

Issue 52  
Spring 2023



**Stockport Academy**  
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# A Cracking Start!



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**Our new Year 7s had the best possible start to their time as Stockport Academy students after spending the week with us for Easter School!**

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# Principal's Message

We have enjoyed a phenomenal start to 2023, not least by welcoming our newest cohort due to start with us in September to our Stockport Academy community for the very first time at our recent New Parents' Information Evening and Easter School - both of which were huge successes.

We are now in a position where we have our biggest-ever waiting list for Year 7 places, and I cannot thank each and every one of you enough - students, staff, governors and our families, for your unwavering support in ensuring our school continues to thrive.

I am delighted that we have been able to offer all of our year groups exciting opportunities over the past term - all of them designed to broaden their horizons and offer experiences that will shape their futures for the good. From Year 7's rite of passage to Kingswood (p4) to Year 11's Conway residential (p5), British Science Week (p6), the success of our Youth Travel Ambassadors' Eco campaigning (p7) and much more - it has been action-packed to say the least!

Of course, with one final term of the year ahead of us there is still plenty to look



forward to. We have recently been consulting on our new school virtues that will be launched in the not-too-distant future, and it has been very interesting to hear more about the values that are most important to our school community. As ever, we look forward to working with you all in taking our school forward from strength to strength and more details on this exciting project will follow shortly!

For now, wishing you all the best and I hope you enjoy the latest edition of our newsletter.



# Easter School

(Continued from front page)

The special transition event, designed to help ease Year 6 students who will be officially starting with us in September to settle into life at secondary school, took place across the first four days of the Easter holidays.

Staff hosted a wide range of activities for them to get involved in, from treasure hunts around school so that they can find their way around the building to quizzes, sports competitions and lots more. In 'Fab Science', students could build their own model of the solar system, while in 'Cookathon', they decorated (and ate!) some delicious Easter cakes.

Over 120 students attended over the four days, with parents and carers taking to social media to tell us how much their children had enjoyed their first experience as a Stockport Academy student. Parent Sam Donigan posted on our Facebook page: "We are so lucky to have Easter school, my daughter has loved this week," while Natalie Pagano posted : "My son has loved it, thanks so much."

Mrs Shaw, Pastoral Manager for Transition, said: "It has been such a lovely week to meet our new students and see them grow in confidence as they make new friends and find their way around. We can't wait to see them again at our Transition Day in July and Summer School in August!"



# A Return To Kingswood!



In March, 80 Year 7 students took part in a residential trip to Kingswood Colomendy in North Wales, where they practiced their teamwork and overcame challenges. The 3-day trip was filled with exciting activities including the Leap of Faith, in which students and staff climbed a pole and had to jump from the top, and caving, in which students climbed and crawled through a realistic cave system with helmets and torches. Other favourites included: Problem Solving, Shelter Building, Jacob's Ladder, Archery and the Night Line.

Students also took part in fun evening activities such as a campfire and the games room, which were a great way to relax after a day of challenges and outdoor adventuring. It was wonderful to see our students guiding each other, cheering on their group members, and celebrating each other's successes.

In addition, students showed maturity and in looking after their dorm rooms and keeping them tidy, attending line-up and activities punctually and speaking to others with respect.

Miss Foster (Head of Year 7) said: "Year 7 had a brilliant time at Kingswood – they have been outside of their comfort zones, challenged themselves, and many have faced their fears. For some of our Year 7s, this is the first time that many have been away from home - and they have been amazing! They were respectful and great team players!" You can view some of the photographs in the album below – for more photos of the trip, please visit our Facebook page and click on the 'Kingswood 2023' photo album.

# Creative in Conway



Our GCSE Art students attended a coursework residential at the Conway Centre in Anglesey.

Over the weekend, students developed a portfolio of work which explored and expressed the theme of 'Royalty' in different ways.

They attended a range of sessions, developed different skills, and used new techniques to diversify their coursework. These included sculpture, wire work and painting.

Everyone showed amazing dedication and perseverance in workshops that ran until 9pm, demonstrating strong work ethic and a real passion for their subject.

Miss Higgins, Curriculum Leader of Art and DT said: "We are so proud of how hard the students worked during the weekend. They have developed some great skills, strong portfolios, and represented the school well."

Students celebrated their successes in fun evening activities, including a party for one of our students' 16th birthday, and a campfire with toasted marshmallows!

There are more photos available on our website.



# British Science Week



We celebrated British Science Week (BSW) in explosive fashion, with students getting the opportunity for plenty of hands-on experience in one of their favourite subjects.

