

Issue 60  
Autumn/Winter 2025



**Stockport Academy**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

# FAME!



## In this issue...

- Art Residential
- Talent Show
- Let's Talk  
Community Event
- Christmas Market
- Careers Day

... and much more!

Our talented Performing Arts students took centre stage as Stockport Academy proudly presented its school production of Fame Jr., delivering an unforgettable experience for audiences across five incredible performances. Read all about it and see more photos on page 6!

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## Principal's Message

As we step into 2026, I am filled with pride and optimism for the year ahead. Looking back at the incredible achievements highlighted in this newsletter, it is clear that our values of Aspiration, Respect, and Community are not just words on a page, they are lived and celebrated every day at Stockport Academy. From the outstanding recognition of Mr Sherwood as Health & Wellness Education Professional of the Year to Ms Higgins' success as runner-up for Teacher of the Year, we see aspiration in action; not only in our staff but in the opportunities they create for our students. Whether through the Duke of Edinburgh Award, DJ Club, or innovative projects like 'trashion,' these experiences empower our young people to dream big and develop the skills to achieve those dreams.

Respect shines through in moments such as our poignant Poppy Drop, where students and staff united to honour those who served with dignity and gratitude. This tradition reminds us of the importance of empathy and reflection in shaping responsible citizens. Our sense of community has never been stronger. Events like the Christmas Market, Open Evening, and Talent Show brought families, friends, and local partners together in celebration of creativity and connection. Initiatives such as the 'Let's Talk' project and partnerships with local organisations show our commitment to working hand-in-hand with the wider community for the benefit of all. As we look forward to the coming months, let us continue to embrace every opportunity to succeed—supporting one another, striving for excellence, and making Stockport Academy



a place where every individual feels valued and inspired. Thank you for being part of our journey. Here's to a year filled with ambition, kindness, and shared success.

Mrs J McCann  
Principal





## Wellbeing Win For Mr Sherwood

We are proud to share that our Positive Behaviour Mentor, Mr Sherwood, has been named Health & Wellness Education Professional of the Year. This incredible achievement recognises his outstanding contribution to promoting wellbeing and positive mindset strategies, not only within our school but across the wider community.

The judging panel praised Mr Sherwood for his global impact, having delivered inspirational workshops and keynotes to more than 75,000 people worldwide. His

approach, rooted in real-life experiences, empowers young people and educators with practical strategies to thrive.

In school, Mr Sherwood is an invaluable member of staff. Beyond his day-to-day support for students, he leads exciting opportunities through our co-curricular programme, including the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and DJ Club, helping students develop confidence and new skills.



## And Runner Up For Ms Higgins!



Ms Higgins, our Head of Art and Design Technology, was this year's runner up for the prestigious Educate Awards' Teacher of the Year - a category that recognises outstanding educators across the entire North West of England.

Ms Higgins is an exceptional teacher whose passion, creativity and dedication have transformed our school community. Her leadership has inspired a culture of innovation, collaboration and ambition within the department, and her vibrant, inclusive curriculum continues to spark imagination and nurture talent.

Beyond the classroom, she leads our pioneering 'trashion' club - fashion made from recycled materials - which empowers students to raise awareness of environmental issues through powerful, creative design. Her impact reaches far beyond our walls. From organising enriching trips and residencies to supporting students in national and international competitions, Ms Higgins ensures every pupil feels seen, supported and celebrated. Her classroom is a hub of energy and enthusiasm, where students thrive and often return during social times to continue their work.





## Poppy Drop

Our annual Poppy Drop provided a moving tribute to those who have served and sacrificed for our country as we marked Remembrance Day across the school community.

Shortly after 11am on 11th November, hundreds of poppies were released from the top floor of the Academy, cascading down to the ground in a symbolic gesture of respect and gratitude. Students and staff gathered together to observe a two-minute silence, reflecting on the bravery and selflessness of those who fought for our freedom.

This year, the event carried an extra special touch. After the poppies were collected, they were used to decorate a life-size cutout of a soldier, which now stands proudly in our reception area. This striking display serves as a daily reminder of the importance of remembrance and the values of courage and sacrifice that continue to inspire our community. Our Principal, Mrs McCann, said:

“It’s always such a humbling experience to see everyone in our school come together for this event. The Poppy Drop reflects our school values of community and

respect perfectly, and it’s wonderful to see those values brought to life in such a meaningful way.”

We are proud of our students for embracing this tradition with such thoughtfulness and respect, ensuring that the legacy of those who served continues to be honoured.

