

Unparalleled University

By Nathan Goldsby



Year 8 got the chance to sample life at University in November, thanks to a brilliant Further Education day that involved trips out of school.

I attended the prestigious UCEN with a couple of my friends and - after we were shown the campus, dorms and lecture theatres - I was looking forward to a possible adventure of my own here in the future.

I interviewed the kind lady who was hosting the event about the higher education courses available and she said: "We offer a large selection of courses, including Visual Arts, Digital Media, Computing and vocational courses. We chose to invite Year 8 here because now is the start of your journey in making your first choices for yourself and your education.

The trip was certainly a very good experience; not only was it extremely informative but it was also delivered in a fun way. I even got in a game of cheat and had Subway for lunch! It certainly made me start to think about what lies ahead in education.

Return Of The Christmas Market

By Roxane Mole

At the end of November, the famous Stockport Academy Christmas Market returned to school, bringing with it a fantastic mood of holiday cheer.

Christmas spirit was in abundance as soon as you stepped through the doors, with the sound of the brass band and school choir drifting down the corridors. There were around 50 stall holders selling all types of products, including chocolate, toys and wood carvings.

I saw many staff enjoying the market as everyone walked around. This came as no surprise, considering Mr. Prince, the organizer of the event, said: "It's always a day we – as staff - look forward to because of all the hard work we put into it and the smiles it puts on everyone's faces."

There was lots of things to do and buy - and there was even a cartoon artist doing commissions. If you gave them money, they would draw any character from a show, or fandom you wanted!

I asked Mr. Prince if there were any changes this year: "We didn't have many changes, except for the variety of stalls, because we wanted a wider range of goods for people to be able to finish (or maybe start!) their Christmas shopping." Which sure was right!

Anyways, we can all agree that this year's Christmas Market was great, with new products to buy, and Santa was back from another year, to hear what we want for Christmas. The perfect way to get ready for the big day itself!



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Tim Burton Club

By Archana Sebastian



A new enrichment has started and it is being organised by Ms Ludford. The Tim Burton club is basically about appreciating, enjoying and celebrating Tim Burton as a creative director, whose best-known films include Edward Scissorhands, Nightmare Before Christmas, Alice in Wonderland and Alice Through the Looking Glass.

In the club you can do a lot of cool art and craft activities, including making banners, sculptures and models. Pupils who are creative and love weird, strange and unique films need to go and try the Tim Burton club on Wednesdays in Room 103.

Last term finished with a tea party with food and drink. The tea party is based on the film Nightmare Before Christmas. Miss Riley, who helps out, thinks it ace! She said: "It's a perfect opportunity for anyone who thinks outside of the box and wants to extend their creativity to get involved".

Student Saviours

By Nathan Goldsby

Student Services is certainly one of the unsung heroes of Stockport Academy - one of the behind-the-scenes saviours of the school. Whether you need medicinal care or you need to call your parents, Student Services has got your back. I was interested in finding out more about what a day-in-the-life of a Student Services Manager is like.

Speaking with the staff who look after the office, I discovered that the day is normally very busy due to the large number of students in school. It can also be quite complicated at times, particularly if someone needs First Aid or there are messages to be passed on.

It sounds like Student Services have to do a lot of work, so let's do more to show our appreciation! Make sure that next time you see a member of Student Services, give them a huge thanks.



Going Green

By Thomas Jackson

The Royal Voluntary Service say that everything can be recycled. I say that our planet may be big, but it can only hold so much. Eventually landfills will fill the planet, so what can our school do to help?

We could use water-based paints, begin planting more trees, do more to promote recycling and give students an option to go litter picking. All of these things would have a significant impact on the local environment.

I interviewed Mrs Saatchi about the recycling project that all Year 7s took part in that was held earlier this term, as the challenge was to make something out of recyclable materials. I was most interested to find out why she started the project.

Miss Saatchi answered: "Because I wanted to make our RE lessons about the world and relevant to every student." Intrigued for what the answer to the next question was going to be I asked, "How important do you think recycling is for the World?"

"Very, very important," she replied, "As the problem gets worse and worse we have to come up with new solutions and it starts with education."

Well done to the Recycling Competition winners



Making Merits—A 5-Step Guide

By Thomas Jackson

1. Answer as many questions in class as possible. Every teacher in the world loves questions being answered, chances are you'll get merits for a great deal of questions answered in a lesson.
2. Try to produce outstanding work. Always do the best you can and put 100% effort into your work - it will pay off in more ways than one.
3. Attend enrichments. The more enrichments you join, the higher the chances are of merits and enrichment stamps.
4. Try to complete the weekly literacy challenge. 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.

