

# Stockport Academy Newsletter

Issue 25  
April 2014



Latest News @ [www.stockport-academy.org](http://www.stockport-academy.org) | Twitter: @sptacademy

## Student Council gains 'Diana' Award



**W**e are delighted to announce that our caring students have been officially recognised for the second year running, once again receiving the 'Diana Active Campaigners Award.'

The honour - a lasting memorial to the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales – is awarded to those young people who make a positive difference to their community.

Presented to a group of Stockport Academy students last year for their approach to tackling bullying, this year it's the turn of the Academy's Student Council.

Formed four years ago, the Student Council's influence has been particularly felt in the last 18 months, with initiatives including:

- Increased counselling support for vulnerable students
- Active input into the Academy's catering arrangements to ensure healthier options
- Organisation of a best practice conference for fellow schools/academies within the United Learning group
- Additional support for young carers
- Ongoing liaison with the police, including a campaign to mark bikes and mobile phones
- Fundraising/community events, such as Christmas hampers for the elderly
- Organising sports days for local primary schools

The Student Council also played a key role in the academy's successful anti-bullying campaign, which gained national recognition via the Diana Awards and the Bullying Intervention Group (BIG).

Principal Frank McCarron commented:

"The academy's School Council has been recognised as an area of excellence within the United Learning group and we are immensely proud of all of its members and their determined and pragmatic efforts to make Stockport Academy a better and safer place for everyone. This latest award is thoroughly well deserved and we congratulate all involved for their efforts."

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Principal's Message | National Inclusivity Award | Gold Tie Fundraiser | Prom Fayre | Police Cadets | New Website We Day | Sixth Form News | Barcelona Trip | Enrichment News | Unlocking Potential Programme | Primary News

## Principal's Message



**A**warm welcome to our Spring Newsletter. This has been an exciting term for the Academy and we have had a lot to celebrate.

Our marvellous Year 11 students took bravery to a new level as they took on the challenge to raise over £1,550 for Christies. Our students volunteered to be soaked on a freezing February afternoon, have hairy male legs waxed and our Head Girl's head shaved, all to the cheers and support of paying fellow students. We are constantly amazed by the commitment of our students to charitable causes and can only thank them and you, their families, for the continued support.

Stockport Academy has seen national recognition twice this term. We beat off countrywide competition to win the secondary school category of the annual Accord Inclusivity Award, this was reported upon by a national newspaper, The Independent, we were praised for, amongst other things, not selecting pupils by faith, challeng-

ing homophobia and including a range of beliefs in our RE syllabus. Additionally, our Student Council has won yet another anti-bullying DIANA award and has been asked to share its good work with other schools.

We have a new website which we have created with the help of our Parents' Forum. The website now gives easy access to all information that our parent group has identified as being important for current and prospective parents. We hope you will find it useful. To join our Parents' Forum and support our Governors and leadership team in moving the Academy to outstanding, please contact Alison Guard: [alison.guard@stockport-academy.org](mailto:alison.guard@stockport-academy.org).

Enrichment opportunities continue to grow. This term sees the 6th formers taking driving lessons around the school grounds and two new clubs have been organised - an energetic hula -hooping club and a Taekwondo club. Attendance has risen to an all-time high and we currently have 131 students still with 100% attendance this year. Not only will this allow them to maximise their potential but they are all in the running for cash prizes. Remember that 90% attendance over 5 years of secondary school = 1/2 a school year missed!!

We are delighted to report

that our provisional student numbers for Year 7 entry have nearly doubled this year. Additionally, we are getting a lot of in-year transfers from other local secondary schools as our reputation for outstanding behaviour, exemplary care and our zero tolerance of bullying of any kind grows. We are grateful for the support of our local councillors and parents as our community continues to celebrate our achievements in these areas.

I would like to remind all our Year 11 and 13 students and their families that the coming term is the opportunity to have their hard work and study recognised as they walk in to external exams prepared and confident of doing their best. Use the Easter holidays wisely!

During Lent and the run up to Easter, I have been proud of our students and how they have embodied the principles of charity, reflection and helping others; they have demonstrated this in their overall behaviour and support for each other.

I would like to thank all of our parents, Governors and staff for their ongoing support this half term and wish our whole community a restful and reflective Easter Holiday.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank McCarron'.

**Frank McCarron, Principal**

# Academy wins National Accord Inclusivity Award

Stockport Academy has won a national award as the school that has worked hardest to promote an ethos of inclusion and the growth of mutual understanding.

