian Graham
Sebastian Guy
Archie Hollins
Lewis Hollway
Luca Hurst
Harry Keenan
Frankie Knighton
Alexander Lingham
Harry Maddock
Orry Mylrea
Rufus Crank
Samuel Raines
James Sullivan
Nicholas Wears
Daniel Welch
Arthur Williams
James Woodsmith
Jepp Browne
Tom Khattab
Harry Davies

Under 13

Oliver Bennington
Zak Barkatali
Freddie Forrester
Joe Hargreaves
Elliot Ingham
Hassan Khan
Harry Levy
Tom London
Asher Lawrence-Maguire
Thomas Mungall
Dan Munnelly
Arran Parkinson
Matthew Savage
Sam Victoratos
Alex Williams
Benj Stratford-Smith
Charley Ashton
Sumbal Butt
Fatima Ahmed
Sophie Brown
Emaan Hanjra
Helena Parikh
Martha Cottom
Megan Walker
Margot Hartley

Under 14

Charlie Kempson
Tom Thorpe
Jack Heaps
Aaban Butt
Harry Groom
Alex Griffiin
Ethan Reid
Muazz Syed

Under 15

Stanley Deans
Robert Lord
Mehul Valluri
Daniel Booth
Zach Walmersley
Ben Stead
James Pullen
Adi Kumble
Will Lightening
Eesa Ansari
Burhanuddin Salem
Amaan Mohammed
Noah Martin-Evans
Harvey Mason
Hashim Khan
Tom Orange
Raayan Choudhury
Milun Chieba
Amelia Delaney
Isabelle Adderly
Daanya Khan
Minnie Harrison
Arshmah Butt
Lily Crowton
Agnes Gooda
Georgiana Hallam
Pearl Hughes
Anika Sijuwade
Amelia Gauld

Senior

Nehan Butt
Oliver Feehan
James Caine
Nikolas Needham
Seb Ogley
Arun Patel
Toby Wells
Sami Butt
Matthew Rogan
Sam Tyley
Robert Morrisson

Colours

Under 12

Harry Halls
Adam Hayes
Joshua Newey
Alekos Zachariades

Under 13

Owen Reid
Ashleigh Thorpe
Josie Stone
Ellie Raynes
Qailah Quaiyoom
Eleanor Briggs
Lily Stockton
Charlotte Kenney
Eleanor l'Anson

Under 14

Daniel Buckley-Ingham
James Gumbley
Sam Johnson
Nat Wilson

Under 15

Thomas Huxley
Angus Reid
Finn Raynes
Adam Siddique
Flo Batey
Florence Batey
Anya Wells
Isabella Hunter
April Murison
Poppy Furness
Lucy Barker
Isla Locke
Merryn Koke

Senior

Sean Duckworth
James Patel
Jack Hunter
Cameron Reid
Qasim Quaiyoom

The **CRICKET CUP** (awarded to the player who contributes the most to Cricket) was won by **Qasim Quaiyoom**.

ATHLETICS

Commendations

Under 12

Rayyan Fadahunsi
 Al-Amin Aremu
 Jermain Brown
 Seb Williams
 Joel Garvey
 Alex Bailey
 Sam Collier
 Haris Clowes
 Harry Halls
 Jamie Sullivan
 Charlotte Brown
 Sophie Brown
 Jaime Cooper
 Anna Donnelly
 Anna Ferris
 Grace Minnock
 Judy Mylrea
 Zoe Ogunmakin
 Anna Rochford Haq
 Nicole Woods
 Eva Greatorex
 Sophia Thornton
 Georgia Stevenson

Under 13

Stanley Calladine
 Ethan Evison
 Matthew Owens
 Edward Jones
 Theo Metha-Patel
 Quinn Hamilton
 Lilia Cole
 Reece Appleton
 Alice Margo
 Ilysia Blackburn
 Rose Ferguson
 Erin
 Phoebe Swettenham Davey

Under 14

Nat Wilson
 Seb Disley
 Jess Woods
 Bella Hughes
 Izzy Hunter
 Noor Mohyuddin

Under 15

Will Crabtree
 James Pullen
 Ted Deans
 Lucas Sullivan
 Tom Huxley
 Angus Reid
 Harry Chadwick-Fincher
 Dan Booth
 Caesar Evans
 Tom Orange
 Isaac Groombridge
 Sadie Feehan
 Florence Batey
 Elin Holding
 Melika Mortazavi
 Matilda Wigglesworth
 Eleanor Margo
 Parisa Solhiraj
 Ava Costello
 Ava Anderson
 Daisy Garside

Colours

Under 12

Misimi Akeju
 Jaden Anderson
 Emmy Darnley
 Helena Parikh

Under 13

Lawrence Glazier
 Matthew Savage
 Belle Blakeley
 Hali Dealey
 Niamah Orr
 Chloe Montgomery
 Evie Lord
 Joanna Oluwakayode
 Ellie Raynes

Under 14

Oliver Dutton
 Tom Waite
 Poppy Dyson
 Geogiana Hallam
 Anika Sijuwade
 Gemma Whitehall
 Hannah Ward
 Jess Lewis Gill
 Sienna Entwistle
 Megan Burns

Under 15

Ben Stead
 Kobi Dealey
 Charlotte Underwood
 Lola Ferris
 Holly Stead
 Amber Bright Thomas
 Maya Gholkar
 Neave Stafford
 Eva Kaligotla

The **WALTON ATHLETICS TROPHY** (awarded to the person who contributes the most to Athletics) was won by **Molly Mills**

TENNIS

Commendations

Under 12

Jepp Browne
Harry Halls
Tom Khattab
Ethan Zhong
Sam Faulkner
Frankie Knighton
Harry Maddock
Orry Mylrea
Chun Yu Wong
Oliver Jim
Will Styles
Arthur Williams
Alex Lingham
George Rudd
Jamie Patel
Norah Lill Bird Bolianatz
Laina Thompson
Niamh Round
Ruslana Blakey
Jemima Diggle
Iris Ford
Maisie Hodges
Evie Jones
Zara Kiani
Heidi Mayo
Natalie Nwokolo
Jaimie Cooper
Charlotte Kenney
Lottie McAdams
Nella Peill
Eve O'Reilly
Sophie Lomas
Penny Norris

Under 13

Quinn Hamilton
Thiago Mehta Patel
Theo Mehta Patel
Dan Munnely
Jack Benson
Edward Jones
Aayan Raja
Lucas Fowler
Finley Gough
Orrin Williams
Ernest Fleeting
Ben Gauld
Felix Samuels
Amelia Braid
Percy Gibbons
Connie Goodman
Esther Goodman
Sophia Hemmings
Emily Knight
Jessica Loh
Eva Miller
Chloe Montgomery
Josie Stone
Megan Walker

Under 14

Jack Porter
Oliver Hyde
Adam Kaawan
Joe Levy
Hamza Fahm
Khadeja Alkholany
Annie Brooks
Sophie Colin
Lily Crowton
Phoebe Diggle
Agnes Gooda
Gracie Hadfield
Lillian Lewis-Clarke
Maddie Swales
Anabelle Whereat

Under 15

Mustansir Ganjifrockwala
Max Hillgrove
James Pullen
Isaac Groombridge
Harry Stevenson
Marley Stones
Casper Hague
Eva Kaligotla
Neave Stafford
Esme Birkett
Maya Gholkar
Heidi Armitage



Colours

Under 12

Harry Davies
Oliver Hoang
Olivier Bobrowski
Mazen Elrakhawy
Emmy Darnley
Nicole Woods
Grace Minnock
Erin Windas

Under 13

Vaughan Stewart
Archie Warren
Matthew Owens
Oliver Daw
Ewan Taylor
Laurence Glazier
Stanley Calladine
Zak Barkatali
Maggie Sidell
Isabella Smith
Isla Spencer
Mercan Temizel

Under 14

Harry Matic
George Woolley
Jack Warburton
Jessica Lewis-Gill
Daanya Khan
Alicia Holden
Annalise Wild
Minnie Harrison

Under 15

Tom Orange
Dylan Daw
Zack Joubert
Evan Rodgers
Poppy Furness
Alexis Atenyam
Sophie Davies
Mollie Farrar
Charlotte Underwood

The **TENNIS CUP** (awarded to the player who contributes the most to Tennis) was won by **Poppy Furness** and **Sophie Davies**

SWIMMING

Commendations

Under 12

Doug Collier
Sam Collier
Ella Drake
George Rudd
Darcy Lowe
Hannah Woolley
Elliot Pattersion
Evie Jones
Seb Guy
Orla Lugsden
Aanya Smith
Luke Alderson
Rafi Cabrera Otero
Lottie McAdams
Jaimie Cooper
Laina Thompson

Under 13

Hannah Hudson
Ethan Harrison
Ilysia Blackburn
Ellie Raynes

Under 14

George Woolley
Noor Mohyuddin
Khadeja Alkholany
Jack Heaps
Tajwar Haider
Ariana Twiss
George Wooley

Colours

Under 12

Oli Tang
Ruslana Blakey
Emmy Darnley
Jemima Diggle
Renie Harrington
Alex Lingham
Sam Raines
Olivia White

