



ISSUE 87

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

www.sghs.org.uk

A Word from our Executive Headteacher and Head of School

Well, we have made it to the end of a very eventful and challenging year and I'm sure all students, parents, carers and staff are looking forward to a well deserved summer break. Whilst this year has presented so many challenges, I am constantly impressed by the way our school community continues to rise to those challenges and find ways of continuing the excellent work beyond the core curriculum. In this edition of the newsletter you can see some of the amazing artwork our students have completed this year and read about our adapted Sports Days (in bubbles!) and some of the wider community work our students have been able to complete.



We have been able to hold our belated Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers' Days and it was so lovely to be able to spend time with our students reflecting on their years at SGHS. We have also carried out adapted transition activities with our new Year 7 and Year 12 students as we look forward to welcoming them into our school community in September.

Over the summer we have some exciting site developments as we complete the refurbishment of Chalet 3 and 4 and a full resurfacing of 'The Hollow', our outside PE space. In particular, the work on the Hollow will enable much better use of the space and for students to be able to take part in more physical activity both during PE lessons and during social time. Both of these building programmes are being funded from the NSAT Capital Development Fund, together with a significant contribution from Friends of SGHS and you can find out more about their fantastic work to support the school later in the newsletter.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter and I wish all readers an enjoyable and safe summer.

Mr M Turner
Executive Headteacher

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a wonderful summer break after what I can only say has been a testing year. Our students continue to amaze us with their love of learning, resilience and ability to adapt whatever the situation. I would also like to thank all our parents and friends of SGHS who have written into school to praise our staff for their efforts through this year, those messages of support are much appreciated! We look forward to the next academic year and hope that we can all return to some form of normality, keep your fingers crossed!



Mrs F McMillan
Head of School

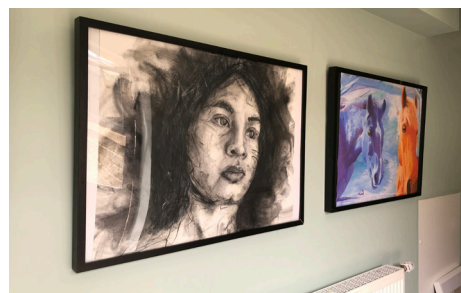
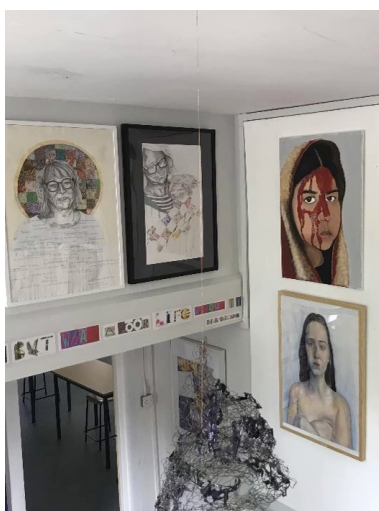
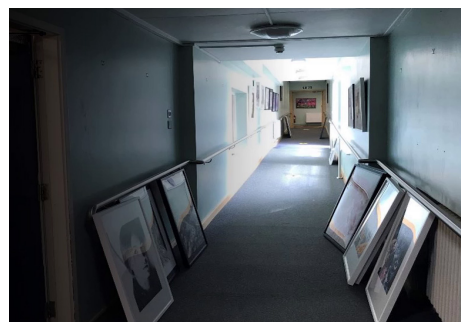
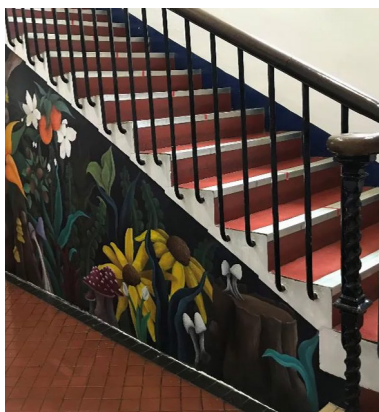
Art Trail

What a strange year; but it has not stopped our amazing students' CREATIVITY. We would have loved to invite you all in to see our ART TRAIL, but for obvious reasons this was not possible, so I hope this video goes some way to show you a snap shot of the Artistic talent that abounds in this school!

