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Inspirational!



Stockport Academy has been named as one of the finalists in the 'Most Inspirational Secondary School' category at the Educate Awards.

The shortlist for the prestigious honour, which covers the whole north-west of England, was announced via a virtual ceremony that was broadcasted live online.

Judges noted our dedication to co-curricular activities, strong levels of

progress among students, numerous opportunities for student leadership roles and a whole-school approach to celebrating success as they listed Stockport Academy as one of four schools left in the running for the award.

The overall winner will now be announced in January 2021.

Principal Mrs McCann said: "To be shortlisted for the most inspirational secondary school is a phenomenal

achievement and testament to the hard work and passion for education from everyone associated with Stockport Academy, from staff and students to parents, governors and the wider community.

"We are incredibly proud of the culture, values and ethos within our school that has driven us to be in the running for this award, and we now look forward to the Educate Awards finals early next year!"

Principal's Message



Mrs Janine McCann,
Principal

On reflection of this last year at Stockport Academy, there is no doubt that it has been like no other. Although we have been faced with unprecedented challenges, I have been incredibly proud of the response from all of our staff and students. We have learnt skills that we didn't know we had in working remotely, demonstrating resilience, creativity, resourcefulness and determination. Students have developed outstanding home learning skills in taking more ownership of their education, and all of these qualities will always serve them well as they continue on their journey throughout school and beyond.

I am delighted that we have been shortlisted for Educate Awards' Most Inspirational Secondary School, which reflects our whole community and their inspiration and support of each other. I am beyond proud that despite everything we have faced in the last nine months, our whole community has continued to strive to be the best. We have thrived in finding creative ways to inspire and motivate our children and provide an exceptional education with character.

I have every confidence that the pandemic during last year will not be an excuse for gaps in education but will prove to be a springboard for accelerated and further success going forward as our students grow into

successful and ambitious young adults.

I would like to take this opportunity to send a heartfelt thank you to all of our parents and carers for your support over the last year and really look forward to working with you to continue our journey towards Outstanding in 2021.

Mrs J McCann



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Year 7's Flying Start



Our newest cohort of students got off to the best possible start after completing their first week as Stockport Academy students.

Year 7s spent their first couple of days getting to know each other, their teachers and their

way around school as part of a comprehensive transition programme.

This wasn't the first time many of them had set foot in our school, after every form group had the opportunity to spend a day with their classmates and form tutor during the holidays as part of our Transition Summer School.

Students were tasked with finding their way to different lessons and they also had the chance to get to know some of the teachers they would have in different subjects, including some of their newer subjects such as Modern Foreign Languages, History, Geography and Music.

They also had their first ever assembly with our Principal, Mrs McCann, and even had their first ever school photos in their new uniform!

Head of Year 7 Ms Riley said: "Starting secondary school is such an exciting time and we are delighted to welcome our new Year 7s, who have been absolutely brilliant.

"They've had a great start to life at Stockport Academy, and long may it continue!"

Virtual Open Evening

We had to do things a little differently this year for our annual Year 6 Open Evening, and - for the first time ever - Stockport Academy hosted a Virtual Open Evening throughout October.

Visitors to the webpage were able to access a wide range of videos about life at our school, including the chance to 'meet the teachers', watch Mr Campbell's infamous Science Showcase, and even meet some of the parents of our current students.

In addition to this, prospective parents and students were able to take a virtual walk around our building using our own Virtual Tour. Naturally, nothing quite beats being there in person, and we were able to organise over 100 personalised tours for families with members of our senior leadership team throughout the month as well.

Principal Mrs McCann said: "We have tried to do absolutely everything we can to accommodate our local families in making what is a very important

decision when it comes to choosing their secondary school and we hope that our Virtual Open Evening and personal tours were able to offer a good alternative to the traditional Open Evening this year.

"We are absolutely delighted to say that we have received a record number of first-choice applications for our 2021 cohort, and we can't wait to meet our new Year 7s later in the year as soon as it is safe to do so."



United In Education



This term saw the official launch of our brand new partnership with Manchester United Foundation, bringing with it a wealth of exciting new opportunities for our students over the course of the year.

Already we have been able to run special football camps for students over the half-term holidays, while the charity has also donated everything from goodie bags, pieces of kit and other merchandise for

the school to share among students.

School Partnership Officer Mr McWilliam said: "I am over the moon to have completed my first term at Stockport Academy and it has been amazing to have been so warmly welcomed by the students who I have been working with. We have lots of exciting plans to develop the links between the school and MUF over the coming months, so watch this space."