Under 13

Tommy Doyle
Ethan Evison
Sophia Garner
Chloe Montgomery
Maggie Sidell
Nathan Slate

Under 14

Issy Adderley
Thomas Collins

Under 15

Harry Chadwick-Fincher
Mollie Farrar
Finn Raynes
Zach Walmsley

Under 16

Sam Hill
Georgina Vincent Bell



DANCE

Commendations

Under 12

Cara Acton
Sophie Brown
Francesca Harrop
Sophie Lomas
Orla Lugsden
Lottie McAdams
Anvita Nehru

Lily Stockton
Amelie Wheeler
Erin Windas
Fergus Dymock
Sam St Clair
Frank Threlfall

Under 13

Sophia Garner
Chloe Montgomery
Bethan Morriss
Jack Benson
Connor Whittle

Under 14

Caitlin Farrell
Martha Frew
Hattie Hartley
George Humphrey
Aoife Plaut
Amelie Williams

Colours

Under 12

Charley Ashton
Charlotte Dombrowsky
Ophelia Smith
Hannah Woolley

Under 13

Gaby Di Gennaro
Lola May Noble
Katy Parker

Under 14

Arya Abraham
Seb Disley
Cece Hashmi
Orla Roberts
Poppy Sykes
Olivia Wibberley

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



The **GIRLS' GAMES ROSE BOWL**
was awarded to **Charli Barnett**

The **BOYS' GAMES CUP**
was awarded to **Ben Lavender**

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR JUNIOR SCHOOL

HEAD

Mr M. COPPING, BEd, NPQH, FRSA, NPQEL

DEPUTY HEAD (Pastoral/Operations)

Mr S. MILNES, BA

DEPUTY HEAD (Academic)

Mrs E. SULLIVAN, BA, MA

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

Mrs C. HAMPSON, BA, QTS

TEACHING STAFF

Miss H. BAKER, BEd
Mr J. BOWDEN, BA
Mr M. BURNS, LLB
Mrs H. CARROLL, BEd
Miss B. CORR, BA
Mrs E. COULSON, BA
Mrs K. EHEGARTNER, BSc

Mrs L. HUDSON, BA
Mrs N. HURST, BEd
Miss I. CARDING BA
Miss C. JEANS, BA
Mrs J. NOBLE, BA
Mrs L. PETERS, BA (joined 1/9/24 - left 31/8/25)
Mrs K. ROBERTS, BEd, MA

Mrs N. SHIRRES, LLB
Mrs C. SMITH, BA
Mrs E. SULLIVAN, BA, MA
Mrs L. TURNER, BEd
Mr M. VERNON, BA
Mrs B. WALL, BA
Mrs J. RILEY, BA (mat cover Jan-Dec 25)

SPECIALIST TEACHING STAFF

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Mrs C. SHARKEY, BSc, (joined 1/9/24)

PE/GAMES

Mr M. COOKE, BA
Mrs L. HARGREAVES, BA (left 4/7/25)
Mr J. HARRIS (mat cover Oct 24 - Jun 25)

LEARNING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANTS

Mrs C. FLAHERTY, NVQ Level 3
Mrs R. GRANT, BA
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

Miss A. MICKLETHWAITE, MA, ARCM, ACIB, NPQH

ART & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Mr A. TAYLOR, BSc

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Miss M. GAY, NNEB
Mrs L. GILMOUR, NNEB
Mrs G. HARDING, BEd (left 4/7/25)

Mrs A. HUTCHINSON, NNEB
Mrs A. JOHNSON, BTEC

Mrs D. KOZIEL, MA
Miss D. LEONARD, NNEB
Mrs C. ROE, BTEC

NURSERY STAFF

TEACHER

Mrs C. HAMPSON, BA, QTS

ASSISTANTS

Mrs C. CHADWICK, BTEC

Miss H. CLARKE, NVQ Level 3 (left 29/4/25)

Mrs N. BOOTHROYD, NNEB

SUPPORT STAFF

HEAD'S PA & ADMISSIONS

Miss A. MARIET

SCHOOL SECRETARIES

Mrs P. AINGE
Mrs A. CHAWNER

LIBRARIAN

Mrs L. CARROLL (left 4/7/25)

AFTER SCHOOL CARE & HOLIDAY CLUB MANAGER

Ms C. JONES

BREAKFAST CLUB

Mrs E. BRAKEWELL
Mrs J. CONNOLLY

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISOR

Miss L. COOKE

PLAYGROUND AND AFTER CARE

Ms K. BAMFORTH
Mrs J. CONNOLLY
Miss A. CORCORAN (joined 20/9/24)

Mrs N. HUMPHREYS
Ms J. KELLY
Mrs A. LOMAS

Mrs P. MITCHELL (left 18/10/24)
Miss S. O'NEILL
Mrs C. STEELE

Ms B. WILD
Miss I. YIP (left 29/4/25)

GENERAL ASSISTANTS

Miss L. COOKE

Miss E. BRAKEWELL

HEAD'S REPORT

The 2024-25 academic year has been, as always, an extremely busy and rewarding one in the Junior School.

During the year, pupils enjoyed a wealth of residential visits, participating in activities ranging from canoeing and rock climbing to performing in our very own concert in the chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge. Not only do these experiences provide fantastic opportunities to develop teamwork and resilience, but they also create memories that will last a lifetime!

Our work inside the classroom is clearly very important but we also place significant value on what we do beyond the classroom. This year we have further developed our co-curricular programme with an average of 70 clubs being offered each term - an increase of almost 50% over the last few years. It is always wonderful to see the children trying something new; at this age, discovering what you enjoy and would like to pursue further is so important. Next year our co-curricular offer will be further expanded with the addition of Mandarin and cooking.

We concluded the year with our annual Prize Giving - an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our Year 6 children and to wish them well on the next chapter of their education. Midway through our Prize Giving event, a group of Year 6 children arrived back from the National Athletics Finals and the whole hall burst into spontaneous applause - this act demonstrated to me just how strong our school community is and the deep respect our children have for one another. Truly magical!



From a charitable perspective, we have supported a diverse range of charities this year. Mrs Turner and our Year 6 Charity Reps have worked extremely hard to organise a huge range of events. This culminated in our Year 6 children organising a charity afternoon during the final week of the Summer Term. The children enjoyed a fabulous afternoon and our Year 6 children demonstrated great organisational and leadership skills.

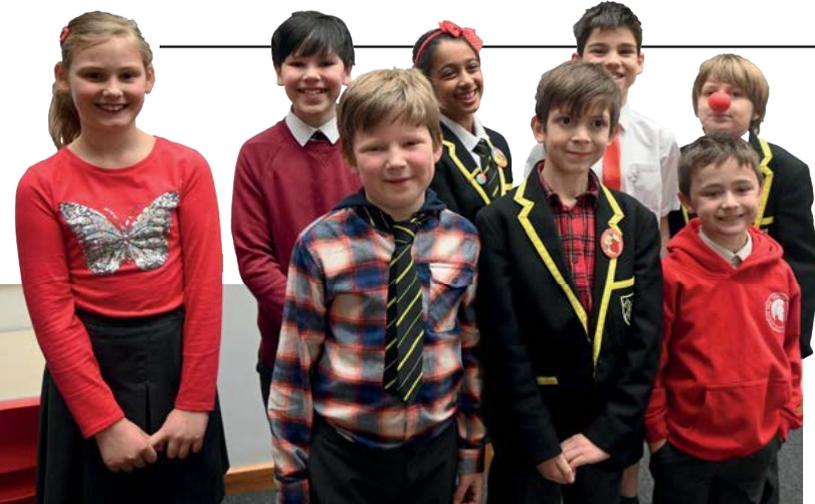
I must finish, as always, by thanking all the dedicated staff who continue to work tirelessly and go beyond expectations on a daily basis to provide the rich and varied experiences the children in the Junior School receive.

I hope you enjoy reading all about the 2024-2025 academic year in the following pages.

Matthew Copping
Junior School Head



CHARITY



The children supported the charity by taking part in a range of activities and we are delighted that the amount raised was a remarkable £1,121.50!

Red Nose Day

Pupils were delighted to raise almost £1,000 for Comic Relief as they celebrated Red Nose Day.

Community spirit was on full display as the children, stunningly clad in a red accessory, engaged in different curriculum activities, told jokes and enjoyed a cake created by the Catering team.

A massive thank you to everyone for your generosity and support.



The Wellspring

The Junior School community collected food donations at Harvest for The Wellspring. We were overwhelmed by the generosity and know the people in need in Stockport benefited greatly.

In assembly the Charity Reps Benjamin C and Lola W spoke about how The Wellspring have been supporting people for almost 30 years and a member of the local charity was delighted to pick up the donations.

During the assembly, Reverend Leaver reflected on the times when we stop and give thanks.

Nursery children were also excited to take part in the Harvest Festival celebrations and enjoyed handing over their food donations.



Odd Socks Day

Pupils wore odd socks to school as part of Odd Socks Day.

The day was part of Anti-Bullying Week and encourages the pupils to embrace their individuality.

We loved seeing the colourful socks on show!

Children In Need

Children in the Junior School swapped an item of their uniform for something bright and colourful to support BBC Children in Need.

