



Sails and Oars

Stockport School Newsletter

July 2024

FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to our final edition of *Sails and Oars* this academic year, which in our last edition before we break up for the much-awaited summer holiday, we once again share some of the amazing work, activities and achievements of our school community that have taken place over the past term.

In this edition, you will see many of our students and staff happily engaging in enriching activities that bring such life to the school curriculum and will hopefully leave joyful long-lasting memories for our students in the years to come. Included within this summer term edition are features on our enriching Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, numerous sporting events and competitions, as well as creative and performing arts activities such as the Band Night, the Dance Show, and the incredible artistic design work of our students, some of which now features as part of a community display project at Woodsmoor Train Station. In addition, there are also some fabulous features from a number of other subject areas including History, Science, and English, along with special literacy activities to mark World Book Day, and also a Speak Up North creative writing competition.

Whilst there has again been a fantastic array of activities for us to celebrate and look back upon in this edition, there are also many more events, trips, and activities currently taking place as we approach the end of the academic year, for our students to be involved in which we will look to share with you in our next edition of *Sails and Oars*.

Overall, it has been yet another incredibly eventful, busy and productive half term, that I hope our students will long remember in years to come!

In this edition, we also give thanks and bid farewell to the future of a number of our students and staff, including all of our outgoing Year 11 students who have worked so hard this year to prepare themselves for success in their GCSE exams which they have just completed, and we of course hope that they will receive the outcomes that they richly deserve this summer.

In terms of change of students and roles, it was also extremely uplifting to read so many of the applications from our Year 10 students who recently applied to become a Prefect or Senior Prefect for start of next year, and in particular, to observe such strong, confident and articulate young people present and interview on why they want to proudly represent their school and how they want to give something back to the school and also help it continue to move forward. I have included within this edition, a brief thank-you to our outgoing Prefect team, as well as recognising and welcoming our new incoming Prefect team for 2024-25. Whilst welcoming our new student Prefect leadership team to their newly appointed posts, we also give thanks to our excellent outgoing Year 11 Prefect team in this edition, the team have been amazing ambassadors for the school and fabulous role models for other students over the past year.

A number of staff also leave us at the end of the academic year, many of whom are retiring from the profession after a long and highly committed career, much of which has been spent here at Stockport School, and in this edition, I give thanks to each of those staff, including Ms. Patkin who has been the editor of the *Sails and Oars* publication for several years, all of whom will be missed. We wish all of our

staff leavers and retirees all the very best for their futures, and we also welcome in advance all of our newly appointed staff each of whom I am confident will make fabulous addition to our brilliant Stockport School staff team.

Finally, in this edition near to the end of the academic year, I would like to congratulate and thank all members of our community, including students, staff, parents/carers and governors, for their incredible enthusiasm, dedication, commitment, and resilience in helping us to continually improve the school in terms of opportunity, provision, and standards. As individuals and together as a school community, we have again supported each other and have gained great strength from our unity.

In advance of the upcoming summer break, I would like to wish all of our students, parents/carers, and staff, all the very best for an enjoyable and thoroughly well-deserved summer holiday. I hope that you are able to enjoy it safely and happily with your friends and family, proud in your knowledge of what you have been able to achieve and contribute this year. I very much look forward to seeing you all again, safely back in school in September.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes



