

Issue 56  
Summer 2024



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

# Prized Pupils!



## In this issue...

- Berlin History Trip
- Transition Day
- Big Bang Competition
- Stock-Fest

... and much more!

Our school community came together to celebrate our students' success over the past academic year at our annual prizegiving. Hundreds of students were invited to Stockport Plaza for the awards ceremony, watched by their families, our staff and special guests. Read all about it on page 4!

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## Principal's Message

As another academic year draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared, having achieved so much over this time. It's been a year marked by our school values of aspiration, respect, and a strong sense of community. Firstly, Aspiration. A special mention goes to our Year 11 cohort who have finally completed their GCSEs. We are proud of your resilience and commitment. The rewards for your hard work will come when you receive your results and we look forward to celebrating those with you. We will also support you in finding your next steps, whether that be into the world of work, apprenticeships or further education.

Respect: a huge congratulations to all our students on their hard work and dedication. Whether you've pushed yourselves academically, excelled in extracurricular activities, or

shown kindness and support to your peers, your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Finally, we saw our community spirit come alive at the inaugural Stock-Fest! Over 800 of you attended for an afternoon of fun, food, and fundraising - which was amazing to see. It was a fantastic display of what makes our school so special - a vibrant group of students, staff, families, and friends united by a common goal of creating opportunity to succeed.

Our prizegiving ceremony was another highlight, where we celebrated our students' achievements. This is always one of my favourite events of the year and it was inspirational to see everyone come together to celebrate once again.

As we head into the summer break, take time to rest, recharge, and come back refreshed in September. We already



have lots planned for 2024-25, and we can't wait to share this with you on your return.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer!



## A Great Start For New Y7

Our newest cohort of students spent their first full day in school together for Transition Day.

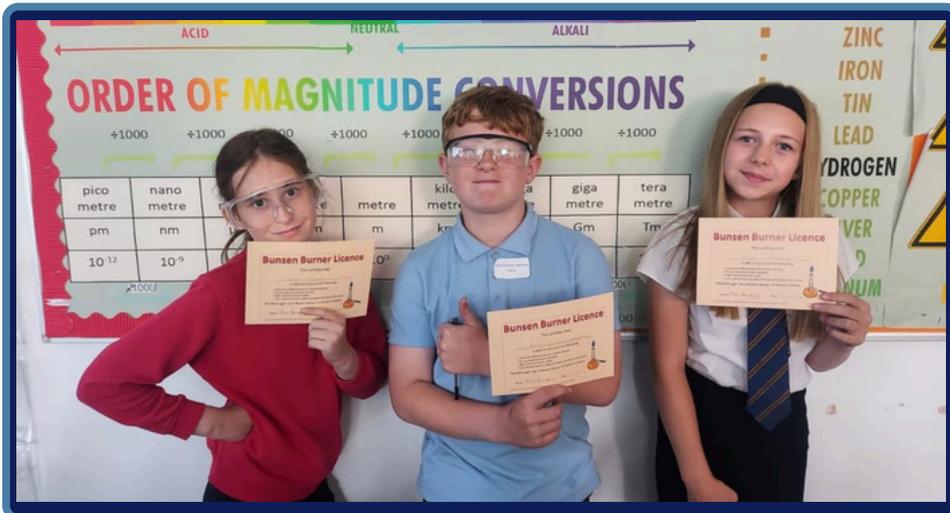
The new Year 7s enjoyed a full programme of activities that covered many different elements of life at secondary school to introduce them to making the step up fully in September.

One of the highlights for many was the House Opening Ceremony, with students introduced to the idea of our House System and – most importantly – putting on the sorting hat to find out what house they would be representing over the next five years.

Elsewhere, they were given the chance to achieve their Bunsen burner licence in Science, getting to grips with our Science labs and experimenting with flame tests.

Other popular activities included an introduction to Archery with Mr Sherwood, taking part in word hunts in the library (while learning how to use our library system!), creating their own dresses in Art and Design, and team-building exercises in PE. Head of Transition Ms Foster said: "We've been looking forward to today ever since Offer Day back in March – it's been amazing to meet the entire year group and see how excited they are to start after the Summer Holidays.

"Congratulations to everyone for making a great start and we look forward to welcoming many of you back for Summer School in a few weeks' time!"





## Prized Pupils! (continued)

As well as performances by our choir and steel band, we were joined by our guest speaker Christie Spurling MBE, FRSA, who shared his own experiences of overcoming adversity to setup his own charity, N-GAGE, with the ambition to make a difference to thousands of young people across Greater Manchester.

Among the highlights of the night were five of our students receiving laptops as a reward for five years with 100% attendance, and the introduction of our brand new House Awards, celebrating students in each house who exemplified our school values of Aspiration, Respect and Community.

Principal Mrs McCann said: "Prizegiving is without a doubt one of the highlights of our school calendar and the sense of togetherness and collective support for one another in celebrating individual achievements – not just academic but also outside of the classroom – always makes it an unforgettable night.

"I would like to thank everyone involved in the evening for making it a success – from our students and their families, to our staff, governors, and supportive members of our community.