The week culminated in Mr Campbell's legendary Science

Showcase, which he performed for our own students in addition to Year 5 pupils from Cheadle Heath, St Matthews and Lark Hill primary schools.

Elsewhere, students had the chance to get involved in a lung dissection with Mrs Staniforth in an extra-special after-school Science Club, as well as dye their own flowers through the process of transpiration.

In STEM Club, students participated in the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Take

Charge' global experiment, that involved them making their own batteries. Every form group also took part in a BSW Quiz, before we ended the week with a co-curricular escape room that involved students having to solve Science-based riddles in order to complete the task.

Head of Science Mr Campbell said: "Students really loved getting involved in the interactive elements of British Science Week and it was great to see so many enjoying learning about the subject."

## World Book Day

Students and staff celebrated World Book Day with a range of activities across the school. Every student was encouraged to submit their own book reviews, with all reviews going into a prize draw.

In every lesson, each class spent time reading extracts of books especially selected by our school librarian Mr Clarke, which included titles such as 'When Our Worlds Collided', by local author

Danielle Jawando and the library itself was a hub of activity as you might expect, with a lunchtime quiz and students encouraged to complete wordsearches, in addition to golden ticket hunts, with more prizes up for grabs for those who were lucky enough to find some.

Literacy Co-ordinator Mrs Cawsey said: "It was wonderful to see the whole school engaging in the many reading activities

throughout every year group – encouraging a passion for reading is an important part of every child's education and I am pleased to say that this passion is in abundance at Stockport Academy!"



# Driving Eco Change

Our students have secured funding to encourage a sustainable travel into school. The Youth Travel Ambassadors are a team of eight students in Years 7-10 who have volunteered to be part of a project for promoting sustainable methods of transport to the Academy. Working with Transport for Greater Manchester, students have had a series of workshops to help them plan and carry out research to look at how our students travel to school.

Through assemblies, form-time surveys and online forms, they gathered information that shows that over 25% of our students are brought to school by car - and the team decided that their project emphasis would be to encourage more students to walk to school. Having agreed on a project they pitched to the TfGM Dragons Den panel on 10th March and were awarded £500 to use in delivering the project.

The 'Walk More - Breathe Better' campaign will start in May and will last for a month. After this period, the team will evaluate any changes in the numbers of students walking to school and will present their findings at a TfGM celebration event in July.



# Talking Politics

Our Student Council hosted two Stockport councillors as they explored local politics as a career option.

Cllr Georgia Lynott & Cllr Louise Heywood spent several hours with the group, answering questions about the impact that councillors are able to make to their area and how they got involved in the role.

They were given a tour of our facilities by the students,

before enjoying a working lunch where they discussed issues that students felt were important to Edgeley and Cheadle Heath, including transport and housing. Assistant Principal Mrs Milnes, who leads the Student Council, said: "Our Student Council were really engaged by the visit and loved hearing about how they could potentially make a difference to the world around them while pursuing a career path that really interests them.

"I would like to thank both of the councillors for their time with us today, which provided students with an invaluable insight into what a councillor does and how aspiring young people can become one."



# A Brilliant Opportunity

A group of our Year 10s started out on an exciting journey that will see them graduate from university later this year. Fourteen students have enrolled in Brilliant Club



at University of Manchester, which is a scheme of university-led tuition managed by the Scholars' Programme. They will work with a PhD tutor on a unit of degree-level research and summation over a series of workshops, before eventually submitting an assignment. The programme culminates in a graduation event at another Russell Group university in June. Assistant Principal Mrs Milnes said: "The programme is designed to give students

a taste of university life and to augment their independent study, research and writing – all skills that will help in their GCSE work. "It is an excellent opportunity and we can't wait to get started!"



## Oxford University Experience

A group of our Year 10s spent Valentine's Day falling in love with the idea of going to Oxford University during a day visit to Corpus Christi College. Students enjoyed an action-packed day around campus, meeting some of Oxford's student ambassadors so they could hear first-hand what it is like to learn at this legendary institution.

They also discussed pathways to higher education and A level

choices, before taking part in an academic session that enabled them to get a taste of a real life degree-level seminar. The ambassadors also offered a half-hour tour of the campus itself before indulging in a Q&A session that gave our students one final opportunity to find out anything they wanted to know before getting on the bus back to Stockport Academy.



# We Mean Business!

Some of our Year 10 students showed off their entrepreneurial skills at the regional Young Enterprise finals.

The group showcased their blossoming business Y.E.S Colouring – specifically a wellbeing-focused colouring book.

During the event, which was hosted at University Campus 92 in Trafford, the team manned a stall that informed visitors of their journey so far, before being

quizzed by judges on their business plan.