Mr I. R. Irwin
Headteacher

GOODBYE AND HELLO

<i>Farewell....</i>		<i>and Welcome....</i>	
Mr Henderson	Academic Mentor - History	Mrs Li	Kitchen General Assistant
Miss Henri	Academic Mentor - Science	Mr Lee	SEND Learning Support Assistant
Miss Dyson	Academic Mentor - English	Miss Crewdson	Student Support Hub Leader - HLTA
Mrs Wagh	Kitchen Assistant	Miss Jones	Student Support Leader - HLTA
Mrs Hall	Attendance Outreach Officer	Ms Hon	Administrator (in charge of Cover)
Mrs Ullah	SEND Year Team Leader	Mr Clarke	Attendance Manager
Miss Eddlestone	Teacher of English	Mr Deiter	Catering Manager
Mr Garcia	Teacher of MFL	Mrs Ali	Assistant Director of Mathematics
Mr Hardman	Director Business Studies	Ms Dwyer	Teacher of Science
Mrs Brown	Catering Manager	Ms Zanetti	Teacher of English
Mrs Cummings	School Cook	Miss Barnes	Director of Business & Economics
Ms Patkin	Teacher of Science	Mrs Norman	Associate Assistant Headteacher
Mrs Rosser	Cover Manager		
Mrs Shaw	Attendance Manager		
Ms Schofield	Assistant Headteacher		

SENIOR PREFECT TEAM 2024-25

I would like to thank our 2023/24 Head Boy, Sam H, and his Deputy, Max B, and Head Girl, Gwen F, and her Deputy, Mathilda WO. Thank you also to the wider Senior Prefect Team for their outstanding contribution and commitment to the school this year, and we wish them all the very best for their futures.

In terms of appointing our new Head and Deputy Head Boys and Girls, it has been incredibly difficult to decide upon this year, due to the quality and strength of the shortlisted applicants. I am delighted to inform you that Amber S has been appointed to the role of Head Girl, and Thomas G to the role of Head Boy for 2024/25. Amber and Thomas will be very ably supported in their roles by Hollie B and Abi P as our two Deputy Head Girls, and Harry B and Lucas M as our two Deputy Head Boys.

The Head and Deputy Head Prefects will also be ably supported by Poppie-Rae H, Sophia T, Ella T, Darcie A, Ava-Mai E, Leila S, Edie May S, Maya M, Arthur T, James T, Ethan A, and Oliver S as the first of our Senior Prefects. We are finalising the remainder of the Senior Prefects, as well as the wider Prefect Team, in advance of them all beginning their roles in September.

I would like to thank our outgoing team for their great commitment this year, and also congratulate the first of our newly appointed Senior Prefect Team members, and wish them well in their new leadership roles which I am confident that they will be hugely successful with.

TRANSITION DAY

On Thursday 4th July, we had the privilege of welcoming over 250 excitable and nervous Year 6 students from over 25 local primaries. This was their first chance to experience something close to a normal Stockport School day, with taster lessons in English, Maths, Science and PE throughout the day. An army of over 60 Year 7 student ambassadors were tasked with supporting the Year 6 students and staff, and did an admirable job. In the evening, we then had over 200 parents and carers attend a parental induction evening, finding out about the practicalities of life at Stockport School. This was then followed up on Monday 8th July by a second mini transition day for the 21 students who were unable to attend the previous week. Again our Year 7 student ambassadors were a major help, making the transition day a positive experience for all.

A huge thank you goes out to the staff at all of our local feeder primaries who have been outstanding in terms of providing information and support throughout this transition. With over 20 different feeder primary visits and

transition talks, 25 individual additional student visits and tours, it has been a massive logistical effort and all the primaries have helped make it run smoothly. Now we cannot wait to see the students again in September, aiming for a strong start to life at Stockport School.



ART AND DESIGN

Firstly, the art department would like to say a big well done to those students who have completed their Art & Design exam. We have had some fantastic outcomes.

Year 8 – Organic decorative vessels

Students in year 8 have been looking at the botanical illustrations by the artist Ernst Haeckel. Students have taken inspiration from his work and began creating a sculptured vessel using paper mâché.



Year 9 – Ceramics Finished Vases

The 'new' Year 9 scheme of work has been a great success giving students the opportunity to hand build a slab form inspired by the architect Frank Gehry and understand the process of glazing and firing as though they are a practicing ceramicist.



Woodsmoor Train station art collaboration

Working with Great Moor junior and Stockport Grammar schools and friends of Great Moor Train Station the re-vamp for the station platform saw some of our KS3 and KS4 students work being selected to feature as part of a community project. A great opportunity for the local schools to come together and the public to see the work of the children in the community.



