



A Return To The Stage!

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Our Performing Arts department made a triumphant return to the stage as we hosted our first school production in over two years.

After months of rehearsals, the final curtain closed on 'Matilda' after four successful shows, including two primary matinee performances.

An adaptation of the classic Roald Dahl children's book, Matilda tells the story of a young girl with extraordinary powers, who has to overcome the challenge of a family who barely notice her and a brutal headmistress – the infamous Agatha Trunchbull – who is

determined to crush the spirit of all children at her school. The show features a number of songs from the Broadway musical, including 'When I Grow Up', 'Miracle' and 'The Smell of Rebellion'.

After performing to over 400 primary school children over two days, students then put on two sell-out evening shows for family members, friends and teachers – and were rewarded with a standing ovation each time!

Music Teacher Mrs Bassett said: "It has been the best return to a school production that we could have ever hoped

for. Everyone from the cast and crew to students in Art Club who helped to make the sets and staff who have given up their time during rehearsals have worked so hard and it has really paid off with one of our best ever shows!

"Thank you to everyone who has supported us, and we can't wait for the next production to get started – watch this space!"

Check out our production photos on page 9!

Principal's Message

Looking back over the last term, it is heart-warming to see so many of the key events and celebrations that our school is known for finally return after so long.

In the past few weeks we have been fortunate enough to be able to host our first school production since the pandemic began – something that is so key to demonstrating our core values and embodies our mantra of providing our students with an Education with Character.

A full programme for British Science Week, our Kingswood residentials and

World Book Day are another three examples in this newsletter of a return to normality and supporting not just the academic development of our young people, but also open up opportunities to help them grow as well-rounded members of society.

It has also been a pleasure to welcome so many of our local primary schools back into the academy. As our school continues to thrive – we once again had a record number of applications for Year 7 places – these relationships are so important to support a successful transition to



secondary school.

On that note, it was delightful to meet many of our new Year 7s during our Easter School transition programme over the holidays. More than 120 students attended this and I would like to thank our staff and students who went the extra mile to ensure that our latest cohort make the best possible start to their time with us.

And so we reach the Summer term! There's more to come from us between now and July – and we can't wait to share it with you.

Mrs J McCann,
BA, M.Ed NPQEL

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World Book Day

Students and staff celebrated World Book Day with a wide range of literary-based activities, including a fancy dress competition!

Year 7 students were invited to dress up as a recognisable book character, with many of them rising to the challenge.

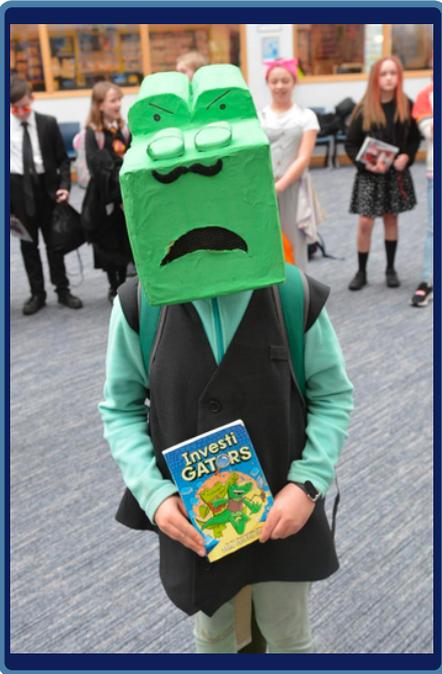
After all the competitors lined up in the Atrium to be judged, our Literacy Co-ordinator Mrs Cawsey picked our winner – a fantastic home-made ‘Investi-Gator’ costume. Ella, who was crowned champion, received a brand new Kindle as her prize, while runners-up each received a beautiful ‘Life Cycles’ reference book that had been donated by Manchester United Foundation.

Elsewhere, our Literacy Team ran a successful Book Swap stall, with students offered the opportunity to trade in an old title for something they hadn’t read before. In the Library, our Librarian Mr Clarke organised a ‘Design a Book Cover’ activity during break and lunchtime, with prizes on offer for the best entries.

The last lesson of the day saw students spend time together with their Form Groups to read their class book together. Mrs Cawsey and Mr Clarke went around rooms awarding spot prizes for groups who have particularly excelled during our daily morning reading during form time.

Mrs Cawsey said: “It was brilliant to celebrate World Book Day in school again – the first time we’ve been able to do so since before the pandemic.

“Our students naturally have a love of literature and it has been amazing to be able to indulge that in everything we have done today.”



Back To Kingswood!