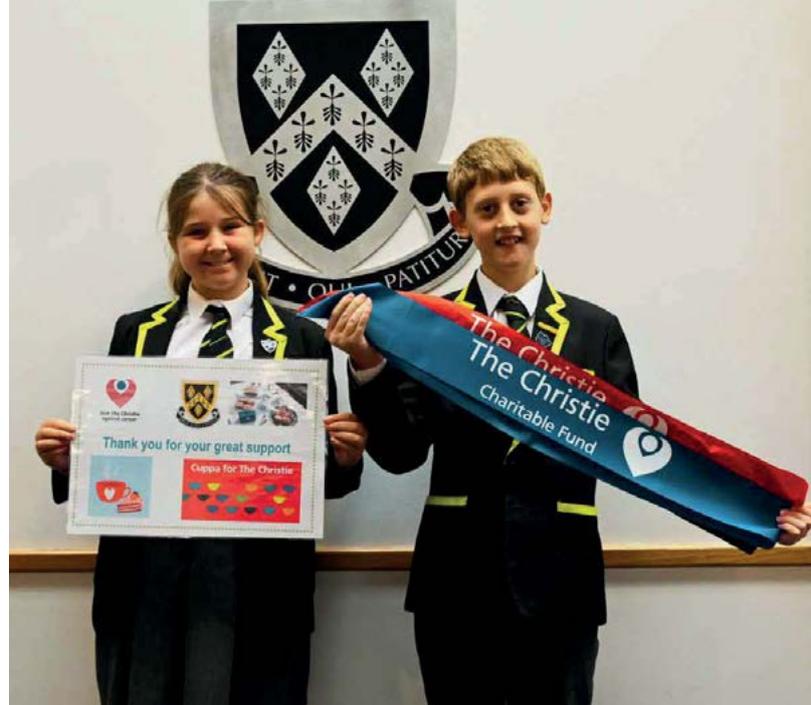
In assembly, the Charity Reps gave a helpful presentation about why Children in Need is so important, and how the charity works to change the lives of children across the country.

Mrs Gosling and the Catering staff also made Pudsey biscuits for the children at lunch.



Poppy Sale

To raise money for the 2024 Poppy Appeal the Charity Reps sold Royal British Legion merchandise. These included enamel badges, silicone wrist bands and bag clips. An outstanding £694.81 was collected for the charity.



Christie Coffee Morning

The annual Cuppa for The Christie Charity went down a treat and raised a fantastic £1,189!

Parents and staff enjoyed a delicious selection of cakes and biscuits alongside their tea or coffee. Pupils supported the cause by wearing all manners of blue and red attire from headbands, socks, t-shirts, cardigans and much more!

Thank you to everyone who baked, donated and supported this cause. Your kindness will make a difference in the lives of those battling cancer.



Diabetes UK



We are proud to share that we raised £1,811 for Diabetes UK in the final week of the academic year. The weather was perfect for the charity afternoon fund-raising event organised by Year 6 and the Senior House Prefects. All the children had such an amazing time playing the different games created by the Year 6 pupils, soaking the teachers and enjoying an ice lolly.

A special thank you to the Stopfordian Parents' Association, who kindly funded the prizes.

On behalf of the charity representatives, we would like to thank you for your continuous support throughout the year.

AWARDS

Football

Mason and Leo T played in the annual Macclesfield Town Football Tournament for their Richmond Rovers side and won, beating tournament favourites Macclesfield Town in the final.

Both Leo and Mason contributed with their usual energy, goals and important penalties throughout the day.



Metro, earning him the Bronze award. Harry remains undefeated this year - winning the 25m Breaststroke against Cheadle Hulme School, King's School Macclesfield, Ladybarn House School and Manchester Grammar School.



Hockey

It was a clean sweep of awards in the U8 boys' hockey awards at the Didsbury Northern Hockey Club for Year 2 pupils Reyaan P, Samuel H, and Ben W.



Reyaan won 'Most Improved Player', Samuel the 'Fair Play Award' and Ben the 'Team Manager's Award'. They received their awards in front of the whole junior section of the club at their end of season pizza/awards night.

Dance

Year 1 pupils Sana S, Josie C and Emilia J performed at their dance school's annual show which was held at the Palace Theatre in Manchester. There were over 200 children involved, ranging from age 4 to 18. The girls completed two routines in jazz and ballet. They really enjoyed performing on the stage and can't wait to do it again next year!



Taekwondo

Year 6 pupil Alex H passed his international black belt in taekwondo. The grading was nearly two hours long and was gruelling, but he performed his 'form' and sparred well against his fellow graders.



Gymnastics

Year 4 pupil Sophia R was delighted to win a Gymnastics Christmas competition. Sophia completed routines on the floor, vault, bars and beams and won the overall medal and trophy in the Advanced age 8 group.



Cricket

Year 5 pupil Martha F was selected for the Cheshire Cricket Girls U11 Excellence Course and two assessment days which are the pathway to selection for the full County Squad.

Tennis

Reception pupil Owen W appears to be following his big brother Year 5 pupil Seb W with his love for tennis. Owen was selected by his Tennis Coach at Bramhall to attend the six and under Cheshire County LTA talent ID event at Birchwood Tennis Centre, where he trained with the best young players in Cheshire. A remarkable effort, he was the youngest player invited to the event at only four years old!



Swimming

Year 6 pupil Harry W broke the 24 second mark for the 25m Breaststroke in the January race night for Stockport

Gardening

Year 3 pupil Billy K brought in some of his home-grown



vegetables which he had grown from seed at the family allotment. He had also grown onions, garlic, green beans, carrots, potatoes, sweet corn and tomatoes.

Equestrian

Year 5 Holly B and her show pony, Barkway Fascination, came second in the 128cm show pony class at Horse of the Year Show at NEC and enjoyed competing in front of 15,000 people in the championship.



Karate

Year 6 Harry S-W achieved his black belt in Karate. What an amazing achievement.

Musical Performances

Year 6 Pupil Ben C, Year 4 pupil Lizzie C, Year 5 pupil Rosa H and Year 6 pupil Olachi E absolutely love singing and are members of The Hallé Children's Choir. They were involved in a Christmas recording for Blue Peter and, enjoyed leading the warm-up. Ben C and Lizzie C are also both members of the National Children's Choir of Great Britain.

Netball

Year 5 pupil Reeva N and her Oldham Eagles netball team travelled to Essex to play in the ENG National Finals of the U10 Cup. They won every game and came first overall, making them the best team in the country!



CURRICULUM



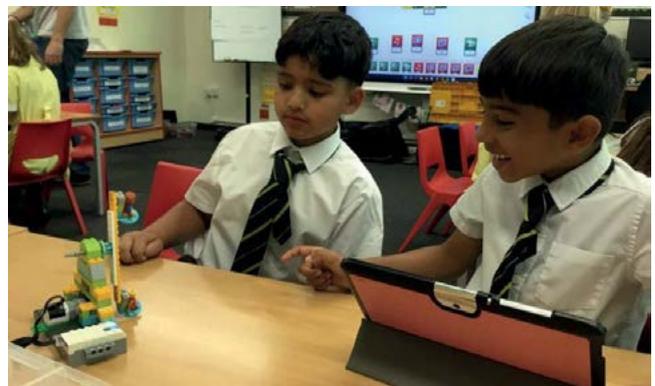
Year 6 pupils took part in a food and nutrition morning over in the Senior School. During the session, the pupils explored the Good Food Guide and learnt about different food groups and how they provide fast and slow-release energy. The highlight of the morning was creating their very own 'study buddies' - snack balls filled with a variety of flavours and ingredients of their choice.

STEM Robotics Day

Year 1 and 2 had a fantastic time during their Junior STEM Robotics Days.

Year 1 explored the exciting world of robotics by designing and building their very own fairground rides, whilst Year 2 created working cars. With great creativity and teamwork, they used basic coding and algorithms to bring their models to life, making them move just like real rides.

It was amazing to see their curiosity and problem-solving skills in action as they tested, tweaked, and celebrated their successes. The joy on their faces as their creations came to life was truly a highlight!



Barefoot Safari



Nursery went on a barefoot safari around the forest garden. They tickled their toes on the bark, found the path a little too bumpy and had a splash in a pool of water! The children had lots of fun and described the different sensations in lots of ways!

VE Day

To mark Victory in Europe Day, children took part in a variety of engaging activities to help them understand the significance of this historic event. They learnt about the end of World War II in Europe and reflected on the importance of peace and unity.

Pupils dressed in red, white, and blue, made Union Jack flags and bunting, and enjoyed listening to music from the 1940s. The children played traditional 1940's games and enjoyed special cupcakes provided by Mrs Gosling and our wonderful Catering team.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about history in a meaningful and memorable way.



Spy Day!

Year 4 had an action-packed day at Spy School Training. The children participated in lots of fun 'spy activities', going incognito and creating their spy profiles with ID cards and fingerprints, as well as code cracking.

The children had a super day, and all made such a fantastic effort with their costumes!

Egg Protection Design Engineers

Having carried out work around the 'Jack and the Beanstalk' story, Year 1 were given the challenge of helping Jack get a golden egg down the beanstalk without it breaking.