We beat off countrywide competition in the secondary school category of the annual Accord Inclusivity Award, which is open to schools across England and Wales.

Stockport Academy won strong praise from the judges for choosing not to select pupils by faith; for challenging homophobia; providing a varied programme of school assemblies and for considering a wide range of beliefs in its Religious Education (RE). The academy's approach included:

- Diversity days, working with external speakers to advance racial tolerance and integration, prevent homophobia, tackle discrimination against alternative sub-cultures and challenge stigma associated with mental health
  - Running school assemblies that echoed these themes, whilst also considering other major faiths and recognising their different festivals
  - Encouraging students to come to their own conclusions in regards to matters of spirituality
  - Staff training on tackling homophobia
  - The delivery of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, including age appropriate sex and relationships education
  - The organisation of a wide variety of charitable fundraising activities
- Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain, Chair of the

awards organisers the Accord Coalition, commented:

"Stockport Academy earned strong praise from the judging panel for combining a Christian ethos with a thorough commitment to inclusivity. We are delighted to recognise the academy for not only being an inclusive school in its local community, but also for its work of national significance."

Joining Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain on this year's judging panel were:

- Professor Ted Cattle CBE, Executive Chair of the iCoCo Foundation and leading expert on community cohesion and inter-cultural relations
- Alex Cunningham MP, Labour member of the House of Commons Education Select Committee
- Tehmina Kazi, Director of the British Muslims for Secular Democracy
- Baroness Kishwer Falkner, Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Foreign Affairs in the House of Lords

Commenting on receiving the award, delighted Stockport Academy Principal Frank McCarron said:

"In terms of its approach to inclusivity, Stockport Academy has come a very long way in a relatively short space of time – a credit to the hard work and dedication of students and staff alike. To receive national recognition is the icing on the cake and helps give further focus to what is an ongoing journey for everyone at the academy."

# Gold Tie students raise £1,550



Katie Higginson-Tranter with the Christie bear



Lewis Davies and Kyle Mather

**O**ur Year 11 Gold Tie Students staged a fundraising event on Friday 21st February.

Head Boy Lewis Davies and Head Girl Katie Higginson-Tranter had a close shave when they helped to raise over £1,550 for The Christie and EducAid. The brave duo, both in Year 11, stepped into the spotlight in front of over 300 onlookers in the main hall, with Katie having her head shaved and Lewis, joined by fellow student Kyle Mather, enduring a leg wax.

With the crowd paying £2 each to watch the hair-raising antics, the students' sacrifice paid dividends for the two charities. And there's still time to provide your support by visiting <http://www.justgiving.com/stockportacademy> or texting STKA773 to 70070.

Other events on the afternoon included 'Soak the Gold Tie Student' and 'Apple Bobbing' in cold custard and cold gravy.

Commenting on the experience, Head Girl Katie said: "Too

many girls rely on their hair to feel pretty and secure. I shaved my head to encourage confidence in young girls and women, as well as helping to raise money for two very worthy causes."

Stockport Academy Principal Frank McCarron added: "I am incredibly proud of Lewis, Katie and Kyle and all the Year 11 Gold Tie Students, who in such a short space of time, organized a full fundraising campaign and raised an incredible amount for charity."



Soak the Gold Tie Student!



Gold Tie Students with the Christie bear

## Our first Prom Fayre!



Year 11 student modelling a gown by Sense and Sensibility Bridal



Stunning shoes by Ruby Slippers



Hair Demonstrations by Bows and Brushes

**W**e held our first Prom Fayre on Tuesday 18th March.

Students in Year 11 were very excited to be able to try on dresses from the Sense and Sensibility b

ridal salon in Great Moor and watch hair and make up demonstrations from local salons and beauty therapists.

The evening was lovely and a great time for students to start thinking about what to wear at their Prom in the Summer and a great opportunity for local businesses to showcase their products and services.

Thank you to the following businesses who attended:

Sense and Sensibility Bridal, 318 Buxton Road, Great Moor.

Bows and Brushes Hair Boutique, 74 Stockport Road, Cheadle. Nat's Beauty Treats 0777 9276932. All Eyes on You Beauty, 3 Queen Street, Cheadle. All That Shines Jewellery. Theresa from 'A Cut Above' Hair and Beauty 07427 586942. Emily from Body Shop at Home 07702 117384 and Ruby Slippers Shoes 07751 664134.

