



# Sails and Oars

Stockport School Newsletter

October 2023

## FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am pleased to introduce this latest edition of *Sails and Oars*, our publication which aims to share with you some of the very many events and activities which have taken place in and around school over recent weeks.

This edition in particular, showcases a raft of additional activities involving our students and staff, including the celebration of our end of year House Cup competition where our Red House were announced as our proud overall winners for 2022-23, and of course the hugely popular and successful Drama Production *Sister Act*. In addition, there is a particular feature from our Science department providing insight into some of the things that they have been recently working on together with students, as well as other subjects including our English department, and Textiles department who have provided some fabulous examples of student work from our very talented Year 10 & 11 GCSE students. Our Modern Foreign Languages department have also led recently upon our celebration of the 'European Day of Languages' with a weeks' worth of activities having taken place in September. Our History department have also for the second successive year, organized and run a poignant but very successful and culturally enriching overseas residential trip for our Year 10 & 11 students to the World War I battlefields of France and Belgium.

Beyond these subject areas, there are also interesting and informative features on our good work to support our student Young Carers in conjunction with Signpost UK, as well as a report on our very well attended Annual Careers Fair which we held on 21st September, providing amazing opportunities for our students to learn more about the options available to them post-16.

Finally, in this latest edition, you will once again find information from our PE and Sports department on just some of the amazing enrichment activities and sporting fixtures which have taken place during a very busy few weeks.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of *Sails and Oars*, and of learning more about what has been going on in and around our amazing school community over recent weeks. This half term looks like its going to be even busier.



Best wishes

Mr I. R. Irwin  
Headteacher



## DRAMA

### *One Terrific Sister Act!*

With around 1000 audience members, over 60 students and 30 staff helpers, 5 months of rehearsals, 4 evening shows, and a whole lot of sparkle – Sister Act 2023 was a huge success! It marked the momentous return of Stockport School Operatic and Dramatic Society productions to the main hall for the first time since Mary Poppins back in 2019. Our star-studded cast filled the hall with music, dancing and laughter whilst transporting audiences back to 1970s Philadelphia. The cast brought down the house with their performances each night with a well-deserved standing ovation on their final show.



The standout performer Grace S, in Year 8, who played Deloris, wowed the audiences with her voice and acting skills as she led the Queen of Angels choir of nuns to victory, with enthusiasm and grit. Archie C, Lily G, Aoife T, Hannah H and the Gang made us laugh with their exaggerated characterisations and comedic timing whilst Grace S, Macey K and Sam H made us cry with their more emotional, heartfelt moments in the show. It really was a rollercoaster of emotions; and for such a young cast to achieve such complexity really shows their commitment and passion to their craft.

The Sister Act team want to say how proud we are of each and every student involved in this incredibly special show. The

professionalism, maturity, creativity, unity, talent and grit shown by every production member has been outstanding from students both on and off stage and this has made this whole process magical and effortless.

We are so grateful for all of the support from staff both helping with the show and buying a ticket to watch, we want to say a massive THANK YOU to you all and with your help you made this show possible; a real community team. From backstage helpers and ticket sales to the bar and raffle teams, we couldn't have done it without you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

And finally, we want to say a massive THANK YOU to the families and friends of students of the cast and crew who not only supported them through the rehearsal process but who came to support and cheer on our students during show week. Some of you came every night and then gave the students a standing ovation on the final performance. All the hard work and effort that came before show week, really paid off with the response from the audiences. Again, thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

And finally, a massive thank you to the creative team for their hours of work, sweat and tears on making, what I believe, was an amazing start to the year. Thank you Mrs Didcote, Miss Mellow, Miss Powell, Mr Rongong and Mr Grzywna. What a team!!

It was just 'Fabulous Baby!'



## Red House take the win in 2023

A huge congratulations to the staff and students in Red House who won the House Cup for 2022/23. The overall lead changed hands numerous times in the final few days. With one week to go it was Blue House who were winning, but then by lunchtime on Sports Day it was Green House who were winning. A strong afternoon by Red House and the addition of attendance and house points made it a very narrow win for Red House. An elated Mrs Walker wanted to thank her team of amazing student house captains and the staff who have supported throughout the year.

