



ISSUE 104

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

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A Word from our Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Another half term has flown by at SGHS and as you will see, we have lots of news to share about our students' adventures both in school and outside of school. You will notice there is a strong enrichment and sustainability theme which shows you the breadth of experiences that students are lucky enough to enjoy as part of their SGHS experience. This theme will continue next half term as the whole school gears up for enrichment week, where students will all be engaging in a range of trips, visits and activities.

Alongside enrichment excitement, staff will be preparing for the new academic year and the changes that the five-period day will bring. Our Student Executive have had some good ideas about how to support students with the changes too, which will be shared as the next half term progresses. We will also be recruiting our next head girl team and finalising arrangements for culture day.

I hope that you all have a wonderful half term, whether it is the space and freedom to revise whilst examinations are paused, or the opportunity to rest and get outdoors.

Very best wishes,

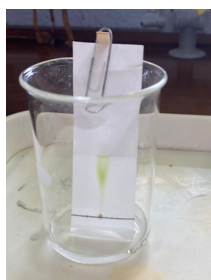
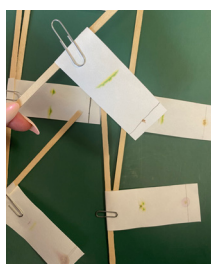
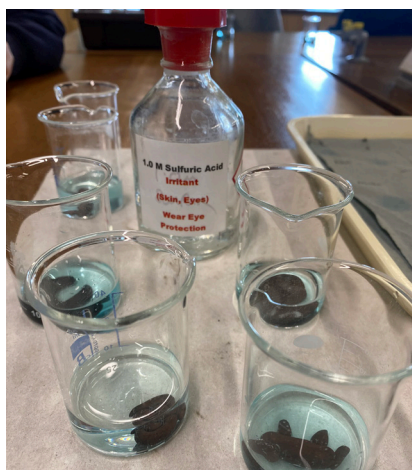
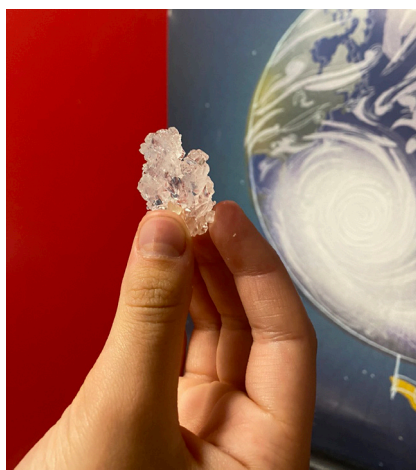
Ms M Featherstone
Headteacher



Science Club

In Science Club this year we have been doing a variety of experiments in Physics, Chemistry and Biology and even been able to make some little keepsakes. Mrs Palmer brought in some copper clay, with which we made little models. Once fired in a Bunsen burner and soaked in sulphuric acid, we were left with an assortment of copper animals and figures to take home. With spring arriving, we also did chromatography. The students chose their own leaves from the school grounds to grind up to make a natural dye to separate using propanone. We're excited for next academic year as we will be doing environmental science of the local area.

Dr Dougherty
Teacher of Physics



The Green Routes Project

The Green Routes project, funded and run by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, is a scheme aimed at 16–17 year olds. On Thursday 11th April and Tuesday 30th April, 18 Year 12 students ventured out into the Dales on trips with Joanna Gregory (our amazing friend from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust), Mrs Uren and Mrs Coia.

First, we had a meeting to introduce us to the project and to plan out our activities. Here, we did an icebreaker where we named and acted like our favourite animal. Then we learnt about the Yorkshire Dales, specifically what kind of species of plants and animals could be found there. After this, we scrapbooked and made clay animals, which we lovingly named Dave after our group name. We ended the session by discussing what we wanted to do on the trips and hiding our pets around Westbank, unfortunately the rain melted them after a few days.

