



ISSUE 98

# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

[www.sghs.org.uk](http://www.sghs.org.uk)



# A Word from our Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our May half term newsletter, which provides a snapshot of the many fantastic experiences the students of SGHS have been lucky to take part in. It is hard to believe that we have just completed the penultimate half term of the academic year and for many of our community, their last half term at SGHS.

It has been my great pleasure to be part of SGHS's long tradition of events for students in Year 11 and 13, including the infamous flashmob dance extravaganza, paper plate awards and leavers' ceremonies. Each event was student led and filled with music, dance and heart felt speeches. The events showed the strength of the SGHS school community who all came together to wish Year 11 and Year 13 well in their examinations and life beyond school. Two Year 13 students summed things up beautifully when they said that SGHS has been their home and whilst they are ready to 'fly the nest', they will take the values and lessons learned with them to bring confidence, comfort and fortitude. We will miss those students who depart SGHS after their examinations and wish them and their families the very best for a wonderful future.

The final half term of the academic year brings the continuation of external examinations, as well as trial examinations for Year 12, but rest assured that we have lots of exciting opportunities both in school and outside of school, with the return of enrichment week, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, field trips and much more.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a sunny half term and look forward to seeing you after the break.

**Ms M Featherstone**  
Headteacher





## Gold Arts Award

As we come to the end of the Gold Arts Award, we reflect upon the creative adventures we have been on. From working on the Greatwood Fire of London with Greatwood Community Primary School, Skipton. Hosting an upcycling fashion show and working with creative practitioners. Our students have gained leadership experience and learnt a variety of creative skills, alongside holding debates on hot topics within the creative industries. Fridays will never be the same without our biscuit club and I wish you all the very best in your upcoming exams.

**Mrs Pitt**  
Teacher of Art



# Tatton Park Garden Exhibit

Between the 19th and 23rd July the school will be exhibiting a garden in the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park in Cheshire. Students have been challenged to design and create a nine metre square garden on the theme of biodiversity. This garden will be grown at school, before being transported to the show.

Gardening Club have been busy preparing the garden in school grounds. It will contain a range of flowers and plants aimed at increasing biodiversity. Pumpkins and French Beans are being grown to show how food can be produced. Borage is being grown to encourage pollinators, such as bees, along with wild flowers such as Oxalis Daisies. The garden will also include a pond created from unused wash basins.



Eco Club have been hard at work producing wildlife houses to ensure that our entry is in line with the focus of biodiversity. They have been involved in every stage of the production. First researching and proposing designs, then choosing materials and constructing them in school. A special shout out must go to Ephemeras Cookson

and Ifzaa Ahmed who have been working through their lunchtimes and free periods to adapt designs and ensure everything gets done.

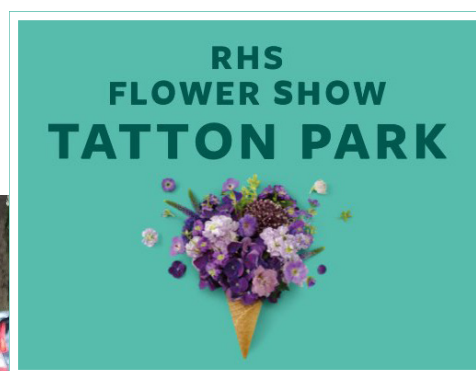
So far Eco Club have constructed a hedgehog house in line with the recommendations from British Hedgehog Preservation Society. The hedgehog house has been made completely from reclaimed wood and every member of Eco Club has played a role in its construction, from hammering nails, to marking and cutting wood. They are now working on bug hotels which will again be made completely from reclaimed sources to ensure that the structures are sustainably produced.

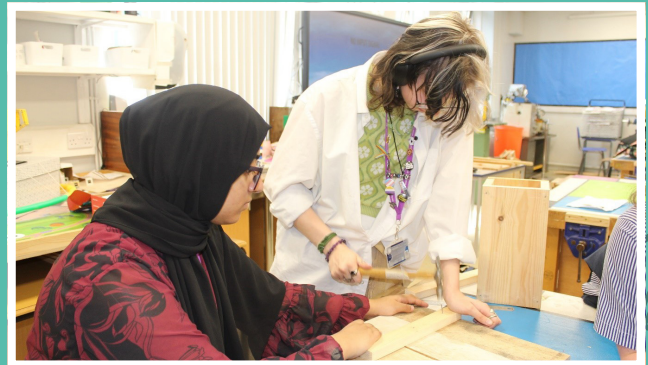


Art Club have also been actively involved in this project and are currently working towards producing willow sculptures to include in the garden.