This is what Lily Smith in year 8 said she liked about the Art Trail:

"I like how diverse and unique each piece of artwork is in the exhibition"

The Art Department would also like to say a big thank you to **Friends of SGHS** for helping fund the Art Trail, and the refurbishment of L14, our sixth form room. Our thanks go out to our technician Mr Durward, who is doing a superb job with this; when it is completely finished we will share this with you.



We hope you enjoy our Art Trail, this showcases a small snapshot of the amazing work our students have been able to produce during this strange time!

The hanging of the Art Trail

Download and view our Art Trail



Blooming Marvellous

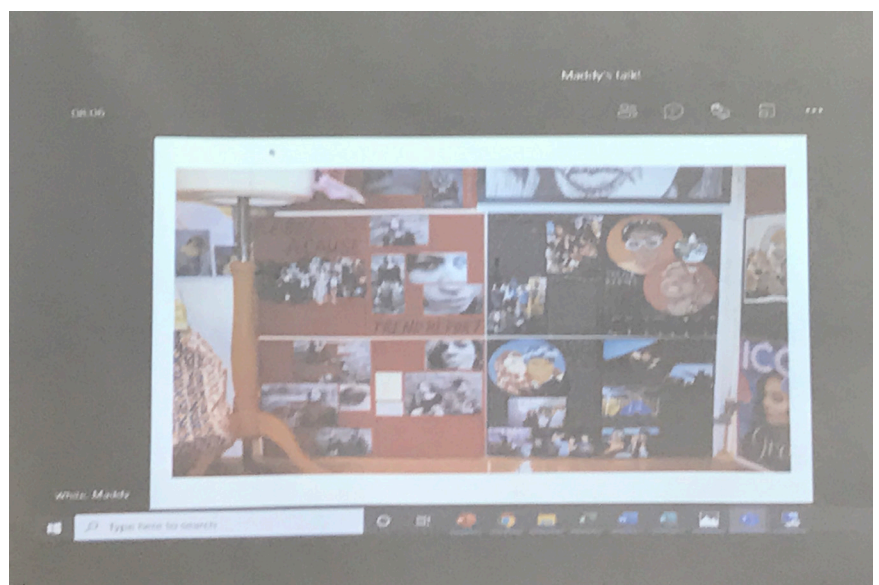
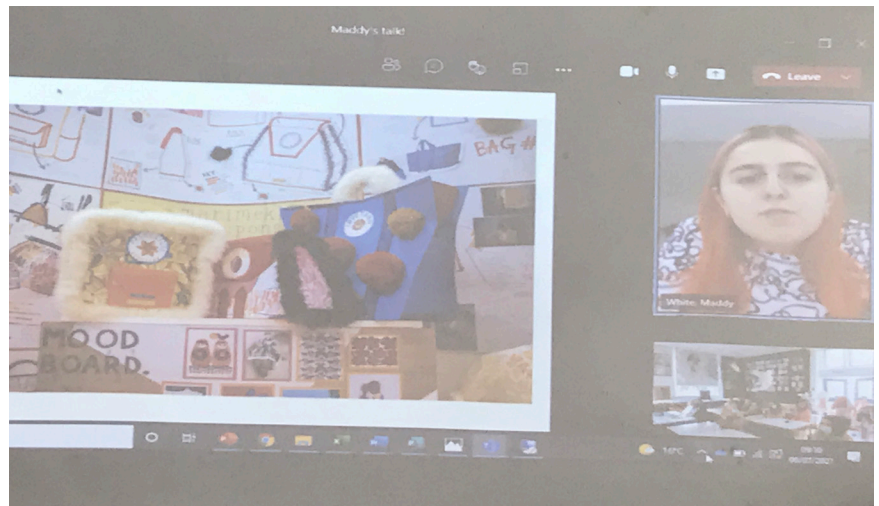
You may have noticed how the garden areas around school have started blooming and we now have tomatoes, chillies and basil in the greenhouse. Year 7 have been competing to make the best allotment plot in their form time, with: cabbages, wallflowers, runner beans, kale, nasturtiums etc.