On the 11th of April, we set out for Grassington. We had a 20-minute bus ride followed by a 40-minute walk, in the middle of which we played a game which taught us about pollinators. One student commented about this experience *“I enjoyed being a bee”*. Once we arrived, we had many activities to choose from. These included natural artwork, building hammocks and exploring. Most people had a go at everything, before we had to head back. This was a fun-filled day where we all gained knowledge of different plants and insects.

Then we had our second trip on the 30th of April. This time we went to Settle. Once arriving near the forest, we had a 50-minute walk there. During this, we met some cheeky cows. Following this, we set up an area for a campfire and learnt fire-starting techniques using flint and steel to set fire to cotton balls and silver birch bark. Following this, some of us went on a walk around the forest, and when returning we set up the fire pit. We had some lunch before toasting marshmallows and bananas with chocolate. We

also had pineapple with brown sugar on it. Then we had the chance to make some clay figurines, which were cooked so they wouldn't melt, and have warm drinks. At the end we played a game of hide and seek, finishing the day off by saying what we liked about the experience and memories that would stick with us before setting off back.

One student kindly gave a description of the trip, *“On the first Green Routes trip, we participated in fun team building activities associated with pollination of bees and learning of natural environmental dyes, my highlight would be assembling the hammocks and talking to people I wouldn't typically talk to! On the second trip, we learnt useful skills from our kind leaders such as the campfire building and lighting. This whole process, along with toasting the marshmallows was my highlight. Overall, both trips were a wonderful experience for me to make new friends and with the guidance of our leaders, rekindle my love for nature and spending time outdoors”*. Another student commented that *“I had a wonderful time, and it took me away from the stresses of school”*.

Aimee Ayrton
Year 12





PE News!

ESAA Track and Field Cup

We took a group of 25 students to the ESAA Track and Field Cup on the 9th of May. It was a great event to attend on a very hot day and the students performed fantastically. There was some tough competition for all the students but we went away with some great results.

Alice White - 1st in the Junior Girls 1500m

Maisie Oddy - 2nd in the Junior Girls 1500m

Rita Box - 1st in the Inter Girls 300m

Issabelle Kay - 2nd in the Inter Girls 100m

Ava Anderson - 2nd in the Junior Girls 200m

Macey Plunkett - 3rd in the Inter Girls 800m

Junior relay team - Maddie D, Ava A, Katherine B and Anna K came 3rd

Rounders

This year we have entered teams from year 7,8,9,10 and Senior. It has been great to see over 60 students represent SGHS and over 80 students coming to training. The year 7s have won four out of five games which is a fantastic achievement for their first time in the competition. The year 8's won all three games they played last week, the year 9's had a fantastic win against upper Wharfedale and have yet to play some fixtures and the year 10's came away with a great result against South Craven. It has been great to see students bring their skills they have learnt in their rounders lessons and at the afterschool club and use them in the competition.

Team PE



TV Producer Visit



On the 3rd of May, we had a TV producer come into to our Media lesson to talk to us about his career experience in the TV industry. His name was Joe Evans and he's a freelance producer, meaning he works for different companies rather than just one and he finds his own work. He gave us an exciting glimpse of the TV shows he has worked on, and a brief overview of the companies he has worked for: these include Tiger Aspect, Thames, BBC and US based companies like Netflix and Fox. The numerous TV shows of note included Traitors, Strictly Come Dancing, Big Brother, and Jack Whitehall: Travels with My Father.

As a class we found his talk extremely informative and interesting, especially as quite a few of us are interested in careers in media in the future. Having Joe come in to talk to us was a great advantage as in our Media course we focus on industry and audiences related to Long Form Television Dramas. He gave us an insight into how different companies run, for example the difference between Channel 4 and the BBC, and the difference in regulation between these companies due to the BBC Remit. This was very insightful as it all applies to our course and gave us added information that we can use as we explore all aspects of our Media framework.

