

Issue 55
Spring 2024



Stockport Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Egg-cellent Year 7s!



In this issue...

- Young Enterprise
- Kingswood Residential
- British Science Week
- Manchester Museum Takeover

... and much more!

Our newest cohort of students had their first taste of life at Stockport Academy over the school holidays, with over 100 Year 6 pupils spending four days with us for our Easter School.

Read all about it on page 10!

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Principal's Message

I am absolutely delighted to share the latest edition of our termly newsletter with you, which captures just a snapshot of the many achievements and successes of our school since the start of 2024 up to the Easter Break.

I am especially proud of our co-curricular groups who have been recognised on both national and regional stages recently, with our Innovate Club (page 7) being recognised for their creative plastic recycling project at the V&A Innovate Awards in London, while our Young Enterprise Club (page 3) also picked up not one but TWO prizes at the YE Finals.

On an individual level, we also saw one of our Year 7s receive national recognition in the Show Racism The Red Cart artwork competition (page 3) - this is a contest that we are proud to have won on several occasions

over the years - a perfect example of our school value of RESPECT being put into practice.

Touching on another of our school values, it was great to meet a large proportion of our new Year 7s due to start in September at our Easter School and welcome them to our COMMUNITY. I was equally impressed and humbled by their enthusiasm for getting started on their journey with us and a reminder of just how fortunate we are as educators to have the opportunity to work with young people who have such a passion for personal growth and development.

Also covered in this newsletter is our current Year 7s recent residential visit to Kingswood - three days spent in North Wales encouraging students to step outside of their comfort zones, make new friendships and learn new



skills - something they absolutely thrived at during their time away.

Finally, I wanted to congratulate our Year 11s on their dedication to their GCSE preparations over the last few months. They have been working meticulously to make every lesson count and our Gain A Grade programme has been hugely successful in supporting this.

Wishing you all the best of luck as we reach this critical point of your school career - hard work always pays off and I am in no doubt that come Results Day you will be reaping the rewards of this.



Young Enterprise Do The Double!

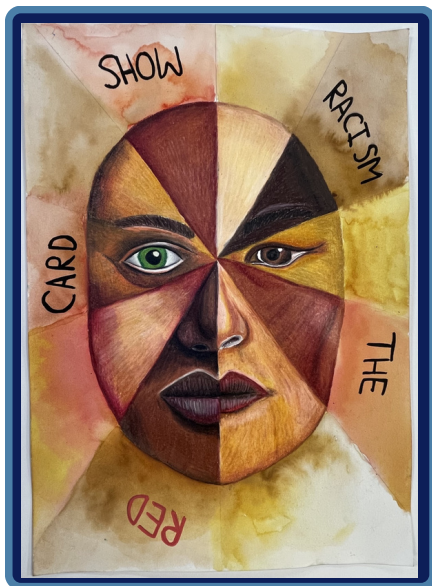
Our Young Enterprise Group came away with two honours at the competitions regional finals. The Year 10 entrepreneurs involved in the programme competed against other students in Years 10 and 12. Teams were judged on a business report, team interview, presentation and trade stand. Their business, 'Build a Bracelet', was recognised for delivering an exceptional presentation to the large audience with humour and amazing self-confidence - picking up the award for Best Presentation. They were then awarded the prestigious Catherine Ositelu Award,

voted for by teachers of all schools present in the memory of a dedicated Business and Enterprise teacher from Withington Girls School. Our Lead for Enterprise, Mr Lewis said: "Wow, an amazing event! Despite being amongst the youngest participants, our Year 10 students not only held their own but absolutely excelled in a high-pressure situation. "They were rightfully recognised for their hard-work, determination and amazing presentation skills. It was a spine-tingling event and will be remembered by our young

entrepreneurs for the rest of their lives. Well done team – I am incredibly proud of each and everyone one of you!"



Showing Racism The Red Card



We are delighted to share the news that Freya Pugsley (Year 7) has been selected as the winner of Show Racism the Red Card's Year 7-9 Artwork category competition! Her inspiring piece of art will be used in the charity's 2025 calendar, and will be part of a powerful tool for spreading the messages of inclusion and togetherness. Show Racism the Red Card is an anti-racism educational charity which works to challenge racism through empowering people to dismantle

racism in society. One of the main ways that they achieve this is through encouraging young people to take part in activities and competitions to learn more about racism and help the raise awareness among their peers. Miss Higgins, Head of Art and DT, said "We are so proud of Freya and her achievement! It is amazing that she has been selected out of all of the other students in the country – some of which are 2 years older! She is an excellent artist, and we are so thrilled for her. Well done, Freya!"





A Residential To Remember

Over the course of three exhilarating days, over 100 eager Year 7 students embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Kingswood in North Wales.

Over the course of three exhilarating days, more than 100 eager Year 7 students embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Kingswood. Nestled amidst the picturesque landscapes of North Wales, the journey was filled with excitement and camaraderie as students delved into an array of thrilling activities.

From conquering the heights of Jacobs Ladder to navigating through the intricate challenges of low ropes, students embraced the spirit of adventure and teamwork.

