



ISSUE 100

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

www.sghs.org.uk



A Word from our Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to this half term's newsletter, which showcases some of our highlights. As you will see, it has been a half term filled with hard work and lots of fun experiences that enrich school life for students and staff.

Alongside all of the fun experiences, day to day school life continues to be busy and focused. Students rise to the challenges set by their teachers every day, with creativity and enthusiasm. It has been a pleasure to see their work and I urge you to take some time over half term to look through their books and talk about the things they are learning. I have particularly enjoyed getting back to my roots with some English teaching and exploring ways to help students develop independence and resilience when tackling tricky concepts.

This week saw the publication of school and college performance data for the 2022/23 academic year. Qualifications were returned to pre-pandemic standards, despite the covid pandemic disrupting their school experience significantly. However, I am delighted to report that our Progress 8 figure is well **above average**. A magnificent feat given everything students experienced. We are very proud of each and every one of them and the staff who supported them.

In staffing news, we have welcomed a number of new staff to Team SGHS this half term and are delighted with how well they have settled in and become part of our school community. We are particularly excited for Mrs Woolley who is going on maternity leave at the end of this half term and wish her and her family all the best. We also have some exciting opportunities to join our staff team in a number of roles both here at SGHS and across the Trust. They are all advertised on our website so please take a look and share with anyone who may be interested.

I wish you and your families a wonderful half term. I have a stack of books in my 'to be read' pile and look forward to spending time with my family and friends (hopefully outdoors), to recharge and prepare for the winter months.

Ms M Featherstone
Headteacher



Gardening Club

In 2023 the gardening club undertook a massive project for the **RHS Tatton Park garden design show**. They grew all their plants from seeds and designed a garden that would encourage diversity by providing habitats for insects, pollinators, birds, amphibians and larger mammals.

The plants were all transported to Manchester and planted by the students for the show in July.