A big thank you goes out to Mr Dryland for facilitating all of this, with help from Cath Pickard. Mrs Pitt's Art students have already been enjoying working amongst the new plants, with their alfresco Art class!



Art Careers Talk by Ex Student Maddy White

Our Year 12 Art students were really lucky earlier in the month to have ex student Maddy White give a superb Art careers talk via TEAMS. Maddy is studying Fashion in London and it was great to see her so enthusiastically, and articulately, impart her considerable knowledge about different Art pathways which are on offer to students.



PE Update

What a term we have had in PE! We have had 4 Sports Days in the sunshine and have been so impressed with all of your effort and motivation. Well done to all of our Sports Day Winners, and to everyone who took part in any of the events – you were all amazing. During this term we have also entered into a Northern School's Dance Competition, where our Junior Dance group performed beautifully in their first competition together, and our Senior Dance group won their age category! We are so impressed by the dancers hard work this term and cannot wait for more competitions with them next year. Another dance competition we entered this year was the North Yorkshire Sport's Virtual Dance Competition, in which the whole of Year 7 and the whole of Year 8 learnt a dance on Teams during lockdown. We then videoed this dance when back in school and... Year 7 AND year 8 won their age category! Well done to all involved! We also took part in the Monster Kickabout 2021 where we were gifted with £1,000 worth of sport equipment and had the opportunity to enter some other mini design competitions within that – some of your entries were fantastic!

It has been a strange year in PE, where things have had to change due to the restrictions, however, all the students have shown determination, resilience, teamwork and drive during their lessons and extra-curricular clubs. It has been an amazing year in which everyone has continued to develop and improve, and we cannot wait to continue that next year!

Well done everyone!

Miss Starr
PE

Year 8 Sports Day



Year 9 Sports Day



Year 7 Sports Day

Last Friday, the whole of year 7 took part in Sports Day. It was great fun, and everyone enjoyed it. It was a bit different to a normal Sports Day, but it was still an amazing experience. However, it was very hot! Because this was such a wonderful morning, I am sure when we do it properly with the whole school it will be even better.

Overall, Sports Day was a fun morning, and we would do it again!

**Grace Curtis, Izzy Wright and
Ciara O'Carroll**
7F

“

Student Comments

“I enjoyed the 200m sprint because it was nice that everyone cheered me on. I loved doing rounders because it was a team sport. Then when we won it made the morning so much better.”

“I enjoyed doing the 800m because everyone was so kind when I had to pull out of the race. I also enjoyed doing rounders because I loved spending time with my friends.”

“I enjoyed rounders because we worked well as a team and when we won it was even better.”

”



Year 12 Politics

Virtual Guest Speakers

What is a civil servant?

Ben Still – West Yorkshire Combined Authority Managing Director

While many people have heard, or indeed know someone who works in the Civil Service, it is often hard to define what exactly the jobs entails. To help us demystify their role, our Politics class was joined by Ben Still (a former civil servant currently working in local government). During our discussion with him, Mr Still explained that civil servants were essentially in charge of ensuring that the government of the day's pledges, set out in their manifesto, were fulfilled. Indeed, Still explained that civil servants primarily fall into two broad categories, policy implementation and policy scrutiny. He went on to explain that the civil service encompassed a broad variety of policy areas, such as: DVLA, education and the environment. If there is one thing to take away from our discussion with him, I would have to say that it is the diversity and flexibility of the civil service. Indeed, Mr Still reiterated that anyone can enter the civil service, careless of their prior career or even qualification, provided they had an interest in initiating policies that would directly influence how people live their day-to-day lives.



