

Issue 53
Summer/Autumn 2023



Stockport Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

The House Always Wins!



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... and much more!

Our brand new House System got off to a flying start after being introduced towards the end of the Summer Term.

Named after some of the world's highest mountains, Makalu, Lhotse, Sagarmatha and Annapurna are our school houses, with students and staff each allocated to one of the four teams.

The first house competition took place on Sports Day, while our newest Y7 students (pictured above) also got involved during Summer School in August.

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Principal's Message

With September upon us once again, I honestly believe there has never been a more exciting time to attend Stockport Academy.

We launched the concept of our new school house system towards the end of last term, with staff and students sorted into one of either Makalu, Lhotse, Sagarmatha or Annapurna, and from the start of this term, this will be fully embedded into our school culture, with competitions, prizes and - most importantly - opportunities to better ourselves both academically and as members of our community.

Our House System will be complemented by our new school mission statement - 'Creating Opportunity To Succeed', which truly embodies our critical aim here as educators -

giving our children the platform to thrive and become the best future versions of themselves.

This is further supported by the introduction of our new school values. We extensively consulted with families, staff and students when setting these out, and what we found was that you overwhelmingly valued 'Aspiration', 'Respect' and 'Community' as three fundamental building blocks of what a successful, happy, thriving school looks like.

But what does this mean?

WE HAVE ASPIRATION – this means we Value:

- Having determination and ambition to succeed
- Excellence in everything we do
- Being independent and taking pride in our achievements



WE ARE RESPECTFUL– this means we Value:

- Being kind in all our interactions with others
- Having integrity and making the right choices in our actions
- Having tolerance and valuing and celebrating our differences

WE ARE A COMMUNITY – this means we Value:

- Belonging to a group of aspirational peers
- Courage by doing the right thing even when nobody is watching
- Decency, by being polite, honest and trustworthy

I for one have never been more excited to start a term!



On Cloud 9 For GCSE Results

Students and staff celebrated their GCSE results in August, with students enjoying some significant success.

Amongst those celebrating – and who achieved the highest grade 9 – were:

- *Gavin Rajesh, who achieved six grade 9s and two grade 8s;*
- *Yugo Tsukagoshi, who achieved four grade 9s, two grade 8s, a Level 2 Distinction* and was awarded 100% in each of his maths papers, as well as 98% in Combined Science.*
- *Riya Lobo, who achieved two grade 9s, four grade 8s and three grade 7s;*
- *Isobel Hurst, who achieved one grade 9, five grade 8s, two grade 7s and a Level 2 Distinction*;*
- *Harvey Edwards, who achieved one Grade 9, six grade 8s and two grade 7s;*
- *Lydia Morris, who achieved one grade 9, one grade 8, one grade 8-8 in combined science, four grade 7s and one grade 6.*



Commenting on his success, Gavin said:

"I never thought I'd be in this position, and it feels kind of amazing. I really appreciate all my teachers, all the lessons I've had, my classmates, the lessons I've learned and I'm looking forward to going to college."

Yugo added:

"I've had a wonderful time here, and made loads of friends and unforgettable memories. I feel super happy with my results and am going to Ashton Sixth Form next to study A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and probably Maths!"



Congratulating the students, Principal Mrs McCann said:

"I am so very pleased for our students who are celebrating their success today. Exams have been marked and graded this year in line with pre-pandemic standards and we are delighted that our students have done themselves justice.

"Their hard work, determination and resilience are to be applauded and it has been lovely today to see students celebrating with each other and with their teachers as they've opened their results. With these qualifications under their belts, we look forward to our students taking up places in local Sixth Forms or entering the workplace through apprenticeships."



Out Of This World

Year 10 Science students had the chance to deepen their understanding of the universe during a trip to Jodrell Bank in May. They spent the day visiting the famous observatory, where they learnt about the technology that powers it, before watching a thrilling presentation on the history of the Universe in the planetarium. Activities on the day greatly

helped to support what they have been learning in the classroom, as they discovered how the observatory takes readings and what its research means to our understanding of the Universe. They also learnt about the history of Jodrell Bank and its influence on the cold war, with students receiving insight to take back to the classroom.

Science Teacher Mr Cox, who organised the visit, said: "Our students had a phenomenal time and it was a great experience for them to explore this site, which means so much to the study of space in our country. "They were thoroughly engaged, asked lots of questions and learned lots to help them in their studies."