Our Year 7s and Year 8s enjoyed residential visits to Kingswood in North Wales this term - with our Year 8s finally getting the chance to take part in a trip they have been waiting over a year for!

Both groups spent three days away at the outdoor centre, taking part in all manner of activities including leap of faith, low ropes, shelter building, Jacob's ladder, nightline and much more!

Students (and staff) also enjoyed time by the camp fire at the end of each day, toasting marshmallows, sharing ghost stories and singing songs.

Miss Foster, the Academy's co-curricular co-ordinator and the organiser of the trip, said: "Our students had a brilliant time at Kingswood – they have been outside of their comfort zones, challenged themselves, and many have faced their fears.

"Most of our Year 7s missed the opportunity to go on Year 6 residential visits because of the pandemic, so this is the first time that many have been away from home - and they have been amazing! They were respectful, great team players, and showed fantastic independence.

"Meanwhile, our Year 8s have been looking forward to this trip for so long and it absolutely didn't disappoint! Thank you all of our staff who volunteered to support the trips and of course to our students who threw themselves fully into the challenges throughout the visits to really make the most of this superb opportunity."



British Science Week

Students and Staff celebrated the return of British Science Week with a wide range of activities taking place across school between 11th-20th March. This year's theme was 'Growth', with our Eco Club getting into the spirit right at the start of the week by planting a number of trees and hedgerow that will eventually grow into our own school orchard! The plants were all kindly donated by the Orchards for Schools project.

Elsewhere, students had the chance to take part in a number of Science after-school clubs during the week, including Physics Club, where they could create their own hovercraft from CDs and bottle tops before racing them, experience static electricity through a Van de Graaf generator and also watch soundwaves through an oscillator. Other activities included a VR workshop, where students wore virtual reality headsets to see what it would be like to explore space.

In the library, Mr Clarke made a special display of his favourite Science-themed books.

At the end of the week, Head of Science Mr Campbell put on two live Science demonstrations – with local primary schools invited to the second showing. Year 5 students from St Matthews' and Alexandra Park primaries enjoyed the 20-minute display that included lots of explosions and weird and wonderful experiments! Mr Campbell said: "It has been brilliant to host a full programme of activities for British Science Week once again after so long and we have really enjoyed the opportunity to delve a little deeper into the subject with our students, who have been so involved and engaged throughout the week."



Teaming up with Cale Green



Our Activism Club teamed up with Cale Green Primary School for a session all about human rights.

Both of our schools are working towards the silver stage of UNICEF's Rights Respecting

Schools Award, after recently being awarded bronze, and we couldn't wait for a chance to get together, share ideas, and learn about human rights as a community.

During the session, we investigated several rights which all children are entitled to in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. These included the right to rest and play, the right to express ourselves, and the right to know all about our rights.

RS Teacher Ms Dowell, who runs Activism Club said: "Our Year 9 students acted as fantastic mentors and role models for the younger students, showing maturity, responsibility, and great leadership skills.

"Cale Green have been kind enough to invite us to join them for another session later in the year – our students can't wait to see their new friends again, and to learn even more about human rights!"

Young Enterprise Success

Our Year 10 Young Enterprise team walked away with one of the top prizes at the recent Stockport Area regional finals.

Their 'Soothing Scents' business received the award for 'Best Customer Service' at the event - after impressing judges with their trade stall.

The group went up against a number of sixth forms and independent schools, making their victory even more impressive.

Students have spent months perfecting their business, which focuses on high-quality homemade candles.

Mr Lewis, who runs our Young Enterprise programme, said: "We have a proud tradition of success in this competition at Stockport Academy and I am proud to see that this year's cohort have excelled once again.

"They are a talented group that really made the effort and it definitely paid off!"



Easter School!



Our first-ever Easter School was a brilliant success, with our newest cohort of students enjoying a fabulous three days of getting to know their new school better.

Over 120 of our new Year 7s - due to officially start in September - attended Easter School, with a wide range of activities taking place to support them in meeting their new classmates, navigating the building, and familiarising themselves with some of the differences between primary school and secondary school. Students had the opportunity to take part in African drumming workshops, play dodgeball, create their own comics and take part in a

Jubilee-themed Arts and Crafts session.

They were also challenged to a treasure hunt around school, with Easter eggs placed in key locations to help them find their way around.

At the end of each day, students were rewarded with spot prizes and certificates, while on the final day everyone took part in a celebration assembly that looked back at how much progress everyone made over the week. One of our African drumming groups even showcased their talents in front of the rest of the Year Group! Assistant Principal Mrs Milnes, who oversees transition, said: "This has been an amazing opportunity to get to know our

newest students and it has been an absolute pleasure to meet them over the past few days. "Their behaviour has been exemplary and it has been wonderful to see them settling in, making new friends and taking the first steps to become active members of our community."

