

Issue 57
Autumn/Winter 2024



Stockport Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

A Wish Come True



In this issue...

- Open Evening
- School League Tables
- Careers Day
- Christmas Market
- Poppy Drop

... and much more!

Our Performing Arts Department put on another run of show-stopping performances as part of their latest production in December.

Students and staff pulled off six brilliant shows of 'Aladdin Jnr' - read all about it on pages 4 and 5!

www.stockport-academy.org | X : @sptacademy | Instagram/Facebook: @StockportAcademy





Principal's Message

As we reach the end of another year, finding the time to reflect on the achievements and growth we have experienced over the past 12 months can often be a humbling exercise.

As a school, we were recently recognised as achieving the 23rd biggest improvement in our GCSE Progress 8 Score IN THE COUNTRY. An absolutely astounding achievement, and testament not just to last year's Year 11 who worked their socks off to achieve above and beyond but also to our staff who worked tirelessly to support them in aiming for their best possible outcomes for their next steps after their five years at Stockport Academy.

This really typifies our school value of Aspiration. We are of course taking a similar approach to our current Year 11s and really hope they too can reap the rewards following their

examinations in Summer 2025.

The first term of the year is always action-packed, and this academic year has been no exception. From the return of our Christmas Market, to an incredible run of Aladdin Jnr by our Performing Arts Team, to our Poppy Drop, Careers Days and so so so much more - I hope you will enjoy reading about many of these events throughout this newsletter in addition to our daily updates on our social media channels. Our school Instagram account received over 100,000 views over the course of a month for the first time ever in December - really opening up the virtual door to our community and how everything we do strives towards 'Creating Opportunity to Succeed' - and I recommend you check it out if you haven't already done so.

So with one term done and



dusted, the important thing now is to rest and recuperate, make the most of the festive period and come back recharged and ready to do it all again in the Spring Term. We are incredibly proud of the platform we provide our children with to develop new skills, expand their knowledge and make new experiences, and we couldn't do that without your support, so thank you. I would like to wish all of our families a lovely Christmas Break, and truly can't wait to see you all again in January.

Mrs J McCann
Principal



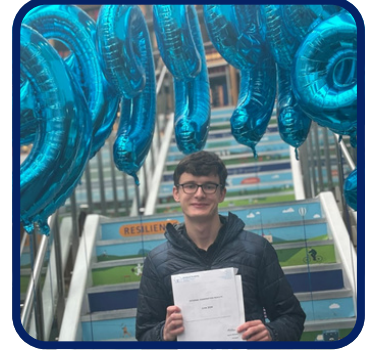
Incredible Progress

Stockport Academy has been ranked 23rd in the country for improvements to its Progress 8 score over the past academic year. Progress 8 measures how much students improve between the end of primary school and the end of secondary school.

Based on our latest GCSE Results from August 2024, our score is 0.24, which is significantly higher than the average score of 0.09 across Stockport, and even better when compared to national figures of -0.03.

The Department for Education states: "Pupils here achieve up to half a grade higher in each qualification on average, compared to similar pupils across the country." Principal Mrs McCann said: "We're absolutely delighted with this news, which is a reflection of all the hard work and aspiration of our students and staff."

"We are really pleased with the impact our Gain A Grade strategy had with last year's Year 11 and we are fully focussed on supporting this year's cohort in achieving the best they can with their GCSE exams in Summer 2025."



Congratulations Ms Jackson!



Our Co-Curricular Coordinator Ms Jackson was shortlisted for the prestigious Teacher of the Year category at the North West Educate Awards.

This recognition is a testament to her exceptional dedication, passion, and commitment to both the physical and personal development of our students.

As co-curricular lead and 2nd in PE, Ms Jackson has consistently gone above and beyond to ensure that every student has the opportunity

to succeed and reach their full potential.

Last year, our pastoral team was shortlisted for the mental health and wellbeing category, while our Assistant Principal Ms Stirling previously won the Teacher of the Year award back in 2021.

Ms Jackson said: "It is an absolute honour to have been shortlisted for the Teacher of the Year award and personally on the highlights of my career so far."