'Being the Head of House is one of the best parts of my job and the fun, healthy competition and togetherness the house system brings takes the whole school experience to another level. It was a close finish but we kept pushing until the end and took the House Cup. I couldn't be prouder of my house.'

Red House are now looking to continue the winning streak and make it three in a row in 2024.



Head of Red House, Mrs Walker with her winning House Captains

## European Week of Languages 2023

This year's European Day of Languages (Tuesday 26th September) was marked with a week of activities and competitions across school.

- Eighteen forms across all year groups completed an escape room involving various activities with different languages
- Students experienced short activities linking other languages with different subjects such as English, music, science and maths.
- A total of 77 students took part in the cross-school Duolingo challenge (winners below), aiming to win the most XP in a week.
- Students kept their eyes out all week for the staff members wearing badges indicating that they spoke or were learning another language. Seventeen staff were involved officially, but students tracked down many more and were fascinated to find out which staff members spoke, or were learning, languages such as Arabic, Hebrew, Ukranian, Italian and Welsh,

as well as the languages we teach here at Stockport School. Winners for the 'Find the multi-lingual staff competition' are also below.

Thank you to all staff and students who enthusiastically participated and congratulations to the students below who received their prizes in the last week of half term.

Multi lingual staff challenge:

Elly C-H 7L

Abeeha R 8P

Nathan B 8E

Amy T 8P

Duolingo challenge:

French Champion and overall Duo Champion Sara K 9R

German Champion Phoebe B

Spanish Champion Caleb B 9E

Polyglot Champion Iris K (Korean) 8D

And a special mention to Dylan C 9P, who completed the escape room on Firefly as well.

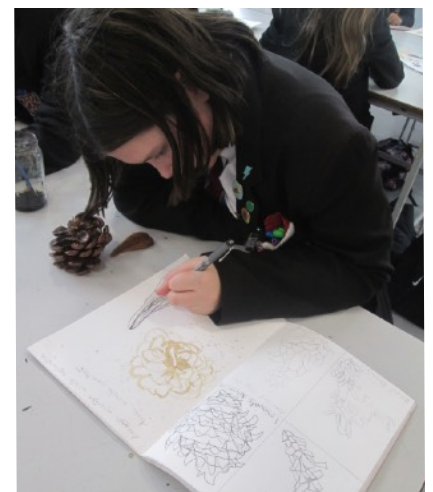
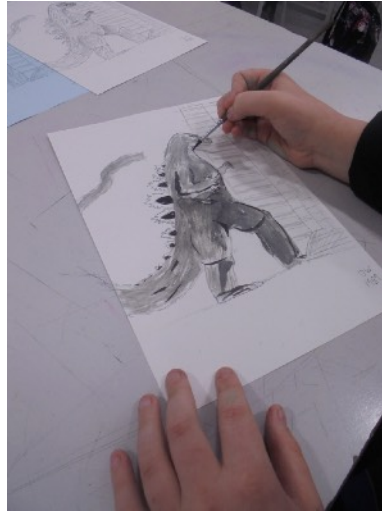


# ART

Year 8 have been observing Natural Forms using a variety of exciting drawing techniques. They have been experimenting painting with coffee and fine liner wash to create some beautiful studies.

The weekly art club, *The story of Art* each Wednesday in 204, currently has a theme of airways exploring a different country each term. This term we are discovering is Japan, exploring its fascinating culture through art.

In year 10 photography students have been creating a graffiti themed piece using the poly print technique which they will then develop further their own photography influenced by photographer Maureen Brodbeck.



# HISTORY

We would like to wish all our students, parents, carers and families a warm welcome back to school, now that we have completed the first half term. We would like to thank all our history students for their dedication and hard work so far this year, and to parents and carers for supporting the students.



This half term we took 28 Year 10 and Year 11 students on a field trip to the World War One battlefields in France and Belgium. The students were exceptionally well behaved, respectful and gained a greater understanding of the sacrifices made during World War One.

It was a very poignant trip, and a number of students were able to identify names of family members on the memorials we visited. For many students this made for a very personal experience. We also laid a wreath on behalf of the school community at the Menin Gate, following the Last Post ceremony.