## Community Links

**W**e are pleased to report that the Volunteer Police Cadets scheme formed before Christmas is thriving, there are currently 19 cadets who are supported by serving Police Officers and PCSO's from the Stockport Division.

The Cadets have enjoyed visits from the Dog Section, Underwater Search Team and the Tactical Fire Arms Team. The Cadets were very excited at

[www.stockport-academy.org](http://www.stockport-academy.org)

their last meeting when they were presented with their uniforms in readiness for their passing out parade on 1st May 2014.

For anyone interested in joining please contact Brooke Littlewood, Operational Support Officer on 0161 856 5902.

The Cadets meet at the Academy every Wednesday 6-8pm.



Visits from the Dog Section and Underwater Search Team



## Our new website is launched...

We are delighted to report that we have recently launched our new website.

I hope you will all agree that the new site is much more user friendly. We canvassed opinion from a group of parents prior to it's launch and are delighted to report that it is receiving a lot of user traffic. Parents particularly welcomed the new 'calendar' function and also the scrolling twitter feed on the home page.

The website is also mobile friendly and is easily navigable on smartphones.

A reminder that our website

address is [www.stockport-academy.org](http://www.stockport-academy.org)

If you are not currently following us on twitter, a reminder

of our twitter name @sptacademy to keep up to date with school activities and news.



## We Day 2014

On March 7th, a select group of students from the academy were invited to attend We Day at Wembley Arena, London. A Free The Children initiative, We Day brings young people together to lead global change, defy apathy and celebrate the change that they are making in their local and global communities.

The students were invited to attend the very first We Day in the UK as they had been recognised for their charitable efforts. The Year 10 students had a fantastic time being entertained by Dizze Rascal, Ellie Goulding

and Diversity; inspired by speakers such as Malala Yousafzai, Prince Harry and Spencer West (double leg amputee) and motivated by speakers such as Martine Wright (Paralympian) and Craig and Mark Kielburger (free the children founders).

Stockport Academy was recognised, as a school, for its charitable efforts. The event highlighted that, not only is it important to donate money but, also to donate time and to stand up for one another. Those

who attended, staff and students alike, were inspired to create more charitable events for the future including a day of silence, to stand up for those who don't have a voice in their community.



# Sixth Form 'Driving School'



Sixth Form students Driving Enrichment Club

Our Sixth Form students have been gaining experience and practicing their driving skills at our Driving enrichment club created espe-

cially for students aged 17 and over.

The club has been very popular with students who have attended theory sessions as well

as practical driving lessons within our school grounds.

Thank you to both driving schools for running the enrichment clubs.



Students registering to vote

## Students Bite the Ballot

Sixth Form students joined in the campaign by 'Bite the Ballot' to encourage young people aged 16+ to register to vote. National Voter Registration Day took place on 5th February 2014.



## Students sign up for DofE

Twelve new recruits have recently signed up to the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and are working towards their Bronze award. Newly appointed leader Mr McGahey and Centre Co-ordinator Mrs Vaughan are delighted with the new recruits and have both

commented on the professionalism and committed approach of the students who have joined the scheme.

From September we will be opening up the scheme to students in Year 10. We look forward to reporting on how the students are getting on in the

next edition of our newsletter due out in the Summer.



# Barcelona Trip Report - February 2014



Students enjoying the Barcelona sunshine

**A**fter talking about it for weeks, the day of the trip finally arrived. Standing outside school, tired and freezing, we waited for the coach to take us to Manchester Airport. Laughing at each others' passport pictures, we checked in for the flight and then had a look around the shops. Finally we got the calling for our flight! On the plane everyone was so excited; for some people it was their first time on a plane but that didn't matter as they soon forgot about their fears when we were in the air. Landing in Barcelona was amazing; it was so much warmer than at home. Shades out and time for a group photo!

The hotel where we stayed was really posh and the rooms even had balconies! After exploring the hotel we walked into the town of Calella and then on to the beach. It was so nice to see the sea! Some decided to be brave and dip their toes in the freezing water. Back at the hotel we went for dinner where there were lots of tasty choices.

**Day Two.** After an early breakfast we took the coach to the Nou Camp football stadium. The trophy room was huge as it was full of memorabilia of the team's victories over the years! We then went onto the pitch side-lines, up to the seating area and the commentary boxes at the very top of the stadium. Then it was down into the changing rooms where we saw the jacuzzi and plunge pool used by the players. After the tour, we headed to Ciutadella Park where we hired rowing boats and ate lunch on the grass. Finally on to La Sagrada Familia, the unfinished church which was designed by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi. It was so impressive both inside and out.