The work of the Gardening Club is ongoing and not just focused on Tatton Park and as such they would very much appreciate any donations of unneeded perennials.

**Mr Wilson**  
Teacher of Biology





SGHS BIODIVERSITY GARDEN

Bug hotels  
 bird feeders  
 Blues = Echinops  
 art work inspired by seedheads  
 Eryngium  
 Long wort  
 recycled tub pond  
 path  
 steps/path  
 homemade bench  
 Oxye daisy  
 Alyssum  
 Cosmos

# Reading 'The Waste Land': English Literature Lunchtime Enrichment



**April is the cruellest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with spring rain.**

Thus begins what is arguably the most famous poem of the 20th Century: TS Eliot's 'The Waste Land'. At 400+ lines and comprising five esoterically titled sections told through a myriad of fragmentary voices, 'The Waste Land' is a behemoth of a poem.

Since January, we have been reading it together at lunchtime, unpacking the different strands and interpreting the many cultural, literary and biblical allusions that pepper the text as well as trying to understand the sociocultural and political context surrounding the work. (Students wishing to take this work further might wish to dip into Robert Crawford's biography of Eliot – 'Eliot After The Waste Land' – which explores some of the extremely problematic aspects of Eliot's personal life in detail.)

It has been a privilege to see this profoundly complex, landmark modernist poem through the eyes of some of our Year 11 and Year 12 students who are considering going on to study English Literature at A Level or at University respectively.

**Miss Silver**  
Teacher of English

## Millie in Year 12 writes:

*Over the past year, a group of students from Years 11 and 12 have been coming together to study T.S. Eliot's 'The Waste Land'. This is a momentous piece of literature, famed for its complexity due to its inconsistent voice. Working across the two year groups has enabled us to decode this from a wide variety of perspectives.*

*'The Waste Land' is an essential piece of 20th century literature, despite its complexity. Piecing together the various intertextual references and eclectic narrative voices, 'The Waste Land' has enriched our understanding of literature as reliant upon its society and the other literature available to its author. Too often in the school curriculum is this poem overlooked and neglected due to its complex themes and initially daunting style. Studying it has been an enjoyable experience and has opened the doors to a period of literature I have never really contemplated before.*

## Lily in Year 12 writes:

*Recently, over a few lunch times, we have finished reading Eliot's 'The Waste Land'; a modernist poem which explores the detrimental impact of WW1 on London, and the destruction of the earth, fertile land, and lives. The form of the poem itself is especially interesting as it is fragmented, switching between different narratives and voices to show varied thoughts in relation to the decay of the land after WW1.*

*Eliot ties it together with the character of the Fisher King from Arthurian legend, using his tale as a reflection of the impact of war. The Fisher King in legend, is the ruler of a barren, unfertile land and Eliot uses this image to symbolise the broken land after WW1.*

# Creative Writing...In Spanish!

Some Year 8 Spanish students were given the mission to write a story suitable for Spanish nursery school children. The theme was 'holidays' and their remit was to make their story and illustrations appealing to young children as well as teaching them about different countries around the world referring to their typical weather, their food, fashion and famous landmarks. The students also tried to show off their knowledge in Spanish, juggling with various tenses, comparatives, and topic-specific vocabulary. It was therefore a challenging task, but the students rose to the occasion and here are some pictures of their work and some of their comments.

