



Stockport Academy's
Student Newsletter

ISSUE 8

For Stockport Academy Students, By Stockport Academy Students

JULY 2019

Spark Rising Stars Shine

By Abigail Yan



On the 1st July, the school reporters (aka SPARK reporters) were invited to attend the Shine School Media Awards at Stationers Hall, London.

We started the day off by taking part in lots of different workshops including 3D printing, cartoon drawing, bookbinding and Google Mobile. I especially enjoyed the printing work shop, as it taught us that using a 3D printer can help to save our environment. We also saw a dice getting made with the 3D printer which was very exciting and were told how 3D printers play a big role in the NHS.

After the workshops, we had an inspiring talk by Alia Derriey - Shine Scholar 2018. She spoke to us about how her career has improved since winning the award last year. We also got to listen to Bryony Gordon (journalist and author) talk about her new books and how she expresses herself through words. Bryony also gave some exciting news that she had interviewed Prince Harry and is looking forward to more interviews with other royals. I personally thought that both speakers were amazing and I aspire to become a journalist in the future.

When the awards started, we were introduced to our award presenters: Simon Heffer who is a columnist for the Daily and Sunday Telegraph, and Bill Bowkett who is an editor of inQUIRE, the university of Kent's student newspaper. They then went on to present us an award - the Rising Stars Award.

At the end, we were given little goodie bags with note pads, pens and bits of helpful information. I had a lovely day down in London with my fellow reporters, and was a great opportunity for future jobs. I spoke to Miss Wootton after the awards ceremony, and she said: "Both Mr Prince and I are really proud of our SPARK reporters - they have worked so hard all year, and to be recognised for their efforts and skills is wonderful."

A Colourful Caper

By Natalia Kraszkievicz



Stockport Academy Pride Week in July is all about accepting people for who they are. Pride is in support of the LGBTQ+ community (what stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and more!) Every year Stockport Academy celebrates this wonderful month by an activity for everyone to participate in.

It's called 'The Rainbow Run' – a great name for the LGBTQ+ event. The students who attend this event get to have a non-uniform day as well as throw colourful paint at others. A messy but very fun way to celebrate this month. The first packet of paint was for free, though others cost money, a packet of paint costs 50p, a perfectly affordable price!

Sweets and badges were also on sale and all the money will be given to the Proud Trust charity. Everyone had a great time and it was all in the name of a fantastic cause!

Look Smart, Feel Smart

By Bethany Flynn

As you have all seen, Stockport Academy has upgraded its uniform to a whole new style! The uniform has had positive reviews from students and staff. Mrs McCann, our Principal, is very pleased with the way things have turned out. She told us in assembly that we changed the new uniform so that the school could have its own personal stamp and show off our high standards.

Students in the school have taken to wearing the new uniform with pride and we are very happy with the way it has turned out.



LIKE WHAT YOU'RE READING?

Our Student Newsletter team also contributes to articles on the news pages of our school website.

[Click here to read more!](#)

Love And Respect

By Viktoria Malabuyoc



Sombre, reflective, emotional: All words to describe our tribute to the Manchester Arena tragedy.

It has been two years since the bombings at Manchester Arena occurred. This attack hit very close to home – literally and figuratively. Some of us in the Academy had been personally impacted by the attack, so as a school we decided we wanted to pay our respects to the 22 victims.

This year, our theme was “Love not Hate”. Our goal was to try to focus on how the community of Manchester helped and supported each other on that devastating day and the weeks that followed. The Manchester bee represents exactly that - community. Though the devastation the bombings brought was incomprehensible, a campaign was sparked of love and positivity to help the healing process. We learned from that day that the best way to fight hate, war and violence is to stand together and love together - to live together and build a wall of positivity.

Stockport Academy represented that ideal by getting the entire school involved in our annual memorial. Students personally wrote messages onto yellow bee-shaped cards, which were to be dropped during our commemoration. Our EPA (Expressive and Performing Arts) department also pitched in with beautiful tributes: the choir sang “Don’t Look Back in Anger” by Oasis and “One Last Time” by Ariana Grande in reference to her One Love concert. The SA dancers choreographed an uplifting dance to “Believe”.

The world felt silent and slow when our handwritten bees were dropped from the roof. An instrumental track played in the background while the gentle wind swayed the bees before they touched the floor.

22 Students were given black and yellow balloons - representing the 22 precious lives that were lost on that night. These balloons were released into the sky, which was a touching moment for all of us - teachers and students alike.

