

Issue 61
Spring 2026



Stockport Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS



In this issue...

- Ski Trip
- Y7 Residential
- Careers Week
- Paralympian Visit
- British Science Week

... and much more!

Our commitment to providing life-changing learning experiences for every young person has been recognised on the national stage after Stockport Academy was named Best Educational Visits Provider in the country at the Education Business Awards in London - read more on page 3!

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Principal's Message

As we look back on a remarkable term, I am incredibly proud of everything our students and staff have achieved together. This edition of our newsletter perfectly captures the spirit of Stockport Academy - one where aspiration, respect and community are lived every single day. Our national recognition as Best Educational Visits Provider at the Education Business Awards is a standout moment and a powerful endorsement of our belief that every young person deserves enriching, life-changing experiences. From large-scale adventures like the Ski Trip, Y7 PGL Residential, and the inspirational Oxford University visit, to the many curriculum-driven excursions highlighted throughout these pages, it is clear that our commitment to "Creating Opportunity To Succeed" is embedded at every level of school life.

This term has also been filled with extraordinary moments of creativity, curiosity and character. Our British Science Week celebrations showcased the love of learning shared with our pupils, Careers Week helped them understand more about pathways into their dream jobs and the broad opportunities available to them. Visits from role models such as Paralympic Gold Medallist Stephanie Millward MBE have further encouraged our students to embrace resilience, ambition and self-belief. Our sense of community continues to shine. Events like World Book Day, Transition Sports Camp and Future Me Days demonstrate how our students come together to reflect, explore their aspirations and develop the values that will guide them long after they leave us. The dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our families and the positivity of our



young people continue to create an environment where everyone feels valued and inspired. Thank you for your ongoing support. I hope you enjoy reading about the many unforgettable experiences that have shaped this term, and I look forward to everything we will achieve together in the months ahead.

Mrs J McCann
Principal



National Award Winners (cont'd)

Selected from a shortlist of six schools, the Academy received the award for its ambitious, inclusive and curriculum-aligned programme of enrichment, with judges praising how our extensive visits programme ensures genuine equity of experience for all.

Across the year, students took part in 181 educational visits, with 886 students benefitting from at least one trip - an average of five per student. These ranged from cultural and creative opportunities to outdoor expeditions and careers-focused industry days.

Mr Allan, Master of Ceremonies for our House System, said: "Educational visits aren't an add-on - they are a powerful part of how our students grow in confidence, aspiration and character. We're thrilled to see that recognised nationally. "This achievement reflects our unwavering belief that every student deserves unforgettable opportunities that strengthens their education, broadens their horizons and empowers them to aspire for greatness."



And An Outstanding New Teacher Finalist!



Our community is celebrating after Assistant Head of Art & Design, Ms Hayley Harrison, was named a finalist for the 2026 Pearson National Teaching Awards' Outstanding New Teacher of the Year category.

A former Stockport Academy student who trained through our own United Teaching programme, Ms Harrison has quickly become an exceptional practitioner whose creativity, curriculum leadership and commitment have already had a transformative impact on students and colleagues alike.

Reflecting on her shortlisting, Ms Harrison said: "I feel really really proud of myself, also a little bit shocked as it came as a surprise. Obviously I am really grateful to the people that put me forward - my team, my department and the training team as well who have helped me become the teacher that I am to achieve this." We will find out if she wins the overall award later this year - but in the meantime please join us in celebrating her success!





Ski Trip

Students enjoyed an unforgettable week in the stunning Italian resort of Madesimo over the Easter Break.

With over 30 students in Years 8, 9 and 10 taking part, the trip was filled with challenge, excitement and moments that will stay with them for years to come.

Across five hours of skiing each day for five days, students pushed themselves on the slopes under the guidance of skilled instructors. They were split into three ability groups, ensuring that everyone progressed at their own pace - and all groups made huge leaps in confidence and skill throughout the week. Every student completed blue runs, and some even challenged themselves further by taking on red runs, an incredible achievement for such a young cohort.

In recognition of their hard work and perseverance, all students were awarded a certificate and a small gift from their instructor, marking their personal progress over the course of the week.

Beyond skiing, the group also enjoyed a variety of evening activities that helped make the experience even more memorable.