The video of our Poppy Drop in action on social media has received around 85,000 views at the point of going to print - if you’d like to see exactly how this poignant and powerful memorial looks in real time, check out the reel on our Instagram channel.





## Getting Creative In Conway

Our Year 11 GCSE Art, Textiles, and 3D Sculpture students recently embarked on an unforgettable residential in Conway, designed to spark creativity and strengthen character.

This inspiring experience gave pupils the perfect opportunity to immerse themselves in their craft while building resilience and confidence.

The programme featured a series of hands-on workshops led by professional artists, allowing students to expand their technical skills and develop an impressive portfolio of work. Each session was carefully aligned with GCSE coursework objectives, ensuring that pupils could refine and elevate their projects while embracing new creative challenges.

Beyond the studio, students enjoyed well-deserved downtime, from gathering around a campfire to toast s'mores to sharing laughter at a child-friendly Bongos Bingo party. These moments of fun and connection helped foster a strong sense of community and collaboration among the group.

Ms Higgins, Head of Art and Design, praised the students' commitment and attitude throughout the trip: "This residential was an incredibly enriching experience for our GCSE students. It gave them the space and focus to refine their coursework while exploring new ideas in a supportive environment. Their dedication to the subject and excellent attitude were evident in every session, and we couldn't be prouder of what they achieved."







## Fame! (cont'd)

The show, based on the iconic musical Fame, follows the journey of a group of aspiring performers at SA's High School of Performing Arts as they navigate the highs and lows of chasing their dreams. With themes of ambition, friendship, and resilience, the story captivated audiences from start to finish.

Packed with energy and emotion, the production featured standout musical numbers such as "Hard Work", "I Want to Make Magic", and the unforgettable title song "Fame", all brought to life by our talented cast and supported by a dedicated backstage crew.

Over two days, more than 500 primary school pupils were treated to special matinee performances, giving them a taste of the magic of live theatre. In addition, the cast and crew delivered three evening shows for family, friends, and members of our community, earning standing ovations and rave reviews.

Ms Lakin, Head of Performing Arts, praised the students' commitment and professionalism, saying: "Everyone involved has worked incredibly hard to bring this production to life, and the standard has been exceptional. I couldn't be prouder of what they've achieved."



## Open Evening

Our doors were open wide to the community as hundreds of Y6 families visited Stockport Academy for our annual Open Evening, ahead of the secondary school application deadline on 31st October.

The event gave prospective students and their families the opportunity to explore our school, meet staff and student leaders, and experience a taste of life at Stockport Academy.

Highlights of the evening included:

- A welcome talk from Principal Mrs Janine McCann
- Guided tours led by our student leaders

- Interactive experiments and demonstrations in Science
- Insights into our House system and rewards programme
- A showcase of our extensive co-curricular offer, with over 70 clubs running each year

Mrs McCann said:

"I absolutely love opening our school up to the community. It's such an honour to welcome so many families through our doors, and I can't wait to get to know them better as they begin their journey with us."

We look forward to Offer Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> March where our new Year 7s will find out they have a place for September!



## Let's Talk



Some of our staff recently spent the day at Morrisons in Cheadle Heath for a special 'Let's Talk' event, designed to strengthen connections with the local community and learn more about what makes our area so special.

The aim was simple: to listen, learn, and build partnerships that will benefit both the wider community and our students and their families. We asked residents what they loved about their area and explored ways we could work together to provide support. From these discussions, exciting new connections began to form, including links with a local Wilderness Therapy service, a disability respite care provider, and an adult mental health support organisation to name but a few. We will continue this exciting project in 2026.







## SA's Got Talent!



Our school was alive with creativity and confidence as students from all year groups, alongside staff, came together for an unforgettable Talent Show. The event celebrated the incredible range of skills our students were eager to share, creating an atmosphere of excitement and pride across the school community.

From soulful solo performances and harmonious duets to laugh-out-loud stand-up comedy, thought-provoking slam poetry, and even jaw-dropping martial arts demonstrations, the show offered something for everyone.



This year's Talent Show ended on a high note with joint winners taking the spotlight in the shape of our Y10 Rock Band, who electrified the stage with their powerful cover of Sum41, and Maria in Y11, who performed a stunning solo rendition of Oasis' Half The World Away, which captivated the audience with her heartfelt delivery.



Our runners-up were equally impressive, featuring a beautiful singing duet of Y8 students Olivia and Jasmine performing A Million Dreams from The Greatest Showman.

House Master of Ceremonies, Mr Allan, summed up the spirit of the event perfectly: "Tonight was all about showcasing the individuality and creativity of our students. Every act brought something special to the stage, and it's inspiring to see such confidence and passion."

