

## Eco Bricks - A Change For The Better

By Thomas Jackson



Climate Change. Global Warming. Pollution. The Planet is dying. This is unmissable and obvious. The Global Panel of Climate Change predicts that wildfires are increasing and millions of species are on the verge of extinction. Up to 90 percent of coral reefs will disappear within the next few years.

However, millions of schools across the world (including Stockport Academy) are coming together to help the situation with a universal idea. Eco bricks. Plastic bottles filled with plastic wrappers create something quite artistic. But this is no art project. Furniture, tables and appliances are being built out of eco bricks to save the planet and spare our resources.

Thanks to this project, rubbish is no longer being thrown into the sea, yet being thrown into bottles that help us build and save money in our schools. But how did the project enter our school? To answer this question I had to speak to the head of the Eco Council, Science Teacher, Mrs McNulty.

### **How did the idea come into school?**

"There were no recycling bins in school, so we wanted to do that, but the idea was thought up by Geography teacher, Mrs Finley!"

### **What do you want to build with the eco bricks?**

"Eventually, a bench, but we need as many as possible."

### **So how can students join Eco Council?**

"Come and speak to me on Fridays period six."

### **Finally, what does the future hold for Eco Council?**

"We've been doing plastic, paper will be next."

So there it is, how the amazing idea came out, what will be built and what we can expect for the future!

# Poppy Drop

By Kaitlynn Diamond

11 o'clock, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November, all students of Stockport Academy gathered in the atrium for this year's Poppy Drop. Opened by Mr. McCarron, we had a former student (Shaun Brady) perform a beautiful piece of music on the saxophone, followed by Rev Mike Newman reading an act of remembrance.

Students of local scout and cadet groups proudly wore their uniforms, with the exclusive view up above the atrium. Then, Head Boy Sam read out the Kohima Epitaph. Then, Belle, a Year 9 student, sang the National Anthem. Special guest Ray Withenall then shared his truly amazing story.

The whole reasoning behind this day was to remember the fallen soldiers from all wars and their sacrifices. To show our respect to everyone who served in the war, we also stood in a two minute silence and we all thanked what we have today. Some of us realised how fortunate we are, and something we all took from the day was not to take everything for granted.



As many as 250,000 boys under the age of 18 served in the British Army during World War One. Children even as young as 12 fought in wars. 75 MILLION soldiers died in WW2 alone. Not only that, but 20 MILLION died in WW1. Combined, that's 95 MILLION soldiers who died for us.

We must remember them.

## How To Improve Your Reading Age By Daniel Kuchnik



In school you will have a reading age that will be based on how you did in your reading test.

You can improve your reading age in multiple ways. My favourite way is when you ever have an opportunity to read in class. If you cannot read a word, the teacher will help you learn it. This is helpful as next time you come to a reading test you will be able to understand more of the words in the questions.

Another method to get a better reading age is by going to library and getting a book, which has your challenge colour; because this will challenge you and help you learn harder words.

Finally, go back home and practice your reading just like in the library. Also try and write a short story with the words you learnt because it will show you how much you have improved, and it could show you guidance in where you must go next in your work.

I believe that you can do it as anyone can do anything when they try. Also practice makes perfect and that goes with everything you do. For some final words of courage do not let yourself down when you cannot do something as you are your own worst critic.

# Stockport Academy Manga Club

By Ted Burke

The wide range of genres within the Hub's shelves vary from GCSE textbooks to poems and, of course, manga. As a school we are very lucky to possess all this literature because there aren't many schools that have a manga section.

The Hub has many famous franchises such as One Piece - the bestselling manga series ever. Everyone is a fan of something, so Stockport Academy has its very own Manga Club after school on a Thursday P6.

## Why Should You Sign Up?

If you already enjoy manga, then this is the perfect place for you- however even if you aren't familiar with manga but are thinking about getting into it, then this club would be a great place to start. Everyone at this club would be happy to recommend you a manga to read.

## What Do We Do?

This is a commonly asked question about manga club, people think we just sit around and read manga for fifty minutes however there is so much more to it. We not only read manga, we talk about it and we are even drawing and writing our own manga.

## Why Was Manga Club Started?

Mr Clarke [the school librarian] said he decided to start manga club because he noticed how many people love and enjoy manga. "It's a place where people can talk about what they love," said Mr Clarke.