Time for Change: Action Not Words' we can come together to make a change for the better.

To get to a better tomorrow, we can't just focus on the past. The past is in the past. We can acknowledge and learn from it, but to improve the future, we need action, not words. We need to come together around a shared common goal to achieve a better world for everyone.



## Black History Month

In the wake of 2020's Black Lives Matter protests, many organisations and individuals committed to tackling racism. This was done around the world by taking the time to learn about the black experience and additionally, in the UK, this included learning about the historical legacy of colonialism and slavery. That was an important step forward, but it won't fundamentally change institutional racism today.

The theme of Black History Month UK 2023 is *'Before Windrush'*.

This October we'll be exploring the lives and stories of Black Britons who were living in the UK before the arrival of Empire Windrush in 1948.

Throughout the month we'll be shining a spotlight on notable Black Britons such as Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Kofoworola Abeni Pratt, Learie Constantine and Princess Ademola. We'll also explore Black doctors and nurses working in healthcare before the NHS and the 18th century Black prisoners of war at Portchester Castle in 1796.

Along with exploring the under-reported stories of black doctors and nurses working in healthcare before the NHS such as Kofoworola Abeni Pratt, one of the first black nurses to work in the NHS and a pioneer of nursing in post-independent Nigeria For more information visit <https://www.ibhm-uk.org/black-history-month-uk>

# SCIENCE

We have really enjoyed getting back into the swing of things here in science. There have been some wonderful lessons going on within the department. Students have been focussed and prepared for their learning which has been great to see. Year 11 have settled in well to their first half term of preparation for their GCSE exams next May. They have been focussing on exam practice with some specific homework relating to their specification points. This will help them in the build up to their mock exams in November as well as their real exams next year.

Students in Mr Wells and Mrs Harris' lessons have been excellently dealing with a little disruption as some very exciting building work takes place. Two new science laboratories are being built alongside the school's construction classrooms. We cannot wait until these are completed!

We are looking forward to what the rest of this school year has in store for us all!

## *Inside our classrooms*

Students in our year 11 triple class have this term been looking at static electricity, and as you can see it's been a real 'hair raising' experience for them all.

Students have to understand how static electricity works, how it can be used in everyday situations and some of the dangers as part of their GCSE.

Incorporating practical demonstrations of the concept has really helped students to understand the theory of static!



Marley meets the Van der Graaf generator

## *Enrichment*

Our enrichment sessions have been well attended this year and we are glad to have students back after school looking into science outside of the classroom.

Students in science club have been enjoying a range of different activities, designing and building model cells to making slime and even creating parachutes to protect eggs as they fall! Students love science club here at Stockport School and it continues to be open to all students in years 7, 8 and 9.

Students have been working with Mrs Fernandez as part of her Animal Welfare club. Students are invited along to look at the treatment of domestic animals, and the use of animals in agriculture. Students will also be looking into animal testing and their views on it.

KS4 students continue to have access to study sessions on a Tuesday in science. Year 10 can access the sessions on a red week and year 11 on a blue week. Students are using the sessions to begin the preparations for their final exams at the end of year 11. Teachers have been delivering sessions on a wide range of topics for year 11 focussing on key areas for their exams. We hope year 11 continue to engage with sessions and take seriously the need to prepare early.

Year 10 have had access to independent study sessions that allow them to develop methods of revision that suit them. This half term Mr Jepson has been offering booster sessions to a number of students who are aiming to move into the triple science classes after half term.

## Educake stars

Students have been interacting well with Educake, our online learning platform, as part of their homework diet in science.

Please remind students to access Educake via Firefly and log in using the "log in with Microsoft" button.