In The Driving Seat

In May, a group of our Year 7s found out exactly what it takes to carve out a career in the motorsport industry after spending the day at a special event organised by Manchester United Foundation. The aim of the day was to inspire students to pursue their interests in STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) subjects, with motorsport used as a prime

example of the type of pathway they can follow to achieve their dreams. As part of the day, the group had the opportunity to take part in a karting experience, undergo a pitstop challenge and were even interviewed by Sky Sports F1 presenter Natalie Pinkham. MUF Partnership Officer Mr Bramley said: "Today has been a real eye-opener for our students in terms of

broadening their horizons and getting them thinking about how they can transfer the knowledge and skills from the classroom into an exciting career in the future. "Everyone has had a brilliant time and it is hopefully an experience they will keep with them for a very long time."



An Unforgettable Trip To Poland

Some of our Year 10 students visited Poland as part of their History GCSE work, learning all about the local area, its culture and recent past.

After arriving in Krakow on their first day, the group explored the city as part of a walking tour, taking in the sights of the Old Town along the way.

On their second day, they boarded a coach for the journey to Auschwitz-Birkenau, to learn first-hand about the role it played in the Holocaust during World War 2.

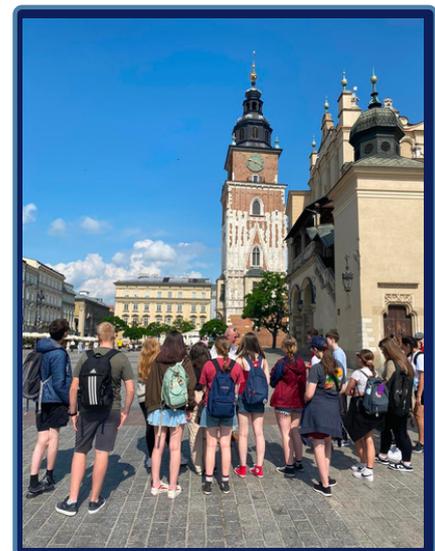
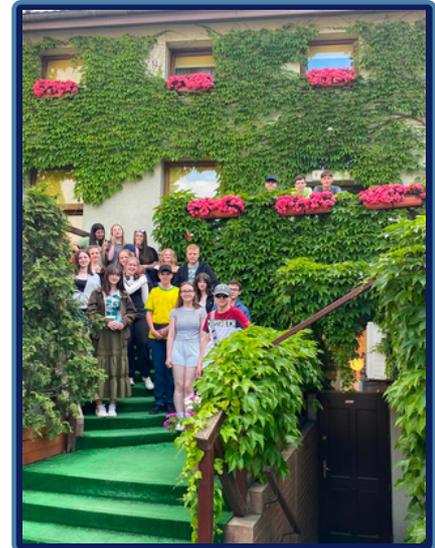
Students were incredibly considerate throughout the visit, and tour guides even commented on their exemplary conduct as they paid their respects.

In the evening, they let their hair down with a spot of bowling and a meal together.

On the final day, the group spent more time exploring Old Town before visiting the Wieliczka Salt Mines, capturing some breathtaking sights before beginning their journey back to Stockport Academy.

Head of History Ms Reed said: "This trip was an unforgettable experience and we have all learned so much in a relatively short space of time!

"Our students have been an absolute credit to the school throughout and it has been a pleasure to travel with them. They all loved the opportunity to broaden their horizons in another country and I am sure it is something that will stay with them for a very long time."



The Write Approach



Award-winning author Phil Earle spent a morning with us to deliver a series of workshops for students interested in developing their own creative writing talents.

The sessions, which Years 7-9 were invited to sign up for, focused on everything from the research process

behind writing fiction, how to find inspiration, and how to develop your characters. Phil also read excerpts from his novel 'While The Storm Rages', which is based on a true story of a young boy attempting a heroic rescue of people's pets during the start of the Second World War.

At the end of each workshop, students had the opportunity to ask their own questions, which ranged from how much a writer can expect to earn, to what Phil's own favourite book is and what genres would he

like to explore further and why.

Before he left, Phil enjoyed lunch with Year 10 students – including many of our student librarians – who were delighted to have the chance to ask first-hand about writing and publishing as a career path.

Literacy Lead Mrs Cawsey said: "It has been an honour and a privilege to welcome such an esteemed writer into school today and I would like to thank Phil for sharing his incredible knowledge and experience."

Summing Up

Year 5 students enjoyed a morning of Maths magic in July after competing in our inaugural Primary Maths Tournament.