## How Do We Make Our Own Manga?

When we make our manga, we take inspiration from such legends as Masashi Kishimoto [the author of Naruto], by looking at the art and sketches we can alter it to our design. When we have finished our manga, we might even be able to put them on the library shelves or even sell them!



# Why I ❤️ Art

By Rowan Fletcher



Year 7 Art is my favourite thing to do at Stockport Academy. Miss Riley is the best and she also teaches Design and Technology.

Art is the best way to calm down and relax. It's like reading a book but better! We have four teachers that do Art.

Art helps with your wellbeing. In Art, you make projects and design your ideas. Miss Riley said on my first day in Art that there are plenty of things to do in the subject.

The classroom that I'm in is the best room ever because it's a nice environment. Miss Riley says students can express their creative side and she also said to be creative, as this allows students to express themselves and try their

# Loving The Library

By Daniel Evans



The library is a nice place to do homework as it is open in the morning, break, lunch and after school. There are many different types of books like: the legend of Zelda, Naruto and DragonBall; that bit is in the section of manga section of the library.

There are not just reading books there is chess, computers (homework only thought). All you must do is sign in in the morning (pre-am reg), you don't have to at break, you do at lunch (pre-pm reg) and after school you don't have to sign in.

One student from Year 7 said: "The library is an amazing place where students can read their books or do some of their homework."

One Year 11 said "It's a great place to revise for tests, homework and it's just a great place to hang out with your friends".

Some favourite books are: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime; Hunger Games and Private Peaceful.

In the library there are a total of 36 chairs, 2 long comfy settees, 2 box settees which have tonnes of room for reading. But if reading isn't your thing then there is a total of 14 computers for homework.

If you want to get rewards for reading there is a section called 'Books to read before you're 15' which you have to read while you are at the Academy and then you must write a conclusion about the book. In your conclusion you have to put who the main character is, what happened in each chapter, and what your favourite part if the book. When read and the conclusion is done you will have to give int to Mr Clark who is the librarian.

## Project Potter

By Thomas Jackson

The first art project of the year has come and gone, and for Year 8s, it was a Harry Potter themed sculpture. And how fun it was! There were so many amazing entries, as this was a competition. The ins and outs were that the project could be made from paper-mâché, if you wanted a challenge. Salt dough, for a risky idea, or mixed materials which meant that anything can be made and allowed for full creative reign. And entries have been pouring in by the hundreds and Miss Sterling has been left both overwhelmed by who should win ultimately. But no one is worried, there is a lot to choose from.

The reason I love these projects is because they promote creativity. It is fun, innovative, and helps us understand just how far creativity can take you. The only limit is that it's a poster about Harry Potter, and it's not just the projects, the class work too. With anything to do with art, the sky's the limit, that's why everybody should be trying their hardest in lessons and competitions such as this, good luck, and may the best artist win!



# Maths Club Magic

By Daniel Kuchnik

No matter how good you are, this club still can be good for you to improve your Maths and challenge yourself!

## What you do in Maths Club

In Maths Club, you do a lot of maths games and quizzes. For example, you might do a division maze where you do division sums to work what do next. Also, you might do something where you work out a sum that can be about multiple things, when you have worked this out you get a letter and by the end you should have a full sentence.



## Why you should join

This club is fun, and it can really help you improve because sometimes you can learn stuff that other people in your class- who do not go to this club- would not. Not only that you can have other students in the club help you with questions that you may get stuck on.

## What room?

The room number is 218, a quick way to get there from the ground floor to there is the stairs next to the place where you wait to go get your food. Also, the person who runs this club is Mr Crouch; in my opinion he is very supportive, and he tries to get you to the place where you should be in maths.

## What day?

This club happens on a Wednesday every week, of course if it is a school week, and it does not really get in way of other clubs and I would say that this club should be one of the clubs you want to join.

# Sounds Of Steel Band

By Kaitlynn Diamond

There are over 50 co-curricular clubs available here at Stockport Academy, and the Steel Band is one of them. A unique and very amazing club, I doubt you'll find it any other place! So, here's some more information...

## When is it on and who runs it?

Run by music teachers, Mr Unwin and Ms Stephenson, Period six, after school every Tuesday, the steel band is open to all years and is hosted on the balcony.