What does the role of an MP look like?

Julian Smith MP for Skipton and Ripon

In our first week back our Year 12 Politics class met with our local MP for Skipton and Ripon. We asked him questions on a range of issues such as the day-to-day life of an MP and more recent debates surrounding the Police, Crime and Sentencing bill and how it will affect the right to protest. It was no surprise that the Covid-19 pandemic was a hot topic of discussion (especially concerning the uncertainty of exams and ending of lockdown) and we were also interested to hear about his past roles as Chief Whip and Secretary of State to Northern Ireland. It was a great opportunity to meet Mr Smith and gain a greater understanding of the mechanics of Parliament and the purpose of the Friday surgeries in constituencies (albeit quite different in light of the pandemic). It was especially enlightening for those wanting to go into a career in politics to gain a deeper understanding of how to gain vital work experience once restrictions have lifted.





What is the role of a Lord in the House of Lords?

Labour Lord Iain McNicol

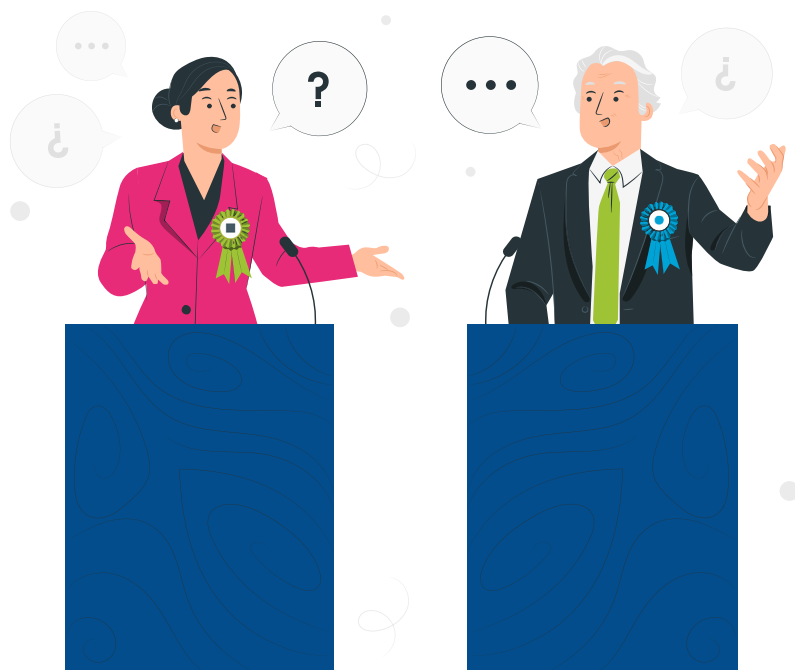
On the 18th of June, the Year 12 Politics class met with Labour Lord Iain McNicol, formerly the General Secretary for the Labour Party. We met with him (over teams) to learn about his role in the House of Lords and for him to answer our questions, mainly about younger issues such as the voting age, university fees and how the House of Lords needs to change moving forward.

Lord McNicol was given his peerage in 2018 after stepping down from his position as General Secretary. He was nominated by Jeremy Corbyn and initially took the position of the party's Opposition Whip, a position giving him the power to ensure the party is 'towing the line'. He later stepped down from this position in 2020 pending investigation into a government report regarding the Labour Party.