World Book Day 2024

In March Stockport School celebrated World Book day with an exciting array of events for both Key stage 3 and 4 students.

Leading the activities was our Shelfies competition. Staff members kindly took pictures of their book shelves and students had to work out who they belonged to. This year staff made it fiendishly difficult with very few hidden clues. It caused lots of chat during form times with questions such as "Should we be worried by an entire book case devoted to crime?"

Our winners were Scarlett and Evie from 7V, with runners up of Leo and Harry in 8V and Olivia from 8P.

School also managed to buy a number of the £1 World Book day books and these were given out free to students by their English teachers.

On World Book Day itself the LRC was transformed into a very welcoming café at lunchtime where students could come for a free hot chocolate (marshmallows and cream, of course!) and some sugary snacks. All they needed to enter was their reading book. Students really enjoyed it and have asked if it can be repeated. Watch this space!

Finally, the English department funded a book hunt. Sixteen brand new books were wrapped in paper, with their Key Stage and genre written on (shout out to Mrs Godrich's amazing library team for wrapping). They were then hidden in all sorts of interesting locations around the school, just waiting for some lucky soul to find them and take home a lovely new book to enjoy.

Thankfully all the books were found and some very happy students promised to pass them on to friends once they'd finished reading!"

Speak UP North 2024 Competition.

Congratulations to James, our Key Stage 3 winner.

In our KS3 creative writing club, the students have been working hard: they have been drafting, editing and submitting their creative pieces for Tutor Trust's 'Speak Up North' competition. With the stimulus being 'belonging', the students got creative. Due to their dedication, all the entries were published in the charity's online anthology, and one of our avid writer's metaphorical explorations of 'belonging' won! (in the KS4 entries no less!). The winning poem is featured below, and is available on the Tutor Trust website.

The bullets hurt, but I do not care. It is bewitchingly beautiful, like it should not be this good, but it is. It is strange. My family, their presence is the thing. The secret ingredient for greatness. I am not sure how dazed I look, but I must look quite bewildered, as they are all shooting me side eyes.

It is beautiful.

It's so beautiful I don't care what they think. But then why does it feel like they are stabbing me in the back? It is just a view. It's just a view... No, I need to run; I need to hide. I need to cover my face. They stare at me. I want to curl up into a ball and roll away. But, they are my family? I feel like I should not be here though. Why would you make someone feel like they do not belong somewhere? Why do people make others feel that they don't belong somewhere? It is crazy how something as small as liking a view more than others can outcast you. Make you feel like you should find somewhere else, somewhere to hide, from the people who think you're a freak, even if they are your own family. Sorry, I repeated myself a bunch there, didn't I? I may have got the tenses wrong, the person wrong. What if I do not belong to the writers' community? But surely, it is about what your message, your meaning is. Not how well you did on your English GCSE or how well you did in school. It is about the deeper picture. The true reason you put your words where they were. Did you use a thesaurus to make your piece sound better? Or to get praise so you can feel good about yourself? Did you really understand what it meant? Or did you just put it in because it sounded nice? What if that word does not belong in that context? Either way, you should not change a word or yourself to make you fit in somewhere where you might not belong or feel right to.

LIBRARY NEWS

Meet your Student Librarians.

Did you know that if you love reading and recommending and organising books that you can train to become a Student Librarian? Gwen F, our current Head Girl, was a student librarian from Year 8 to Year 10. Currently there are six trained Student Librarians and four trained Library Assistants and two trainee Library Assistants. These students help Mrs Godrich in the Library at break and lunch. They take part in special events and help run the Enrichment clubs, activities and competitions as well as help choose the books that make it onto the Library shelves.



Annual Harry Potter quiz



Mrs Godrich will be recruiting for next year. The selection process is rigorous with a formal application, interview and basic training before becoming a trainee Library Assistant, to make sure the most dedicated and committed students move on to the actual training programme.

Mrs Godrich follows the School Librarian Association Pupil Librarian Training programme, which has many levels of progress, which students can work through to gain certificates, badges and transferable skills that are a bonus on any College application or CV.