## Interview with club attenders!

Weekly attender Gracie-Mae Kenyon had many great things to say about the club. Gracie said: "The Steel Band is a brilliant co-curricular club and I thoroughly enjoy it! I really recommend this for everyone if you have a chance!"

It isn't every day you get to play some steel drums, but at least you can do so once every week. Remember – Tuesday, P6, Balcony. I'm sure the organisers will be so excited to see new attenders!



# Looking Forward To Kingswood 2020

By Daniel Evans

At the start of Year 7, all students were asked if we would like to attend the annual residential trip to Kingswood.

Here are some pros of going: Learning some new skills you may not have had before, experiencing new things, making new friends and building confidence and self-esteem.



## What do you need to do to go?

- *Less than five behaviour points*
- *High attendance (95% or more)*
- *No BFL*
- *Meet the co-curricular terms (2 clubs a week including 1 PE club)*

## What will I do at Kingswood?

You might do: the zip wire, raft building, archery, fencing, the big swing, night walk, obstacle course and many more. What is the night walk? It is a small obstacle course where you're blind folded and you have to work as a team to get through the course.

One student said: "I'm really excited about the trip and I can't wait to go and do all the amazing activities that we will be doing, but I'm a bit scared to do the leap of faith but I'm going to give it a go."

Miss Foster said: "We will be leaving the school at about 11:00. While we are there we will be focusing on key skills like: determination, confidence, bravery and much, much more."

Everyone who is attending the trip are very excited to go to Kingswood to do all the fun activities.

# Centre Stage Auditions

By Ethan Chilvers

On Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> November Miss Keough held the Centre Stage auditions for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. Centre Stage is Stockport Academy's theatre company that partakes in shows such as the Christmas Showcase and the Performing Arts Showcase.

It is a very popular club that only allows a few individuals in from each year. Every person, to get into Centre Stage, has the choice to either act solo or in a group in a 1 to 2-minute sketch.

Centre Stage performed in Stockport Academy's Christmas show with their 'Christmas Remembrance'.

25 lucky individuals were accepted into Centre Stage.

Ms Keough told me: "I thought the auditions were very good! We had a high number of very talented students. It was impressive how many of them produced their own monologues. Centre Stage will build students' confidence and build their imagination. It will also help to improve their communication skills and their leadership skills when working with others."



# Top Five Things To Do In The Lunch Queue

By Daniel Kuchnik

Waiting in line could get boring but if you use my tips you will never be bored in line again with these top tips!

**First**, you should always try to get in line with your friends, so you can chat together about anything you want, maybe talk about how class was or what's your next lesson. Also, you get line with your friends then you can get food at the same time; then you can eat at the same time.

**Secondly**, if you want to be sneaky then you might be able to do brush up on your revision in line ready for your next lesson. So, this isn't just a waiting line tip this also a classroom tip.

**Thirdly**, think about your own life and what you can do to enjoy it. So technically speaking you should reflect on your actions and consequences. This can help speed up time or maybe slow down time a bit in a helpful way.

**Number Four on the list** - just think about what you want to eat tonight or what you want to eat for lunch in school. I know this can make you hungrier but that doesn't matter at least you're not getting bored.

**Finally**, play some games like rock paper scissors with your friends which relates back to the first tip also another game you could play is guess the other persons number which could take long just like the line.

## Book Club Buzz

By Kaitlynn Diamond

Stockport Academy has a very vast selection of co-curricular activities, and Book Club is one of many. Hosted by the librarian, Mr Clarke, all book lovers can attend every Wednesday period six.

### Group Books

Every two weeks a group book is selected that has won or been shortlisted for a very prestigious award. And you don't just have to read, you can also talk about books. Not only that, but you can even read your own book from home or one from the library. Our first group read was a book named 'Bone Talk'.

### How to spot Book Club members / Badges

You can spot weekly attenders of the brilliant club with the badge! As a Book Club member, myself, I can honestly tell you it is one of my favourite clubs. We'd love new members!

### What does the library offer?

With many genres including manga (see article on manga club), action and adventure, jokes and humour, crime and thrillers and a lot more! The library is open in the mornings, at lunch and after school.

### Interview with Mr Clarke

*KD - Why should you join?*

Mr C - "You can read some brilliant books that nobody else has read yet, therefore gaining access to some exclusive reads!"

