



# Sails and Oars

Stockport School Newsletter

December 2023

## Well being special edition

### FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am pleased to introduce our end of term festive 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 special final edition of 2023, features a number of festive themed activities as well as celebrating a number of other key achievements and events involving our students and staff during this busy final few weeks of the autumn term.



This latest edition has a particular festive theme with the Christmas joy being spread far and wide this term, including Year 7 musical concerts, carol singing to the dementia patients, families and carers at the Meadows Community Centre, theatrical plays, Christmas door decorations, charitable fundraising, upcoming pantomimes, and performances, and other special departmental features on the history and creativity of Christmas from our History and Art & Design departments.

This edition also includes a special supportive feature on the importance of health and wellbeing, together with its usual array of enriching activities, trips and visits, including other notable events such as the visit of a comic book artist, our annual Harry Potter day, art & craft club activities, our Rainbow Flag Award work, and the amazing overseas cultural trip to Germany – all in all, it has been an incredibly busy half term beyond the classroom!

I hope you enjoy reading this latest special edition of *Sails and Oars*, and of learning more about what has been going on in and around our vibrant school community over recent weeks.

Finally, at the end of this autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone associated with Stockport School, for your incredible support and commitment this year. I would also like to wish you and your families all the very best for the festive period and in the safe celebration of the end of 2023, and in looking forward with hope towards a happy and prosperous New Year in 2024!

I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and hopefully successful New Year.

Best wishes

Mr I. R. Irwin  
Headteacher

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

I am delighted to take on the role of Senior Mental Health Lead at Stockport School. I am passionate about wellbeing and creating a safe, warm environment for our students and staff

Navigating teenage years can be really tough and the impact of the pandemic has most definitely had a significant impact on well-being. Working closely with Harriett from the Mental Health Support Team we plan to improve the support available and create a culture of positivity and good mental health.



Mrs Walker and Rico

We have recruited a team of Mental Health ambassadors to support us in making sure we are on the right path and have a student voice in future plans. Staff wellbeing days have been introduced and a staff working party is ready to take shape in the new year. We are developing and adding to our portfolio of interventions and taking advantage of as much staff training as possible.

It all starts with self-care! Sleep, exercise, diet, less screen time, socialising and getting outdoors is the best medicine for a healthy mind.

---

### *Attendance and wellbeing*

For some students getting into school is challenging for all sorts of reasons. At Stockport School our attendance team work very hard supporting students and their families and carers. Here are some of their comments.

*"Following our meeting in school with my husband, we began to put the strategies in place that we talked about. I was so pleased when our son started to attend again. He appears much happier and has made new friends. He is also joining in with more at home."*

*"Just wanted to thank you for the continued encouragement you gave my daughter enabling her to feel comfortable in school."*

*"Thank you for believing in me."*

*"I'm feeling more positive about school."*

---

*"Dancing helps boost my emotions, and push all my negative feels aside it brings out the better version of myself by stimulating my mind body and soul. "*

*"Dance has improved my confidence massively and helps clear my mind."*



## Winter Well-being

There are five ways to well-being: connect, take notice, give, keep learning and be active and many of our school enrichment activities play an important role. Sport, music, language and other clubs enable students and teachers to spend time together doing something they really enjoy. Look out for the Spring enrichment booklet in January.



The school gardening club (right) meets every Friday afternoon after school for a dig and a chat. Gardening is an easy way to connect with others outdoors.

In Science, we teach students about the importance of good mental health during many of our Biology topics - often discussing the relationship between mental and physical health. As adults we know the importance of self-care and down time in maintaining our mental health, but with the pressure of school sometimes our students forget this. You can try these science activities supporting self care - [bath bombs](#), [DIY face mask](#), [BBC Bitesize activities](#).

Or, why not put on some Christmas Karaoke pieces over the festive period and sing along to them to lift your spirits during these colder days?!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaBRnhxPLdE> (Last Christmas)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0m3V3gOUD2w> (Merry Christmas Everybody – Slade)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0yAWWpqFHQ> (Jingle Bell Rock)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HvR0ZAB\\_Xs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HvR0ZAB_Xs) (Merry Christmas Everyone – Shakin Stevens).