Mr Dryland
Teacher of Art

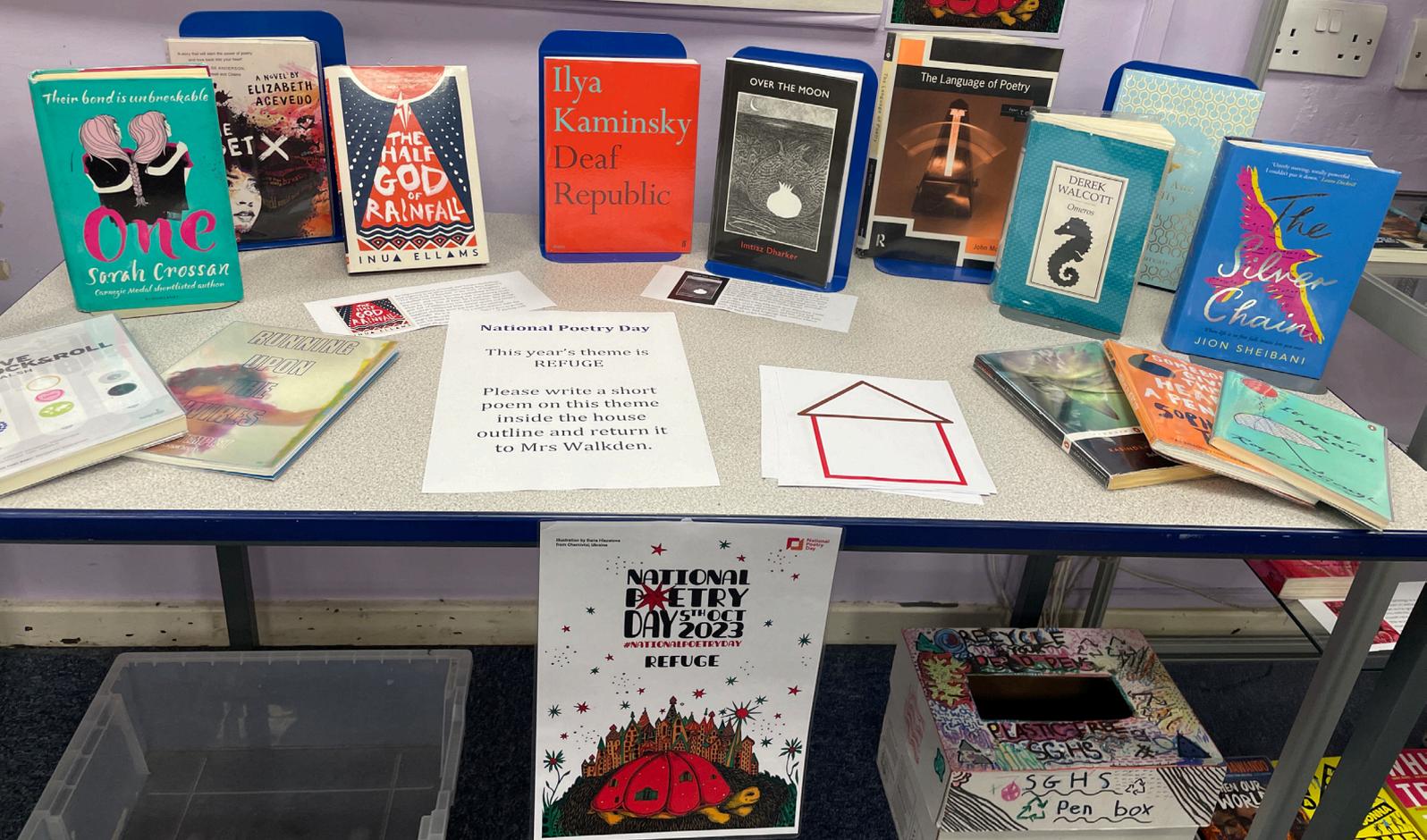


Before



After

Alongside this project they also cleared a new garden area in front of our school house and planted it with a range of edible and ornamental plants, including some huge pumpkins, tomatoes and courgettes. They used no chemicals or pesticides in their gardens.



Library News

We have had a busy half term in the library. I would like to start by thanking the students who volunteered to help at Skipton Library with the Summer Reading Challenge over the holidays. The librarians there have told me that Skipton had the most volunteers in the county!

In a continuation of our close collaboration with Skipton Library, our newly appointed Year 7 and 8 Junior Librarians enjoyed spending a morning there to do some librarian training. They split into two groups and took turns to see how the books are organised, shelve some stock, and do a group planning activity for library events and initiatives. They all successfully completed the training tasks and received certificates and badges to formally appoint them in their new roles.

Here is what some of our librarians have said about their visit:

"At the library, we created mind maps about making the school library more eco-friendly, online and involving the school in events to do with books and reading that included reading buddies, online posters, a notice on the student bulletin and book swaps. Downstairs, we were reshelving, finding and organising books, as well as figuring out how to order the shelves using numbers and in alphabetical order. I mainly enjoyed the time we had to select a book and read it because I could explore different genres of books like horror, science fiction, fantasy, murder and non-fiction."

– Mia McLaughlin

"During this term us junior librarians got to go to Skipton Library and experience an induction day to learn all about the library. One of the many things we learnt was how to order non-fiction books with the Dewey number system. It was a fun and thrilling experience that we would all love to do again."

– Amelia Miller





Our new junior librarians have now been put to work and a rota is in place so everyone gets to have a go at the various library jobs here at SGHS; scanning (or “zapping”) the books and ringing the bell are especially popular! The team comprises: Ruqayyah Hussain and Bronte Neasham-Carr (Head Junior Librarians), Chloe Brady, Pearl Eden, Maryum Hamid, Olivia Jordan, Anusha Kumar, Rebekah McKinney, Mia McLaughlin, Martha Lyles, Amelia Miller, Tehmida Rehman, Momil Tabassum, Chloe Wade, and Maya Wall.