Poppies Of Remembrance

By Abigail Yan



During Remembrance Day we organised an annual Poppy Drop, when over 1,000 poppies are scattered from the balconies in front of the whole school.

A Poppy Drop is where we pay respects to men and women who have served with, or are part of, the armed forces. This year, we invited Normandy war veterans from Stockport, the Mayor of Stockport, ex-military parents, and Emma and Jen from Christians in School Trust. They were invited to stand on the

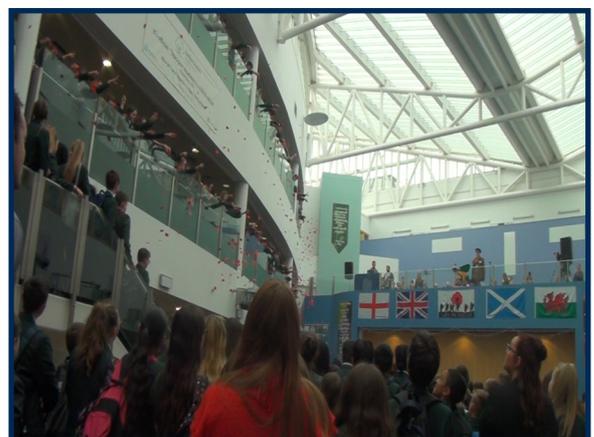
balcony along with cadets from our school.

The guest speaker this year was Theo Eaves, a WW2 war veteran. He shared some of his personal memories and told his story, before Reverend Mike Newman shared prayers with us and dropped the first poppy.



This year, we wrote the names of the Stockport soldiers on the poppies, as they fell from above it reminded me of all the sacrifices the soldiers and people involved had to go through for our country. This made me feel grateful for what we have today.

Mrs Saatchi, who had organised the event, said: "Remembrance Day makes me stop, think and reflect on the sacrifices people had made in the war and so we can be free today."



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!

SMSC Day - A Year 7 Summary

By Thomas Jackson

This term, our SMSC day was all about the impact of anti-social behaviour for Year 7. Although I found it a bit scary, I loved seeing what goes on behind closed doors in prison, even if the reality of it is shocking.

We began the day with a driving safety workshop, where my friend Rayan had to roleplay being a reckless driver. Afterwards, the man told us what would happen if we drive recklessly and the consequences.

Next we went to a firefighter's workshop and learnt all about arsonists, and why we shouldn't cause deliberate fires. Did you know that there are only five fire engines in all of Stockport?

After break, we went to a workshop where the people there told us what it's really like in prison. We were awestruck when we got to see inside an exact replica of a prison cell, and it was really interesting to find out the differences between an American prison and British prison. After, we went to the assembly hall to meet two people who are now living in an open prison - they were gang members and both involved in killing someone. They told us their life stories and why you shouldn't join a gang. It's amazing to think how being in prison changes you as you really wouldn't think people like them were law-breakers.

And finally period five - after my pleasant lunch we went to the sports hall where there was a stage set of a street and we watched some of my peers be gang members and police officers, then the assembly where some of us got prizes, but sadly not me.



After all of that, wow! It's a lot to take in, finding out all about crime, reckless driving, arsonists, prison and punishment to name a few. Their message is definitely true: "Life is short, don't waste it."

Doing Your Homework - Top 5 Tips

By Roxane Mole

Homework doesn't have to be seen as a horrible chore - so I have a few tips you can use to make sure it never gets on top of you!

1. Do The Homework On The Day It's Set.

Doing the homework on the day when it is set is a great idea, you'll get it done faster without having to worry about it or forgetting it and doing it at the last second.

2. Ask Your Teacher For Help If You Don't Understand It.

Sometimes the reason you can't give in your homework is because you don't understand it. Your teachers are always there to help if you need it, you can stop by their class at lunch, break, or after school, and they should be able to help you if they're free.

3. Put Your Homework In Your Bag After You're Done.

A common reason why people can't turn their homework in, is because they have forgotten to bring it back from home! What I would say is that you should make sure to put your homework into your bag when you have finished with it.

4. Start A Friend Homework Group.

Maybe your friends have the problem with their homework, so the best thing to do is to get together and make a homework group, where you guys meet to finish your homework and support each other.

5. Don't Leave It Last Minute!

Leaving it last minute can be the worst thing ever, it puts lots of stress on you, and your work may not turn out well, so make sure you can get it done at home when you have the time to really think about what to write.

So next time you get homework, keep these tips in your head!