Additionally, it was fascinating to hear from a producers' point of view how reality TV engages their

audience and ensures that it will be interesting and captivating to them. He told us about the best route to find a specific career path and shared his experiences of before and after university. He also informed us about the best way to create a distinctive CV that will help us get recognised by the top companies and networks. For example, a good way to start out in the industry is becoming a runner for an established company. Joe himself did this and mentioned that it is the perfect way to gain connections and create a network with people in the various fields of the TV/film industry.



We really enjoyed having Joe here and feel as though we benefited thoroughly from his talk. We, as a class, were very grateful for this opportunity.

Anna Mulligan and Maddie Fletcher
Year 12



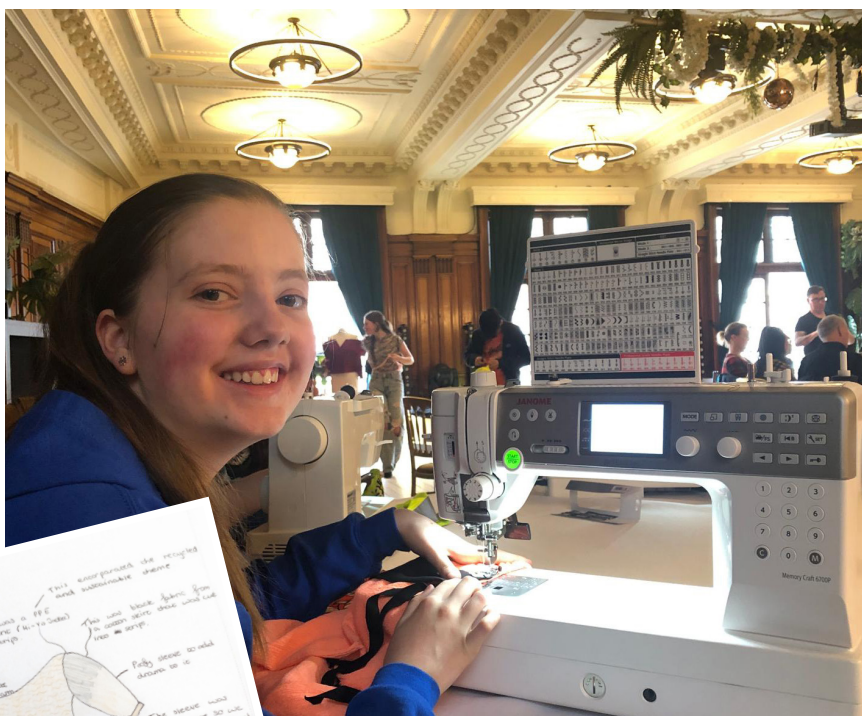
York Fashion Week

On 6th May Maia Adams attended the Fashion Workshop I alerted you all to. There were many different schools throughout the area, looking at developing their skills in textiles and upcycling. Learning more about how much waste is produced in the Fashion industry throughout the world. Maia had a superb time and says:

"After being informed by Mrs Scott of a fashion workshop in York, I attended with no clear idea of what to expect. Once I had arrived, however, the team around me were supportive and helped me to bring my designs to life. Being provided with an inclusive environment that helped me develop my understanding of how things worked and could be brought to life was really interesting to see and it was a fun day. I would encourage more people who are interested, to go to these workshops because you work with some designers who do that for a living and have the first hand experience of what you can achieve. Doing this, also allows us to have a better chance at entering competitions and getting through to the finals. Lots of people could try and get involved because overall it was a really enjoyable experience for me. It was a brilliant day".

- Maia Adams, Year 8

Mrs Scott
Learning Director: CREATE



The organisers would like me to tell you all about the competition for students aged 13+ see below for details:

Yorwaste (www.yorwaste.co.uk) and York Fashion Week. For pupils of secondary school age to design an item of clothing using upcycled materials and an element of Hi-Viz material. The closing date for the competition is 19 July and the Yorwaste Runway Show will be hosted on 7 October 2024 at York Fashion Week. Entries via email to: competition@yorkfashionweek.com

Junior Maths Challenge

On 25th April, some students in Years 7 and 8 took part in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Maths Challenge, with much success. It is a nationwide competition that presents students with problem solving questions which really make them think!