The panel commended them on their resilience and teamwork, commenting that it was highly impressive they'd managed to raise £450 in profit through fundraisers to help launch



their product.

Business Teacher Mr Lewis, who runs our Young Enterprise co-curricular club, said: "I am so proud of the team and everything they have achieved while learning all about the rigours of running their own business.

"They have grown so much throughout the process and this has been a valuable experience that I am sure they will take with them for many years to come."

# A Day At The Beach

Our Year 11 Geographers had the opportunity to carry out their own fieldwork as part of their GCSE studies during a trip to Cleveleys and Blackpool.

The group spent the day on the coast, gathering data on Unit 3 of their Geography coursework, looking at the impact of tourism in the local area and measuring groyne height on the beach.

Geography Lead Mrs Finley said: "This trip was a great experience for our students, not only to help them with their studies, but also to give them the opportunity to find out a bit more about how this fascinating subject can be developed into a career."



# Sporting Ambition

A group of our Year 7s took their first steps to a career in sports coaching after spending two days taking part in a specialised course with Manchester United Foundation.

The students worked hard to achieve the UK Level 1 Sports Leadership qualification with MUF, participating in theory and practical sessions to complete their studies. They completed sports leader booklets and learning

about session planning, before delivering their own session plans alongside other students from MUF partner schools.

As every single one of our students successfully completed the course, they were treated to a visit to the Manchester United museum and a tour of Old Trafford.

Mr Bramley, our MUF Partnership Officer said: "This has been an amazing introduction for our students to the world of sports coaching and it was a fantastic opportunity for everyone involved."

"They all took full advantage of this and have come away with a valuable qualification that sets them on a really exciting path for their future."



## Lionesses In Training



This term we started an exciting new project alongside two of our local primary schools, encouraging Year 5 girls to develop their football skills.

Manchester United Foundation are running a series of weekly sessions on our astro pitches during the school day that will see pupils from Cheadle Heath Primary and Alexandra Park Primary attend regular coaching

sessions to enhance their skills and build their confidence on the pitch. As part of the programme, both schools were also gifted free tickets to a Women's Super League fixture at Old Trafford.

# A Term In Tweets

**geochelseapanda** @geochelseapanda · Mar 30  
This is a part of my job I love. Getting outside and seeing pupils enjoy time at a beach. I know some do not get opportunities like this.

**Stockport Academy** @sptacademy · Mar 30  
Our Y11 Geographers having a fascinating time gathering data for Unit 3 of their GCSE Geography course today in Cleveleys and Blackpool!



**Mrs Staniforth** @Catjwood · Mar 8  
Enjoyed the flower dissection with Year 7 today. 🌸 @sptacademy




**Dr Liz Chilvers** @ErChilvers · Feb 10  
Replying to @sptacademy  
So proud of all the hard work Ethan and the other students are putting into their Young Enterprise project. Definitely helping to build #EducationwithCharacter

**Mark Bedford** @bedders221 · Mar 3  
@sptacademy Oscar Bedford ( Alexandra Park PS ) is really looking forward to new friendships & experiences at The Academy starting in Sept



**Mrs Rowley MFL** @RowleyMFL · Feb 16  
How lucky were @sptacademy Year 9's today! @David\_Sanako came to talk to them about MFL in the workplace...Certainly made very encouraging Y9's Parent's Evening Pathways discussions tonight! Thank you once again! Inspirational, students loved it!

**Cheadle Heath Pri** @CHPSchool · Mar 31  
Wowser, #teamchps alumni are on a roll this week! Two of these three are ex Cheadle Heath Primary pupils continuing to shine brightly @sptacademy ⭐ #aspirebelieveachieve

**Stockport Academy** @sptacademy · Mar 31  
Friday is WoW day! Mrs Zuppinger has been loving looking through the books of students who have been especially proud of the work they've done this week. Well done to all of our Work of the Week winners!



**Corpus Access** @CCCOxfordAccess · Feb 14  
We were joined by students from @sptacademy today, who participated in an @OxfordHistory taster session, a Q&A and tour with a current Corpus student, and a second tour at @BalliolOxford. Thank you for your enthusiasm and many great questions!

Spring 2023

# Term Dates and Contact Details

## Summer 2023

17th Apr - 26th May

All students in

*1st May/8th May*

*Bank Holidays -  
School Closed*

29th May - 2nd Jun

Half Term

*5th June - 19th July*

*All students in  
(early closure on last  
day of term)*

# Contact Us

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Year 11 and Transition - Mrs Shaw - [sarah.shaw@stockport-academy.org](mailto:sarah.shaw@stockport-academy.org)