Highlights included:

- A lively quiz night
- A fun-filled karaoke night
- Evening walks into the small town
- And a special pizza night at a local restaurant to celebrate their final evening - the perfect way to end such an extraordinary week

PE Teacher Ms Foster, who helped lead the trip, praised the students for their exceptional effort and enthusiasm throughout:

"Our students pushed themselves every single day and should be incredibly proud of how far they've come. Watching them grow in confidence, support each other and embrace every challenge was amazing — they've made memories to last a lifetime."

The trip was an outstanding success, and staff could not be prouder of how our students embodied our values of Aspiration, Community, Respect, and the determination to grasp every Opportunity To Succeed.



Ski Trip Pics





Y11 Reach New Heights

Our Y11 students set off on an unforgettable journey as they took part in a challenging and uplifting trip to Mam Tor, supported throughout by our dedicated staff team.

The day served as a meaningful way to mark a year filled with challenge, growth, and achievement, giving pupils the chance to pause, reflect, and step confidently into the months ahead.

Pupils and staff had arrived in Castleton, ready for the day ahead. Shortly afterwards groups began setting off in staggered intervals to start their ascent. The route offered students the chance to take in the scenery, work together as a team, and embrace the physical challenge ahead. As they made their way upwards, many groups took short breaks to enjoy the surroundings and, as a well-earned treat, stop off for ice creams or lollies in the village before continuing their journey. Lunch took place at Mam Tor itself, offering time to rest, appreciate the view, before beginning the descent back towards Castleton.

Assistant Principal Mr Blood reflected on the impact of the day, saying:

“The Mam Tor experience gives our Y11 students the chance to start the year with a sense of purpose and pride. Whether hiking to the summit or taking part in the enrichment activities in the village, every pupil had the opportunity to build resilience, strengthen friendships, and demonstrate the values that define our community. It’s an experience that truly sets the tone for the year ahead.”



Y7 Residential

Our students enjoyed an unforgettable three-day adventure as over 100 Year 7 students headed to Winmarleigh Hall for one of the most highly anticipated trips of their first year at the Academy. The residential offered the perfect opportunity for students to build confidence, strengthen friendships and take on exciting new challenges in a supportive environment. Across the trip, students rotated through a packed timetable of 10 activities designed to push their limits and encourage teamwork. From scaling the climbing wall to taking a leap - literally - on the leap of faith, there was no shortage of adrenaline. The giant swing also proved to be a firm favourite, combining courage with plenty of laughter, while archery tag and disc golf added friendly

competition to the mix. Problem-solving skills were also put to the test in dedicated sessions that required communication, resilience and strategic thinking, key traits we aim to nurture throughout their journey with us. Evenings were equally memorable, with two standout night activities: Ambush, which brought the whole group together for an outdoor challenge, and a lively Silent Disco, giving everyone the chance to unwind and celebrate their achievements from the day. By the time students returned on Friday, they were absolutely shattered - but full of stories, accomplishments and memories that will stay with them long after Year 7.

Ms Foster, Head of Transition, summed up the experience perfectly: "This trip is always a special moment in our students' first year with us. It's incredible to see them step outside their comfort zones, try new things and form bonds that will support them throughout their time at the Academy. We're so proud of everything they achieved."





Transition Sports Camp



The Easter Break saw our newest cohort of students get together for the first time as almost 100 of them attended our annual Transition Sports Camp.

The free event was organised through our partnership with Manchester United Foundation, and offered Year 6 students their first taste of life at the Academy.

The weather couldn't have been better on the day - with blazing sunshine ensuring everyone had an amazing and active time outdoors, getting to know each other better.

Students took part in ice-breaking and team-building activities, giving them the perfect introduction to life at secondary school. The day is the first on our dedicated transition programme, which will be followed by a New Parents Evening, Transition Day, and Summer School over the coming months.

Mr Bramley, MUF School Partnership Officer, said: "We really enjoyed hosting the new students today and they all really put the effort into making new friends and getting the best out of their time at their new school."

British Science Week

We enjoyed a fantastic celebration of British Science Week, with the theme of Curiosity sparking a wide range of exciting activities, experiments and challenges across the school.

Students had the chance to build their own wind turbines with Mr Agu, investigate a mock crime scene in Miss Daghli's 'Who Stole the Cookies?' workshop, and extract DNA from a kiwi under the guidance of Ms McLean. Mr Cox also led a thought-provoking session titled 'Does Now Exist?', encouraging learners to explore

bigger questions in physics. Creativity met chemistry in Mr Routledge's indicator art activity, while Mr Barker helped students discover the science behind buoyancy in 'How Do Boats Float?'. The week concluded with a microscopic adventure led by Mrs Markham, where students observed cells and even searched for water bears.