The experience will not leave me. Even when I leave the Academy I am sure that moments like these will be the ones I remember. Stay strong, Stockport.

Heroes Out Of The Page

By Roxane Mole

Over the last few months, Students in Year 8 have had the opportunity to create a comic about a superhero for their Art work.

It can be one already out there in the world, or their own with an imaginative world, using bright colours to really bring in the sense of their comics.

The comics created must have a creative story, imaginative art, and colour for a bit more pop to the whole thing. Everyone spent loads of time thinking of exciting stories to put down onto paper and draw.



I asked Art Teacher Ms Higgins why it's important to set fun, creative homework like this. She said: "It's important to give homework such as this, to support individuality and give students the chance to put their own spin on heroes and villains."

Talking Politics

By Abigail Yan

In May, our Student Council had the chance to meet Stockport MP Ann Coffey.

Ann has been a member of parliament since 1992 and represents Stockport. We learned that she has recently left the Labour Party to join the Independent Group due to her stance on Brexit. In the meeting we discussed the topic of Brexit and how Ann wants to stop Brexit but wants to stay in the EU.

We also shared our future aspirations with Ann, when she turned the tables and started asking us questions!



After talking to Ann, I have discovered more and more about politics, and I now enjoy hearing and finding about what goes on in parliament! At the moment, the Conservative Party are trying to agree on a new

Top 5 Co-Curricular Clubs of 2019

By Nathan Goldsby

At the start of the summer term, Miss Foster announced a competition of who could attend the most enrichments. Using this data, we have compiled a list of the top 5, most popular enrichments of the summer term.

5) Coming in at Number 5, we've got the first of the performing arts clubs on this list, Centre Stage! This club is run by Miss Keough and has many participants. If you like the idea of the production, but don't like dancing, then this is the club for you!

4) Working its way into Number 4, it's our very own Spark! This club focuses on getting articles ready for our student newsletter of the same name. Although it may sound stressful having to get an article ready on time, there are also many rewards. One of our reporters even won a brand new Kindle for writing the most articles in a term!

3) Waltzing into Number 3, SA dance is our second performing arts club on this list (I'm noticing a pattern). A complete opposite to centre stage, this club occupies a Friday slot in the co-curricular timetable and still stays popular, although most people want to keep their Fridays free!

2) The School production slides nicely in to Number 2. This school tradition has had many iterations, but this one may be the most popular yet, with a fair few dancers and singers, so really, it's got some elements of choir in it as well.

1) Sprinting ahead of the pack and into Number 1, our grand finale is... Girls Active! This immensely popular club is at the top of the list thanks to sheer numbers. Due to a P.E co-curricular being required, this one is chosen by most girls.

So, if you've got a new idea for a co-curricular club, talk to Ms Foster and see if you can get it on the timetable and into next year's Top 5. Good luck!

This year's school production was an incredibly popular club!



DID YOU KNOW?

You can help produce our next edition of SPark!

Check the new co-curricular timetable in September for more details

Celebration Time

By Viktoria Malabuyoc

I have been lucky enough to attend Prizegiving every year since Year 7 - and I can tell you that it is a wonderful experience that is exclusive to Stockport Academy. I've moved schools, and my previous school hardly ever celebrated academic, or co-curricular achievement (at least not to this extent.) There's something quite beautiful about knowing that you can celebrate your achievements and be recognised for them; I think it motivates many students as well to put in their best efforts to be a good student.



Prizegiving, however, isn't something we just throw together. Firstly, we had a rehearsal in the morning of the day to make sure things run smoothly and that students know their seats and when to prepare to go up on stage. We were advised to show up in non-uniform so someone at home would be perfecting our uniforms at home (thank you, tired mums and dads!) Some students would even be sporting our new uniform on the night!

Fast forward to the night itself. Being in Choir, I had arrived early, yet there was already an aura and atmosphere of excitement. I'm sure every person was sporting a grin ear to ear, which was honestly quite heartwarming. We spend too much time working and stressing and sometimes we forget to just live in the moment and smile with our family and friends!

Every year we have a guest speaker, and this year we had the honour of welcoming Chris Lubbe, inspirational speaker and former bodyguard of the renowned Nelson Mandela. He spoke about his struggles with education in his home country and his heartbreaking experiences. Mr Lubbe was treated poorly by many as in his home country, racism and colourism was still prominent at the time - he lived in a place where "education was a privilege, not a right". He enlightened us with an anecdote which entailed him collecting books from dumps, and eventually building an informal library in his home to spread knowledge in a place where knowledge was desperately held from him. His speech inspired me, I made a realisation that while sometimes school can be stressful and overwhelming, I am incredibly blessed to have the right to it - and we sometimes take it for granted.