## Rainbow Flag Award

Since Easter, we have been working towards the Rainbow Flag Award, a national framework developed by The Proud Trust to celebrate and encourage inclusivity in schools for LGBT+ people.

We can now announce that we are officially halfway through the award, having obtained the Student Voice, Skilled Teacher and Supportive Parent and Governor components.

This is thanks to our staff, parents, governors and especially students who have driven the progress forward. The school LGBT+ group, Stockport Stripes meets twice weekly and all are welcome. It is held in room 203 with Mrs Lord.







2023  
CHRISTMAS  
DOOR  
COMPETITION

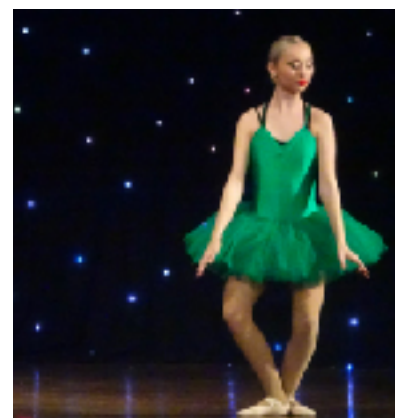
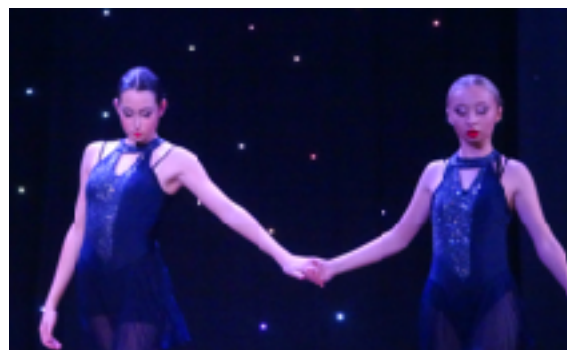




## DANCE

### *Stockport School dance show 4<sup>th</sup> December*

What a success our annual Christmas dance show was! We are so lucky to have such a talented group of students here at Stockport School. A range of pieces were showcased from years 7 to 10 as well as our current BTEC dance student cohort. Students performed in group and solo pieces ranging in styles, as well as Sparks Cheerleading group performing their amazing stunt pieces. What a fantastic show!



# MUSIC

## Year 7 Concert

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November was this year's night for our annual Year 7 Music Concert and House Competition. It is always a highlight on the calendar and this year was no exception. All ten Year 7 forms entertained two packed audiences across the X and Y side concerts. The song choices included Sweet Caroline (7K), Three Little Birds (7V), Dynamite (7P), Teenage Dirtbag (7E), All Star (7D), Wonderwall (7R), I'm Still Standing (7L), Don't Look Back In Anger (7M), Everybody – Backstreets Back (7G) and Pompeii (7T). The judges (Mr Williamson, Mrs Schofield and Mr Taher) had a tough job on their hands deciding this year's champion form songs as well as their favourite solo acts.



The night was an incredible success and we were blown away by the confidence and team work that took place across the year group. There were so many standout moments but we particularly liked seeing some of our form tutors getting up this year to perform with their forms (Mrs Smith, Miss Mellow, Mrs Hatton and Miss Burns). A lot of effort went into all of the

form songs and each Year 7 student involved should be immensely proud of their involvement. We also want to thank our wonderful Year 7 tutor team for getting behind their forms on this night to remember.

Emmy E (7K), Ula S (7R), Lola S (7R) and Megan G (7R) were chosen as our singing soloists.

Tyger D-C (7R), Evan T (7R), Phoebe B (7G), Theo C (7R) and Will McC (7G) were chosen as our instrumental soloists.

They all did an incredible job on the night and were such professionals taking it all in their stride.