The children worked hard to come up with a number of innovative solutions to protect an egg that would be dropped from a height of 2.5m. Creations included a functioning parachute, an egg pocket and a cunningly designed egg seat.



They tested their 'egg protection design' with a toy egg, before adapting and improving it like engineers in the real world. They then tested their final designs using real eggs. The pupils had an egg-cellent time!

Maths

Year 2 had an amazing time as they took their maths lesson out into the forest area. They completed an Easter egg hunt. Each egg gave them a maths problem to solve. They were then tasked with cracking a code to reveal a joke at the end! Lots of fun was had and it was great to see the children showing brilliant teamwork along the way.



Minibeast Marvels

Nursery went out in the forest area hunting for minibeasts and watering their plants. The children were delighted that the seeds they had planted before Easter have sprouted and were surprised to find lots of ladybirds!



Terrific Technology

Nursery children learnt how to programme and move



rigger robots and turtle. The children have daily use of the classroom PCs, interactive whiteboard, digital handwriting boards and iPads. They developed their hand-eye-co-ordination well and learnt how to take turns.

Circuit Board Programming

Year 3 programmed Makey Makey circuit boards through Scratch programming software to make objects 'play' sounds when touched.

The children began by connecting the circuit board with a USB cable to their PC, they then carefully placed crocodile clips between the board and objects, making closed loop electrical signals.



The children very excitedly touched the objects as signals were sent to the computer and sound was played!

Observational Drawing

As part of the Spring and growing season, Reception children enjoyed completing an observational drawing of daffodils. They looked at the shape of the flower, stalk and leaves. The children noticed that all daffodils have six petals and long, thin, green leaves.



World Book Day

Children from all year groups had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day dressing as an adjective for the day, which resulted in some very creative outfits!



Planting A Butterfly Garden

Nursery were busy in the garden, digging, weeding and preparing the garden planters, and then planted some wildflower seeds.

The story 'Ben Plants a Butterfly Garden' showed the children how the flowers will grow and then bloom and talked about the life cycle of a butterfly. They were surprised to find out that caterpillars shed their skin as they grow and that their eggs are laid underneath nettle leaves!



First Aid

The school's Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator Miss Laura Turner spent two days in the hall delivering first aid training to Year



6 pupils. The hands-on sessions covered a range of topics including the art of bandaging, assessing a casualty, and developing the knowledge and skills that were obtained in theoretical lessons over the past few years.

Favourite Books



Year 1 pupils in RE lessons learnt to understand why certain books have more meaning than others. They brought

their favourite book from home to share with their peers and talk about why their particular book is special to them.

Explorers



Children in Year 2 looked amazing in an array of different outfits as they spent a day becoming explorers! The day was built

upon work they had been doing in English lessons, which saw pupils build a den, make clay fossils, embark on a scavenger hunt and tackle the climbing wall.



Black History Month

Pupils welcomed artist Faith Bebbington and saw a sculpture develop with the input of over three hundred children. Sixth Form Art pupils dropped in to assist as well as the Senior School Inclusion Prefects. The children were extremely engaged and a credit to the school as always.

The day was a chance for pupils to look back on what they have learnt whilst carrying out some creative activities linked to Ancient Egypt. Along with fun mummification activities and designs on papyrus, the boys and girls created clay canopic jars with visiting artist Isobel Pickup.



ZooLab

Year 1 and Year 2 pupils thoroughly enjoyed a visit from ZooLab where they got to see and hold a variety of animals including a rat, a corn snake, a millipede and a tarantula!

They learnt lots of interesting facts about the creatures – such as the fact that tarantula’s hairs help them to smell, taste and detect their prey.



Pupil Lottie H said: “I learned that millipedes help the soil by eating fruit and rotten leaves,” and Sidney T commented: “I can’t believe how soft the snake’s skin is!”

Animals

As part of their animals topic, Year 1 had a very exciting visit from Cheshire Falconry where they met four types of owls and learned some interesting facts about the birds. The visit was kindly funded by the Stopfordian Parents’ Association.



Forest Learning

Nursery and Reception pupils enjoyed their forest learning sessions. Nursery children made a Teddy Tipi that would keep their bear warm, cosy, and dry whilst Reception boys and girls climbed trees, made Autumn wands, got muddy and parachuted Autumn leaves into the air using some tarpaulin!



ART

Year 5 and Year 6 were very excited to welcome local artist Lucy Burgess into school again. Lucy designed a fabulous mural to brighten up the Book Area.

The Year 5 children were involved in the painting and Year 6 classes helped by providing some author quotes and other inspirational phrases to include in the design.

Ancient Britain Immersion Day

Year 3 had lots of fun during their Ancient Britain Immersion Day. It was a chance for the children to look back on what they have learned whilst carrying out some creative activities linked to prehistory.



The pupils crafted clay pots and jewellery and enjoyed making woolly mammoth puppets with visiting artist Isobel Pickup. The girls and boys also met archaeologist Mrs Pidgeon who brought in many interesting artefacts and explained how the items were used. The children definitely had a “yabba dabba do” day!

Living History Day

Year 4 children dressed up and had lots of fun as part of their Living History Day.

Humanities

Year 1 enjoyed a lovely walk as part of their humanities topic on the local area.

They located their nearest open space (Cale Green Park) on an aerial map and identified the route they could take to get there from school. They then looked at a street view map to identify landmarks along the way to help them remember the route there and back. They used these on the trip to check that they were on track.



Back in the classroom the pupils used these landmarks to recall their journey and create their own class map using common landmark symbols.



People Who Help Us

As part of their topic on people who help us, Reception children visited the kitchen to see where their food is made and to meet our amazing Catering Manager Mrs Gosling.

The pupils saw a huge oven, a walk-in fridge, and a giant mixer, and witnessed their lunch being prepared and the fruit being cut up. They also enjoyed seeing where all plates are washed and dried. The boys and girls had a great morning, and it made them very hungry!

CO-CURRICULUM

Sewing Club

In Sewing Club the children made soft toys, 'Wally the Wombat' and 'Buzzy Bees' - the bees have been very inventive and colourful!



They all did amazingly well cutting out their own patterns, threading their own needles, adding buttons and generally working very independently.

Classics Club

Third Year pupils Lily-Mae Bullas, Marco Burns, Poppy Sykes and Thom K have been running a Junior School Classics Club for the volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.



They have worked hard to develop and run interactive and educational activities for Year 5 pupils, teaching them about the world of the Greeks and Romans through drama, games and quizzes. The pupils have particularly enjoyed learning about the Greek gods and becoming living Roman numerals!

Scooter Club

Scooter Club was a big hit with Reception children. They enjoyed perfecting their scootering skills particularly riding down the ramps in the Senior School grounds.



Horrible Histories Club

Children in Horrible Histories Club enjoyed learning more about the Great Fire of London and Henry VIII. They were very proud of the Great Fire of London scenes that they created. They also enjoyed joining in with songs, and even made up some dances to go along with them!





Craft and Construction Club

Children in Craft and Construction Club enjoyed themselves and have shown so much creativity. Their creations ranged from a spring bouquet, leaf art, a robot, a doll's house, a puppet theatre out of cardboard and painting clay pumpkins. Their imaginative and creative masterpieces were extremely impressive!

STEM Club

Year 5 were challenged to create a catapult using nine lolly sticks, one bottle top and five elastic bands to launch a small plastic cube.

The catapult used elastic potential energy which was stored in the wooden stick as it was bent. When pupils let go, the stored energy was released and converted to energy of motion which was transferred to the plastic cube, which flew spectacularly through the air.



Year 5 and 6 Choir Tour

Forty one members of the Year 5 and 6 Choir enjoyed an exciting, fun-packed, and extended musical weekend in Cambridge.

During the tour the children delivered two wonderful concerts – one in Trinity College Chapel, and the other in the historic St Botolph's Church.

The singers performed a variety of sacred and secular choral music, and instrumental solos. Both concerts were very well attended by friends, family and the general public – including many families who had travelled south to hear their children from Stockport. The choir sang and played absolutely beautifully, making us all very proud!



St George's Church

Year 4 pupil Finnea L-M, Year 3 pupils Jensen A and Daisy W attended St George's 'Be a Chorister for a Day' event. The children learned five pieces of music and got to perform these for their families, wearing chorister robes, in a short service at the end of the day.

They also played games and made new friends. They enjoyed the day so much that they want to continue as choristers, and have asked to join St George's Choir.

Year 3 and Year 4 Spring Concert

The audience was treated to an incredibly wide range of musical items at the Year 3 and Year 4 Spring Concert.

The School Orchestra opened the concert, performing a version of one of the movements from Haydn's 'Surprise Symphony', complete with extra surprises!

Twenty soloists performed with confidence and smiles, presenting a varied programme of music from musical theatre, classical and folk traditions, to rock and popular genres.

The Year 3 and Year 4 Choir sang a range of songs beautifully and finished off the concert with a vibrant version of 'Pop Idol', complete with dancing.

Year 5 and Year 6 Spring Concert

Our School Orchestra, soloists from Years 5 and 6, and the Year 5 and 6 Choir performed a wonderfully eclectic range of music encompassing pieces from the baroque, classical and romantic eras, to jazz, folk and popular genres in the second of the Spring concerts.