The library has had several changes in appearance this half term, with a rotation of themed displays to tie in with calendar events the school is promoting and supporting. These include European Day of Languages, National Poetry Day (the theme was ‘Refuge’ and we invited poetry submissions from staff and students), Black History Month, and World Mental Health Day (with a ‘Shelf Help’ table of books to promote wellbeing). My thanks to our sixth form Literacy Leaders – Aneesa Ansari, Holly Archer, Lola Carr, and Izzy Preston – who have been very creative with these displays.

Year 7 library lessons now take place every fortnight in the library. This makes using the library space part of the routine for every student and gives our new students the chance to stop and read for a while, both silently and aloud to their English teacher. Students can browse the shelves, borrow books, and complete reading challenges based on a Monopoly board. It’s lovely to see the library being used by the whole year group.

The biggest change to the library this year, which has transformed the way students can engage with the books and support their learning, has been the launch of our new library management system, AccessIt.

All our books are now available to browse via an online catalogue, with advanced search functions, reading lists, book reviews, links to useful resources, and the facility to reserve and renew books. Students and staff have their own AccessIt logins, but our guest login can be used by parents and carers to [explore the SGHS library](#) ➔

Some fun library events are being planned for the coming months, starting with a Spooky Story Hour at the end of this half term. Watch this space for further event announcements.

Mrs Walkden
Librarian



Geography Fieldwork



October has been a great month for geography fieldwork – we have been taking full advantage of the relatively good weather before winter sets in and our fieldwork season is over! We have been to Grasmere with Year 11 to investigate the impacts of tourism in a glaciated environment and to have a look at glacial landforms. Year 12 have stayed closer to home and have conducted an infiltration study in the local area – our results may be somewhat unrepresentative as we did it after a period of heavy rainfall and the ground was pretty saturated. We're really lucky at SGHS in being able to get all year groups out on fieldwork.

In mid-October Y9 enjoyed a visit to Cleveleys on the Lancashire coast to assess the success of the sea defences there in creating a more sustainable town. They learnt new fieldwork techniques whilst they were there, practised speaking to members of the public in order to conduct a questionnaire and are currently working on presenting their data using a range of graphical and mapping techniques.

Mrs Phillips
Curriculum Leader: Geography

Senior Maths Challenge

On 3rd October, several A Level Maths students took part in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Senior Maths Challenge, with much success. It is a nationwide competition that presents students with problem-solving questions which really make them think!

Awards were as follows:

YEAR 12

Rosie Jardine – Gold (Best in Year)
Hana Mahmood – Silver
Mehrunnisa Majid – Bronze
Jane Olives Vummithi – Bronze

YEAR 13

Annie Faulkner – Gold (Best in School)
Mollie Buckley – Gold
Darcie Poulson – Silver
Emma Charlton – Bronze
Aaliyah Chowdhury – Bronze
Ephemeris Cookson – Bronze

Well done to everyone who took part!

Annie Faulkner, Mollie Buckley and Rosie Jardine scored highly enough to gain entry to next round of the competition, the Senior Kangaroo, which takes place on 15th November. We wish them the best of luck!



(Above) Annie Faulkner and Rosie Jardine with their certificates

Skipton Girls' High School

Winter Concert & Art Trail

29 NOV 23 - 7pm

Dance ... Music

Art Trail open 6:30pm & tour during interval

Adults
£6

Concessions
£4

*Family**
£13

Tickets available on ParentPay

* 2 adults & 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children

PE News!

We have had a busy start to the year in PE and cannot wait for more clubs and fixtures throughout the year. We have a wide range of sports clubs running this year and encourage all students to attend at least one! Clubs are running before school, at lunchtimes and after school. We are excited to be offering Netball, Football, Hockey, Walk and Talk, Dance and Fitness during this half term.