A highlight was the legendary 'Flashbang show', with primary school pupils joining us for live experiments in the hall to round off a brilliant week of learning!



A Gold Standard Visitor

Our students were treated to an unforgettable experience as Paralympic Gold Medallist Stephanie Millward MBE visited Stockport Academy to deliver a series of inspiring assemblies.

Across the day, Stephanie shared her remarkable journey to the top of world sport. Her message centred on inclusion, mental strength, and the reality of pursuing excellence even when setbacks make the path uncertain.

Students from Y7 to Y10 heard first-hand about the sacrifices and high-performance habits required to compete at Paralympic level. Stephanie spoke honestly about the moments that tested her confidence and the process of rebuilding purpose after adversity - a lesson that resonated strongly with our students as they reflected on their own goals and barriers.

To bring her story to life, Stephanie brought along some truly extraordinary items from her career:

- Her Gold, Silver and Bronze medals from the Rio Paralympic Games
- The London Olympic Torch, which she carried during the 2012 Olympic Torch Relay
- Her MBE medal, awarded for her contribution, resilience and achievement

At the end of the day, she spent time with our Student Leaders, giving them the rare opportunity to see her medals and the torch up close - a once in a lifetime opportunity!

Mr Sherwood, who organised the visit, said:

"We are incredibly grateful to Stephanie for giving her time so generously. She has inspired our students to believe in themselves, stay resilient, and keep pushing forward no matter what challenges they face."



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Future Me Day

Our Y7 students took an important step in their personal development journey as they experienced their first-ever Future Me Day - an important part of our school calendar designed to spark aspirations, build confidence and help them imagine the futures they want to create.

Throughout the day, students moved through a diverse timetable of sessions ranging from Self-Esteem: Respect Me and Resilience, to British Sign Language, Online Safety, Healthy Relationships, Kindness PIE, 5 Ways to Wellbeing, and the high-energy Elevation – Power the Drive workshop. These sessions, supported by staff across the school and several external guest speakers, formed a rich programme focused on character education and personal growth.



Careers Week

Careers Week brought a buzz of excitement to Stockport Academy as students explored new ideas about their futures.

Students took part in a range of activities that encouraged them to think about future pathways and the many opportunities ahead. Our atrium became a welcoming hub filled with information stands, student presentations and displays. Each activity throughout the week showed students that there are lots of different routes they can choose when they move on from the Academy.

Careers Lead Mr Sherwood said: "Careers Week helps our students see what is possible for them as we strive to create opportunity to succeed. It has been fantastic to watch them explore new ideas and think about their future goals."



Oxford University Trip



A group of Y10 students travelled to Oxford University for a full day of learning, exploration and inspiration. From the moment they arrived, students were struck by the beauty and history of one of the world's most famous universities.

One of the standout moments of the visit was stepping inside an exclusive library that looked like something from a fantasy story. Students listened to stories about past scholars and realised they were walking in the same footsteps as people who went on to shape the world.

During the day, the group explored several of Oxford's colleges, each with its own traditions and atmosphere. They also spoke with current Oxford students, asking questions about university life, applications, finances and how to succeed at a top institution.

World Book Day



We celebrated World Book Day with a series of imaginative activities that brought stories to life and encouraged students across our school community to engage with reading in fun and creative ways.

Students from all year groups joined in the festivities alongside teaching and support staff. Many staff members dressed up as well-loved characters from classic and modern literature, creating a lively atmosphere throughout the school.

A range of themed activities took place, giving students the chance to explore books in new and exciting formats.

Mrs Cawsey, Literacy Co-ordinator, shared her thoughts on the day: "World Book Day is a wonderful opportunity to bring reading to life. It's always fantastic to see our whole community celebrating the power of stories together."





Term Dates and Contact Details

Summer 2026

13th Apr - 22nd May
All students in

26th May - 29th May
Half Term

1st Jun - 17th Jul
All students in

4th May and 25th May
Bank Holiday - School Closed

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 Bickerton - lynn.bickerton@stockport-academy.org
 Year 9 - Ms James - danielle.james@stockport-academy.org
 Year 10 - Ms Robinson - megan.robinson@stockport-academy.org
 Year 11 - Ms Porter - sarah.porter@stockport-academy.org
 Transition - Ms Foster - transition@stockport-academy.org