Performances were delivered with clarity and musicality and the children introduced themselves and their music with confidence. Some children were performing in public for the very first time and we were very proud of them all.



Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies

Year 6 pupils had a great time taking audiences on a jovial journey through Medieval Middle England during their production of 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies'.

The story sees Maid Marion hire a band of freedom fighters for protection, but when Robin and his Merry Men arrive, she realises that they are not exactly what she had ordered!

Audiences enjoyed following the outlaws on their action-packed adventure – that featured shocks, surprises, jokes and comic capers!

The crazy characters included King John, Gavin Gutwrencher and Friar Tuck whilst some pupils grouped together to play guards, villagers and even skunks!





Autumn Piano Recital

Pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 grasped the opportunity to display their musical ability at the Autumn Piano Recital.

The concert was arranged to give children the chance to perform and show the appreciative audience what they have been practicing in a supportive and encouraging environment. For many, the concert was their first ever live performance!

Nativities

Early Years and Key Stage 1 pupils had so much fun performing nativity shows for their families.

Nursery and Reception children had a ball delivering catchy songs and playing charismatic characters in 'Baarmy Bethlehem'.

Girls and boys dressed up as sheep, angels, innkeepers, shepherds, camels and kings as they joined Mary, Joseph, a donkey, Caesar, a star, and the party sheep – Cheeky, Rascal and Scamp – on a trip to Bethlehem. Assuming a celebration was happening in Bethlehem, the party sheep escaped their flock to join the festivities. Whilst not finding a party, they did discover the nativity story unfolding right before their eyes.



There was also a livestock theme to the Year 1 and Year 2 nativity as Key Stage 1 children performed 'The Fleece Force'. Bethlehem is being looked after by the titular characters, but their job of ensuring that only those who are there for the census are let in is made harder as the nativity story sees lots of visitors turn up.

The pupils worked hard to make the show a success - Year 1 pupil Charlotte M said: "I liked singing all the songs beside my friends." Year 2 pupil Lily D commented: "I really liked that the children and parents enjoyed the nativity – it was so cheerful."

Carol Service

A wonderful evening at our December Carol Service at St George's Church was had by our extended school community.

The children sang beautifully, played so confidently, read so clearly and behaved so respectfully. We were incredibly proud of them. The theme for the music was 'A Flower in Winter' with special choral and instrumental arrangements matching each reading.

The church was beautifully decorated with Christmas trees and coloured lights, adding to the sense of occasion, what a fabulous way to ring in Christmas!





Nursery

We were delighted to welcome Natalie from Little Barn Mobile Farm along with June the most amazing duck, Bluey the gentle calf, Nacho the sheep, Larry and Margot the hungry lambs and Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail the softest of rabbits. Natalie introduced the animals to the children and talked about how she looks after them, what they like to eat and all their other friends at her farm.

All the animals enjoyed a cuddle and pat and there were lots of giggles when the bouncy lambs ran out for their bottle of milk! June brought her own paddling pool and after waddling out to meet the class, she gave them a little quack and delicately dived into her pool giving the children a cold-water splash! We all had a fabulous day and thank you to Natalie and all her animals.

Poppy N said: "We got to feed the little baby cow. He was black and was called Bluey, he drank milk."

Bobby G said: "There were rabbits, Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail. They were fluffy and soft. We cuddled and stroked the rabbits."

Lyla C said: "We were stroking June. She felt quite soft, she had a paddling pool, and she splashed all of us!"

Reception

Reception children had a brilliant time on their trip to Buxton Park.

They were very excited to travel by train from Davenport to Buxton and back and noticed the increase in animals and greenery as they got closer to the Derbyshire town.



The zip wire, swing and slide were the children's favourite playground equipment in the Pavilion Gardens and the pupils also enjoyed having a picnic together. Before they left, they devoured a delicious ice cream!

TRIPS

RHS Bridgewater



Year 1 had a wonderful trip to RHS Bridgewater to find out more about plants.

The children had a fantastic workshop where they learnt about pollination. They then made their way into the gardens to plant some seeds and look at deciduous and evergreen trees.

To round off their trip they had a great time in the playground.

They found out more about the different jobs that people had, then got a feel for what it was like for the workers by trying a few of those jobs out!

Fire Service Museum

Year 2 had a fantastic time at the Fire Service Museum in Rochdale. They learnt about the firefighting equipment that would have been used at the time of the Great Fire of London and tested some equipment out. The children also had the opportunity to dress up and role play whilst jumping into fire engine cabs, handling hoses and sliding down poles.



Year 3 Residential

Year 3 enjoyed a one night residential at the Anderton Centre near Chorley. They challenged themselves with activities including rafted canoes, archery and a very high tree climb.



In the evening, they created wild art before learning how to start a campfire. They then toasted marshmallows and enjoyed the lake views.

Year 4 Residential

Year 4's residential to Kingswood was an unforgettable adventure! From the moment they arrived, the children were immersed in a range of outdoor challenges designed to build essential life skills such as communication, problem-solving, leadership, resilience, independence, and teamwork.



Activities like night line, climbing and abseiling encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, work as a team and support one another in overcoming fears and achieving personal goals.

The Kingswood residential has left a lasting impression on our Year 4 children, equipping them with the confidence, resilience and skills that will serve them well in the classroom and beyond. The children were fantastic, and we are all so proud of their achievements!



Year 5 Residential

Castleton's Hollowford Centre was the location for Year 5's fantastic residential.

The sun was shining as they began their first activities of orienteering and problem solving. The teams quickly learned to work together and listen to the advice of their group leader.

For the remainder of their time, each group had the opportunity to do caving, raft building, zip-wire, bouldering, high ropes and a walk up to Mam Tor.

The children threw themselves into everything they did with energy, excitement, and a sense of adventure.

Year 6 Residential

Written by pupils: **Jasper H-S** and **Oscar S**

Year 6 went on a residential to Tower Wood and participated in a wide range of activities in the Lake District. The activities varied from water-based adventures to hiking up the mountains of Windermere. Although some of the group tasks were difficult, most people found them fun and entertaining, even after the tasks, people in different groups spoke about what they did and how good it was.





Challenges varied all throughout the trip such as facing your worst fears or pushing your limits to get to the top of the climbing wall. We all learnt about togetherness in our groups as we had to work together to complete the activities. In canoeing, we all had to work together to beat the other team in a race by communicating when to paddle or not. In orienteering we had to work in pairs to find out where certain places were in Tower Wood.

Many of the activities we had not done before, yet we still completed and enjoyed thoroughly. We both loved all the water tasks as it was very nice to look around at the scenery when you were in the middle of the lake. At the end of each water-based activity, you were also allowed to jump in at the dock.

Every single Year 6 enjoyed this trip, and we hope all of the other pupils get to go on this trip and to enjoy it as much as we did! The teachers were amazing and made this trip a whole lot more enjoyable. This was one of the most exciting trips we have been on, it was amazing!

UNO were played, tunes were belted out on the karaoke machine, and some interesting shapes were pulled at the disco!

Year 6 pupil Sam C said: "I had lots of fun on the ski trip. My favourite moment was seeing the views from the top of the mountain. The hotel we stayed in was really nice and the food was amazing," whilst Charlotte C commented: "The ski trip was the best trip I have ever been on! The mountains were amazing, and I really improved. My highlight was either doing the night activities or watching Mr Harris ski into a fence – and take it out!"

Year 5 Maximus W added: "After this trip I became a much more experienced skier and learnt lots of different moves to help me improve my ability on the slopes. Every night we had a fun activity to do such as sledging and karaoke. I really liked the time I got to spend with my friends away from school and I made lots of new memories that I will be able to keep with me forever. It was brilliant!"

Libbi W remarked: "The trip was so fun and a memory I will remember forever. Although I fell over a lot, I improved every second. I really enjoyed the activities at night and on one of the days we had hot chocolate and pancakes, which were delicious. The ski trip was one of the best weeks of my life and I will never forget it!"

Year 5 and Year 6 Ski Trip

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils had an amazing time on the slopes of the Italian town of Aprica as they embarked on a skiing trip. An impressive 25 hours of skiing was managed throughout the week and there was the added bonus of no injuries and plenty of smiles!

When they were not on the slopes the children were kept very busy. Intense games of



JUNIOR SPORT

What a fantastic year of sport it's been for our Juniors! From incredible team triumphs to standout individual performances, our pupils have truly shone - and the highlights speak for themselves. The enthusiasm has been off the charts, with lunchtime and after-school clubs buzzing with energy. In fact, demand has been so high that we have again expanded our club offerings, especially in the infant school, to keep up with the demand! Whilst engagement, fun and participation remain at the heart of our junior sports programme, there's no denying the thrill our pupils have felt competing in tournaments and knockout competitions. It's been a year full of passion, progress, and plenty of proud moments.

Football



Last year, our junior boys and girls took part in over 60 football fixtures, marking another impressive season of growth and achievement. The U11 boys' team, captained by Charles H, competed in several high-profile tournaments, including the AJIS Finals and the ISFA North West Qualifier. At the AJIS Finals, held at Everton's prestigious Finch Farm training ground, the team grew in confidence with each match and put in a strong showing in the knockout stages, narrowly missing out on progression. During the ISFA Finals, hosted by Stockport Grammar School, the boys demonstrated outstanding resilience throughout the group stage - with the highlight being a particularly determined performance against the eventual champions.