We carried on with the list of names, prizes and awards. Everyone's hands grew sore from the celebratory applause, I'm sure of it. Likewise, the experience brings a smile to my face. I got treated by a strawberry freakshake at Creams, so I can't complain!

We are all extremely lucky to live somewhere wherein education is free, where you can be who you are, where no one can judge you by your skin colour or background, and most importantly, where your achievements are recognised and celebrated! I encourage you to take advantage of that and do something beautiful.

Quoted from Chris Lubbe's speech: "Be the change you want to see in the world."

Give A Few For A Tree Or Two

By Roxane Mole

On June 17th a non-uniform day was held to raise money for a charity, who has helped to combat and overcome desertification.

This is quite important because due to climate change and intensive farming, large areas of northern Africa are turning to desert. People are losing their livelihoods and homes as a result.

Doing this would help their environment by replanting the trees and plants lost by intensive farming and themselves as well because of the haul of food that would be created by just bring back the green.

For the non-uniform part of this day, we had to wear at least one piece of blue clothing. When I asked Geography Teacher Mrs Finley about this, she replied: "We choose the colour because blue represents the fact that trees store water and this helps overcome the problems of drought and provides people with a supply they need to live."



Choir On Tour

By Millie Capper and Abigail Yan

On the 5th of July, the choir travelled to the Hilton Hotel to perform for the Manchester Evening News Schools Awards to compete for the Secondary School Of The Year. Our school had made it down to the finals with only two other competitors, so they had their fingers crossed on the way.

They travelled by coach to Manchester where they were greeted with dozens of other schools and of course, Mrs McCann watched proudly in the crowd. They sang popular songs from The Greatest Showman such as 'A Million Dreams', 'Rewrite the Stars', and 'This Is Me'. Mrs McCann, Mrs Scullion and Mrs Appleby all clapped every time a song had finished. They looked so proud!

A student from Choir said: "It's such an honour and thrilling experience to be able to sing in front of other schools and show them how good we are!". All the schools had an expression of admiration as our soloists and choir sang beautifully.

On the 28th of June, the Choir was invited to perform at the United Learning 'Best In Everyone' (BiE) Awards at Cutlers Hall, Sheffield. Last year, the Choir won the BiE Award for 'Best Team', and this is the reason we were given the opportunity to perform at this year's event.

I thought the awards were great and I am pleased that the choir had the opportunity to take part in the ceremony! We have really shown how good our school is. After we had performed, we were given little pots of sweets to congratulate and thank us. Overall I think the night was amazing and I had lots of fun performing and it has upped my confidence.



Duke Of York

By Natalia Kraszkiewicz



The Duke of York is a technology-based club, testing your knowledge on things like animating, coding and editing and adding to that knowledge with facts, videos and lessons about the course of the given subject. It's not only for learning new skills and making friends, it's also a great addition to your CV. It could even make your future employer choose you over someone without this award.

The IDEA (Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award) programme aims to equip students with new digital and enterprise skills which can be used everywhere and anywhere; including in the library, on the bus, in your bedroom and even in the wild (if you have data on your phone)! This was also created to inspire students for picking their GCSE and future jobs. Duke of York was inspired itself by the popular programme called Duke of Edinburgh which is a major success.

It's a website that lets you earn rewards like badges depending how many tasks you do. The Duke of York hosted the launch in 2014 at Buckingham Palace. The website is designed to help students understand how important technology is in the future and how many possibilities there are when you learn a new skill. A few examples are: editing skills can be used in videos, changing bits and pieces of an important article for a newspaper or a paper to do for college or university. Business skills could also be used for companies and other purposes.

The club is filled with ambitious minds just like yourself and when you'll join this amazing club then not only will you have great opportunities but also make new friends to achieve your goals with.

Journey Into Journalism

By Abigail Yan and Viktoria Malabuyoc

Stockport Academy's budding journalists and Year 10 students were in for a treat. We were lucky enough to have Michael Crick - an esteemed journalist who previously worked for the likes of Channel 4 and BBC - come in and tell us all about his career.

He shared his tips on how to be a good journalist, and how to get started in the vast world of journalism. Michael mentioned how in his younger years, there weren't many opportunities within school to pursue journalism, and that the best way to start was through school clubs (like our very own SPARK!). He also touched on how nowadays we have post-graduate journalism courses, opening up new and exciting opportunities for our generation.