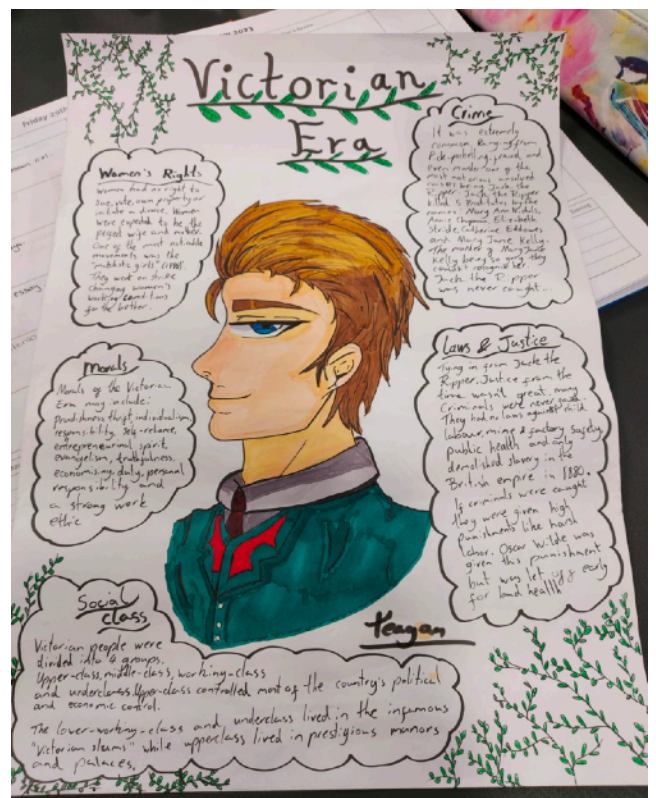
The more students engage with Educake, the more they will retain the information they learn in the classroom!

Below you will see a list of students who have completed the most questions, and achieved the highest percentage of correct questions. Each of the top students has been presented with a cake for their hard

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Chase W	Ebbie Q	Danyl E-T	Daniel M-M	Jia X
Emelia E	Ellie-May F	Oliver W	Jessica G	Katie W
Roko D	Noah M	Poppy N-H	Edie-May S	Isabella P
Tilly G	Seth W-O	Caitlyn S	Harry B	Lewis T
Sophie M	Harrison L	Annalease W	Ella T	Safia H
James W	Lilli C	Danyl E-T	Owen T	Monty S
Jennifer R	Imogen S	Ava H	Lucas M	Thomas C
Noah N	Hariprasad V	Artemis R	Arthur T	Henry T
Lilah D	Ava H	Caitlyn S	Hollie B	Maryam M
May E	Evie L	Portia-Charlotte B	Kai D	Lucas V

## ENGLISH

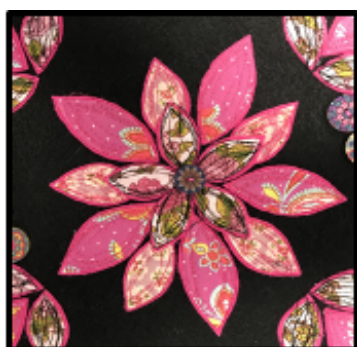
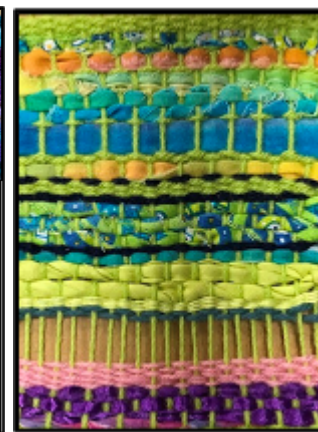
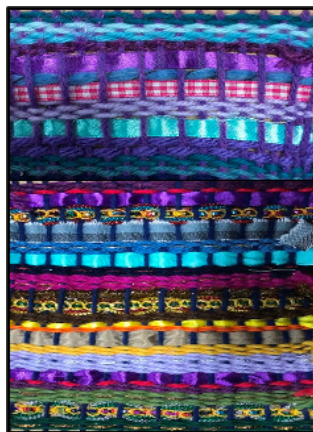
Students prepared dioramas and wrote about Victorian England as part of their exploration into different English writing.



# TEXTILES

A selection of textiles work created by some of our very talented 2023 year 10 and 11 G.C.S.E. students. Weave, print, machine and hand embroidery, applique, mixed media, photo transfer, surface design and repeat pattern.

Thank you Tom, Anneka, Alice, Meredith and Lauren.