As Lord McNicol answered our questions, he noticed that as a class we focused on his positions on certain issues rather than simply his role in the House of Lords – it's a fair observation, we'd much rather learn about the Labour opinion in a Conservative led country rather than re-hash the information we learn in our lessons. Mostly the class focused on youth issues as mentioned previously, and overall he shared our opinions on these subjects. For the lowering of the voting age to 16, he expressed his support for this issue, citing the lowering of the voting age in the 2014 Scottish Independence referendum as evidence in favour of this issue. He also showed clear opinions on the composition of the House of Lords, expressing that reform needs to be made going forward to abolish 'the 92' – the number of remaining hereditary peers in the House – Lord McNicol also criticised the single use of the Lords Spiritual – Bishops given a political position without consideration for the diverse religious landscape of the UK. In the recent focus on personal statements and university talks including Higher Education week, his opinion on the question of University fees is becoming more of an issue for our generation every day. How is it that students in England, Wales or Ireland can pay up to £40,000 but Scotland can have no tuition fees? It's an interesting question, and Lord McNicol agreed, stating that this economic inequality did create a rift between the English and Scottish education systems, but devolution means that Scotland can use their funding how they see fit.

Through his answers we learnt about his opinion on many issues that will directly affect our generation in the future and assured us that there was still someone "trying to change the world (as his Twitter™ bio states) "



A CREATE Makeover

The CREATE staff have been working hard to welcome students back into our classrooms in September. Due to Covid 19, we have missed being able to offer our students access to the DT workshops, the food technology room, and the art rooms.

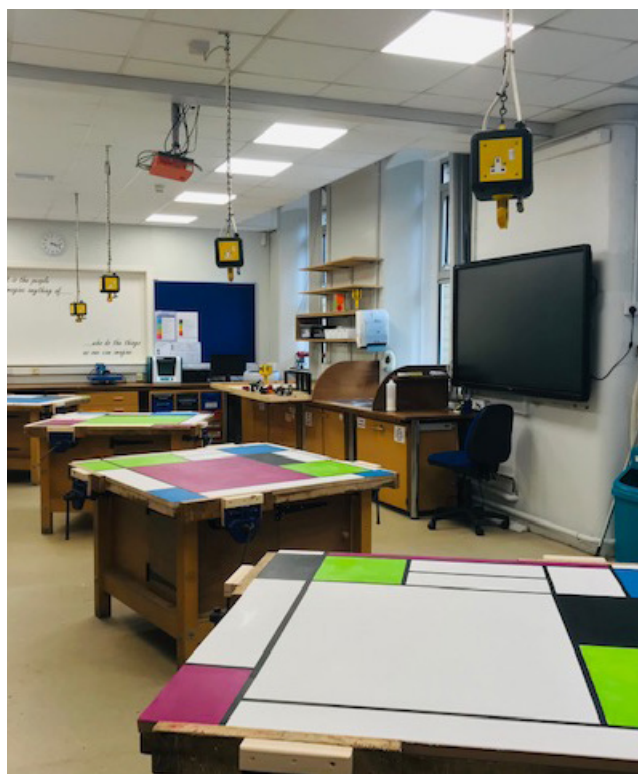
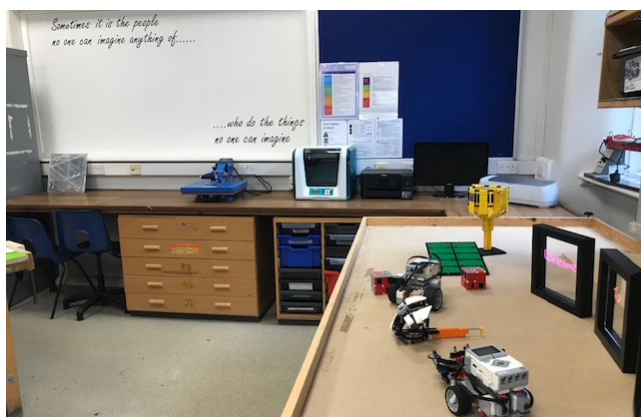
Mrs Scott and Mr Durward have transformed the A level Art suite into a dynamic and modern Art studio to provide our students with an inspiring and personalised space.