Well done to everyone who took part!

Erica Clarke and Lilly Dodgson (pictured right) scored highly enough to gain entry to next round of the competition, the Junior Kangaroo, which takes place on 11th June. We wish them the best of luck!



Awards were as follows:

GOLD:

- Liyanna Husaain
- Pippa Nixon
(best in Year 7)
- Tehmida Rehman
- Erica Clarke
(best in school)
- Lilly Dodgson
- Imaan Mehmood



SILVER:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| • Maryam Al-Karim | • Heidi Emery |
| • Fahima Ashraf Rashid | • Anaya Hussain |
| • Laura Atkinson | • Emilie Savage |
| • Hareem Basharat | • Teighan Stewart |
| • Chloe Brady | • Effy Watson |
| • Lucy Cornish | |
| • Annie Dix | |
| • Anusha Kumar | |
| • Amelia Miller | |
| • Muqqadas Mustaf | |
| • Jasmine Bontoft | |



BRONZE:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Afreen Abedin | |
| • Hidayah Amin | |
| • Liillyrose Davis | |
| • Eliza Gillard | |
| • Darcey Guioherme | |
| • Zarah Hussain | |
| • Olivia Jennings | • Aleena Azhar |
| • Elsa Keep | • Mehek Gulfraz |
| • Amber Lockey | • Elektra Hailwood |
| • Martha Lyles | • Emily Hartley |
| • Jasmin Makram | • Martha Keeble |
| • Mia McLaughlin | • Beth Kent |
| • Lilia Persson | • Josie Martin |
| • Chloe Wade | • Lois Payne |
| • Maya Wall | • Safiya Usman |
| • Alice White | |
| • Tabitha Whitehead | |



Library News

The library is a lovely peaceful space this half term, with GCSE and A Level students revising hard for their summer exams in the 'silent zone'. Students from other year groups are making the most of the noise restrictions to escape the hustle and bustle of school and just sit and chill with a good book or relax with friends in a calm place. We are also keeping busy with reading and writing activities, as described below. Our book displays are refreshed regularly and some tie in with the school's Gathering themes. Currently we have an Earth Day display, with an assortment of environmental books, geographical magazines, and scary dystopian fiction portraying what the world might look like if we don't act now!

Year 7 Creative Writing Booklet

Following the creative writing workshops delivered by author Jennifer Burkinshaw in the autumn term, the students have been putting the literary techniques they were shown into practice in their own writing. We have published an anthology of extracts from the Year 7s' novels in progress (one day to adorn our shelves?) and have distributed it around school. Here are a few little teasers from the booklet...

As Gale backed away from the coal-smelling oxygen, he wondered if his father would take him there someday to get cold salmon in nets and little seeds that come in packets of four. The forest was filled with all kinds of life, from ancient trees, tart berries, plentiful mushrooms, and luscious moss to mating birds, snuffling hogs, and glistening fish. That was why he loved it here – no noise and no disturbances to this wonderful, united ecosystem.

– Maya Wall

I leaned against the wall and took deep breaths when suddenly out of nowhere a boy around my age snatched my necklace from my neck and ran off with it.


"Thief! Thief! That boy just ran off with my necklace!"

All of the stall owners looked at where I was pointing and running to and started to follow. The boy kept on going down side alleys and I did my best to follow.

Eventually all the shopkeepers gave up and it was just me; I turned the last corner and saw him, he had stopped and was talking to someone. When he saw me, he shouted "NOW!" and I suddenly felt a grimy hand over my mouth.

– Amelia Miller






It's teatime. I sit at the table alone because Dad had to go somewhere. I'm eating leftover soup from yesterday because I don't really know how to cook. The best I've ever cooked is a smoothie and that's not exactly cooking, is it? I think about the past – the good past, and the bad past. I dwell on all the things that I should have done better for her or not done at all, but it's happened now, and she'll never come back.