# PE

We have had an extremely busy first half term with enrichment activities and fixtures

## Football

We have had four boys team and two of our girls teams in the English Schools cup, Greater Manchester and Stockport borough competitions. All girls & boys teams are taking part in regular league competitions too. Huge thanks to all the members of staff involved in taking training and accompanying the students to fixtures



## Rugby

Has seen great numbers of students in KS3 at training. Fixtures have commenced & we are looking to start girls rugby after Christmas too. Thanks to Mr Wells for support in this.



## Badminton

There has been a great turn out to our Wednesday night sessions which see KS3 playing lots of fun badminton games as well as improving skills.

## Netball

Good starts by the Y7-10 teams. Lots of students accessing enrichment on its regular Tuesday slot. Y9, 7 and 10 teams have also had tournaments too in the last two weeks of term

## Dance

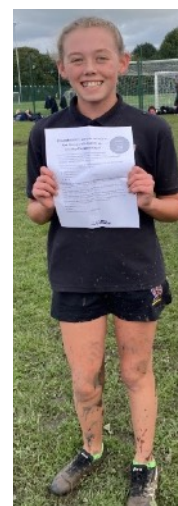
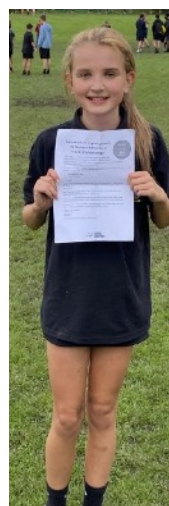
Our dance clubs have gotten off to a great start with many students especially in Y7 accessing dance club. We are starting to organise our annual dance show. More details will be published soon for students about how they can submit their own choreography.



## Cross country

We took a fantastic group of runners to the borough championships which saw the following selected to represent the borough in the Greater Manchester finals in February 2024

Y7 Eva A      Y8 Imogen G    Y11 Joel H



## Open Evening

Huge thanks to our wonderful sports leaders who represented the department amazingly and gave up their time to engage with enthusiasm with parents/carers of Y5&6 pupils



## Exam groups

BTEC dance - Our Y10 BTEC students have benefitted from workshops with Debut Studios.

GCSE students have started their climbing course at Awesome Walls and are making good progress. They have just begun their Indoor climbing award scheme.

## Student recognition

Students should look on our sporting awards board regularly to see if they have been nominated by their teacher for an award which gets sent home. And we love to celebrate student success. Congratulations to Y11 Henry T who is currently top 5 nationally for swimming. Definitely a prospect for future Olympics.

We continue to update our sporting honours display looking to celebrate the success of more of our students. If you would like to nominate your child to be part of this display please email a photo & details of their sporting achievements to [j.howarth@stockport.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:j.howarth@stockport.stockport.sch.uk)

Follow us for regular update & pictures Instagram – [@stockport\\_school\\_pe](https://www.instagram.com/stockport_school_pe) and X (Twitter) - [@Stockport\\_SchPE](https://twitter.com/Stockport_SchPE)



## CALLING ALL GRAPHIC ARTISTS!!

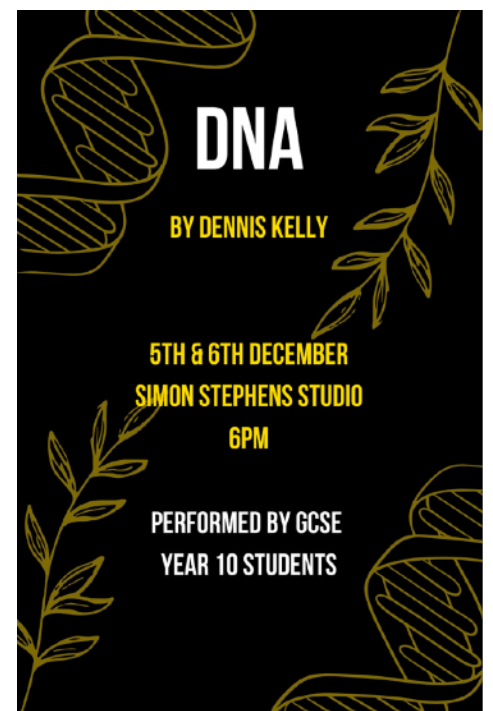
On November 14<sup>th</sup> celebrated Comic Book Artist Kev Sutherland will be visiting the Library to run a couple of workshops on how to create your own comic book.