Each activity, meticulously designed to foster teamwork, problem-solving skills and resilience, provided a platform for students to push their boundaries and discover their inner strengths. The wilderness became their classroom as students engaged in bushcraft shelter building, learning essential survival skills while fostering a deep appreciation for nature. Creativity and ingenuity took center stage during the Buggy Build and Scrapheap Challenge, where students showcased their ability to innovate and collaborate under pressure.

As the sun dipped below the horizon, the evening came alive with the crackling warmth of a campfire.

Gathered around the flickering flames, students shared stories, laughter, and toasted marshmallows, forging bonds that will last a lifetime.

Transition Lead Ms Foster, who organised the visit, said: "We had a fantastic few days and it was so rewarding to see students grow in confidence throughout the trip. Kingswood has become a rite of passage over the last few years and once again this year did not disappoint."



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British Science Week Bangers

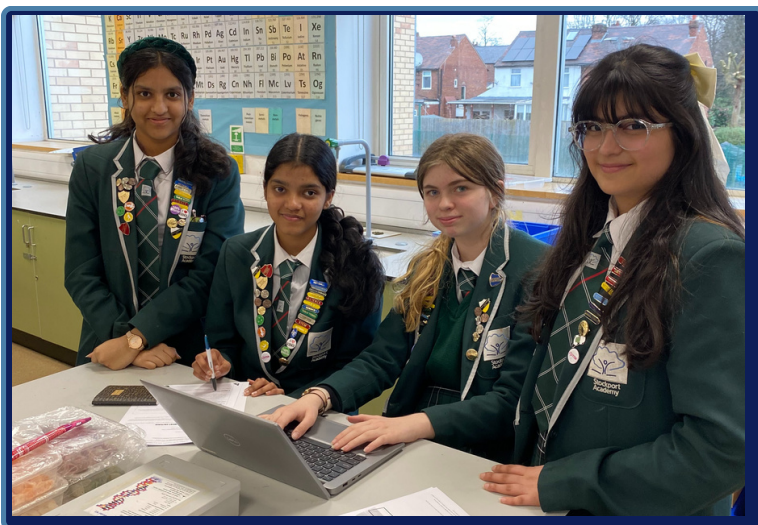
We celebrated this year's British Science Week with a series of activities based around the topic of 'Time'.

Among the highlights were a number of after-school clubs that delved into this year's theme, inviting students to explore its mysteries through various scientific lenses.

One standout activity involved harnessing physics skills to construct a timed marble run, where students applied principles of gravity, momentum, and friction to design intricate pathways. Another thought-provoking session saw a spirited debate titled 'Does Now Exist?', challenging students to contemplate the concept of time from philosophical and scientific perspectives.

The culmination of the week was a spectacular Science Show orchestrated by our Head of Science Mrs. Staniforth and Mr. Cox, which mesmerised over a hundred Year 5 pupils from Cale Green, Lark Hill and St Matthews primary schools. With captivating demonstrations such as 'Elephant's Toothpaste' and 'Many Drinks from One Bottle', the show certainly went down as a hit!

Mrs Staniforth said: "British Science Week is our opportunity to really captivate the imagination of our students and I would like to thank our Science Department for putting on a wide range of activities that really succeeded in achieving this. "We loved welcoming the primary school pupils to our Science Show, and I hope they enjoyed it as much as we did!"



National Award For Innovate Club

Our Innovate Club triumphed at the recent national V&A Innovate Awards held in London. After reaching the final 10 of the competition - beating hundreds of schools in the process, the group of four students secured an honorary award for progressive/iterative design. Their innovation was a tiddlywinks game fashioned entirely from recycled materials, showcasing their dedication to sustainability. One of the most notable features of their project was the use of recycled bottle caps to create the tiddlywinks, demonstrating creativity and eco-consciousness in equal measure. This unique approach garnered particular attention from judges on the day. The journey to London was an adventure in itself, with students and teachers embarking on a day trip by train. Excitement filled the air as they made their way to the capital city, prepared to present their project to a panel of judges. Throughout the day, students not only pitched their project but also had the chance to participate in various workshops, including 'Create a Zine' and ceramics work. Mrs Shahlavi, who runs our Innovate Club, said:

"The recognition received at the V&A Innovate Awards not only celebrates the hard work and dedication of the girls involved, but also underscores our commitment as a school to fostering creativity and sustainability among our students - reflecting our school values of Aspiration, Respect and Community. "I am so proud of what they have achieved - they were an absolute credit to themselves and Stockport Academy."





An Entertaining Enterprise Day

Our Year 7 students were tasked with running their own professional artisan craft company as part of their recent Enterprise Day.

The whole year group spent the day working in teams to complete various tasks designed to emulate the running of a business – from applying for a bank loan from our own Stockport Academy Bank, to purchasing equipment and developing a number of products to go to market.

Students also had to negotiate contracts with retailers in order to sell their products before finally presenting their company to the rest of the cohort, with various prizes awarded at the end of the day in recognition of different achievements.

The most successful company generated over £6,800 in revenue – which was a fantastic result!