**Day Three.** At 9am we were heading for the centre of Barcelona in the beaming sunshine. From the main square, 'Plaza de Catalunya', we walked down Las Ramblas to the famous food market 'La Boquería'. The market was so colourful as it was filled with

fruit and vegetable stalls, as well as smelly fish! We then headed into the Gothic quarter where we saw the magnificent cathedral and did a bit of shopping. As we had a bit of time before going to the Picasso Museum, we walked to the beach for lunch. Everyone was so warm and relaxed. It was quite a walk to the museum (after one or two detours!) but it meant we got to see so much of the beautiful city of Barcelona.

On the last day we didn't want to go home. After buying some last minute souvenirs we went to the beach where some of us played a game of football and others sat and enjoyed the sun. Everyone was sad about leaving but we all had an amazing time. Thank you Miss Gough, Mrs Hankinson and Mr McCarthy for such an unforgettable experience.

**Article by Ellie Hynes (10 VGO)**

# New enrichment clubs launched



Students enjoying the new Taekwondo and Hula Hoop enrichment clubs

Enrichment has been very popular again this term with new enrichment clubs Taekwondo, Hula Hoops, Cookery Club, Cricket, Dodgeball, Creative Writing, Just Dance and Street Cheer.

Recent enrichment trips have included an olympic cycling session at Manchester Velodrome, reward trip to Skate City,

Dance Show at the Plaza and a Crispy Creme donut factory tour and crazy golf session. Female students in Years 10-13 also took part in three self defence workshops held at the Academy.

Upcoming trips include a BMX track session at the Velodrome and our end of term reward trip to Laserquest at the Trafford Centre.



Y10-13 Self Defence workshop



Declan McGann and Matthew Massey with their mentor Neil Danns at the Unlocking Potential Launch on 6th March in London

## Matthew and Declan 'Unlock their Potential'

Year 11 students Declan McGann and Matthew Massey are amongst the elite after securing places on the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust's 'Unlocking Potential' programme. Declan and Matthew beat off tough competition for an opportunity to take part in the national scheme, with just 22 places available throughout the UK. Run in partnership with the examining board AQA, the programme is a six month mentor-

ing programme. Declan and Matthew will work with their mentor, Neil Danns (British and European Champion Skateboarder) on a community project. Find out more in our next newsletter.

Declan commented "The Launch day was really inspiring and I am looking forward to the next six months."

# Academy partners up to host 'Living for Sports' day



The Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport with primary students and student volunteers



Councillor Philip Harding presenting the winning trophy to students from Alexandra Park Primary School

From judo to gymnastics, over 200 primary school pupils were given a taste of the sporting life at a special 'Living for Sport' event which took place on 12th February at Stockport Academy and Life Leisure's Avondale centre.

Organised in partnership with Sky Sports, Stockport's Life Leisure and Stockport Schools Sports Partnership, the event

was an amazing day for our local primary students. Over 80 volunteers helped put Year 4 and 5 pupils from Alexandra Park, Bridge Hall, Cale Green, St Matthews, Adswood and Cheadle Heath primary schools through their paces, with 16 teams competing against each other in a variety of different sports including basketball, football and lacrosse.

The academy's student sports leaders also provided their support for the event, which culminated in a special awards ceremony at the Avondale centre, where the Mayor of Stockport Councillor Chris Murphy and the Mayoress Mrs Dot Murphy were on hand to present trophies to the winning teams, as well as medals to all those taking part.

### Primary Schools featured in this edition



# Marbellous Marbelling!



Bridge Hall Primary Students enjoying the marbelling workshops

In January and February the Art Department welcomed young visitors from Bridge Hall primary school to a series of workshops to create some Marbellous Marbelling.

Groups of students ranging from Reception up to Year 6 joined us on Friday afternoons over a four week period. Students explored what happens when we try to mix oily paint

with water. We then tried out some marbelling techniques, our visitors really enjoyed the wow factor of the demonstration. Next even more fun as students began to create their own marbelling designs using fluorescent and metallic oily paints.

The students had a fab and messy time and their stunning work will soon be on display at Bridge Hall Primary School.



## Other primary activities...

Our new music teacher, Mr Hulme is continuing to provide weekly music support to Alexandra Park, Cale Green, Cheadle Heath, Lark Hill, Meadowbank and St Thomas Primary schools. We are very pleased to hear that all schools are very impressed with the support offered in Music and this will continue through to the end of this academic year.