Well done to everyone who took part!





## A Cracker Of A Christmas Market



We welcomed hundreds of visitors to our annual Christmas Market, transforming the school into a winter wonderland filled with festive fun, music, and community spirit.

Nearly 900 people attended the event, which featured over 40 stalls offering everything from handmade arts and crafts to artisan food. Guests enjoyed traditional fairground games, creating a nostalgic atmosphere alongside modern festive treats.

The Christmas Market has become a much-loved tradition, offering an opportunity for families, friends, and local businesses to come together and celebrate the season. It reflects Stockport Academy's commitment to fostering a sense of community while supporting aspiration and creativity among students.

## Future Me Day

Our Year 9 students took a deep dive into the world of healthcare and personal development as part of our latest Future Me Day.

One of the standout sessions of the day was Medical Mavericks, a hands-on workshop that gave students a fascinating insight into careers in medicine and the science behind healthcare innovation. From using real medical equipment to exploring the technology used in hospitals, students were able to experience first-hand what it's like to work in the NHS and beyond.

The session sparked curiosity and ambition, with many students expressing interest in pursuing careers in healthcare after the event.





## On The Cobbles

Some of our Y10 students explored the world of TV drama during a visit to the Coronation Street Experience in Manchester for Discover Creative Careers Month. Guided by ITV Academy professionals, they learned how to craft soap-style narratives through a hands-on workshop. Students toured the set, posed for photos, and worked in groups to create new characters and storylines using cast cards. After presenting their ideas, they received feedback from industry experts. The day, organised with Manchester United Foundation, ended with a walk along the famous cobbles and a chance to meet cast members - an unforgettable experience that brought creativity to life.



## Careers Day

Students enjoyed a dynamic Careers Day aimed at exploring future pathways and developing key life skills. Interactive workshops included Positively You on resilience, GM Higher for interview techniques, Wize Up on budgeting and investment, and PIE for effective revision strategies. Students also took part in mock interviews with external guests and gained insights into job market trends and future aspirations. The day ended with a vibrant Careers Fair in the Atrium, where Years 9–11 met local colleges such as Aquinas and Stockport College, public services like the Police and Army, and employers from sectors including hospitality, creative arts, finance, and health & social care. Businesses such as Fresh Food Ltd, UKSC, and Stockport Homes shared valuable career advice.





## GCSE Geography Field Day



Our Y11 Geographers spent the day on the north-west coast to carry out field research as part of their GCSE coursework.

The group first headed to Fleetwood Beach to investigate coastal processes, where they conducted a groyne drop height survey to assess whether hard engineering is effectively controlling longshore drift in the area.

Following their coastal study, pupils travelled by coach to Blackpool to carry out environmental quality surveys. These surveys aimed to explore how tourism affects the local environment, giving students the opportunity to apply classroom theory to real-world settings.

The weather held out for the day, allowing pupils to enjoy some free time in Blackpool after completing their fieldwork tasks.

## Duke of Edinburgh



Our Duke of Edinburgh group took part in an unforgettable expedition, showcasing resilience, teamwork, and determination throughout the challenge. The adventure began in the beautiful Peak District, where students set up camp and cooked meals using Trangia stoves. Day one featured a 10K trek from Mandale Farm Campsite through Haddon to Lower Bakewell, testing their endurance as rain set in on the return.

Sunday started early with a demanding 7.5-mile route around Topley Pike under blazing sun and heavy packs. Each group completed the journey to cheers and proud smiles from staff - a moment that captured the true spirit of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.





# Term Dates and Contact Details

## Spring 2026

5th Jan - 13th Feb

All students in

16th Feb - 20th Feb

Half Term

23rd Feb - 27th Mar

All students in

6th Feb and 20th Mar

Inset Days - School Closed

## Contact Us

**By Phone**

**0161 286 0330**

**By Email**

**[enquiries@stockport-academy.org](mailto: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](mailto:sarah.shaw@stockport-academy.org)

Year 8 - Ms Bickerton - [lynn.bickerton@stockport-academy.org](mailto:lynn.bickerton@stockport-academy.org)

Year 9 - Ms James - [danielle.james@stockport-academy.org](mailto:danielle.james@stockport-academy.org)

Year 10 - Ms Robinson - [megan.robinson@stockport-academy.org](mailto:megan.robinson@stockport-academy.org)

Year 11 - Ms Porter - [sarah.porter@stockport-academy.org](mailto:sarah.porter@stockport-academy.org)

Transition - Ms Foster - [transition@stockport-academy.org](mailto:transition@stockport-academy.org)