**Mrs Beaumont**

Learning Director: MFL, Music, Expressive Arts & PE

“

*We think this story writing project has been brilliant! We have picked up lots of new skills and writing tips as well as having a lot of fun. It has boosted our knowledge and taught us lots about the Spanish language and style of writing.*

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“

*We enjoyed writing our Spanish story as it was a fun project that extended our vocabulary. Everyone in our group participated well and we all learnt a lot from it: how to work as a team, how to manage our time effectively and include everything required. We loved being given freedom to be creative.*

”

“

*We found the story writing project challenging but fun. It was interesting to learn new vocabulary and grammar structures, but challenging to write accurately and put together the story. We also learnt how to work well as a team, be time efficient and use technology to make our book look professional.*

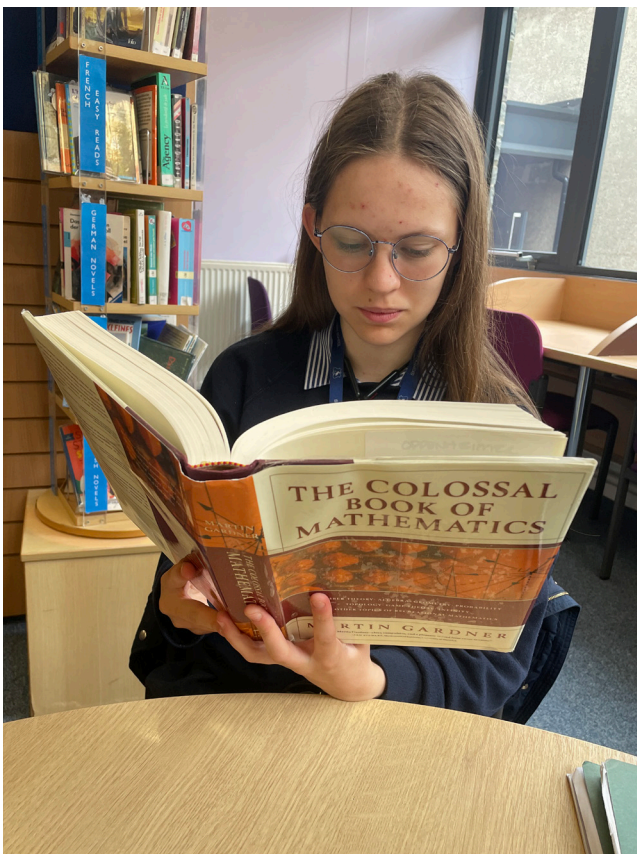
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# Library News

## Thank you to the Friends of SGHS

I'd like to pass on heartfelt thanks from all library users (i.e. the whole school community) to the Friends of SGHS for their generous donation of £1500 to support the revamp of our library stock – it has made a huge difference. It really is a joy to see the students' eyes light up as they browse the new books on display. Our fiction now reflects the diversity of the modern world and of our own students' lives. Our non-fiction has been updated to support the current curriculum and to offer wider reading for students; it's been a delight to fulfil the departmental wish lists. Here are some pictures of happy readers with the latest book deliveries...







## Emily's book recommendations club

On Tuesday lunchtimes in the library, Year 12 student Emily Butcher has been running a book club with a twist – instead of everybody reading the same book, we do a ‘show and tell’ of books we’ve read and loved. We write little review cards and display them with the books on our recommendations table. The club is open to all year groups and is a great way to decide what to read next.



## The Skipton Shadows

Our Carnegie book prize shadowing group is still going strong and the students have so far published an impressive 43 book reviews online ([you can read them here](#)). Several students have now finished reading all seven shortlisted books, and our weekly meetings are lively and fun. We've watched author interviews, written book blurbs, redesigned book covers, filmed book review trailers, done creative writing on the theme of world disasters (inspired by The Blue Book of Nebo), written a group poem about keeping secrets (inspired by We Must Betray You) and had heated debates about the shortlisted titles (not everyone has the same reading tastes, it would seem!). We're now getting ready to cast our Shadows' Choice vote – can we all agree on just one book?

## Life Stories

Our visiting storytellers from the SGHS wider community continue to enthral listeners with fascinating tales of their life experiences.

We have one more visitor coming in this term – Sophie Llewellyn Smith, conference interpreter for the European Union – and a few brave teachers lined up for next term. Thank you so much to everyone who has visited the library to speak to us; if any more friends or relatives have stories to tell about their lives, we'd love to hear them. Please email me at [walkdenk@sghs.org.uk](mailto:walkdenk@sghs.org.uk) if you'd like to come in and tell us your story.