Mr McWilliam is working with students on a variety of projects including literacy challenges, extra-curricular opportunities and mentoring, and you can find out more about the work Manchester United Foundation is doing with Stockport Academy via our website.

Mental Health Goals

Stockport Academy students have teamed up with Manchester United players to help raise awareness of the importance of looking after your mental health.

Year 10 students were visited by staff from Manchester United Foundation, who recorded a series of questions from them to be put to stars including Juan Mata, Nemanja Matic, Axel Tuanzebe and Lee Grant.

The players then filmed their answers for a special video that was released on World Mental Health Day and released on the Foundation's YouTube channel.

Questions covered a wide range of topics, including how to deal with trolls and bullying on social media, the impact of spending time away from family and friends during lockdown, and who you can talk to if you are struggling with your mental health.

After playing the video in assembly,

students across the whole school were then encouraged to write their own messages of support for others who may need it and post them on a giant cardboard tree that had been specially made and erected in the school's atrium.

Stockport Academy has won several accolades in recent years for its support of raising the awareness of mental health issues, including the Wellbeing Award for Schools and the Gold School Mental Health Award.

Principal Mrs McCann said: "We are incredibly grateful to Manchester United Foundation for offering this amazing opportunity for our students to make a real difference in raising awareness of mental health.

"This issue has never been more important and we continue to focus on the importance of wellbeing as part of our pledge to offer all of our students an Education with Character."



Christmas Concert Goes Virtual

Our annual Christmas Show was another of our events to go virtual this year, with students involved recording their performances for a digital version of the show.

The event featured music, dance and drama performances all tied into the theme of 'Stronger Together'.

Former Stockport Academy student Shaun Brady spent a day filming each part of the show, with the final production available in two parts for everyone to watch on our school YouTube channel here: <https://youtu.be/nOPN0i4SPuo> and <https://youtu.be/HTjtUCrwGZo>



Highlights included saxophone and piano performances of 'Walking In The Air' and 'Jingle Bells', the school Rock Band playing 'Fairytale of New York', Year 10 dancers putting their moves to 'Underneath The Tree' and a hilarious Year 10 drama piece re-enacting a Year 1 Nativity.

Christians in Schools Trust also paid a visit to take part in the ceremonial lighting of the advent wreath – a traditional part of previous years' Christmas shows.

Head of Performing Arts, Ms Keough, said: "We've had to do things a little differently this year, but our Christmas Show was still a wonderful celebration of the festive season and I am proud of everyone involved in putting the production together for the dedication they have shown to ensure that the show must go on!"



Remembrance Day Respect

Students and staff paid their respects on Remembrance Day with a whole-school virtual ceremony this year.

Due to social distancing and other Covid-19 restrictions, our annual Poppy Drop was unable to take place as it has done every other year – you can see a video of what this looks like here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6vSvz4xyts>

Instead, each class spent time reflecting on the sacrifices made by those who have served our country during times of conflict via a virtual assembly led by Assistant Principal Mrs Milnes.

The last post was then played out in the atrium with all classes impeccably observing a two-minute silence.

Mrs Milnes said: "For obvious reasons we have had to do things differently this year to commemorate Remembrance Day, however the reason behind the occasion was just as important and it was great to see each class contribute virtually to pay their respects."

In the week leading up to Remembrance Day, students were encouraged to create their own poppy-themed window displays in their homes.



Career Steps To Success

Our Year 11 students spent the day focusing on life after secondary school as part of our dedicated Careers Day.

The group had access to resources, workshops and even virtual mock interviews all day, while they also arrived in smart business wear rather than their usual school uniform.

Students were given valuable interview experience via video calls with staff from local business Lex Autolease. They also had the chance to access virtual open events and prospectuses for further education providers including Aquinas and Xaverian colleges as well as WHGS Sixth Form.

Workshops focused on sharing information on traineeships and apprenticeships, as well as budgeting and money management skills. MADE Training also offered students sessions on revision skills and building resilience, while a representative from the RAF was also on hand to offer career advice to students interested in a career in the armed forces.

At the end of the day, every student was presented with a revision pack to take home,

which included stationery and a treat.

CEIAG (Careers, Education, Information Advice and Guidance) co-ordinator Mr O'Neill said: "Our Careers Day was a huge success and it was great to see

our Year 11s so engaged in finding out more information about what their next steps could be after Stockport Academy.