Mr John, who organised the visit, said: "It has been a fantastic opportunity to have Michael visit us as he is one of the best in the business, and the advice and experience he shared with our students was absolutely priceless.

Overall, the experience inspired us. Our glimpse into journalism has only fuelled our ambitions further!



Riveting Reading

By Bethany Flynn

One of Stockport Academy's English Teachers, Ms Land, has introduced a new reading system to the school. All the staff around school have put a notice on the door about what book they are currently reading, encouraging students to chat about said book to promote different books students might want to read. I spoke to Ms Land about this brilliant idea.

How did you come up with this idea?

Mrs Land: "I want to encourage students to read more, forming a stronger bond between the staff and their pupils. I think it's important for us to have a bond together."

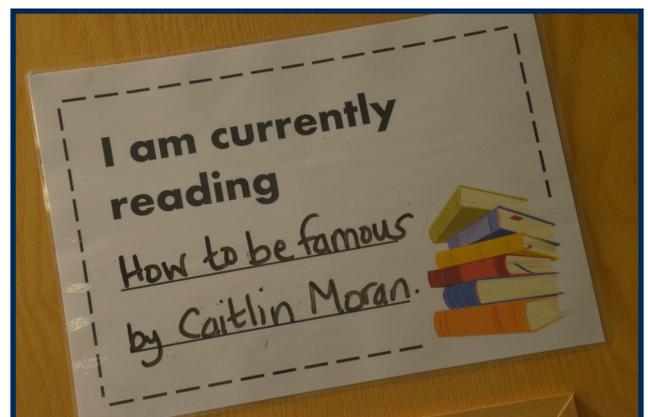
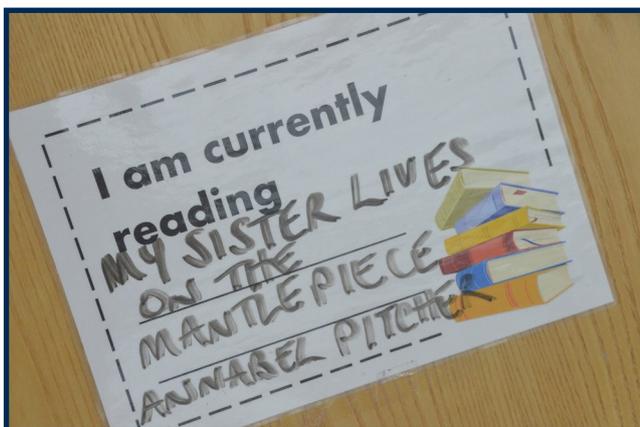
How much of an effect do you think this is having on the school? Has it encouraged students to read the books written on said signs?

Mrs Land: "A lot of students have come and spoken to me about what I am reading, and we have had lovely conversations together."

Do you think that this will have a positive effect on exams?

Mrs Land: "Yes! The more you read, the more language skills you develop, these will prove useful in your exams!"

English teachers Mrs Ludford and Mrs Cawsey were also asked about what their views were on these changes, when asked, they replied with: "We agree with Mrs Land, this change should prove useful with exams and open doors to a new relationship with staff and pupil."



Summer's Here!

By Millie Capper



When you think of Manchester, you think of the gloomy weather. However, in Summer, there's more chance of the sun brightening our day. I've compiled together a collection of activities or ideas to do over the Summer holidays that will ensure that your Summer will be epic!

Theme parks

There's plenty of fun to be had here! Near to Stockport, Gulliver's Theme Park and Blackpool Pleasure Beach both provide great entertainment for friends and family.

Going to the beach

It's an obvious choice, I know! But it really is a lot of fun! You can lay on the sand for a tan, make sandcastles or you can splash about in the sea. If there are any waves, you can even go bodyboarding or snorkelling! And you can even have a deliciously cold ice cream to cool down a bit.

Go to the park with your friends

This could be for some of the teenagers as we love to hang out with our friends and create laughable memories. If you're on the creative side, you can even try and do DIY summer mocktails/ drinks for a refreshing treat! Look at BuzzFeed recipes online for a creative way to freshen up your life.

Go to festivals

I'm sure you've heard of festivals such as Manchester Pride Weekend and the Caribbean Carnival. These festivals usually happen in the summer where you can laugh and have fun in the sun! Also, these festivals are usually celebrating something.

Outdoor activities

This could be biking, hiking or even skating. These obviously get you outside and you can do some wonderful exercise to burn off some calories. You can even finish the day with a soothing, cold ice cream to cool you down!