Mr Lewis, who organised the day, said: “I am extremely proud of the way in which our Year 7 entrepreneurs engaged in this day – from the off, right through to the presentations at the end, the students worked incredibly hard whilst developing their essential Future Me skills. Well done Year 7!”



Liverpool Cathedral Visit

Our Year 10 Religious Studies students journeyed to Liverpool to visit both Cathedrals and learn more about what Christian worship is like in practice.

After studying Christian beliefs, teachings and practices as part of their Religious Studies GCSE, they had an opportunity to explore two religious buildings and discuss Christianity with expert tour guides.

The first stop was Liverpool Cathedral, where our students split into groups to tour the

building and learn about its history.

After a lunch break, and a browse in the Cathedral shop, our students moved onto the second stop: Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral (of Christ the King) to see how Catholic worship compared to Anglican worship.

Ms Dowell, who organised the trip, said: "Our students represented themselves and the school very well – they got involved in the activities, they answered questions, and they showed a natural curiosity for

Religious Studies through asking brilliant questions, too. One tour guide even said that they were his favourite group to date!".

Year 10 have now moved on to studying Islamic beliefs, and will be visiting Manchester Central Mosque in April.



Manchester Museum Takeover

A group of our Year 10s spent the day finding out what it would be like to run one of Manchester's most popular tourist attractions as part of National Careers Week. Students attended the Manchester Museum's first ever Careers Takeover Day, with the site opening for a museum careers showcase - offering the opportunity to find out more about the many jobs that are involved in

running the attraction.

The group spoke with several members of staff about roles covering areas including conservation, curation, marketing and design.

Business Teacher Mr Lewis said: "Today was a unique chance to find out first-hand about some of the career pathways students can explore in the tourism and conservation sectors. Our students really made the most of the day - asking lots of questions

and everyone really enjoyed themselves."





An Egg-cellent Start!

Our newest cohort of students had their first taste of life at Stockport Academy over the school holidays, with over 100 Year 6 pupils spending four days with us for our Easter School.

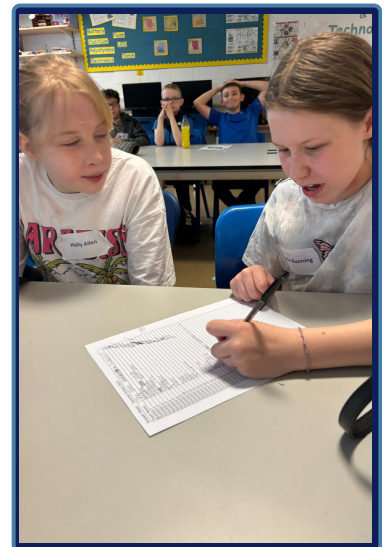
Our Transition Team created a programme of activities designed to support students in making new friends, finding their way around the building and getting a feel for our House System and school values of Aspiration, Respect and Community.

Among the highlights was a treasure hunt, where students had to race around the school to search for hidden miniature rubber ducks while answering questions about the school day by interacting with members of staff along the way. They also had a go at making their own lunches one day, while everyone was treated to a pizza dinner for another.

Other popular activities included Mr Farquhar's Challenge Club and Ms Higgins' mug-making workshop, while Mr Allan led a comic creation session.

Speaking about their experience, one student said: "All the teachers are really kind, I love this school!" Ms Stirling, who organised the event, said: "Easter School has been the perfect introduction to our new students, who have blown us away with their positive attitudes and approach to starting this new chapter of their educations.

"It has been a brilliant experience for all of us to meet them, and we can't wait to get to know them even better over the coming months!"



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A Term In Tweets



Stockport Academy @sptacademy · Mar 23
A double win for our @YoungEnterprise team this week! 🏆🏆

Students came home with the best presentation gong and the prestigious Catherine Ositelu Teachers Award 🙌

Read all about it on our website: buff.ly/3Twr9LG

#OpportunityToSucceed

Stockport Academy @sptacademy · Mar 11
🔥 We won!! 🎉

Huge congratulations to our Y7 student Freya who has won the national @srtc_England artwork competition for this fantastic entry 🙌

What a talent and what an achievement!

#OpportunityToSucceed

Stockport Academy @sptacademy · Mar 18

It's been great seeing so many happy faces of our new Year 7s since National Offer Day!

We can't wait to meet you at our Easter School in a couple of weeks! 🌟

#OpportunityToSucceed

Stockport Academy @sptacademy · Mar 22

Throwback to earlier this week - National Success for our Innovate Club! 🙌

Read all about their @v_and_a honorary award on our website: buff.ly/3Ts0QX2

#OpportunityToSucceed

Stockport Academy @sptacademy · Feb 9

Our #MentalHealth team have been working so hard this week to raise awareness of #ChildrensMentalHealthWeek - signposting supporting and reintroducing our daily #wellbeing drop-in!

#OpportunityToSucceed





Term Dates and Contact Details

Summer 2024

15th Apr - 24th May
All students in

6th May
Bank Holiday - School Closed

27th May - 31st May
Bank Holiday and Half Term

3rd June - 19th July
All students in

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- Mrs Shaw - sarah.shaw@stockport-academy.org
 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