"They showed great character in their handling of new challenges and it was brilliant to see them make the most of the day.

"I would like to thank everyone involved in contributing to today's programme – it has offered our students valuable insight and experience to help them achieve their exciting potential."



New Sports Leader Captains

Our PE department were delighted to appoint a new generation of Sports Leader Captains to support the training and mentoring of the rest of our Sports Leaders.

Students were interviewed for the roles by Ms Foster, and were asked questions such as why they wanted to take the post and what qualities they felt would be needed to do a good job.

Sports Leaders are one of several student leadership roles across Stockport Academy, with selected students using their passion for sport to support the subject across the rest of the school and within the community, helping to organise



events and even referee primary school tournaments that are hosted either in our Sports Hall, Astro Pitches or Multi Use Game Area (MUGA).

In total, 25 students were appointed Sports Leader Captains across Years 8-11 and were honoured in assemblies once they found out they had

been successful.

PE Teacher and Co-curricular Co-ordinator Ms Foster said: "The standard of applicant was really high and it was tricky to pick the very best students as everyone did such a brilliant job!

A Term In Tweets

What's being said on social media? Follow us @sptacademy



Educate Awards @EducateAwards · Nov 13

The Most Inspirational Secondary School Award is sponsored by @winstanleycoll. The shortlist is:

@abblanchschool
 @LitherlandHigh
 @sptacademy
 @TheBarlowRC

🌟 Congratulations to you all 🌟

SBDJ Services @sbdjservices · Dec 9

Editing is well underway for the @sptacademy Virtual Christmas Concert 🎄🎵

#sneakpreview #Christmas 🌟 #AChristmasCarol @sptacademy_EPA @MissKeoughDrama



Stockport Academy Virtual Christmas Concert

🗨️ 5 ❤️ 10 📤

ational Secondary School

Sponsored by **winstanley college**

Archbishop Blanch School, Liverpool
 Litherland High School, Sefton
 Stockport Academy
 The Barlow RC High School, Manchester

appriseSystems RICOH

#EducateAwards

Lynne Latte 🍰🍷 @LynneMcHugh · Nov 20

@sptacademy thank you so much for the rewards days this week. Charlie and Frankie are very happy with their chocolates, sweets and goodie bag. These little touches go a long way to give them recognition and encouragement.

Louise.R.Conlon @Louise24848104 · Nov 20

@sptacademy thank you for the reward day today. Isabelle Riley 7JTH won multiple prizes and has gone from feeling unconfident in doing well enough in secondary school to a happy year 7 who feels like she's doing good enough. So thank you for the boost it's given her 😊

🗨️ 2 🔄 1 ❤️ 2 📤

Dr Liz Chilvers @ErChilvers · 18h

Replying to @sptacademy

Fantastic. So lovely to see so many of you. We've missed being able to come into school for events this year and see everyone.

Stockport Academy PE @PE_sptacademy · 17h

Thank you @Emmabrown15Emma for your words of support to our pupils who are taking part in disability sports awareness week this week.

#educationwithcharacter

Term Dates And Contact Details

Term dates for Spring 2021

Wednesday 6th January to Friday 12th February

All Students In

Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February

Half Term

Tuesday 23rd February to Friday 26th March

All Students In

(Monday 22nd February is INSET Day

- closed for students)

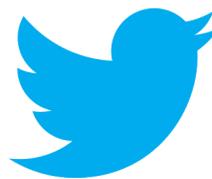
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Twitter: @sptacademy

Instagram: @StockportAcademy

Facebook: @StockportAcademy

Website: www.stockport-academy.org



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 during term time.

Pastoral Managers email and direct dial telephone numbers:

Transition, Years 7 and 8

linda.mccann@stockport-academy.org 0161 362 4226

Year 9 and 10

sarah.shaw@stockport-academy.org 0161 362 4252

Year 11

danielle.james@stockport-academy.org 0161 362 4293

Group emails—faculty addresses

english@stockport-academy.org

maths@stockport-academy.org

science@stockport-academy.org

humanities@stockport-academy.org

(includes Geography, History, RE)

technology@stockport-academy.org

(includes Art)

ict@stockport-academy.org

(includes Business Studies, Computing and ICT)

expressivearts@stockport-academy.org

(includes Drama, Dance, Music)

mfl@stockport-academy.org

(French and Spanish)

pe@stockport-academy.org

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 marketing@stockport-academy.org.

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