The feel-good factor was present in both concerts with audience members singing along, clapping



along and getting behind each act. The night perfectly demonstrated the power of music in bringing everyone together and creating memories.

The results are below but everyone who was there on the night were winners in the eyes of our Music Department



Best House attendance (performers) - Green  
Best House attendance (form numbers on the night) - Orange

Best attended form - Escher

Performances:

Best solo performance - Emmy E 7K

Best instrumental - Will M 7G

Best newcomer - Phoebe B 7G

Best 'bringing the party vibes' act - Ula S 7R

Best entertainment value - Da Vinci

Best energy - Picasso

Best audience participation - Monet

Best overall form - Goldsworthy



PROUD Awards - students who exemplified the Stockport School way:

Max H 7P

Megan G 7R

Noah M 7L

Riley P7L

Will B7L

Tyger DC 7R

Azra H 7G

Daisy T 7M

Jessica C 7D

Eleanor D 7D

House Cup results:

1. Yellow

2. Green

3. Blue

4. Orange

5. Red

## *Dementia Choir at The Meadows*

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December our wonderful 'Doing Dementia Differently Intergenerational Choir' performed at The Meadows in Offerton. Seventeen of our students from years 7-10 walked around to the specialist hospital to perform a variety of Carols and Christmas pieces to the patients, families and carers. It was such an uplifting day with so much Christmas joy being spread. Many of the audience members joined in again showing the positive impact that music has on our daily lives.



## SCIENCE

Here in science we have been impressed with the sustained effort students have been making in their lessons. Despite the long half term students have continued to approach lessons embodying the PROUD values we have here!

Our year 11 students should all be incredibly proud of themselves with the way in which they have approached their mock exams. The determination to succeed has been amazing to see, and we can't wait to see what they have been capable of when papers are returned to students!

We are very excited to say that both the new science labs will be complete by the return to school after Christmas! Mr Wells' classes have been enjoying their new home in 124 and soon Mrs Harris' groups will be enjoying the stability and newness of 126!

From the science department we hope you all enjoy a wonderful break and enjoy a well deserved rest (and a mice pie or two!)

### *Educake stars!*

Students have been interacting well with Educake 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!

Here are this half terms Educake stars:

Year 7 – Ishaq R and Olivia B

Year 8 – Olivia J and Kasey L

Year 9 – Ava H and Archie D

Year 10 – Abi P and Lucas M

Year 11 – Grace K and Henry T

# LIBRARY NEWS

## *Celebrating Harry Potter in the Library*

Harry Potter Day in October was celebrated in the Library with the third grand Hogwarts House Quiz. Students were sorted into their Hogwarts Houses to take part in a fiendishly difficult quiz based on the Harry Potter series of books by JK Rowling, devised by the Librarian/LRC Manager Mrs Godrich.



The teams of staff and students were given an increasingly difficult set of questions to test their Potter knowledge. Students and staff alike had been revising hard since the last quiz in February. Mrs Godrich worked hard for months trying to devise questions that would stump the most die-hard Potterheads in the Stockport School community.

All teams performed incredibly well and the scores were all very close yet again, with 3 points separating the House teams. In the end Gryffindor won the House Cup for the second time, wrestling it from the tight grip of Ravenclaw. The staff team were a little depleted this year due to unfortunate timing so Ms Ronland, Mr Wright, Ms Dyson and Mr Tidy did their utmost to impress the students with their impressive knowledge. However, the students excelled by displaying their encyclopaedic knowledge of Harry Potter and his antics across the 7 books.

Great fun was had by all and the rematch has been scheduled for October 2024. Students and staff need to start their revision early as Mrs Godrich will be devising some more fiendish and challenging questions in the hope to test their knowledge to the maximum.

### *How Would You Have Fared? Could You Answer These Potter Questions?*

1. If OWL stand for Ordinary Wizarding Level, what does NEWT stand for?
2. Where would you find a bezoar?
3. What did Harry use to get past Fluffy?
4. In which subject does Harry get a Dreadful grade in his OWLs?
5. What colour is unicorn blood?