At Cheadle Heath Primary our Maths Teacher, Ms Rogers is

continuing to support a group of Year 6 students with higher level maths tuition.

At Bridge Hall Primary we were delighted to be asked to support their Spring term topic involving 'Science'. You can read about our Science themed art marbelling sessions in the article above.

At Vernon Park Primary we have started to provide support in Cookery and Art with students in Years 4 and 5 attending

the Academy every week for lessons.

At Meadowbank we recently began to provide support in MFL with students in Year 5 attending the academy every week to develop their foreign language skills.

At Ladybridge we will be providing Art support to students in Year 5 who will be attending the Academy every week for lessons starting after the Easter holiday.

# Diary dates and group emails

## Dates for your diaries (Summer Term)

23rd April:	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
30th April:	Drama Show 6.30-8.30pm
2nd May:	Year 10 Meningitis C Immunisations
24th June:	Year 6 Parents' Evening
26th June:	Year 13 Leavers Celebration
27th June:	Year 11 Prom
1st July:	Year 10 Geography Field Trip to Castleton
3rd July:	Year 6 Transition Day
3rd July:	Prize Giving Evening
5th-8th July:	MFL Trip to Paris
10th-11th July:	English Trip to London
14th July:	Sports Day

## Term Dates for remainder of 2013/2014 year

Monday 3rd March - Friday 4th April 2014  
Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 23rd May 2014  
Monday 2nd June - Friday 18th July 2014\*

## Term dates for 2014/2015

Tuesday 2nd September - Thursday 23rd October 2014  
Monday 3rd November - Friday 19th December 2014\*  
Monday 5th January - Friday 13th February 2015  
Monday 23rd February - Wednesday 1st April 2015  
Monday 20th April - Friday 22nd May 2015  
Monday 1st June to Friday 17th July 2015\*

\*Lunchtime close

To find times and confirm dates of events, please check our website under 'Calendar'

## Group emails

Group emails allow you to get in touch with staff quickly. Simply use the relevant email address and include the staff member you wish to contact in the message. You will get a response within 48 hours.

### Pastoral Managers email and direct dial telephone numbers

#### Transition, Years 7 and 8

[linda.mccann@stockport-academy.org](mailto:linda.mccann@stockport-academy.org) 0161 362 4226

#### Years 9 and 10

[denise.nicholls@stockport-academy.org](mailto:denise.nicholls@stockport-academy.org) 0161 362 4216

#### Years 11, 12 and 13

[mike.beaumont@stockport-academy.org](mailto:mike.beaumont@stockport-academy.org) 0161 362 4222

## Group emails - Faculty Addresses

[English@stockport-academy.org](mailto:English@stockport-academy.org)

[maths@stockport-academy.org](mailto:maths@stockport-academy.org)

[science@stockport-academy.org](mailto:science@stockport-academy.org)

[humanities@stockport-academy.org](mailto:humanities@stockport-academy.org)

(includes Geography, History and RE)

[socialsciences@stockport-academy.org](mailto:socialsciences@stockport-academy.org)

(includes Health and Social Care, Psychology and Sociology)

[technology@stockport-academy.org](mailto:technology@stockport-academy.org)

[ict@stockport-academy.org](mailto:ict@stockport-academy.org)

(includes Business Studies)

[expressivearts@stockport-academy.org](mailto:expressivearts@stockport-academy.org)

[mfl@stockport-academy.org](mailto:mfl@stockport-academy.org)

(French and Spanish)

[pe@stockport-academy.org](mailto:pe@stockport-academy.org)

(incl. BTEC Sport)

## Have your say...

What would you like to see in the newsletter? Is there something you particularly like or dislike? Please tell us by emailing [newsletter@stockport-academy.org](mailto:newsletter@stockport-academy.org)

For more news articles please visit our website.

## Contact Us

**Post:** Stockport Academy, Heathbank Road, Cheadle Heath, Stockport SK3 0UP

**Telephone:** 0161 286 0330

**email:** [enquiries@stockport-academy.org](mailto:enquiries@stockport-academy.org)

**Website:** [www.stockport-academy.org](http://www.stockport-academy.org)

**Twitter:** @sptacademy

**Newsletter Editor:** Denise Clark

© United Learning 2014



**Stockport Academy**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning



Printing courtesy of



Responsible  
Marketing Solutions