

Issue 50
Summer 2022



Stockport Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Secondary School of the Year



In this issue...

- Principal's Message 2
- Prizegiving 4
- GCSE Results 5
- Manchester Arena Memorial 7
- Student Council in London 8
- Future Me Day 9

Stockport Academy is officially the Secondary School of the Year, after we collected the award during the prestigious MEN Schools Awards at the end of term.

Read more on Page Three!

Principal's Message

It goes without saying that we ended on a high for 2021-22!

Being recognised as the MEN Schools Awards' Secondary School of the Year is a phenomenal achievement, and is absolutely a reflection of all of the hard work and commitment from everyone for our students.

The thing that makes our school special is the genuine love and care for our students both inside and outside of lessons – it takes special people to create the ethos and culture that we have here in our school and I couldn't be more proud that this has been

recognised in this way. It is the icing on the cake of what has been an exceptional year - even without it, I have been blown away by the sheer volume of opportunities and experiences we have been able to offer our students over the past three terms, and it has been so refreshing to get back to doing what we do best after the challenges all schools have faced over the last few years.

As ever, this newsletter is just a snapshot of life at our school - there is simply too much to include everything in a single term over 12 pages.



Of course, now we look ahead to the next 12 months and the possibilities that it can bring. We welcome our New Year 7s into our community and are very excited to host our first 'proper' Open Evening since 2019 on 21st September and look forward to meeting more families who are considering joining us in September 2023.

Please enjoy reading through the highlights of this unforgettable term, as we get ready to make more memories when our students return for another year!

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It's Official: We Did It!

(Continued from front page)

During the event, which was held in Manchester City Centre in July, we were shortlisted for FOUR awards in total, with our Attendance Officer Mr Farquhar also scooping the Support Staff of the Year Award!

Meanwhile, Ms Higgins and our Student Council were runners-up for Teacher of the Year and High School Team of the Year respectively.

Principal Mrs McCann said: "This is absolutely a reflection of all of the hard work and commitment from everyone for our students.

"The thing that makes our school special is the genuine love and care for our students both inside and outside of lessons – it takes special people to create the ethos and culture that we have here in our

school and I couldn't be more proud that this has been recognised in this way."



National Nominees - For The Third Time

In addition to our MEN Schools Award win, we were also delighted to be shortlisted for the third time as a NATIONAL Secondary School of the Year at the tes Schools Awards.

We were named among eight schools from across the country for the honour, and attended the awards ceremony in London back

in May. We have previously been named as finalists in the same category for this competition back in 2019 and 2017, becoming the first Stockport school to achieve this the first time around - a fantastic honour itself.

We will be hoping to go all the way in 2023!



Prizegiving Returns To Stockport Plaza

Our school community came together to celebrate in style, as we returned to Stockport Plaza for our first physical prizegiving ceremony since 2019.

After a brilliant performance from our outstanding school choir to open the event, followed by welcome speeches from our Chair of Governors, Mr Robinson, and our Principal, Mrs McCann, we moved on to handing out the first awards of the night.

More than 280 trophies were presented over the course of two hours, which recognised achievements in everything from leadership, sports, merits, attendance and much more.

No less than ten Year 11 students were presented with a laptop or iPad on the night in recognition of achieving 5 years of 100% attendance, while another student received a signed and framed Manchester United shirt after winning the inaugural 'Manchester United Foundation Award'.

The trophies were all presented to students by our guest speaker for the night, Figen Murray OBE, who spoke to the audience about the philosophy of 'Ubuntu', or 'I am because we are', which promotes the values of unity and kindness.

Principal Mrs McCann said: "We have been waiting so long to welcome everybody back to celebrate with us – it has been well overdue but it has also been worth the wait.

"It has been amazing to recognise so many achievements from throughout the year and I would like to thank our students, their families, our staff and governors, our sponsors and in fact the whole Stockport Academy community for making this night one we will never forget."



Outstanding GCSE Results!



Students and staff celebrated some outstanding GCSE results in August.

