

The Greatest Show

By Thomas Jackson



A buzz of energy was in the air in the rehearsals for our school's latest musical production: Beauty and the Beast!

As it came ever closer to the show's opening night, Miss Keough and Mrs Campbell had been working harder than ever to deliver the great performance we were all hoping for!

Costumes were being finished, many were chipping in for prop making and, of course, rehearsals were on every day.

Luckily I got the privilege to go to one of

these many rehearsals and it was a joy to see everyone's hard work pay off.

The play had a hugely committed cast and crew with the best dancing, extremely realistic acting and powerful singing. After everything I saw I can confidently say this production was amazing.

I had an exclusive interview with Miss Keough about the lead-up to the big night:

How and why did you choose Beauty and the Beast?

Because we wanted to do something that all the students would enjoy.

Do you trust the leads to deliver the great show we're all expecting?

Absolutely! 100%!!! These are the most professional from all the auditions.

What do you enjoy most about the rehearsals?

Everyone having a good time and enjoying themselves.

What ideas do you have for future plays?

Hmm... We will Rock You, The Lion King and Oliver.

Would you find it in your heart to love the beast, in Belle's shoes?

(Laughing) Absolutely! 100%!!!

Back Of The Net! By Roxane Mole

This year's charity football match was a great way to start the first term off, with our teachers bravely taking on the celebrity team that defeated them 7-2 just 12 months ago.

It all started with students selling tickets at lunch time for £3, with the event itself taking place at Cheadle Town Football Club on a Friday Evening. All the money raised from the tickets went to the Once Upon A Smile charity.

OUAS helps families who have lost loved ones recently, and helps them get through their sadness, so it's a really great cause.

Match night itself was intense, who knew who would win?

Would it be the teachers this year or the Celebrities once again like last year's match. At half time, with the Celebrities leading 2-0, the Stockport Academy Dance Group put on a great performance to showcase our excellent performing arts department and provide entertainment for the hundreds of people watching.

Unfortunately, our team lost 5-1 on the night, but the real winner was charity with £2,000 being raised for Once Upon A Smile.



Well done to Ms Foster and Mrs McCann, who organised an amazing night!

More Than A Library By Shehrbano Jameel

The Hub (our library) is filled with thousands of books: horror, fiction, non-fiction, romance, crime fillers, action, manga and more! Whatever book you want to read you can find it here!

If you love the library, like I do, then you might want to become a student librarian. To do this, you can fill out an application slip from Mr Clarke. There are many student librarians and it is a popular job, so competition for places is fierce!

Enrichments:

There is Chess Club on Thursdays and at break times, and there is Book Club on Tuesday. You can also get an enrichment stamp when you read after school.

World Book Day:

World Book Day is celebrated in a very fun way at Stockport Academy. Each year, there are opportunities to win a prize by dressing up or finding the golden ticket in a book. There are also word searches which are based on books, where you get chocolate. There are even best costumes for teachers! Last year a mad hatter won and got a kindle, so if you want a chance to win a prize come dressed up as your favourite book character on 7th March!

DID YOU KNOW?

Newsletter Enrichment takes place every Monday in G10.

Come and join us if you would like to help produce the next SPark!

Student Council Make Their Mark

By Daniel Chilvers

The Student Council trip to Stockport Town Hall was a hit with students and teachers alike.

On October 8th, the Student Council visited the Stockport Youth Parliament event at Stockport Town Hall. We were greeted by the welcoming members of SYP (Stockport Youth Parliament), a group of young people who help to make young people's voices heard.

Over the course of the afternoon, we took part in a variety of workshops about employment and mental health aimed at students in Stockport. To start with, we had a go at a quiz about politics. Did you know that only one of the current Stockport MPs is actually from Stockport? This was followed by a series of activities based on applying for jobs and CVs like a crossword and questionnaires. We found out that you can look for a job not only online, but in the local paper or even by asking businesses directly.

Then we went into the Council Chamber and learned about mental health and self-esteem. In particular we talked about the effect of social media on young people's mental health. The trip was finished off with a talk about the upcoming SYP events and the "make your mark" voting poll that the school carried out recently.

The trip was highly educational and gave good tips and advice to the Student Council. It was expertly run by the SYP and we hope the event carries on to educate Stockport youth for many years to come. Stockport Academy Student Council would like to thank the SYP for their excellent workshop.