Mrs Godrich would like you to meet the current Student Librarians and Library Assistants and see what type of things they get involved in.



They are:

Head Student Librarian: Artemis R (Year 9)

Student Librarians: Lily M (Year 9); Rin F (Year 9); Erin P (Year 9); Keira P (Year 9); Ava H (Year 9)

Library Assistants: Seth W-O'N (Year 8); Isaac W (Year 9); Aimee Y (Year 8); Imogen U (Year 8)

If you want to get involved in the Library and love messing about with everything booky then pop by and see Mrs Godrich and pick up an application pack and maybe these will be pictures of you next year!



HISTORY

Welcome to this months edition of Sails and Oars for History.

Firstly we would like to wish our Y11 historians, all the very best luck in their GCSE examinations results. Whatever future path our Y11 have chosen in the next stage of their education, once they have completed their exams we are sure they will be very successful.

Good luck Y11.

Perhaps the half term can provide us with a period of reflection about current world events that are certainly shaping history, particularly with the continuing, and worsening situation in Ukraine.

June in history

Windrush Memorial Day. June 22nd.

Thousands of men and women from the Caribbean volunteered in the Second World war to come to the aid of Britain. And in the post-war years the Windrush Generation played a key role in rebuilding the country and reshaping British culture and identity.

Windrush Day marks the anniversary of the HMT Empire Windrush arriving in Britain and is an opportunity to celebrate British Caribbean communities, and acknowledge the service and sacrifice of the Windrush Generation.

On 22 June 1948, Caribbean settlers disembarked from the Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks in Essex, including more than 100 serving and former Armed Forces personnel.

Following the Second World War, the UK was in urgent need of rebuilding and faced a labour shortage. Settlers came to Britain in search of employment opportunities and in the post war years the government began to invite people from

the Caribbean to fill roles such as in the new National Health Service.

However on arrival, the settlers were often met with racism, lack of acknowledgement of their professional skills and qualifications, and finding adequate accommodation was often difficult. The Windrush Generation worked tirelessly to overcome prejudice and build successful lives and communities.

It is important to recognise this significant event in British history.

As we mark the anniversary of the Empire Windrush, we celebrate the diversity within our communities today, and highlight the significant contributions of the Windrush Generation and their descendants.

We have included a number of interesting and unusual facts about the month of June and learn all about the origins of this changing month and even some knowledgeable history facts.

The name June is the modern day adaption of the Latin word Junius, which has its origins dating back to the ancient Romans.

There are multiple theories as to what the month of June was named after. One theory is that it was named after the Roman goddess of marriage, Juno. Another theory is that its name originates from the Latin word iuniores, which translates into "younger ones". Yet another possibility is that the month was named after Lucius Junius Brutus, the founder of the Roman Republic. June was called sera month by the Anglo-Saxons, which translated into "dry month".



June used to be the fourth month in the year. Before Julius Caesar came to power, the calendar year only had 10 months. In 46 BC he created the Julian calendar by adding two more months to the year, which made June the sixth month.

No other month in the year begins on the same day of the week as June.

June has both the longest and the shortest days of the year, depending on where you're standing! If you live in the northern hemisphere, then June 21st is the longest day of the year. If you live in the southern hemisphere, then the 21st is the shortest day of the year.

During the summer break, you may wish to celebrate the local heritage that is all around us, Local History and the local environment are very much linked and we can learn so much from it and enjoy sharing that knowledge. The architecture of the buildings can provide so much information about the development of an area.

Activities happen across the UK and include trips, library exhibitions and local lectures. It is a great way for groups to highlight local history and for local people to get involved.

Hopefully lovely weather, may give opportunities to discover some of our local history, whether it's

the Peak District, Lyme Park, Dunham Massey, Tatton Park, Bramall Hall, Alderley Edge, Dovestones Reservoir, the list of places to discover around us is endless.