An impressive 71% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in English and Maths, with 50%

achieving a grade 5 or above in both subjects. there were some particularly strong performances with a number of students picking up a number of the top grade 9s including:

-- *Daniel Chilvers who achieved seven 9s and two 8s*

- *Jack Eastwood who achieved three 9s, four 8s and two 7s*

- *Rabia Afzal who achieved three 9s, four 8s and two 7s.*

Principal Mrs McCann said: "This is a fantastic set of results and I am so proud of all the students. They have worked incredibly hard and are a real credit to themselves and our entire school community. We always strive for excellence at Stockport Academy and I am thrilled that so many of our students have the grades they need to move on to college. I wish them all the best for the future. I have no doubt that they will all succeed."

New Y7 Summer Activity Day

Our New Year 7s spent a day in school over the Summer holidays getting to know us better before starting properly in September. Over 100 students attended our Summer Activity Day, which saw students get together in their new form groups to take part in all sorts of fun sessions that included pebble painting, sports and Science.

Head of Year 7 Ms Foster said: "It was amazing to spend the day with this group of students, who can't wait to get started with us! "I have no doubt they will achieve great things here at Stockport Academy, and we are very excited to welcome them properly into our community."



A Jubilant Jubilee Party



We marked the Platinum Jubilee with a Street-Party style celebration on our school grounds.

Students took part in lots of exciting activities like an inflatable obstacle course, outdoor games, a basketball tournament and “soak the teacher”, as well as having an outdoor picnic lunch of sandwiches and cake! Some students played in a rock band to entertain everyone, others set up and decorated tables, and others ran stalls selling tokens, sweets and drinks.

The day concluded with a whole-school presentation of next years’ Gold and Silver Ties, welcoming new students to the prefectural board following their successful interviews.

Mrs Milnes, who co-ordinated the celebration, said: “It was an amazing experience to see the whole school come together to celebrate the platinum jubilee along with the rest of the country - even the good weather turned out for what ended up being an absolutely fantastic day.”

Celebrating Culture Week

Our school celebrated the diversity among our students and staff in our first ever Culture Week in April. The week was filled with exciting activities – students could have their henna done during break and lunchtimes, food from around the globe was available in the Refectory for students to sample, and students moved through the corridors between lessons to music from different cultural

backgrounds. Celebrations ended with Culture Day on the Friday, where students were invited to wear traditional dress for the day, and Year 11 students did a fantastic job of showcasing their own ethnic heritage by sharing food, stories and activities with other year groups. Our Atrium was also decorated with flags from all of the countries and nations that our students

represent to celebrate our diverse student community. All money raised during the week was donated to the British Red Cross’ Ukraine campaign.



Let There Bee Peace

Stockport Academy paid tribute to the victims of the Manchester Arena terrorist attack on the fifth anniversary of the atrocity back in May. Students lined up in the playground in their year groups, with each cohort forming the shape of a bee to create a stunning effect when seen from above.

After Ms Stirling welcomed everyone to the service,

Year 11 student Violet Ashby performed her own rendition of Queen's ballad 'Love of my Life', which was followed by Mrs Milnes reading a poem called 'Let there bee Peace'. Next, students watched as our annual Bee Drop took place, with hundreds of paper bees with messages of support and remembrance that had been written by our students who

have been reflecting on the events five years ago in the week leading up to the service. Students and staff then impeccably observed a two-minute silence, before black and yellow flares lit up the MUGA to signal the end of the ceremony.

You can watch a full video of the service on our website.



Amazing Aerozone Visit



Some of our aspiring GCSE Business Students visited Manchester Airport's Education Centre, the 'Aerozone', to find out about different career paths at the airport and in aviation.

Year 9 students took part in interactive learning experiences that blended reality, careers education and fun to prepare for their GCSE Business Studies course next year.

The day began with an introduction to Manchester Airport and its careers, followed by a tour of the new Terminal Two during which students completed a trail

worksheet. Students found out about air traffic control, the daily life of cabin crew, security, customer service assistants, the operations team and the flight booking team – students particularly enjoyed the cabin crew roleplay session.

They also had the chance to learn about contracting and construction with guest speakers from Mace Consultancy Ltd, discussing different routes into their sector, apprenticeships and degree routes into the construction industry.

Students Visit Houses of Parliament

Our Student Council spent the day in London in May to witness politics in action at the Houses of Parliament.

The group received a personal invite from Stockport MP Navendu Mishra after he visited the school earlier this year.

The Labour politician gave the tour of the building himself, explaining some of the processes and responsibilities of being an MP, in addition to

describing some of the history associated with the world-renowned building.