– Chloe Brady

Our village, Aether, was once a beautiful place. Foreigners and tourists flocked from miles around to see our paradise. But then The Aquys came, and they stole our lush green home and turned it into a grey wasteland. From that day forth, we lived in fear of these people and our village was on the brink of losing everything. Although among the terrorised citizens, there was a small glimmer of hope. For the words of the soothsayer told of an alliance, a group, that would change things and finally set us free from The Aquys...they were the Disrupters.



– Olivia Jordan






My name is Athea and that's my little brother Leo. I call him my goldfish because he is so short, with flaming ginger hair, a face full of freckles and a big attitude for an eight-year-old. I get in trouble for it sometimes. OK, all the time, but I don't care, I'd rather that than have to go surfing every day. I doubt Leo feels the same, but anyway, I enjoy watching him getting annoyed when I splash him, it's rather funny!

- Laura Atkinson




I skipped down the cobbled road, Ishmael, my cat, by my side. I could feel the cool October breeze rushing through my hair, sending a salty smell up my nose. I reached the end of the road and looked out at the bay, waves drifting up the sand, the cliffs tall, white, beautiful and the fields stretching to the distance, our little farmhouse in the middle of it all. I stood and watched, fixed, Ishmael's fur brushing against my leg.

- Mia McLaughlin



Ever since her husband's devastating death twenty years ago, Gwendolen had not been the same. She used to be bright and bouncy, joyfully running her apothecary of modern medicine; now, however, she was quite the opposite – she was introverted, lonely and deeply depressed, lost in a sadness so deep and so dark that she thought nothing could pull her back to the surface again.

- Isobel Johnson



Everyone needs a Guardian once to protect themselves. Guardians have lots of powers, including Earth, Light, Fire, Water and Dark. These are the common ones. Rare ones are Human, Devil and Angel. The legendary one is Snow. Everyone gets one at the age of five. Everyone... But Me...

- Afreen Abedin



Northern Star Initial Teacher Training



As we approach the final half term with our trainees there is a feeling that it's all going too fast! They are now fully immersed in placement schools as they head ever closer to becoming qualified teachers. Early in the year trainees took part in Team Teach, learning practical skills for behaviour management.



Then we had the wonderful ladies from RHS, giving both Primary and Secondary fantastic ideas on how to take teaching outside.



Trainees have now submitted their second assignment for their PGCE.





If you know anyone who is ready to take the next step into teaching, do get in touch with Helen Smith smithh@sghs.org.uk or see our website www.nsitt.org.uk



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Northern Star ITT has helped me to grow as a teacher and as a person in a way that makes me feel at home, contained, and protected.

- ROXY, SECONDARY

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THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

I am currently participating in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh with school. It has been a brilliant opportunity for me and believe it is for other students too.

I have gained many skills needed for my future such as confidence, resilience, problem solving and decision making. So far, I have really enjoyed Duke of Edinburgh as I have been able to make new friends and learnt lots of new skills; for example, organisation in preparation for expeditions, cooking skills on expeditions and map reading both in preparation and in fieldwork. I am looking forward to my expedition in June and believe I will gain independence from it as well as have a delightful time.

The Duke of Edinburgh award is also an excellent extra-curricular pursuit to enhance your personal statements and employability. I have been volunteering and helping the local community, whilst it also encourages you to try a new

skill and hobby. Every Duke of Edinburgh participant partakes in a physical exercise of their choice which will ultimately boost self-esteem. Which we learned about in Gathering last week with Mental Health Awareness Week.

The training day was also a superb opportunity to gain insight into the actual expedition as well as learn navigation skills. We had lots of laughter along the way and the odd mishap such as when my friend got stuck in the mud!

The award is a great way to signal you are a motivated, hardworking and committed student who is able to work well in a team. So, I highly recommend taking part in Duke of Edinburgh as it is a wonderful way to develop teamwork and leadership skills and above all you will have an outstanding time!

Florence Perry
Year 10



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

www.sghs.org.uk/newsletter



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