Answers on the back page.

Gryffindor	Hufflepuff	Slytherin	Ravenclaw
Ms Jennings	Ms Seller	Ms Parker	Ms Lytham
Dylan C (Y9)	Keira P (Y9)	Ray A (Y11)	Bella-Marie M (Y8)
Artemis R (Y9)	Harrison H (Y9)	Erin P (Y9)	Aimee Y (Y8)
Isaac W (Y9)	Rin F (Y9)	Ellie M (Y9)	Meghan L (Y8)
Maisie J (Y7)	Lily M (Y9)	Liam M (Y9)	Set W-O (Y8)
	Skye R (Y8)	Lyra P (Y7)	Riley B (Y7)
	Betsy W (Y7)		Roko D (Y7)
	Izzy P (Y7)		Oliver W (Y7)
			Imogen U (Y8)



## Kev F. Sutherland Comic Art Masterclass

In November Kev F. Sutherland, a comic book artist who draws for The Beano and has drawn Dr Strange for Marvel, returned to the Library to hold his popular comic book art workshops for KS3 students who were interested in drawing, comics, graphic novels and Manga. During the workshops the students were asked to create their



own comic characters as well as being shown how to draw iconic characters such as Bart Simpson and The Hulk. They were, then, asked to create their own 6 frame comic strip. Whilst they were creating and drawing their strips, Kev designed the front cover to the comic book that all the strips would go into. The students decided on the name of the comic with much hilarity and Kev drew a design based on the title. He then drew a caricature of each student to include in the comic. By the end of the day, all participants had their own comic book with all their strips included. The students had a great time and some had made a return visit after having such a great time last year.

Kev then did a meet and greet at lunchtime for the Comic Book Club. They asked him some really detailed questions about where he gets his inspiration from, how easy it is to work for a company like Marvel, the best courses to apply for at college and how to self-publish their own artwork and graphic novels. He was as popular as ever and hopefully will be returning to Stockport School to inject his own special colour and humour.



## Craft Club Antics in the Library

Over the past few months the students in Craft Club have been meeting on a Blue Wednesday to make art out of discarded books. They are currently working on making Christmas Trees from weeded hardback books but they honed their folding skills by making Book Hedgehogs. After Christmas they will be starting to make paper flowers to make a bouquet.



## Coming up in January

### Stockport School KS4 Book Awards

We are proud to launch the inaugural Stockport School KS4 Book Awards. Mrs Godrich and Mrs Barber have been working with a group of dedicated Year 9 & 10 students who have been reading through a longlist of specially selected KS4 fiction books since the beginning of this term. These students will be whittling the longlist down to create a shortlist of 4 books. These books will be available for students from the middle of January to read and then vote for their favourite with the winner being announced in July. Our judges will each be championing a book and talking about it in lessons, form and assembly. This is a very exciting event and we hope as many Year 9, 10 and 11 students will take part and cast their judgement on our shortlist. Look out for an update in the next *Sails and Oars*

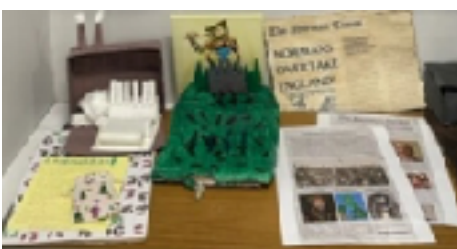
# HISTORY

We would like to wish all our students, parents, carers and families a hopefully pleasant, peaceful, relaxing and restful Christmas holiday and New Year, after a long half term. We would like to thank all our history students for their dedication and hard work this half term and to parents and carers for supporting the students.

Key Stage 4 Enrichment sessions continue when we return in January. Y11 sessions are on Blue week Wednesdays. Please encourage students to attend to further develop their history skills. Many thanks to those Y11 students who have attended the Additional Study Program sessions recently, we hope these have been beneficial for mock exams.