Our Senior and Year 10 Netball teams have already had fixtures and are doing well in their leagues, and two Year 8 students have been selected for Bradford Schools Netball.

Students from Years 7-13 have also competed in a Regional Swimming Competition at The Grammar School in Leeds. It was wonderful to be able to offer competitive Swimming through school again for the first time in a few years, and we are proud of the effort shown by all competitors.



The Cross-Country teams have been busy having already competed in three races in Harrogate, Skipton, and Keighley. Our Junior and Intermediate teams have made it through to next month's Regional Finals of the English Schools' Athletics Association Cross Country Cup.



Team PE

PE Spotlight

International Footballers

A number of our wonderful footballers play together for Barnoldswick Town Girls. Last May the students travelled to France to compete in a tournament and came 2nd against 20 teams from Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxemburg and the Netherlands – they were the only team representing England! As well as the football, the students took part in tree top trekking and training on the beach. Due to their excellent performance in this tournament they were subsequently selected to attend another tournament in Holland in January. We will be wishing them the best of luck, and cannot wait to hear all about it! Well done and good luck to Maisie D, Beth M, Hollie M, Macy P, Charlotte D, Jasmine W and Lily N!



UK Lions U14 Hockey Squad

Rita B (Year 9) represented the North East at a Regional Hockey tournament in July and was subsequently selected to join the UK Lions U14 squad 2023/24 (about the top 36 children in this age group in the country!). Rita is travelling abroad with the squad to train and play.

Well done, Rita!

SKIPTON GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

CAREERS ADVISER

Tracy Harris

My name is Tracy Harris and I am your Careers Adviser here at Skipton Girls' High School and my role is to support you with your next steps after you leave school and further ahead in terms of your career.

I come into school on a Wednesday and you can always drop in to see me at break, lunchtime or at the end of the school day.

Alternatively, please feel free to email me:

tharris@hhs.nsat.org.uk 

Appointments can be booked via email or pop in.



What I do:

- Guiding you onto your next steps, next, next steps and beyond!
- Developing your career navigation skills
- Enabling you to articulate and understand your strengths.
- Supporting you to access information and advice.
- Supporting with applications, interviews, personal statements
- Delivering workshops and drop ins to support career choice and next steps.



Dairy Farm Visit

The Year 11 Food students had the opportunity of visiting a working dairy farm (Castles Farm, Ripon) in the Yorkshire Dales to learn about Food Provenance.

They took a tour of the farm which included learning about the importance of grassland and the management of soil for the production of milk and using slurry as a natural fertiliser.

They explored some of the farming machinery used to manage the grass and soil and discussed low impact methods of modern commercial farming.

Students ended the day with a tour of the dairy parlour learning how milk is collected and processed and turned from a primary product into secondary products. Along the way they had the opportunity to meet the animals.

Students had a fun day out with new experiences and plenty of learning.

Mrs Yasin

Teacher of Food Preparation and Nutrition



Launch of Unifrog

The award-winning Careers platform at SGHS

We are delighted to announce the launch of Unifrog at SGHS.

In keeping with our commitment to provide all students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next steps after SGHS, we are using Unifrog, the award-winning, online destinations platform. All students now have access and are registered on this website and are using it in their 'Future me' sessions.

Unifrog is designed to support learners in making the **most informed decisions** about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups.

Each student has their own account where they can explore a multitude of career and next step options available to them and find information on everything from managing their workload to writing a successful CV.

Students have access to a wide variety of video and written content, and interactive quizzes and tests available to them and can record their career journey as they move through school.