Kev teaches pupils all there is to know about making comic strips and manga.

If you are Year 7-9 and would like the opportunity t

o work with him, pop down to the Library and put your name on the list. If there are more students than places, then names will be pulled out of the hat.

Come to the Library for more information.



## YOUNG CARERS

### *Shout out to Signpost Young Carers*

At Stockport School we have the privilege of working with numerous external agencies, who offer wide ranging support to students and their families across Stockport. One of the most successful partnerships we have is with Signpost Young Carers, who work closely with staff to support students from Years 7-11 with additional caring responsibilities at home.

We aim to ensure young carers at this school are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education and other services to which they are entitled. Young carers are children and young people who provide care to another family member. The level of care they provide would usually be undertaken by an adult and as a result of this they take on a level of responsibility that is inappropriate to their age and development. This is likely to have a significant impact on their childhood experiences. Thanks to the excellent support provided by Signpost, Stockport School is proud to have been awarded the Young Carers – Gold Award for its outstanding commitment to our student young carers



### *Catherine from Signpost Young Carers*

We are Stockport's Young Carers Service and for several years, we have worked in close partnership with Stockport School to ensure all the school's young carers are identified and supported. Stockport School were amongst the first in the country to achieve the National Young Carers in Schools Gold Award and they remain one of the flagship schools for young carers in our town, often cited as an example of excellence in the way Mr Williamson and the team know, value and support their young carers.

When young carers are referred to Signpost Young Carers, we carry out an assessment with their parent/guardian and the young person themselves. Some young carers cope well with their extra responsibilities and in-house support is enough to see them comfortably through their school years. Other young carers do need additional help, and for these young people Signpost's service can provide free family support, counselling, 121 emotional support, and respite groups which are great for young carers to meet and support each other.

At Signpost, we are passionate about recognising, celebrating, and supporting young carers and we appreciate that Stockport School feel the same way.

A 'Young Carer' is a child or young adult who spends time looking after or helping a member of their family who because of an illness or disability, mental health problem or drug and alcohol issue is unable to take care of everyday tasks themselves without some help. The help you may give could be shopping, making meals, doing the laundry, or perhaps you help out with nursing care, e.g. giving medication or lifting someone up and downstairs or in and out of bed. Maybe you give your time just to be with someone when they need company.

If you live in Stockport and this sounds like you and what you do, maybe we can be of some help.

How many young carers are there?

- There are about 700,000 young carers in the UK
- That's about one in 12 secondary aged pupils
- There are likely to be young carers in every school and college.

What might a young carer do?

- Practical tasks, such as cooking, housework and shopping
- Physical care, such as helping someone out of bed
- Emotional support, such as talking to someone who is distressed

- Personal care, such as helping someone dress
- Managing the family budget and collecting prescriptions
- Helping to give medicine

- Helping someone communicate
- Looking after brothers and sisters.
- 

For more information about young carers and support available, please contact [m.williamson@stockport.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:m.williamson@stockport.stockport.sch.uk)

## CAREERS

On 21<sup>st</sup> September Stockport school held its annual careers fair resulting with the sports hall being an exciting hub of students, parents/carers, further education providers and local employers. Every student from year 10 and 11 was invited to speak to colleges such as Aquinas and The Manchester College, gathering information and courses available and how to apply. The armed forces came along as well as the NHS, Wilmott Dixon and Stagecoach to name but a few. Stockport School would like to thank all of our providers for attending and hope to see you again next year. If anyone would like any careers support please speak to Ms Schofield, Mr Riley or Miss Willett and we can signpost you in the right direction.



## Year 7 Music Concert and House Competition



Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November

X side 5pm-6pm



Y side 7pm-8pm



All of Year 7 involved

Tickets for parents/carers now available on Wisepay/at finance (£1)

Who will be the champion house?!

*Sails and Oars* is published by Stockport School.

For information or contributions, please contact [sailsandoars@stockport.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:sailsandoars@stockport.stockport.sch.uk)