**Mrs Walkden**  
Librarian



# Chemistry Olympiad

In January of this year, six Year 13 students bravely sat the Royal Society of Chemistry exam for the 2023 Chemistry Olympiad. The UK Chemistry Olympiad is the leading chemistry competition for students across the British Isles and is designed to develop critical problem solving-skills and allow students to test their knowledge in new, real world situations. Contexts covered in this year's paper ranged from rocket fuels, to the dangers of vaping, to Lizz Truss and cheese!

This year, each of the students who sat the exam achieved an award.

Ellie Firth, Josie Mawson and Ruby Ingham all achieved a Bronze Award.

Aisha Ahmed and Chloe Blackmore both achieved a Silver award meaning they were in the top 32.6 % of students nationally.

Finally, a special mention to Erica Overend who achieved a Gold Award. Gold awards are given to the top 9.2% of students nationally so this was a fantastic achievement!

If you'd like to find out more about the RSC Chemistry Olympiad please feel free to contact me or you can visit the website:


<https://edu.rsc.org/enrichment/uk-chemistry-olympiad>

**Miss Preston**  
Teacher of Chemistry  
[prestonn@sghs.org.uk](mailto:prestonn@sghs.org.uk)

Here is an example of an introductory question on the paper, demand increases as the question proceeds.

**Q4 This question is about vaping**

From April 2019 to February 2020 there were 68 deaths from Vaping Associated Lung Injury (VALI) in the USA. The majority of the vape liquids linked to VALI cases at the time contained vitamin E acetate. When ingested, vitamin E acetate is harmless. When heated to high temperatures, however, it can break down into a highly toxic compound.

CC(=O)OC1=C(C)C=C(C)C2=C1OCC(C)(C)CCCC(C)CCCC(C)CCCC(C)C

vitamin E acetate

(a) (i) Which functional group(s) does vitamin E acetate contain? Tick the correct answer(s) in the answer booklet.

Nitrile      Alcohol      Ester      Ketone      Ether      Carboxylic Acid

(ii) Vitamin E acetate has a molecular formula of  $C_xH_{52}O_3$ . Determine x.

(Source) Royal Society of Chemistry; Chemistry Olympiad 2023; UK Round One; Student Question Booklet



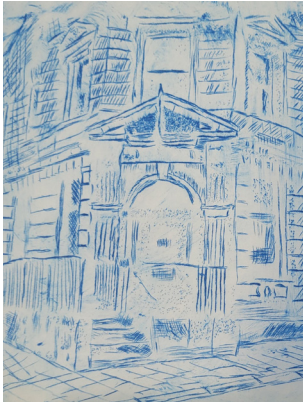
(Left to right) Josie Mawson, Ellie Firth, Ruby Ingham and Erica Overend (absent from photo are Chloe Blackmore and Aisha Ahmed)

# Art Printing Press

In the Art Department, we are so pleased with our super new state of the art printing press located in L13. As you can see our students are already reaping the benefits and producing some excellent quality prints.

Thank you again to Friends of SGHS.

**Mrs Scott**  
Learning Director: CREATE



## Photography Exhibition

Look out in cafe quad for our new Year 10 Photography Exhibition. The students have worked very hard to produce some excellent final photographs for their Natural World and Double Exposure project. Well done!

**Mrs Scott**  
Learning Director: CREATE



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**Apply now**



# 150 CLUB

Launching the Friends' 150 Club for 2023.

The 150 Club is a great way to support the school's Hardship Fund whilst having a bit of a flutter!

**£20 FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

## How does it work?

- After payment of £20 via ParentPay you will be entered into three draws monthly for 12 months. See Friends' page on [www.sghs.org.uk](http://www.sghs.org.uk) for details.
- At time of payment state three number preferences (between 1-150). You will then be informed which is your membership number.

**For queries contact:**  
[team@friendsofsghs.org.uk](mailto:team@friendsofsghs.org.uk)

**1ST PRIZE £40**

**2ND PRIZE £25**

**3RD PRIZE £10**

**ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE OVER 16**

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This Edition, and previous issues of the Newsletter, can also be viewed on the School Website.

[www.sghs.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.sghs.org.uk/newsletter)



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