Aladdin Jnr! (continued)

Our latest school production proved to be a hit as our students shone during six incredible performances of 'Aladdin'. Our Performing Arts department worked tirelessly to ensure that the event would be unforgettable - featuring all the classic songs from the Disney films and stage show. From opening with 'Arabian Nights' to 'A Whole New World' and 'Friend Like Me', each audience was treated to some incredible dance routines and vocal performances.

Students had the opportunity to take part as members of the cast and ensemble, as well as behind the scenes working as the backstage crew - moving the sets about or operating the lighting and sound.

The team put on three matinee shows exclusively for local primary school children, with over 600 pupils between Years 3-5 enjoying their visit. Schools in attendance included Cheadle Heath, Alexandra Park, Lark Hill, St Matthews, Adswold, Meadowbank, Bridge Hall and Cale Green primary schools.

They also performed three sell-out evening shows, with families, friends and our staff showing their

appreciation with a standing ovation at the end of every night. Head of Performing Arts Ms Lakin said: "I am incredibly proud of our team for putting together a wonderful show that reflected the hard work and talent of students. "We all had an amazing time putting the show together and really appreciated the support of everyone who came to watch us - thank you!"



Aladdin Photos





An Open Evening Record!

Over 1100 people came through our doors for our annual Open Evening, ahead of choosing their child's secondary school at the end of the month.

It means 2024 has officially been our busiest ever - beating last year's record numbers in the process.

Our school building was a hub of activity between 5pm-7pm, showcasing everything we do to 'Create Opportunity to Succeed', with students and staff volunteering their time to meet prospective pupils and their families.

Among the highlights were performances by the cast of our upcoming production of Aladdin, live Science demonstrations, a murder mystery to solve in History and street art workshops in our Art and Design department.

Last year, we received our highest ever number of applications, and this feat looks to be repeated once again when offers are made to families in March 2025

Our Principal Mrs McCann said: "We were absolutely blown away by the turnout at Open Evening, which is testament to our hard-working, talented staff and

absolutely brilliant students.

"It was humbling to hear so many lovely comments from our visitors on the night, and we look forward to welcoming our Class of 2025 when Offer Day comes around in March."



A Cracker Of A Christmas Market

Hundreds of people turned out to officially kickstart the festive season at our annual Christmas Market.

The event, which took place in November, saw the whole community enjoy a full wide range of activities organised to get everyone in the Christmas spirit. Visitors had the chance to have their photos taken with Father Christmas as part of our 'Santa Selfie' grotto, play pin the tail on the reindeer, and enjoy freshly cooked Bratwurst while they perused local arts and craft stalls. Our students also entertained with a number of musical performances, while Queen Elsa and Princess Ana returned following last year's school production of Frozen to meet and greet our younger guests.



Meanwhile, football fans had the chance to win prizes by showing off their skills as Manchester United Foundation hosted a range of activities and challenges in the Sports Hall.

Assistant Principal Ms Stirling said: "We loved opening our doors to the community and it was the perfect way to get the festive season underway. "It was wonderful to see so many people turn out and I would like to thank all staff and students who volunteered their time to make the event such a success."





Achieving Goals With County

A group of our students from Years 8 to 10 recently had the exciting opportunity to visit Stockport County's Edgeley Park as part of the club's new DRiFT programme. The initiative is designed to tackle youth disorder in football, and we are proud to get involved in this important event.

During the visit, our students took part in engaging sessions that focused on matchday procedures and the laws in place to ensure the safety of both players and fans. They also learned about the risks of child

exploitation within football, gaining valuable insight into how young people can protect themselves and others in vulnerable situations. A key discussion centred on the impact that acts of violence and abuse can have, not only on individuals but also on the broader community, including fans, players, and local residents.

One of the highlights of the day was a tour of the ground, where students got a behind-the-scenes look at areas that are usually off-limits to the public. Visiting the home dressing room was especially exciting, offering

a glimpse into where players prepare for matches.



Enterprise Day



Our Year 7 students stepped into the world of business during an inspiring Enterprise Day, designed to challenge and develop their entrepreneurial skills.