SECTION OF THE PLATFORM	EXAMPLES OF WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO	SUITABLE AGE RANGE
Quizzes	Finding their interests, personality type, preferred work environment, and skillset.	Years 7-13
Exploring pathways	Explore careers, career sectors, subjects, sign up to free webinars, explore MOOCs and courses, and find wider reading materials.	Years 7-13
Recording what you've done	Record their in-class and extracurricular activities, record examples of their skills, and see the record of CEIAG events the school has added to their accounts.	Years 7-13
Searching for opportunities	Find scholarships, activities, and bursaries to support their HE journey. Find and compare degrees in the UK and overseas, live apprenticeships, and FE courses.	Years 10-13
Application materials/ Making applications	Write their CV, cover letter, Personal Statement, and more. Track their applications and record their Post 16/18 intentions.	Years 11-13





CREATE Careers

The CREATE faculty have delivered careers information to all of their students this half term. I hope you have learnt about where studying our subjects can lead you; and also a little about what connects Art, Photography, Business Studies, Computing, Design Technology, Food and Computing.

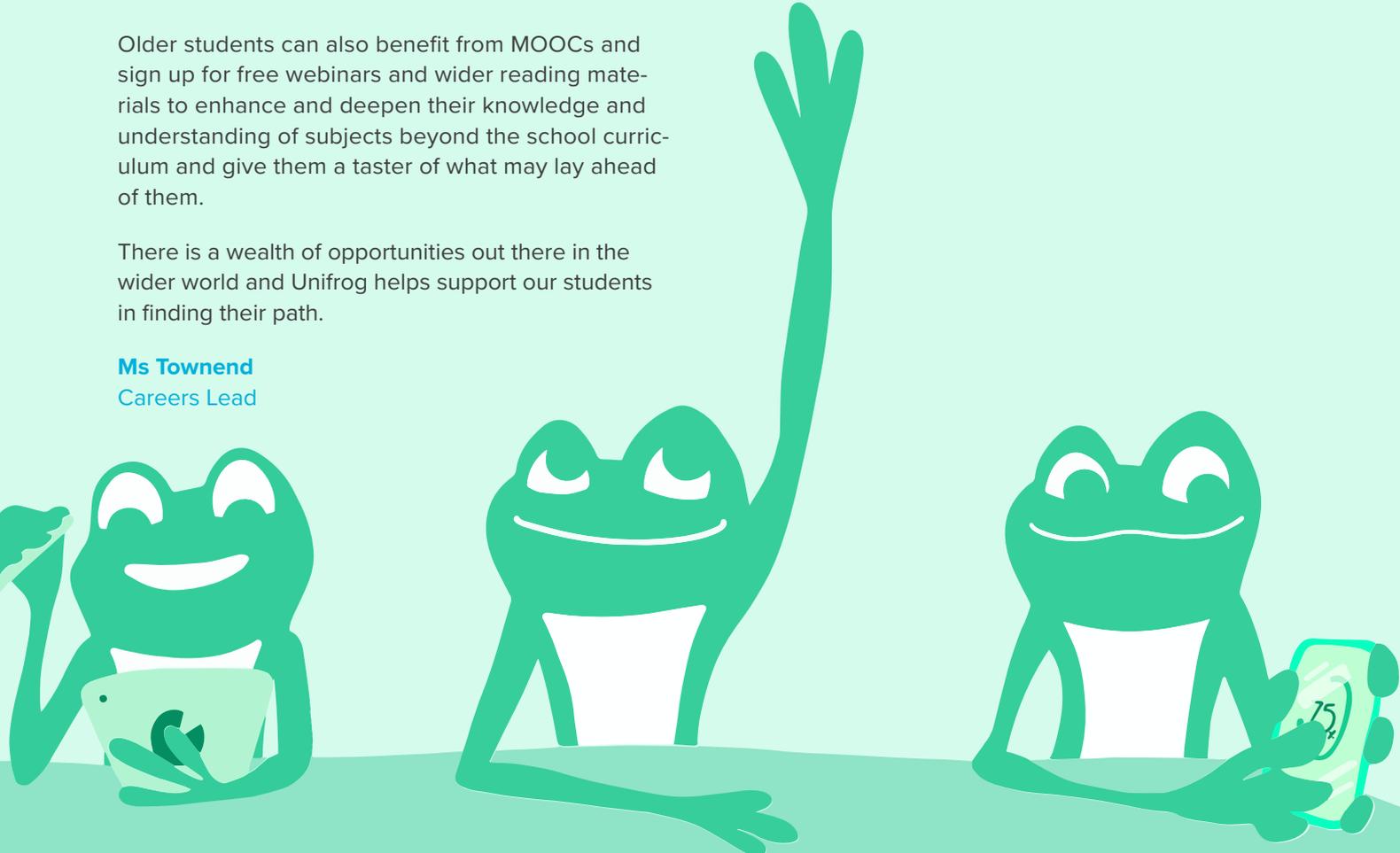
For more information check out the information outside L11.