In our DT Workshop, we have overhauled the workbenches to create a Mondrian inspired room. It now has a feature wall with a noise responsive infinity mirror built by Mr Mira and bespoke inspirational quotes printed on our new vinyl machine which will be accessible to our students in September.

We cannot wait for you to access the creative subjects in their specialist rooms again!

Mrs Lofthouse

Learning Director: CREATE



EdTech Robotics

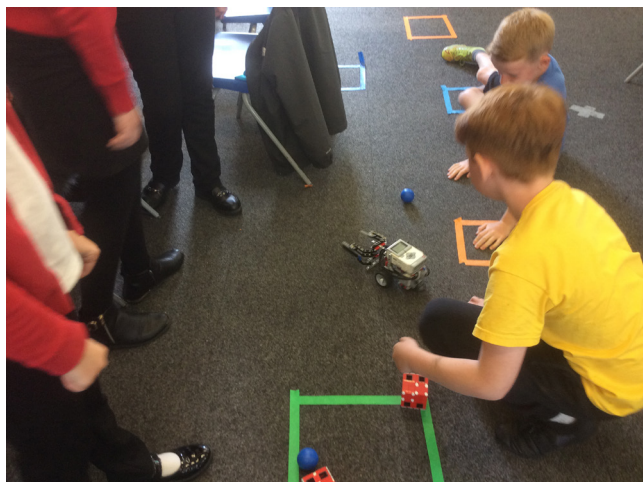
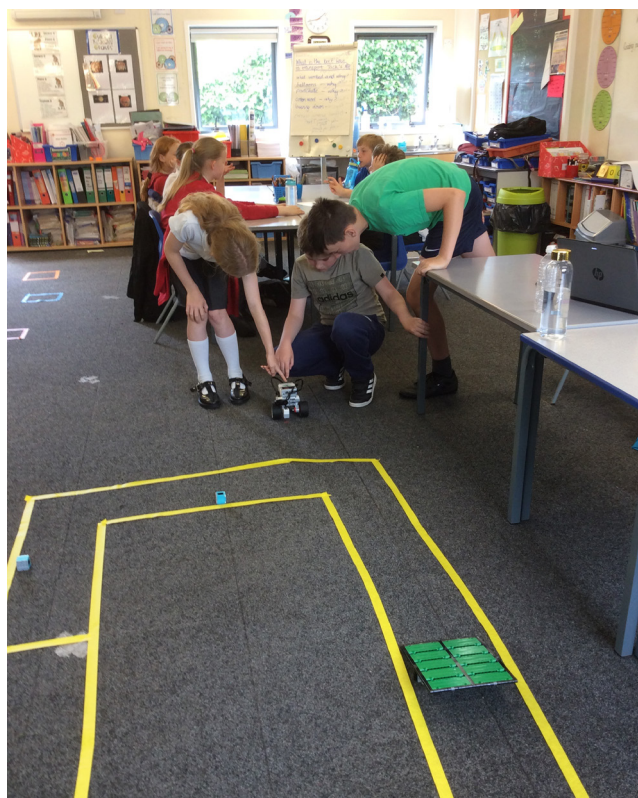
As part of our ongoing work as an EdTech Demonstrator school, we have been working with primary and secondary schools around the country to embed technology throughout schools and to use it to enhance and enrich the curriculum.

A recent offering to primary schools has been “Enriching the Science Curriculum using Technology”. One of our local schools, Thornton in Craven primary, has been studying sustainability and recycling in Years 5 and 6. We visited the school to demonstrate how you can bring robotics into the classroom to engage our young people and get them to further embrace the challenges that we face through climate change.

Our day focused around being “Waste Wise”, the children firstly looked at the landfill in Cateura in Paraguay and learnt the inspirational story of the Recycled Orchestra where the local community built instruments from recycled rubbish and now tour the world playing to large audiences. We then set up a number of robotics challenges for the students to engage with.