Further detail is available at <https://www.history.org.uk/historian/resource/1567/local-and-community-history-month>

There are also wide variety of historical places of interest you may wish to visit within an hour of Manchester. The Manchester Evening News has compiled a list of 9 stunning castles you may wish to visit. The link to the information is below.

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/whats-on/family-kids-news/castles-visit-around-greater-manchester-9499574>



Peveril Castle, Peak District

TIME FOR A CUPPA!

Wednesday 1st May Mrs Andrew and Stockport School held the fundraiser "Time for a cuppa." Cakes, Tea, coffee and hot chocolates were sold



to members of staff and students throughout break and lunch. The great British Stockport bake off was held and was a close competition for Ms Gardler and Mrs Johnson to judge, 1st place was awarded to Mathilda 11M and Seth 8M, with 2nd place awarded to Rosie 8D and 3rd place was

William 8R. Students were awarded a box of chocolates and a £5 Love-to-Shop voucher. Mrs Didcote hosted the "Doing Dementia Differently" choir and gave a very heartfelt and emotional rendition of Abba songs. The raffle featured some amazing prizes donated by local businesses, students and staff including games, pamper prizes and self-care packages. We sold a staggering 1200 tickets vying for the 75 prizes on offer.

It has been a very successful fundraising event raising £936.73 from sales and donations online. Mrs Andrew is very pleased at how much the students and staff enjoyed the day and would like to thank all the students and parents who donated a prize or cakes towards this amazing charity.

PE

Dance

Students took part in two professional dance workshops one with Robbie (commercial style) and one with Sophie (contemporary style) the students worked extremely hard and were able to learn two pieces of choreography which will be going into the dance show.



Rugby

Laura from Sale Sharks has been in to school this term to teach rugby in the girls PE lessons. They have worked very hard in the lessons and can see their rugby skills improving!



Y7-8 girls went to Eccles to compete in a rugby festival. Millie J being the top try scorer! We have some more Y7-8 and Y9-10 festivals to look forward to.



Football

The Y7-9 football girls spent the day at Powerleague competing in the girls football World Cup. Great efforts from everyone !!!

Mr Riley and the Y8 football team had a very important football game on 15th May. They were in the Stockport Schools Football Finals, which was played at Edgeley Park! They unfortunately lost 1-0 however, the boys played very well. Well done boys, you played an amazing game. Also, a shoutout to parents/carers, friends, family and members of staff who came along to support, thank you.



Miss Watson & Mr Burgoyne took a group of skiers to the Chill Factor for their first ski taster session!

Handball

This year both the u13 and u15 boys have done incredibly well in the National England Handball tournament. Both teams qualified from the North West group to battle it out in the North of England finals in Oldham. They both did incredibly well but narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-finals with the u13s having the some points and goal difference as the runners up but with less goals scored! This is the first time we have entered this competition and are really proud of how well they have done! We will be back next year with some experience to hopefully go one better!



Cheerleading

Stockport Sparks cheerleading team smashed their performance at the UKCA National Schools Competition, receiving an Acts of Kindness Award for their attitude on the day. Well done cheeries!



SUMMER DANCE COMPETITION



HEALTH AND SOCIAL



In July, some of our year 10 Health and Social Care students helped to plan and coordinate a sports day for pre-school children from Little Giggles Nursery. Despite a late start and the fact it was pouring down with rain, the students still proceeded with enthusiasm and improvised using our indoor facilities to host the event rather than the field (Huge thanks to the P.E. Department for supporting us with this). The nursery staff would like to thank our school for hosting the event and have already expressed an interest in participating again next year!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

We had a very successful practise DofE expedition over the weekend. It was tough going for the students with heavy rucksacks, over the hills, in the



heat, but they showed great determination and resilience to get to the finish line.

They arrived very well prepared and the contrast with some of the other DofE groups was evident.



Our students were a credit to the school with members of the public commenting on how polite and courteous they were. They showed great teamwork at camp with pitching tents, cooking and washing up – in fact, they were so tidy only one “badger” was sighted this year! (in contrast to previous years!).



Sails and Oars is published by Stockport School.

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