Later, Mr Mishra posted on his Twitter account that it was a 'pleasure' to meet our students and 'answer their questions about politics and democracy'.

Assistant Principal Mrs Milnes said: "I would like to thank Mr Mishra for enabling our students to have this experience, which I am sure they will remember for the rest of their lives."



Future Me Day

Our latest Future Me day offered a wealth of new opportunities for our students, ranging from high profile speakers to careers advice and practical experiments.

Years 7-10 all had the chance to hear from Figen Murray OBE, the mother of Martyn Hett who was tragically killed during the Manchester Arena bombing in 2017. Figen now works relentlessly to raise awareness of the dangers of online radicalisation, and she shared her experience and what she's learned since with our students who listened intently throughout, before asking their own questions on the topics she had covered. Elsewhere, we had dozens of special guests and agencies spending the day with us to offer some unique workshops for our students.

Year 8 found out more about career paths into nursing and even got to take each other's blood pressure as they learned about some of the roles and responsibilities involved in the job.

Year 9 students developed their job-seeking skills through the Barclays Life Skills programme –



a workshop that covered everything from CV writing to interview techniques. Other workshops throughout the day included topics such as 'Not Going To Uni', careers in STEM and engineering, healthy lifestyles, jobs in the military, jobs in the football sector and a session ran by Fix Up Academy on the dangers and benefits of social media.

Mrs Thandi, careers coordinator, said: "It has been an action-packed day at Stockport Academy and it has been brilliant once again to have such a varied programme of activities on offer for our students.

"We are really proud of how engaged our students were and I would like to thank everyone who has supported our latest Future Me Day, as these are so important for the development of the whole child and making life-long memories."

A Term In Tweets



Navendu Mishra @NavPMishra · May 24

It was a pleasure to meet pupils from @Sptacademy last week and to answer their questions about parliament and democracy.

After such a long period of not being able to welcome visitors, I really am glad I can start meeting schools and local groups here in Westminster!



Alexandra Park Primary School Stockport @AlexPark1912 · Jul 11

An amazing time today @sptacademy thanks for hosting. Well done to all the winners. A special thank you must go to our amazing year 5 children and all the staff who put on the best show! We can't wait for our reception & KS1 children to experience this magical event tomorrow 🎉👏



Figen Murray @FigenMurray · May 6

Looking forward to speaking to near to 1,000 young people today at @sptacademy about the dangers of radicalisation, Ubuntu, the power of kindness and other important values. Excited to meet the students and staff.



Cheadle Heath Pri @CHPSchool · Jun 23

Wonderful to see many ex #teamCHPS pupils still shining brightly as they finish their education @sptacademy. Good luck #Classof2022 & let us know how you get on in this future. #Alumni



sharon cooper @Redstarr0603 · Jul 8

Had a lovely evening at Stockport Plaza for @sptacademy Awards evening. My daughters afterwards had the pleasure of meeting @FigenMurray who was presented on the evening with Bee art work that my daughters contributed to creating #BeMoreMartyn



geochelseapanda @geochelseapanda · Jun 22

This was right outside my classroom all day and was a definite talking point. Thank you to @gmpolice for bringing it to our school. It is a mobile sculpture made of weapons handed in or seized across the region. Part of crime prevention week @sptacademy



Summer 2022

Term Dates and Contact Details

Autumn 2022

5th Sept - 21st Oct
All students in

24th Oct - 28th Oct
Half Term

31st Oct - 20th Dec
All students in
(Early finish last day of term)

25th Nov
Inset Day

21st Dec - 6th Jan 2023
School Holidays

Contact Us

By Phone

0161 286 0330

By Email

enquiries@stockport-academy.org

By Post

Stockport Academy
Heathbank Road
Cheadle Heath
Stockport
SK3 0UP



Pastoral Emails

Year 7 and Transition - Ms James - danielle.james@stockport-academy.org
Year 8 - Mrs McCann - linda.mccann@stockport-academy.org
Year 9 Ms Porter - sarah.porter@stockport-academy.org
Year 10 - Ms Howarth - lisa.howarth@stockport-academy.org
Year 11 - Mrs Shaw - sarah.shaw@stockport-academy.org



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Year 6

Open Evening

Wednesday 21st September

5-7pm



Tes Schools Awards 2022

Shortlisted

Secondary School of the Year