Meanwhile, the girls' football programme continues to flourish, with over 40 pupils from Years 3 to 6 regularly attending our football clubs. Many of these players are now representing local clubs and teams, a development that will undoubtedly strengthen our presence in future AJIS and ISFA competitions.



Netball

Netball has continued to grow in the Junior School over the past year, thanks to the dedicated coaching and support of Ms Coster. Pupils in Years 4 to 6 have taken part in numerous fixtures against independent schools across the North West, resulting in several impressive performances - particularly against teams that have historically had the edge over us. All of the Year 4 girls have now represented the school in development matches, gaining valuable experience, while our Year 5 and Year 6 teams have embraced competitive play through their participation in AJIS events.



Rugby



It has been a pleasure to witness the rapid development and rising standard of rugby in recent years. Rugby now



rivals football as the most popular sport among boys, with a growing number of pupils also joining local clubs. For the girls, rugby continues to feature in the games curriculum, with sessions led by specialist coaches. Across Years 4, 5, and 6, we've seen excellent performances in both festivals and block fixtures. The Year 5 boys have shown particular promise with the ball in hand, and it will be exciting to see how they perform in tournaments as they move into Year 6.

Athletics



The Athletics season has been one of the most successful in the school's recent history. Participation in lunchtime and after-school clubs has reached an all-time high, creating strong competition for places in various tournaments and events. Year 6 pupils delivered outstanding individual performances at the AJIS competition, securing several medals across both track and field disciplines.

However, the highlight of the season was the North West qualifier for the National Finals, held at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. Pupils who qualified for the National Finals included Yousef U (Long Jump), Caoimhe E (200m), Alice W (High Jump), and the Girls' 4x100m relay team comprising



Alice W, Caoimhe E, Isabella R, and Evie Z. On the day, all participants were exemplary ambassadors for the school, competing fiercely against the country's top athletes in their age groups.

A special mention goes to Caoimhe E, who not only qualified for the finals with the fastest 200m heat time but went on to win gold in the final, securing her title as national champion.

Hockey

Hockey continues to grow in popularity among both boys and girls. The after-school club is very well attended, and the sport has now been incorporated into the Games curriculum for boys in Years 4 and 6. The girls' teams enjoyed several notable victories in the Friday afternoon fixtures, advancing to the knockout stages of the AJIS finals. A standout performance came early in the year at the Terra Nova 7's, where the girls showed great determination to reach the final, ultimately finishing as runners-up to an outstanding Sedbergh side.



Summer Sports

In the Summer Term alongside Athletics pupils played a number of rounders and cricket fixtures as well as tennis as a club and in Year 6 Games. The PE programme focuses heavily on the different events covered in athletics which sets pupils up for competing for their Houses in the annual Sports Day events.



HELEN LAWSON



A graduate of Cambridge University, before joining our English Department at SGS in 1997, Helen had been a journalist who had reported on two of the most significant events in recent history: the Lockerbie disaster and the Hillsborough inquest.

As an English Teacher, she employed her fierce intellect and powerfully creative imagination to great effect over her many years of service. Her love of drama enriched her teaching of set text plays across the age groups, and she also has a passion for the nuances of poetic metre and an encyclopaedic knowledge of the more unusual literary

terms and forms. Pupils in her classes always enjoyed expert tuition, lively lessons and thorough feedback, which has led to great success and enjoyment for all. As Teacher in charge of Drama, she led many theatre trips alongside the fabulous range of plays she directed and produced, Stopfordians of all ages benefited from her talents and hard work. Helen remembers a production of 'Blue Remembered Hills' with particular fondness. She was always keen to encourage participation from the shyest First Year to the most experienced Sixth Former, and canonical Shakespearean classics including 'Macbeth', European dramas such as 'The Insect Play' and family favourites such as 'Oliver Twist' were all staged under her leadership and vision. Memorably, boxes of 'deely boppers' for a huge cast of Lower School cast members and several different types of bursting blood capsules arrived in the Convent office over the years. She's also a proud Tolkien geek, her favourite book is 'The Lord of the Rings', and she has absolutely no shame about it.

Helen went on to become a Head of Year and then Head of Lower School. She has been so supportive of the pupils in her care, putting new Stopfordians at ease with her welcoming and friendly manner. The Heads of Year Helen worked with reflect on her strength of character, service for others, and support for them. Our "little uns" have gone on from Lower School carefully guided to be kind and work hard.

A proud mum of four Old Stopfordians, Helen is looking forward to spending time with them, as well as travelling, theatre, Italian lessons, and further perfecting her warrior pose. She has always worked as hard as she can to put her pupils first. Helen will be missed and fondly remembered.

Jackie Smith



CHRIS WRIGHT

Chris joined us as a PE teacher from Calday Grange in April 1988. He was Head of Rugby and Head of PE before becoming our first Educational Visits Co-Ordinator and putting in place many of the processes and risk assessments that have now been built on. He has been a very successful Head of Admissions and Events Co-Ordinator in recent years. Carol Marshall, who worked with Chris for a number of years on the Entrance Exam, notes that it was a pleasure to work with him; his calm demeanour and sensible approach were much appreciated.

Chris has taught Maths throughout his time at SGS. Alexia Marsden, Second in Department, reflects that what stuck her about Chris is how much he cares for his pupils and

really knows them. He is totally invested in the pupils in his care and getting the best out of them, whatever their Maths capabilities. He was always very organised and unfailingly positive to chat to.

As Director of Sport, Chris's calm control and meticulous planning meant that colleagues and pupils were in safe hands as he put many hours into ensuring they were supported, and fixtures were carefully planned. He was always in very early in the mornings, so he had time to have everything planned, speak to his colleagues, and be in his Form Room for 8am.

When Chris was asked for the highlight of his years with us, it was being Form Tutor for 1R. There are many old, and current, Stopfordians who are grateful for his kindness, good humour, and unwavering support. He has welcomed pupils into SGS and guided them through their first year here for 37 years. Around 888 pupils have owed their successful transition to SGS to Mr Wright. It was lovely to see how many of them returned to school for the reunion

barbecue in June, to say hello and wish their Mr Wright well on his retirement. Now young men and women, some with children of their own, they were excited to swap some stories and reminisce about M10, games, labelled lockers, and the close-knit family that 1R always became. Helen Lawson as Head of Lower School, reflecting on what made Chris a great Form Tutor, distilled it down to four things: energy, enjoyment, the recognition that the role of the Form Tutor is the most important job in the school, and the understanding that First Years are children who need us to take the phrase 'in loco parentis' very seriously.

Helen also noted that George Bernard Shaw once said: "I can think of no other edifice constructed by man as altruistic as a lighthouse. They were built only to serve." Chris Wright has been a lighthouse, serving SGS with unwavering dedication.

Thank you, Chris. We wish you every happiness on your next big adventure.

Jackie Smith

PHIL CHATWOOD

Philip Chatwood departed SGS in April 2025 after 28 years loyal service to become Head Groundsman and Estate Manager at Heaton Mersey Sports Club.

Phil was a perfectionist who took huge pride, not only in the quality of sports playing surfaces, but also in the appearance of the SGS site.

In addition to being a very knowledgeable and qualified groundsman, Phil was an incredibly talented plantsman – frequently offering colleagues advice on planting combinations and general garden maintenance.

He was instrumental in the design of the new garden when our Nursery building was completed in 2021. The quality of the design, and execution, is now clear for everyone to see as the garden is fabulous and a great learning environment for the children. A legacy to Phil's passion and commitment to SGS.

Our grounds have been meticulously looked after by Phil, he has worked not only to provide the best astro pitch surface but also goals with the School crests and the two wonderful black and gold dug outs. We are very grateful for all he has done to ensure that sport at SGS runs smoothly.



Phil was more than a work colleague but a friend to many who would show kindness to his colleagues when support was needed. We will miss him but wish him every happiness

in his new job, our loss is Heaton Mersey's gain and we do wish him well in his new challenge.

**Mrs J Smith, Mr M Copping,
Ms S Withington, Mr C Wright and Mr A Marsh**

JO MASKERY

Jo Maskery joined the PE Department in 2007. Her specialisms on arrival were netball and tennis, but she was certainly an all-rounder who impressed from the start. Jo held all the key attributes required of a member of the PE Department - she was a team player, always fully committed, set high standards for herself and the pupils, totally professional, she was respected and also had a sense of humour.

In the last few years Jo took on responsibility for running the tennis in school, achieving a great deal of success and highlighting her excellent organisation skills.

Jo departed SGS for North Cestrian School after 18 years of loyal service and we thank her for her huge commitment and loyalty during her time here. We also wish Jo, Mark, Josh and Lucy every future success.

Mr C Wright



LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS



Julian Hoppe

As I studied mathematics and economics in Germany, I didn't think my chances of getting a position as a Language Assistant were high. So, I was surprised and delighted when I was offered a post at SGS in summer 2024.