They had to work in teams to program their Mindstorms robot to sort through “lego landfill” and deliver items to different recycling points around the classroom. This used teamwork, programming, logic and problem-solving skills and gave the students an experience to enjoy and remember.

If you feel that the EdTech demonstrator program may be of use to a school near you please contact James Hoyle at hoylej@sghs.org.uk



Summer Reading Recommendations

With the summer holidays nearly upon us, it's a perfect opportunity to develop some great reading for pleasure habits. Here are some recommendations that you might enjoy reading this summer.

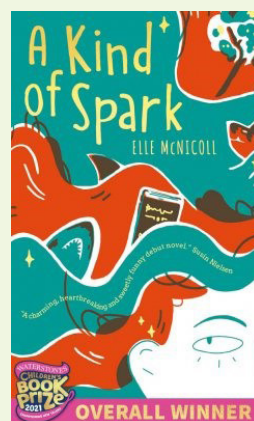
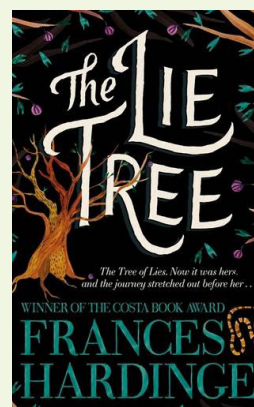


Year 7 and 8

Year 7 students have all read 'Northern Lights' in English this year, whilst Year 8 students have been reading 'Noughts and Crosses'. Both of these novels are part of a series, so if you are in Year 7, why not pick up the second novel in the trilogy – 'The Subtle Knife' – and find out where Lyra's adventures go next. Likewise, if you are in Year 8 and enjoyed 'Noughts and Crosses,' why not pick up the second novel in the quartet – 'Knife Edge' – and find out what happens to Sephy next...

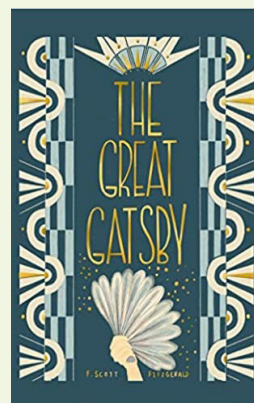
If you are looking for a novel featuring a rebellious female protagonist, why not try **'The Lie Tree' by Frances Hardinge**. 'The Lie Tree' is set in the patriarchal, scientific society of Victorian Britain. Protagonist Faith's father is found dead under mysterious circumstances, and Faith determines to find out the cause of his death as well as to discover the nature of his scientific investigations, hoping, in the process, to save her family name and fortune. Combining historical and fantasy genres, this is a gripping, entertaining and fascinating read!

If you are looking for a story about friendship, courage and self-belief to read this summer, **'A Kind of Spark' by Elle McNicholl** has just won the Waterstones children's book prize. It tells the story of 11-year-old Addie as she campaigns for a memorial to the witch trials that took place in her Scottish hometown. Addie knows there's more to the story of these 'witches', just like there is more to hers. Can Addie challenge how the people in her town see her, and make her voice heard? Addie's story was born from the writer's own experiences of neurodiversity and her commitment to seeing greater representation in children's books.



Year 9

Year 9 students have studied either 'Of Mice and Men' or 'To Kill a Mockingbird' this year. Why not develop your knowledge of American modern classics and try **'The Great Gatsby' by F Scott Fitzgerald** over the summer? Generally considered to be F. Scott Fitzgerald's finest novel, 'The Great Gatsby' is narrated by Nick Carraway and takes the reader into the superficially glittering world of the mansions which lined the Long Island shore in 1920s New York. Nick Carraway recounts his relationships with Daisy Buchanan, her brash but wealthy husband Tom Buchanan and most of all his relationship with Jay Gatsby and the mystery that surrounds him...