Teams from Alexandra Park, Cheadle Heath, Lark Hill, St Matthews and Meadowbank Primary Schools put their skills to the test over three rounds. In the end, it was St Matthews who came out victorious and were rewarded with the trophy, which will remain on

show in our reception ready for next year's challengers.

Our Lead Numeracy Practitioner, Ms O'Brien, who organised the event, said: "It has been brilliant fun to welcome the Year 5s into school to compete in our Maths Tournament and they gave an absolutely fantastic account of themselves.

"Congratulations to St Matthews, and to all teams who participated – the standard of competition was exceptional

throughout every year group – encouraging a passion for reading is an important part of every child's education and I am pleased to say that this passion is in abundance at Stockport Academy!"



Sports Day

Our Sports Day took place in its new format in July – with students competing to win points for their new houses for the first time ever.

Having been sorted into either Makalu, Lhotse, Sagarmatha or Annapurna, students braved wet weather to take part in several track and field events including shot putt, javelin and relay races.

Staff, who have also been sorted into the four houses, donned their house tshirts to cheer them on.

After a closely-fought battle throughout, the first ever Sports Day House Cup was awarded to Annapurna, who have had their name engraved on the trophy and will be displayed proudly in our reception area.

Mr McGahey, Head of PE, said: “We had a brilliant day and the inclusion of our school houses added an extra edge to the competition that everyone enjoyed.

“I would like to congratulate all of those who participated and also thank those cheered on their classmates – the atmosphere was electric and it was great to be part of the inaugural House Cup.”



Performance Awards

Our annual Performance Awards were held for the first time in four years in June, with almost 100 trophies handed out on the night.

Prizes focused on Performing Arts and sporting subjects, with several honours for achievements in our leadership groups also being handed out.

Categories included best performers in a variety of sports across all year groups,

as well as Drama King/Queen, Best Musicians and the Elliott Champion Award, which has traditionally been presented to the best Dance student in memory of one of the school’s alumni who had a particular passion for the subject.

Our Chair of Governors, Mr David Robinson, was the guest speaker for the night, sharing a story of his own experience in building a successful business, which demonstrated the

importance of how leadership skills and resilience can contribute to wider success after completing full-time education.



Prizegiving

We ended the year on a high with our annual prizegiving ceremony at Stockport Plaza.

Over 220 trophies were presented on the night, celebrating everything from attainment and effort in form groups, to Leadership, Maths and Literacy awards, plus many more.

They were all presented by our guest speaker Megan Giglia MBE, who spoke to the audience, which included students, staff, families and governors, about her own journey against adversity to become a Paralympic champion. Seven of our Year 11s received either a laptop or iPad in recognition of them achieving five years of 100% attendance during their time with us, while another highlight was our Chair of Governors Mr Robinson presenting the Governors' Award, which was based upon nominations for our students from parents and family members.

Year 6 students from Cheadle Heath, Alexandra Park and Lark Hill Primaries were also involved, receiving trophies in recognition of their achievements in the Junior Maths Challenge – a national Maths competition that was held in Stockport Academy earlier in the year.

Principal Mrs McCann said: "It is always a pleasure to hold our annual prizegiving ceremony at Stockport Plaza to see our community turn out in force to celebrate our students.

"It has been another year of many successes and I hope that it has left everyone involved with memories that will last for years to come."



Summer School Success For Year 7

Our New Year 7s got off to a flying start ahead of officially enrolling in September, thanks to four days of action-packed activities at our Summer School.

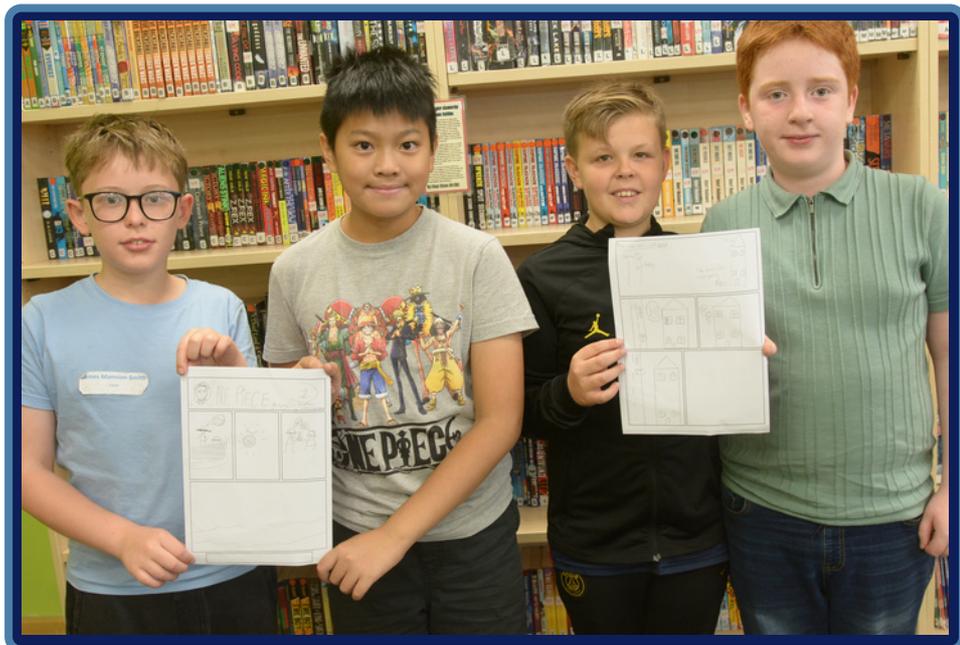
The event, which was held exclusively for our new cohort to help them meet new friends and learn more about life as a Stockport Academy student, followed on from our hugely popular Easter School earlier in the year.