Mrs Scott
Curriculum Leader: CREATE

Older students can also benefit from MOOCs and sign up for free webinars and wider reading materials to enhance and deepen their knowledge and understanding of subjects beyond the school curriculum and give them a taster of what may lay ahead of them.

There is a wealth of opportunities out there in the wider world and Unifrog helps support our students in finding their path.

Ms Townend
Careers Lead



Teacher Training Update



I could tell you how amazing our trainees are and how much progress they have made since the beginning of September but, why not just read for yourself what they have to say about the teacher training course so far.....



Art

My first half term has gone amazing! I set up an 'illustration club' that has caught on really well and have slowly but surely won over each year group! Can't wait to see what else these students have to offer, they're super creative!

- Harry

Spanish

I help to lead Spelling Bee club (Y7) and translation Bee (Y8/Y9) before school on Thursday morning. It is a national competition. First, we compete in school, then regionally, with the national finalists battling it out in the National Final at Cambridge University. The club is very popular, the children really enjoy it and so do I.

- Mercedes





History

Term 1 has been a real eye opener for me, it has shown me the importance of student-teacher relationships to enable students to get the best out of lessons. Overall term 1 has been a big success for me. I feel myself and my specialty growing every day.

- Dylan

Geography

This half term has been amazing! I never thought that by the end of this half term I'd have been teaching over half of the classes I've been given. The highlight of this half term has definitely been the Year 9 fieldtrip to Cleveley's which I was able to help lead in the geography department. I look forward to what the next half term holds!

- Izzie

Spanish

My first half term was hectic, buzzing and vibrant which I didn't expect. It gave me lots of things to reflect upon and I have learned a lot. It enabled me to see the importance and the challenge that we have in our hands. It was an enriching first half term, I met new people from different backgrounds and subjects, I can see education from a different side now.

Roxy

Primary

I can't believe we have almost completed our first half term - time flies when you're having fun!

Getting to know a whole new school and class has been lovely, I have enjoyed seeing how a different setting approaches school life in so many different ways.

I delivered my first Science lesson last week on Magnets and we had a super time exploring the classroom to find out what things were magnetic.

The children then had the chance to make a paperclip float. The children really enjoyed it and were all engaged in the lesson. One child said, "this is the best science lesson we have ever had!" I came away with a huge smile knowing I had made the lesson a memorable one..

- Katy



Yorkshire Sculpture Park

On the 26th Oct the Art Department took Year 12 Art Students to the Yorkshire Sculpture we had a superb trip. We witnessed some cutting edge contemporary Art from the quirky, humorous work of Erwin Wurm, to the turbulent and chaotic installations of Leonardo Drew. As ever Damien Hirst, Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore's sculptural works did not disappoint.

The Yorkshire Sculpture Park is something special, memorable and game changing for Yorkshire's growing art scene. Why not pay a visit over half term.

What's On? <https://ysp.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions> ▶

Thank you to Miss Walker, Miss South and Mr Crampton

Mrs Scott
Learning Director: CREATE



**Some beautiful,
grand sculptures**





“It was a brilliant day”



“A very thought provoking experience”

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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