# "Creating Opportunity To Succeed"

## Performance Awards



The achievements of our Sports and Performing Arts students were recognised at our annual Performance Awards.

Over 100 students attended the glitzy night at Stockport County's 1183 Executive Suite, with prizes for those who have excelled in PE, Drama, Dance and Music over the last academic year.

The Chief Executive of Manchester United Foundation, John Shiels MBE, was the event's guest speaker, while winners were also treated to a hot buffet before awards were presented.

After the presentations, students made the most of the evening with a disco and photobooth. Head of PE Mr McGahey, who organised the event, said: "It was great to celebrate the success of so many of our students, who have really excelled across PE and EPA this year.

"The evening really embodied our core value of Aspiration, and I hope that everyone involved remembers the event for many years to come."





## Stock-Fest

Our inaugural Stock-Fest community event was a resounding success, drawing in a fantastic crowd of over 800 visitors.

The event showcased the vibrancy of our school community with a delightful mix of activities for all ages.

Guests enjoyed a buzzing atmosphere - despite the heavy rain - with lots on offer.

Manchester United Foundation joined the festivities with a shootout competition, while each of our dedicated House Leaders hosted stalls raising funds for their chosen school charities. Fun activities like hook-a-duck and lucky dips kept everyone entertained along with a live DJ,

while the addition of a bouncy castle also proved to be a hit with the crowd - both young and old! The musical talents of our students also shone through, with school bands entertaining the audience as well as Mrs. Duffy's ukulele group received a particularly warm reception.

"Stock-Fest was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the spirit of Stockport Academy," shared Miss Stirling, Assistant Principal.

"The turnout was incredible, and the atmosphere was truly electric. We're already looking forward to planning next year's event!" Stock-Fest proved to be a wonderful celebration of our school family, fostering connections and raising valuable funds for worthy causes. We look forward to making Stock-Fest an annual tradition!



## Primary Maths Tournament

A mix of Mathematics mysteries was the order of the morning for Year 5 pupils competing to add their name to the SA Primary Maths Tournament trophy. A record number of teams entered this year's competition, with Alexandra Park Primary taking home the title. Students from Cheadle Heath, Lark Hill, Meadowbank, Alex Park and St Matthews' primaries went head to head over a number of rounds, which included a mental arithmetic round, a group task involving reasoning and problem-solving, a Maths relay and a crossnumber challenge.

Maths Teacher Ms O'Brien said: "We had a lovely morning with the Year 5s, and we were so impressed with their enthusiasm and aptitude in tackling each round. "Congratulations to everyone who took part – and we look forward to seeing if the title can be successfully defended now at next year's event!"





## On The Write Track

Renowned children’s author, Anthony McGowan, visited us for an incredible day of creative writing workshops.

Anthony, who was the winner of 2020’s prestigious Carnegie Medal for Writing, enthralled students with his electrifying, highly informative masterclasses, determined to inspire our students to want to pick up a book!

He began with reminiscences of his school days, painting a vivid picture of how experiences from our past

can provide a wealth of character ideas. This was accompanied by a brief overview of the breadth of his writing, amounting to a staggering fifty books in all!

School Librarian Mr Clarke said: “Each session was specially tailored to engage students with varying degrees of interest in reading, with Anthony managing to choose the perfect book every time.

“Watching our intervention students in the first session, spellbound, and hanging off Anthony’s every word

when reading an extract from Pike, was special indeed!”



## Y10 Berlin Trip

Our Year 10 History students recently embarked on an enriching history trip to Berlin, immersing themselves in the city's profound historical sites as part of their GCSE studies.

The first full day kicked off with a guided walking tour of Berlin, where students visited iconic landmarks such as Checkpoint Charlie, the site of Hitler's secret bunker, and the Radisson hotel, famously known for its aquarium burst. The group then paid their respects at the Memorial to the Murdered Jews before enjoying lunch at Brandenburg Gate. The day concluded with visits to the Topography of Terror and the Berlin Wall Memorial, followed by a

relaxing evening at the hotel. Thursday's itinerary was equally packed, starting with a visit to the iconic TV tower for panoramic views of the city. Students navigated Berlin's metro to explore the Palace of Tears and the Reichstag, including its historic dome. After a brief rest, they toured the Stasi Prison Museum, gaining insights into its turbulent past.

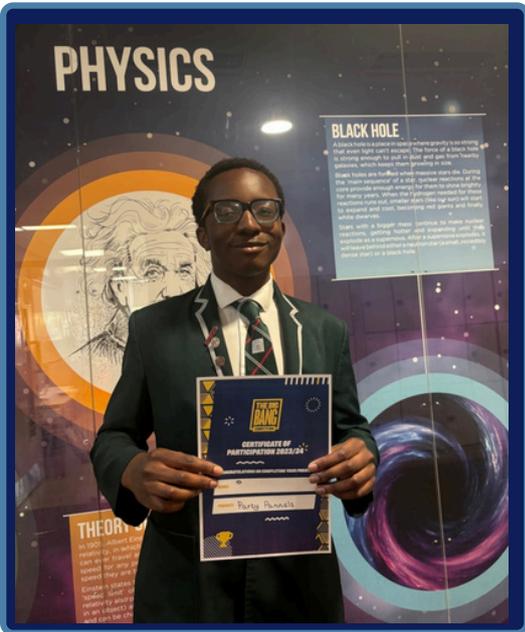


On Friday, the final excursion took students to the Stasi Headquarters, the former GDR Ministry for State Security. The engaging visit was followed by a shopping trip to Alexanderplatz before returning to the hotel to prepare for the journey home.