KS4 and KS5

If you are looking for the perfect escape from GCSEs and A Levels, check out **Meg Rosoff's latest novel: 'The Great Godden'**. This is an effortless summer read and a perfect coming of age tale for fans of 'Call me by your name', 'Normal People' and 'I Capture the Castle'. This is the story of one family and one dreamy summer when everything changes... In a holiday house by the sea, in a big, messy family, one teenager watches as brothers and sisters, parents and older cousins fill hot days with wine and games and planning a wedding. Enter the Goddens – irresistible and charming Kit and surly, silent Hugo. Suddenly there's a serpent in paradise - and the consequences will be devastating for everyone...





Year 7 Power Writers Club!

This half term, we have been focusing on creative writing in the Power Writers club. Students have written some fabulously spine-chilling 'mini-sagas' – stories of exactly 100 words! We hope to continue with Power Writers next year so do keep writing over the summer!

Here is a terrifying example of a 'mini-saga' by Isabelle in 7J – we hope it doesn't give you nightmares!

In the Dark of the Night

By Isabelle, 7J

Silence. A child's bedroom smothered in darkness. The child, awake in their bed. Night air breezes through the open window. That's how the shadows get in. They drift through, bringing a chilling coldness and a lurking sense of dread. The child senses their presence and tries to feign sleep. But the shadows are not fooled; not by the simple tricks of a naïve child. They can tell the child is scared – they feed from the fear. The child succumbs – the shadows pick up the tiny, trembling body. They flee the bedroom as quickly and quietly as they came. Then... Silence.



Friends of SGHS News

Despite continued difficult times, Friends of SGHS are grateful to you for some fantastic fundraising this year. Thank you!

This academic year together we have raised a massive £9,500 for school projects. Thank you for supporting the online craft Christmas & Spring markets, our Virtual Quiz, the seasonal raffles and especially for raising money by climbing Sharp Haw with us.

Amounts raised:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 150 Club | £1350.00 |
| Christmas, Spring & Summer hamper raffles | £3,840.00 |
| Christmas & Easter Market | £1026.45 |
| Sharp Haw Sponsored Hike | £2590.00 |
| Family Quiz | £650.00 |

Contributions this year to school:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| SGHS English Books | £400.00 |
| SGHS Engineering CAD | £600.00 |
| SGHS Outdoor Seating | £300.00 |
| SGHS Santa Dash Prizes | £60.00 |
| Awards @ Christmas | £564.00 |
| Hardship Christmas Presents | £200.00 |
| Hardship Food Vouchers | £40.00 |
| Hardship Fund | £1,000.00 |
| SGHS Projector and iPads | £3,077.94 |

After many years in the planning, we are very excited that the School's Hollow (the large outdoor sports area at the back of school) is finally being refurbished for students' use. Friends have pledged £5,000 towards this renovation to be completed early autumn.

The summer raffle prizes were won by Chloe Miller (7C) Connie Hawley (12S) and Ruby Emmott (8J). Well done!

The 150 Club 2021 winners, as follows, and will also be notified directly:

June:

1st prize: #46, 2nd prize: #53, 3rd prize: #18

July:

1st prize: #40, 2nd prize: #125, 3rd prize: #19

August:

1st prize: #99, 2nd prize: #148, 3rd prize: #14

We will meet on **Wednesday, 8th September at 7pm** to plan for 2021-22. Please join us, all welcome. (Venue/virtual meeting TBC)

Contact team@friendsofsghs.org.uk for more info. We'd love to hear from you!

Have a wonderful summer.

Best and thanks,
Friends of SGHS



This Edition, and previous issues
of the Newsletter, can also be
viewed on the School Website...
www.sghs.org.uk/newsletter



**Skipton Girls' High School,
Gargrave Road, Skipton,
North Yorkshire, BD23 1QL**

Tel: 01756 707600

Email: reception@sghs.org.uk

Web: www.sghs.org.uk

Tweet: @skiptongirls