Y7, Y8 and Y9 have been completing their history creative projects during this half term and the standard and creativity has been fantastic. Here are just a few examples of the many excellent projects that students created. They have clearly put a fantastic amount of thought and effort into their projects.



## *Christmas in history*

Prince Albert supposedly introduced the German tradition of indoor Christmas trees at Windsor Castle in 1841.

In 1848, the Illustrated London News published an illustration of the royal family gathered around a decorated Christmas tree, which helped the custom become popular amongst the middle classes.



Tom Smith came up with the idea of the Christmas cracker after a trip to Paris where he saw bon bons wrapped in paper.

Throughout the Victorian period, Christmas decorations became more specialised than they had previously been. Medieval people would decorate their houses with evergreen twigs, however the Victorians brought whole trees in, and books were even published with instructions for housewives on how to decorate the home properly.

Gift giving had traditionally taken place at New Year, however it moved into December as Christmas became more important to Victorians.

Initially gifts, such as fruit, sweets, nuts, and handmade trinkets, were small and hung on the Christmas tree. Presents started moving under the tree as they became bigger and more commercial.

In Ancient Scandinavia, Yule was celebrated from December 21, the winter solstice, through to January. To mark the return of the sun, men would collect large logs, which would then be set on fire.

## *History of medicine*

In November we visited Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds with our Y10 students to support their study of the GCSE Medicine Through time unit. The students were superbly behaved and enjoyed an interesting and informative visit.

Anyone for leeches for a medicinal cure for illness or experiencing the authentic sights, smells and dangers of an Industrial Revolution town?



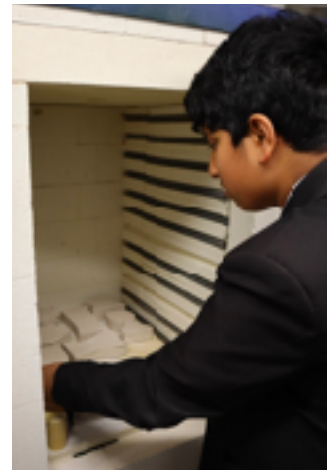
## ART



For Remembrance Day our year 7 students used art to explore the history and geography of the World Wars, making a beautiful flag poppy wreath display. This art project created an awareness of the huge number of nations that were involved and commemorated the life's lost in all these countries.

They have completed their own concept drawings, cardboard maquettes and clay constructions. Currently, they are in the glazing stages, so keep an eye out for the completed works on the displays soon.

Year 10 and 11 Photography students have been exploring the urban landscape of Stockport this term, capturing through their lens the town's iconic architecture and unique heritage. A particular highlight of the students was visiting the newly created art murals, now the largest in the North of England. The transformative effects of this collaborative project by Argentinean and Stockport artists, with its huge community involvement was inspirational to see for our young photographers.



Loading the kiln for firing

### Art of Christmas

We took part in Saint George's Christmas tree festival. The Art Airways club had great fun making the festive decorations and learning about the artists. The students partially enjoyed the painterly movements involved while making the 'Jackson Pollock' style abstract decorations. The group discussed how they found this activity fun and stress relieving.



House of Art Club have worked hard to create some fun, school themed Christmas card designs this term with some great results.

We are also promoting our Instagram Art page, which will be fully up and running @StockportSchoolMileEnd.

### Firing up the kiln

Year 9 classes have been embracing ceramics this term with some incredible results. The students are making slab pots inspired by architect Frank Gehry. This brand-new project has got the students fully engaged with the creative process.



# GERMAN

## Germany Trip October 2023



After a long wait and lots of virtual meet ups, Stockport School pupils finally made it to Germany to visit our partner school Freies Christliches Gymnasium in Düsseldorf. We also visited Cologne and spent the day in Phantasialand. The pupils were given a photo treasure hunt challenge and they also wrote diary entries during their trip. Here are a few of them.