I received a very friendly and open welcome in November 2024, and the language teachers were always supportive and attentive. They helped me to find my place in the first few weeks and gave me responsibility for planning activities for my lessons. They also gave me great tips for trips outside of school.

In addition to the day-to-day lessons, where I was able to learn a lot about how to explain and teach German, I experienced some great programmes and activities.

I accompanied the First Years in the Spelling Bees competition, experienced the German pronunciation competition and wrote an article for the schools literary magazine - exciting things that I really enjoyed.

All in all, I really appreciated my time in Stockport and at SGS. For me, it was the perfect mix of lots of practical experiences at school and the opportunity to get to know Manchester and England.

This cultural exchange really enriched me. I hope I was able to give a lot of this back to the pupils and colleagues. To use a German idiom, I would say: "I am leaving SGS and returning to Germany with one smiling and one crying eye."

Vielen Dank und alles Gute für die Zukunft!

Julian

Valentina Pisano

I will always remember my year at Stockport Grammar School. It was the perfect opportunity to experience first-hand the job of education abroad, but in a relaxed and close way to the pupils. I take many things and many memories from this experience.

The school has been a perfect place to learn and gain experience from other teachers. SGS has been a very pleasant environment where I have felt loved and encouraged to continue my career as a teacher.

The preparation of games for the younger children, the debates on current affairs with the older ones, the Spanish Club - these are moments that I will always carry with me.

I have loved leaving something of my culture and teaching my language to so many pupils at this school, and I hope they have enjoyed it as much as I have.

This school has been a place of discovery; the way of learning, the education the pupils receive, all in a safe and including environment that I never experienced before. I will never forget my six months here, all the people I have met and all the experience I have gained - I will always be grateful for this opportunity.

I must take this article to thank all the people who have accompanied me in this experience. Firstly, Ms Psaila who has guided and helped me throughout this journey, as well as the other Spanish teachers I have worked with - Mr McClafferty, Mr Kendrick and Ms Cole. To all the Language Department for being so welcoming. To Justine and Julian, the French and German assistants with whom I have experienced this opportunity.

Finally, to all my pupils - to my Upper Sixth pupil Nathan with whom I loved having in class and listening to all his plans for the future in the world of fashion, and from whom I was fascinated to hear all the critical opinions on the issues we discussed in class.



To my beloved Lower Sixth Form pupils - Florence, Cara and Annabel - with whom I spent so much time laughing and learning about Spanish culture, I hope you had fun.

To my Fifth Year pupils, who speak Spanish so well and I had little to teach or correct them, I hope you will consider continuing to study the language for many years to come.

To all my pupils, I hope that you will be able to achieve all your goals in the future and that there will be some space for Spanish in it. I have enjoyed meeting all of you.

¡Mucha suerte!

Valentina Pisano

Justine Declercq

Writing this two weeks from the end of my contract as a French Language assistant in Stockport Grammar School, I can tell the previous six months were a very rewarding experience.

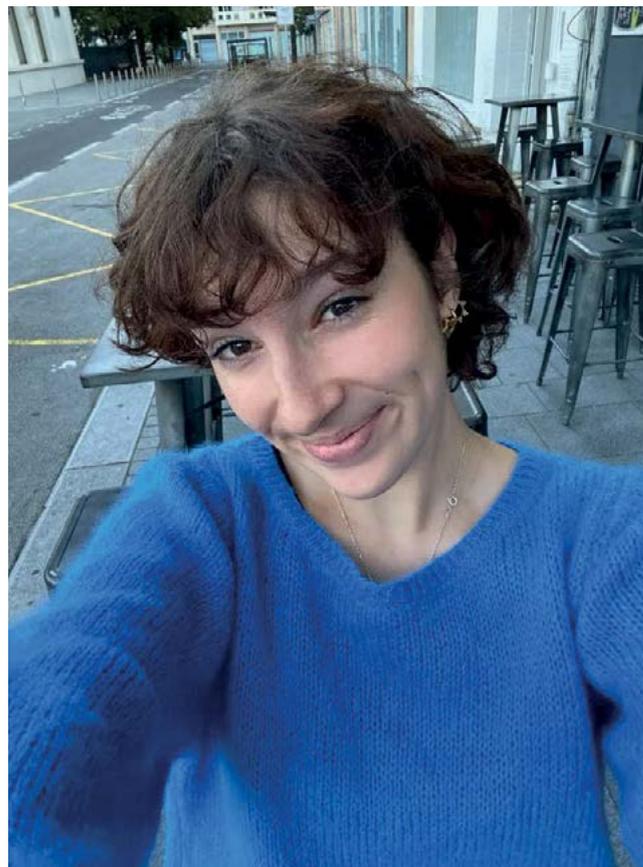
If I remember the beginning of my assistantship last November, I can confirm that many of my pupils bloomed during this period, being more and more confident every session. How lucky was I to see that! However, I also owe them a lot. If I taught them French, English is not my mother tongue, and they would sometimes teach me some vocabulary.

We also often discuss many cultural shocks (regarding food, customs, etc), or even music. Definitely, my assistantship was about cultural and experience sharing.

My favourite moment was probably the debate in Cheadle Hulme School. I was really glad to see how much effort the pupils put in, pushing their boundaries and using all the vocabulary and the references we studied together. That was particularly rewarding.

I would like to thank the pupils that I saw weekly and that made my experience even more special, especially Lucy, Annabel, Eason, Chris, Frantz, Caitlyn.

Also, many thanks to the teachers and all the staff - you were all very welcoming and helpful, it was always a pleasure to hear about your experiences and your thoughts about France and the United Kingdom.



Actually, my time in Stockport Grammar School made me consider becoming a French teacher in the UK, this is how important this experience was to me!

Merci pour tout.

Justine



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Krishanthi Carfrae (OS 2004)

As I look back on my second and final year in this wonderful role, I think about how much we have grown as a community in such a short space of time.

We've had meet-ups in Bristol, Oxford, Cambridge, London, and at home in Stockport. I've met hundreds of Old Stops, ranging from our newest alumni at the Class of 2024

Christmas Drinks, to those of us that have been a proud Old Stopfordian for a little while! I particularly enjoyed March's Shaa Lunch, as it was wonderful to see just how many Old Stops continue to support the future of the School in so many different ways. The sheer number of us in Hallam Hall was a testament to just how many of us continue to be proud of our school.

Being your President, as well as my role as a Governor at the School, allows me to see first-hand the impact that the family atmosphere has on current pupils (our future Old Stops). Staff, parents and alumni are so invested in the success of current pupils, and this is reflected in the stories that I hear from the newer members of our Old Stopfordian community.

In March 2025, the time came for me to hand over the President's medal to our new Old Stopfordian President, Arian Nikkhah (OS 2008). I am confident that Arian will represent the interests of the Old Stops community within the wider SGS family.

Arian Nikkhah said: "As a former pupil and a current SGS parent it is an honour to be asked to serve as President of the Old Stopfordians Association. Over the next two years, I'm looking forward to engaging with pupils past and present and exploring ways in which we can strengthen the Old Stops community, especially as the School moves towards the 550th year since its founding."

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Monday 11 November 2024, the Senior School welcomed back 100 Old Stopfordians, dignitaries, and their guests to our Remembrance Day Service and Lunch. It was especially poignant to remember the members of our school community who lost their lives during both world wars, and subsequent conflicts.

Following the service, Old Stops were invited to lunch, where they were treated to performances from talented SGS musicians, and a talk about the recent Third Year trip to the battlefields of Europe with the History Department.

Meanwhile, in the Junior School, the pupils learned about the importance of Remembrance during assembly. They then gathered on the astroturf to take part in the Remembrance Service, which was led by Head, Mr Matthew Copping. The Junior School fell silent at 11am to mark Remembrance Day. The Last Post was played by former Junior School pupil, now in Third Year, Charlotte Sullivan.



GOLDSMITHS' HALL



In May a group of 50 Old Stops had an evening to remember at the Goldsmiths' Hall, honouring the centuries-old connection between the Goldsmiths' Company and Stockport Grammar School.

For over 500 years, we have honoured Edmond Shaa - Prime Warden of Goldsmiths' Company, Lord Mayor of London and Court Jeweller to three Kings of England. However, it is not every day that we get a glimpse of the stories behind all the rare and interesting artefacts housed in the Goldsmiths' Hall - one of London's best-kept secrets.

The 50 Old Stops that attended the event were welcomed by Clerk and CEO of the Goldsmiths' Company, Annie Warburton, who recounted the close connection between the Goldsmiths' Company and Stockport Grammar School through the ages.

Next, guests were treated to a tour of the building by resident Librarian, Eleni, who recounted the evolution of the Goldsmiths' Hall site, the significance of Philip Hardwick's influence on the design of the building, and where you might see the Exhibition Hall pretending to be Buckingham Palace in TV and cinema.

Guests could even see the Goldsmiths' Company's dedication to Sir Edmond Shaa, as his coat of arms was on display.

Upon returning to the Drawing Room, guests could enjoy the drinks and canapés while catching up in the historic surroundings. Director of Music, Michael Dow, and Head of Physics, Heather Fenton, joined us as we looked back over yearbooks and The Stopfordian from days gone by.