*KD - What are the benefits*

Mr C - "You can make some new friends and connect with others! You all already have one passion that you share so there may be some more. Not only that, but you even get a badge if you are attending regularly! Not only that, but you can also improve your reading skills. "



# Make The Most Of Your Merits

By Thomas Jackson

Five strategies to help you get more merits... and the rewards that come with them!

1. Get in your teachers' good books by answering as many questions as possible. Every teacher in the world loves questions being answered and chances are you'll get merits for a great deal of questions answered in a lesson.
2. Try to produce outstanding work. Push yourself to the limits and reap the rewards!
3. Attend co-curricular clubs. The more you join, the higher the chances are of merit stamps.
4. Try to complete the literacy weekly challenges. All of these get you merits. Bored at lunch time? Try to figure out the conundrum! Writing sentences in English? Include the word of the week if you can!
5. Get 100% attendance. Each week you are fully in you get a merit. For example 4 full weeks = 4 merits. After five years of 100% attendance, which everybody should be aiming for, you get the choice of either a laptop or iPad.



# Reasons To Read

By Wasee Syed

Reading books is very important. Reading keeps your mind proactive and expands your knowledge.

If you are looking for a good book to read there is a wide selection of books in the library for you to pick from and there will be one for you to read. Ask yourself how many books do I read, if you don't read many then don't get discouraged. There is no reason not to read.

## Some reasons to read:

- It increases your vocabulary. It makes you sound smart, it will increase your choice of words when you don't know how to articulate what you want to say, and it will give more marks on your English GCSEs if you can use these skills.
- You always learn something new. Books can tell stories in a brilliant way and will always have something new you never knew about. Depending on what book you read you can learn lots of things.
- Its builds your patience. Reading can take some time and if you're not patient you can never get to the big dramatic part or the end of the story and you won't learn anything. Reading one page and saying I can't be bothered is giving up and not trying to learn and that won't help you in any scenario.

There is no better time than now to start reading, if you read often it gets easier and faster.

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can help produce our next edition of SPArk!

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

# Five Ways To Stay Organised

By Daniel Kuchnik

Sometimes it can be hard to stay organised in lessons, so I hope I can help.

## 1.Planners

You should always keep your planner on your desk since you never know when you will need to put in your homework. You probably want to put your planner on the edge, so you have more space for other things you will need that lesson.

## 2.Pencil case

Your most important thing to keep on your desk is your pencil case. You should keep it in front of your exercise book, so it is easy to reach.



## 3.What you should keep on your desk

Only keep the things you need for that lesson on your desk, so you make the most of your space.

## 4.Exercise book

You should keep your exercise books in the centre of your desk because this will look neat and effective for your needs. You should probably let it take up as much space as your exercise book needs; because you need to be comfortable when writing.

## 5.Your bag

You should keep your bag under your table; so, it will not get lost in lesson because people might mistake your bag as theirs but if you keep it under your desk then it won't. Also, it will be easier to put your things away when it is time to pack up.

I asked Mr Littlemore about the important of staying organised. He said: "Because you need a safe and good area for learning."

# Feeling Festive At School!

By Kaitlynn Diamond

It's officially the festive season! But how can you spread Christmas cheer in school?

## **Do a gift exchange with your friends!**

Why not give and receive some from the people who know you best?

## **Put up decorations!**

As tedious as tinsel, baubles and especially lights are, you've got to admit it is SO satisfactory when your classroom has twinkling tinsel, brilliant baubles and luminous lights! It gives the room a new life almost. One of the best ways to get into the mood in my opinion.

## **Binge Christmas music**

I mean, hands down (after the presents of course) Christmas music is so great! Get Wham and Mariah Carey on and I promise you won't be disappointed! Some of my personal favourites include Driving Home For Christmas and Fairytale of New York. I bet if you ask nicely your form tutor will allow you to put some on!

## **Christmas movies**

Christmas films are perfect. You may have already started one with your class seeing as it is nearly Christmas break! You can relax, chill and enjoy a good old classic. Home alone, Polar Express and Elf are perfect examples.

## **Tell cheesy Christmas jokes to EVERYONE**

I know that this may sound crazy and will drive people crazy, but a bad joke a day can be very good! Why not tell your form tutor one every day? I'm sure they'll appreciate it