Our next transition event is our New Parents Evening, which will take place on 16th June, followed by a Transition Day where students will spend the full school day with us on 7th July.



International Art Comp

One of our Y11 students has showcased her impressive creative talents to reach the final ten in United Learning's International Art Competition.

Ellie Guthrie was in the running to take home the top prize at the contest after her work was selected from 57 entries for the final shortlist. The art competition, now in its 14th year, challenges students aged between 15 and 18 across the group to draw, print or paint an original piece of artwork and submit a high-quality digital photograph of the piece. Those students who finish in the final four are given the opportunity to have their work displayed at Tokyo's celebrated International High School Arts Festival, whilst the winner receives an all-



expenses paid trip to Japan to see their piece exhibited in person.

Speaking of her artwork, titled 'Concealed Emotions', Ellie said: "My idea is based around the idea that we paint our exterior to hide and manipulate our inner emotions. The piece is symbolic of one's emotions, and this is depicted through a careful selection and limit of colour palette."

Future Me Day



The Academy hosted another successful Future Me Day, which gave students the opportunity to take part in a range of sessions and workshops to build their 'Future Me' skills and qualities,

as well as access essential RSE content.

Mrs Thandi, our Future Me Coordinator, organised a broad range of sessions for Years 7, 9 and 10 to get stuck into, including trips to the National Football Museum and the Eureka Museum for Year 7, a day-long business workshop for Year 8 (arranged by Mr Lewis) that saw them create their own holiday company, truffle-making

classes for Year 9, while Year 10 explored career pathways into medicine - among many other things!

Our next Future Me Day takes place on May 6th, when we will welcome guest speaker Figen Murray to Stockport Academy.

Matilda - Photos



A Visit From Our MP

Our Student Council rolled out the red carpet for the Member of Parliament for Stockport, who visited to discuss his role in politics and take a look around our school.

Navendu Mishra MP was given a tour of the school by our students, where they spoke to him about our school culture and values, while stopping by several classrooms to watch lessons in action.

Later, he met with student leaders from all years to discuss his own career in politics and offered advice for others wishing to follow in his footsteps, before taking part in a Q & A session with them.

He also spoke with our student newsletter team, who are writing their own article for our recently-relaunched online publication, 'Scoop'.

Mr Mishra said: "We need to make sure that education standards are very high, and coming here to Stockport Academy, listening to so many teachers and students, it's really nice to see that an educational institution in my constituency is doing so well."

Assistant Principal Mrs Milnes, who leads the Student Council, said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to meet a figurehead of local politics who could share his experience and advice. They took full advantage of this, asking lots of questions and hopefully leaving a great impression on our MP."



A Term In Tweets

 **Lynne Latte** 🍷🍷
@LynneMcHugh

Replying to @sptacademy and @PrimaryWorkshop

Thank you to all involved so much for these last 3 days, it's a really great idea. Daisy has really enjoyed it, has made new friends and can't wait for September now!



 **Alexandra Park Primary School Stockport**
@AlexPark1912

Replying to @sptacademy @CHPSchool and @Meadowbank_PS

Thank you for having us, an amazing performance and so wonderful to see some of our former Alex Park pupils providing an amazing performance and thriving at high school! 😊

 **SparxMaths** @SparxMaths · Feb 12

@sptacademy has been awarded Bronze for Greatest Progress as part of the #SparxSuperstar awards. Congratulations to everyone, keep up the good work. #educhat #happysaturday #homework



 **Cheadle Heath Pri**
@CHPSchool

What a fabulous end to a busy term for Y4! The highlight was @sptacademy's production of Matilda where children were astounded by the fabulous show. It was lovely to see so many of our #teamCHPS alumni taking part & doing us proud!



 **Leah Taylor** @MissIndy · Mar 1

@sptacademy One very chuffed little mister who has just got in from school, opened his letter and put his sticker on straight away, he is beyond excited to start in September!

Term Dates and Contact Details

Summer 2022

19th April - 27th May

All students in

*Monday 2nd May
Bank Holiday*

*30th May - 3rd June
Half Term*

6th June - 19th July April
All students in

*(Early Closure on the
last day of term)*

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Year 8: Ms Porter - sarah.porter@stockport-academy.org

Year 9: Ms Howarth - lisa.howarth@stockport-academy.org

Year 10: Ms James - danielle.james@stockport-academy.org

Year 11: Mrs Shaw - sarah.shaw@stockport-academy.org