We were also delighted to be joined by our new Old Stopfordian President, Arian Nikkhah (OS 2008). Speaking about the event, Arian said: "As I look ahead to my two-year term as Old Stops President, I have also enjoyed looking back and exploring a key part of the SGS story this evening."

As the evening was reaching its conclusion, the Head, Sarah Capewell, spoke about the school's foundations in philanthropy, and the significance of the SGS Bursary Fund in supporting pupils attending the School - regardless of their circumstances.

Thank you to Annie Warburton and the staff at Goldsmiths' Company for making Monday an evening to remember.



SUMMER REUNION BBQ



We were delighted to welcome Old Stopfordians and their family and friends to Stockport Grammar for the Annual Summer Reunion and Staff Leavers Barbecue.

The afternoon was filled with food, family fun and friends for our largest event in the Old Stops calendar. We celebrated the milestone reunions for the Classes of 1985, 1995, 2005,

2015 and 2020 through photos from the school archives. These provided a trip down memory lane for many guests!

We also said goodbye to retiring staff Mr Chris Wright and Mrs Helen Lawson, who have given decades of service to SGS. Old Stops and former staff joined together and shared stories of school pranks, rugby tours and haircuts from the 1990s!

SHAA LUNCH

Following the Founder's Day service at St. Georges's Church, Deputy Lord Lieutenants of Greater Manchester, donors, supporters, Governors, pupils and staff returned to the school for the Shaa Lunch in Hallam Hall.

The Shaa Lunch is the school's annual celebration of philanthropy, and there was indeed a celebratory atmosphere in the hall for the drink's reception, where Old Stops and friends of the school caught up and raised a glass to our founder, Sir Edmund Shaa.

In the largest turn-out in recent years, the guests included members of the Class of 2008 involved in the newly





established Adventure Award. The Head, Sarah Capewell, spoke about how important the Bursary Fund is, with 84 pupils in the school currently receiving fee assistance.

After lunch, guests heard from pupils in Upper Sixth - Anjali Abraham (Deputy Head of School) and Edward Griffiths (Senior Prefect). Anjali spoke of her time at school and how a combination of being supported academically, the sense of community and her co-curricular activities (Anjali is played the lead role in this year's production of 'Sister Act') have made for a wonderful time at SGS.

Edward shared his own journey too – the clubs he joined as a First Year which then evolved into involvement in the Model United Nations Club in later years; his love for Classics, and his onward aspirations after receiving an offer to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford. Edward noted: "my future achievements I owe in part to Bursary Fund donors."

After these inspirational speeches, Chair of Governors, Hazel Tritschler closed the event with thanks.



STOCKPORT GRAMMAR PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



This past school year 2024-2025 The SPA raised a total amount of £40,971 from various events including the annual Christmas Fair, Summer Soiree, Christmas cards, uniform sales, Sports Day, Quiz Night, personalised class tea towels, and Bag2School.



Stockport Grammar School is proud to have the committed support and assistance of the Stopfordian Parents' Association (SPA) who organise fun activities and events for pupils and parents to enjoy whilst raising funds to enhance the children's experience throughout the whole school.



After expenses, the net proceeds which can be used by the SPA for school projects is £30,318!

Parents of pupils across the entire school can get involved by joining the committee, attending meetings, organising events or becoming a class representative.





This includes funding various programs for the Infants, Juniors and Seniors including donating tuition for a Bursary pupil, new musical instruments, and a new orienteering course.

The Seniors were given: Prefect hoodies, Duke of Edinburgh equipment, and theatre lighting and equipment.

For the Juniors: Panto, Year 6 Prizegiving books, Year 6 leavers' books, Year 6 leavers' party, forest learning, artist in residence, new table tennis table, new piano, and a new microphone.

Infants: Christmas show, birds of prey visit, scooter day, Father Christmas, circus day, and forest learning.

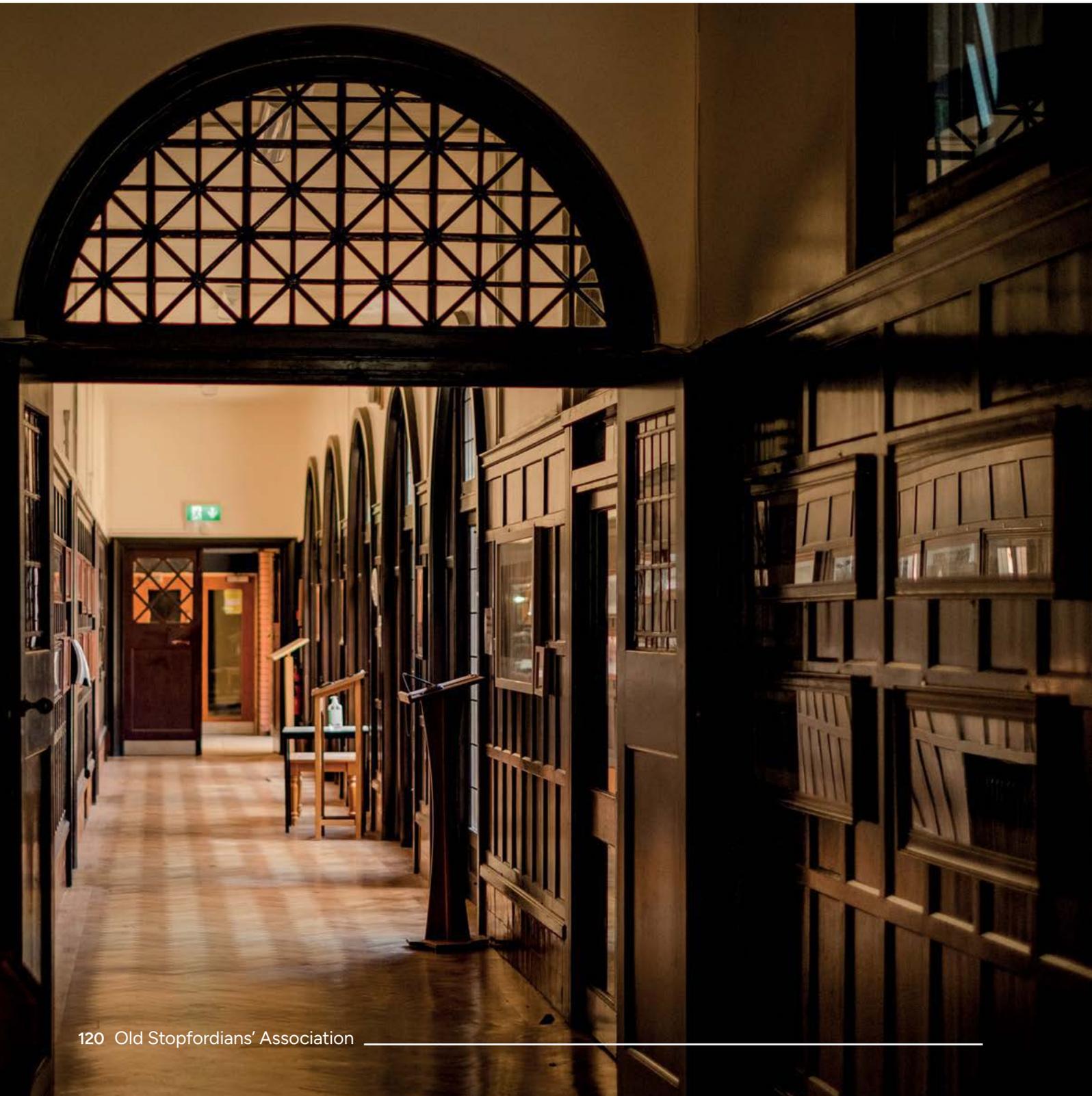
Robyn O'Donnell and Michelle Knowles
Chairs of The SPA

IN MEMORIAM

Ron Astles (Former Chair of Governors)
Dr James 'Jim' Ball (OS 1976)
David Bird (Former Head 1985–1996)
John Birtles (OS 1950)
Sir Neil Butterfield (OS 1961)
Brian 'Jim' Cutler (OS 1957)
Jeremy Farnworth (OS 1953)
Karen FitzGerald (Harding) (OS 1991)
Dr N Philip Haworth (OS 1951)
Geoff Higginbottom (OS 1975)

Gordon Jackson (OS 1946)
Dr Benjamin 'Ben' Jones (OS 1993)
Stephen Lawrence (OS 1952)
David Lord (OS 1968)
Siobhan Moore (Staff)
Angela Mycock (OS 1992)
Martin Officer (OS 1969)
Hartley Oldham (OS 1952)
Bryan Rendell (OS 1950)

Barry Rickson (OS 1954)
Duncan Rogers (OS 1960)
Margaret Scott (Former Parent and wife of Former Head)
Patricia Spiller (Former Staff)
Adam Walker (OS 1988)
Dr Donald Wall (OS 1955)
Rev Simon White (Former Staff)
Christopher Willcock (OS 1948)





BUXTON ROAD, STOCKPORT,
CHESHIRE, SK2 7AF

0161 456 9000
SGS@STOCKPORTGRAMMAR.CO.UK
STOCKPORTGRAMMAR.CO.UK

BEYONDREADY



SINCE 1487

STOCKPORT

GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Eco-Schools
Distinction | 2023-2024