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Open For Business

By Abigail Yan

On the 19th of September, Stockport Academy hosted its busiest Open Evening ever! The night was jam-packed with fun, factual and fantastic displays. We have an Open Evening every year to encourage new Year 6s and their parents to come and find out why they should choose to come to this school. We had everything from live dance performances to a murder mystery conundrum in the History department.

I helped out Mr Clarke in the library; we organised an event inspired by 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' where visitors had to search for a golden ticket in a book. Children only had two minutes to find the golden ticket that lay in the reams of books stacked high on the book shelves. If you were lucky enough and found one you won a book.

In the dance studio, we had different performances to showcase what goes on during lessons and enrichment. Year 8 students showed off their moves in a contemporary style to 'Bridge over Troubled Waters' while the Choir sang their hearts out to 'Africa', 'California Dreaming' and many more.

Overall, the night was phenomenal and full to the brim with Year 5s and 6s who we will hopefully see again soon!



Let's Get Cooking!

By Roxane Mole



Cooking Club is one of the many great enrichments in this school. In this enrichment you get to cook amazing dishes every Wednesday, like flapjacks, chocolate cookies, and much more as each week goes by.

I'm part of the cooking enrichment itself, and it's because I have always wanted to be able to cook like my dad, who's a chef, and it's always fun making great dishes for my family and friends.

We can even take the recipe for the food that we made back home with us so we can make it another day! I've met new friends from being part of the enrichment, and the staff running Cooking Club always do their best to help when we need it.

Brilliant Blackpool

By Nathan Goldsby

Because I was invited to Prizegiving back in July and received an award, had outstanding attendance and under five behaviour points, I was allowed to go on the trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach in September. Personally, I was very excited about the Blackpool trip, as I planned on going on most of the rides and was going to compare the experience to past theme park experiences. I was also told to take a poncho if I planned on going on Valhalla and, oh boy, did that pay off.

Ride Ratings

The Big One: Closed, unfortunately!

The Big Dipper: 10/10. A great, solid, standard, huge rollercoaster

The Grand National: 10/10. A great, fast-paced roller coaster with a competitive edge

Revolution: 10/10. A fun ride that has a surprise twist, or should I say, *Loop*.

The Steeplechase: 10/10. A great racing ride.

Valhalla: 10/10. A top tier log flume and fantastic ride. (Wear a poncho and sit by yourself if you don't want to get wet)

Avalanche/ The Snake: 9/10. A good bobsleigh, although a little cramped in the compartments.

Nickelodeon Streak: 9/10. A standard rollercoaster, not much to say.

Wallace and Gromit Ride: 9/10. A great ride to rekindle your childhood with.

Airbender: 8/10. One of those spinny rides that make you want to throw up.

The Rockets: 8/10. Like the swings you see at fairgrounds, but better.

Rugrats Logflume: 7/10. I'm told it's a standard logflume.*

*I didn't actually go on this ride as I was saving my poncho for Valhalla, however, this review was given by my friends Rhys, Callum and Moheman

Overall, it was a very fun trip and definitely one to strive to go on. I recommend trying to earn an invite to Prizegiving for this trip and it definitely deserves a 10/10. I look forward to hopefully going next year.



Starting With A Smile

By Archana Sebastian

I asked some new teachers about how they found their first half term at Stockport Academy. Many said that being a new teacher here is exciting because there's lots of new people to meet. They also said it's great, but very hard as there's a lot of names to remember. They all felt that the students and teachers have been very welcoming. I asked new Drama Teacher Ms Brain what her highlight had been so far, and she replied 'helping out with Beauty and the Beast'. Everyone I spoke to said that each week is getting better.

English Teacher Mrs Ludford, who also started in September, said: "This half term has gone so quickly that I don't actually feel like a new teacher anymore." When asked about her favourite part so far, she said: "It has been lovely to teach The Hunger Games to Year 7." If you are one of her students, you will know that she is sharing the 'llama love' with us all.

The thing she is most looking forward to next term is running Tim Burton Club and her enrichment planning.



Mrs Ludford says her favourite part of the term was teaching The Hunger Games to Year 7

Keep your eyes peeled for the next edition of...



Due out at the end of 2018!