### *Montag*

We arrived in Cologne at 7:00 and put our bags in the case room. We went for breakfast at the bakery. The chocolate factory was very good and I bought some presents for my family. We also climbed up the cathedral which was tiring but worth it. Then we finished with a game of bowling. AG

Enjoyed practicing my German and experiencing German culture and food. Getting to know the partner school students was also a fun thing too. MM

### *Dienstag*

We went to the German school which was interesting to see the similarities and differences between the schools. I met my buddies and went to their classes with them. AG

The German school was really fun and it was so good to meet new

people. This experience really boosted my confidence in social skills and speaking German. AB

### *Mittwoch*

Phantasialand was amazing, and I thoroughly enjoyed going on the rides. Despite the bad weather, I was able to visit all the themed areas, which were absolutely stunning. My personal favourite was the Colorado Adventure, which I rode twice. I even tried some of the scarier rollercoasters, but I'm not sure I'd do it again. LM

Am Mittwoch sind wir nach PhantasiaLand gegangen. PhantasiaLand war besser als Alton Towers denn es hat eine gute Infrastruktur und ich fand es sicherer als Alton Towers. SH

### *Donnerstag*

This was also a travel day yet this one went so much quicker I learnt that the journey back is easier than the journey there as you're just ready to be home. I learnt I really enjoy trips abroad.

I went into the coach back to England and attempted to speak French at the border control. I am quite proud of the amount of German I spoke and the books I managed to read (one and a half) but I did find it quite challenging to order food because everyone spoke German really fast. I hope to make more progress in German and really enjoyed the trip overall. It gave me a chance to practice a language I don't usually get to speak and I got to socialize with new people.



## ENGLISH

Gothic collages created by Year 9 students for homework: we are doing a scheme on Gothic writing in English



## LITTLE VOICES AT STOCKPORT SCHOOL

For the third year in a row Little Voices Pupils at Stockport School have received wonderful London Academy of Music & Drama examination results!

All pupils were awarded either merits or distinctions. At the higher grades these count towards UCAS points for university entry no matter what subject the student is applying for.

We have watched their confidence and oracy skills grow and are proud to be delivering this offer with Stockport School, as this is quite uncommon unless pupils are attending fee paying schools.

This year even more pupils will be taking summer exams; we have every confidence that they will achieve well again.

One of our parent reviews:

"Absolutely brilliant! My child has smashed his exams and found a passion for drama and acting thanks to Little Voices his confidence has come on so much. Highly recommended".

If any pupil would like to be considered for lessons and would like to try a Free Trial Lesson, please contact [susan@littlevoices.org.uk](mailto:susan@littlevoices.org.uk). A form for a Free Trial Lesson will be sent to you.





# TEXTILES & ART, CRAFT, DESIGN G.C.S.E



Just a few of the many wonderful final outcomes created by Textiles and Art, Craft, Design students during their 10hour G.C.S.E. mock exam.

Personal projects are influenced by artists, crafts-persons and designers and their work explores themes such as identity, culture, brands, fashion, costume, the natural world and sport.





## PE

Our year 7 boys football team won the Stockport Schools 5-a-side tournament.

Not only did they win, but they won whilst encompassing the ethos of the Stockport School Way. The team conducted themselves admirably. After every game they were first to shake hands with opponents and thank the student refs, as well as to commiserate and congratulate Bramhall players who we beat 3-1 in the final.

On a wet and windy night in Woodley, the year 7s showed immense positivity, determination, unity and ultimately, respect for both their opponents and one another.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH



Our Year 10s took their first strides out on the hills of Lyme Park with their DofE taster walk this past month. They showed themselves to be well-prepared, fit, and resilient, as they took on a challenging 8 mile walk and climbed over 1200ft in hills. We were very impressed by their pace, respectful behaviour, teamwork, and their lack of moaning! The weather was fairly mild and stayed clear and dry for the day. A big thank you to the staff who gave up their free time to supervise!

### Harry Potter Quiz Answers

1. Nastily Exhausting Wizarding Tests
2. Stomach of a Goat
3. Hagrid's Flute
4. History of Magic
5. Silver

*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)