Students were sorted into their brand-new houses - Makalu, Lhotse, Sagarmatha and Annapurna - before getting involved in a wide range of sessions that included clay modelling, story writing, comic making and various sports.

They also had the chance to make their own rockets out of recycled materials, before testing out how well they launched on the final day.

Students were awarded house points throughout Summer School, with running updates on who was in the lead provided at the end of each day. This culminated in a special 'House Olympics' event on the final day, with our new Year 7s cheering on their teammates to bring house championship home.

Sagarmatha were eventually crowned winners, which brought the week's events to a close. Assistant Principal Mrs Milnes said: "Our school's mission statement is to create 'Opportunities to Succeed', and the platform our Summer School has provided to our new Year 7s to give them the best possible start to their time with us is the perfect example of supporting this. "We have had a fantastic week with this outstanding group of young people, and we can't wait for them to join us properly at the start of term."



A Term In Tweets

Alexandra Park Primary School Stockport @AlexPark1912 · Jul 11
What a wonderful day! Thank you so very much @sptacademy for being brilliant hosts for our end of year Oscars celebrations.

Stockport Academy @sptacademy · Jul 11
Proud to support @alexpark1912 by hosting their end of year Oscars in our Main Hall today.

It's been lovely to be part of their special day and celebrate with such polite and well-behaved pupils. Well done everyone!



Shanique Harris @GeogShanique · Jul 6
Thank you @sptacademy for joining us online earlier this week to hear from career professionals #whatdogeographersactuallydo @RGS_IBGSchools

Stockport Academy @sptacademy · Jul 4
Today our Y8s joined an online session from @RGS_IBG to explore the question: 'what do geographers actually do?'

They heard from 5 geography professionals, from a range of sectors, who spoke about their role and their journey as a geographer 🌍

#EducationWithCharacter



Navendu Mishra @NavPMishra · Jul 12
It was absolute pleasure to host @sptacademy's School Council last week in the Palace of Westminster.

Lots of good questions about politics, Parliament and more!



Cheadle Heath Pri @CHPSchool · Jul 18
Our Y5 mathematicians thoroughly enjoyed the @sptacademy Primary Maths Tournament. Although we didn't lift the trophy, our team participated with determination & enthusiasm. #aspirebelieveachieve #partnership



VIADUCT VIDEO @ViaductVideo · Jul 13
Thursday night's photography duty at the Plaza Theatre for the @sptacademy annual prize giving. #lovewhatyoudo #stockport



Samantha Phillis @CherubMamma · Jun 29
This pic of my middle son photo bombing the staff photo at prom is everything 😂 pretty much sums him up @sptacademy such joy I love it (& him 😊)



Term Dates and Contact Details

Autumn 2023

6th Sept - 20th Oct
All students in

23rd Oct - 27th Oct
Half Term

30th Oct - 20th Dec
All students in
(early closure on last day)

24th November
INSET - School closed

21st Dec - 5th Jan
Christmas

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Year 8 - Ms James - danielle.james@stockport-academy.org
Year 9 - Mrs McCann - linda.mccann@stockport-academy.org
Year 10 - Ms Porter - sarah.porter@stockport-academy.org
Year 11 - Ms Bickerton - lynn.bickerton@stockport-academy.org





Stockport Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Open Evening

Wednesday 4th October
5-7pm

"Creating Opportunity To Succeed"



Makalu



Lhotse



Sagarmatha



Annapurna

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