Head of History Ms Reed said: “This was an incredible experience for both students and staff. Seeing our Year 10s engage with what they’d been learning in their History lessons was truly rewarding, and our action-packed itinerary meant we really made the most of this opportunity that will stay with them for years to come.”



## Making A Bang!



One of our Year 9 students was invited to compete in the Northern England finals of the esteemed Big Bang STEM Competition.

This esteemed contest, dedicated to fostering innovation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) fields, acknowledges the exceptional talent and ingenuity of its entrants.

His innovative concept, 'party panels', captured the attention of judges, as cutting-edge solar panels that not only harness renewable

energy but also boast enhanced functionality and aesthetic appeal, setting them apart from traditional models.

Mrs. Staniforth, Head of Science, said: "It is truly remarkable to advance to the finals of such a prestigious competition. We had an amazing day and the judges were really impressed with the concept!"

## STEM Challenge Success

A group of our Year 9s had their engineering skills put to the test during a STEM challenge day at Old Trafford.

The event was hosted by Global Underwater Hub who design Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) that work in the sea for a variety of purposes, including clearing plastic pollution, fixing underwater cables that power offshore wind turbines and helping the Royal Navy.

A team of six of our Year 9 students took on the task of designing their own ROV that would work in shallow waters to gather data about areas with high plastic pollution. Students had to build their own robot,

program the robot to complete specific challenges, design a company logo and design a 3D model of what their ROV would look like.

After a day of preparing, the team then pitched their ROV to a panel of expert judges (from the Royal Navy and Global Underwater Hub). In their presentation, they talked through their TV advert storyboard, the various sensors they had built into their ROV (e.g. A distance sensor which works through echolocation to detect objects nearby), the market cost of their ROV and its unique turtle design.

Science Teacher Ms Quigley-Curror, who organised the trip, said: "This

was a phenomenal experience for our students, who learned a lot about some of the options that pursuing a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) can offer.

"Thank you to Global Underwater Hub and Manchester United Foundation for giving us the opportunity to get involved!"





## Tesla Sparks Student Ambition



We were visited by one of the most innovative companies in the world to support our students' aspirations to pursue a career in engineering. Representatives from Tesla and Lex Autolease spent the day with us to deliver an enlightening session on sustainability and engineering careers. Students were thrilled as three top-of-the-range cars graced our site to add a bit of glamour to the day. It sparked curiosity and excitement among students, igniting their passion for innovation and

sustainability. However, the event wasn't just about admiring sleek cars. A special workshop catered to students interested in STEM careers provided a deeper dive into the world of engineering. Assistant Principal Mrs Milnes said: The visit left a lasting impression on our students, fuelling their enthusiasm for sustainability and paving the way for future innovators in the field of engineering. Thank you to our friends at Lex Autolease and Tesla for making it all possible!"

## Performing Arts Showcase

Our Expressive Performing Arts (EPA) showcase provided an impressive platform for students to exhibit their dedication and talent in Dance, Drama, and Music. Students from across our many co-curricular clubs were given the chance to shine before an audience of around 200 on the night, with the event featuring a diverse lineup of ten acts and involved 50 talented pupils. The show was particularly exciting for Year 6 students who attended in anticipation of joining us in September. They were treated to a range of performances, setting high expectations for their own future

involvement. One of the standout performances was the drama group's rendition of Shakespeare's "As You Like It," showcasing their ability to tackle complex material. The school's Rock Band also delivered two electrifying songs, energising the crowd. Dance routines were another highlight, with students performing pieces honed over the year and showcased in local competitions. Noteworthy performances included a captivating dance trio and a powerful drum solo by Year 7 students. For Year 10 actors, dancers, and singers, this showcase marked their final performance opportunity

outside of their final GCSE year, adding an extra layer of poignancy and celebration to their acts. Head of EPA, Ms Lakin, said: "The EPA Showcase was a testament to the hard work and talent of our students, and a really lovely summary of what everyone has achieved this year."





# Term Dates and Contact Details

**Autumn 2024**

4th Sept - 18th Oct  
All students in

21st Oct - 25th Oct  
Bank Holiday and Half Term

28th Oct - 19th Dec  
All students in (early closure on last day)

21st Nov and 22nd Nov  
Inset and Planning Day - School Closed

## Contact Us

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 Year 9 - Ms James - [danielle.james@stockport-academy.org](mailto:danielle.james@stockport-academy.org)  
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 Year 11 - Ms Porter - [sarah.porter@stockport-academy.org](mailto:sarah.porter@stockport-academy.org)