Taking part in a Masterclass Challenge, the students worked in teams to run their very own professional artisan craft companies. The day began with team-building activities, which set the tone for collaboration and creative thinking. From there, students adopted various job roles, allowing them to experience the dynamics of running a business. Each team applied for a bank loan from the Stockport Academy Bank, purchased essential

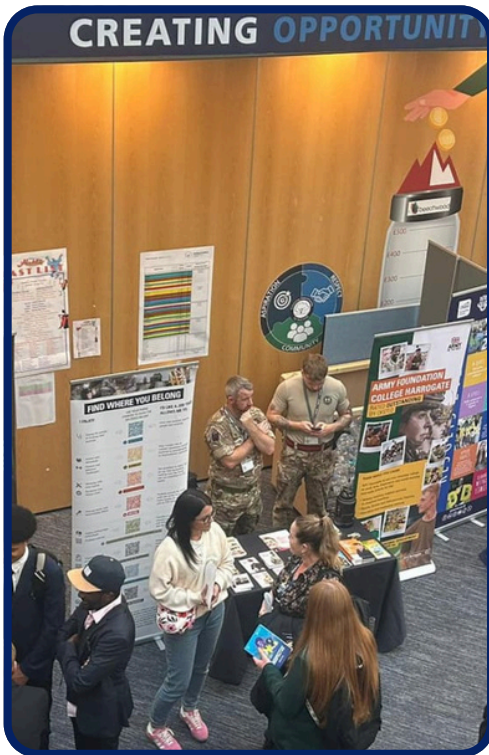
supplies from Stockport Stationery Supplies, and then set to work creating and developing their unique products.

The challenge required teams to negotiate contracts with retailers, sell their products, and finally present their company's vision and achievements to their peers. The competition was fierce, with one company generating an impressive £3,800 in sales, demonstrating the incredible creativity and business acumen of the students. Prizes were awarded in several categories, celebrating innovation, teamwork, and presentation skills.



"Creating Opportunity To Succeed"

Year 11 Careers Day



Our recent Careers Day for Year 11 students was deemed a huge success. Students spent the day off their usual timetable, giving them the opportunity to explore a variety of career paths and develop essential skills for their future as part of a series of organised workshops. The event was supported by a number of external agencies who led interactive sessions and offered invaluable advice to students, as part of the school's commitment to our Future Me framework, which aims to prepare students for life beyond school.

Throughout the day, students learned about key skills such as CV writing and producing personal statements, in addition to finding out more about apprenticeships, interview skills, alternative routes to further education, and managing money. These sessions provided students with practical tools and guidance to help them navigate their next steps.

One of the highlights of the day was the mock interview sessions, where students had the chance to put their skills to the test in front of professionals from various industries. Using the Future Me framework, they impressed with their preparation and professionalism, giving them a taste of real-life interviews and what employers look for in potential

candidates.

The event concluded with a vibrant careers fair, where students and their parents could meet representatives from organisations such as the Army, NHS, Stockport College, Cheadle College, The Village Hotel Group, and Futureworks University. This provided further insight into the wide range of career and educational options available.

Y11 Careers Lead Mrs Thandi said: "This was an excellent opportunity for all students to put their hard work into practice with mock interviews and use everything they've learned as part of Future Me. Students really impressed our professionals and had a taste of a real-life interview, I'm sure everyone came away with lots to think about."





Poppy Drop

Stockport Academy staff and students gathered to mark our annual Poppy Drop ceremony, a poignant and reflective event that brings the entire school community together in remembrance.

Held on 11th November, the Poppy Drop is a cherished tradition that allows students and staff to honour the sacrifices of those who served in the armed forces.

The atrium was filled with students from all year groups, along with staff and special guests, including student cadets and the heads of the prefectural board. Student cadets, dressed in uniform, stood in solidarity with their peers, lending a sense of respect and solemnity to the occasion.

During the service, which was led by our Principal Mrs McCann and Assistant Principal Ms Stirling, students stood in silence on the stairs and balconies around the atrium, each holding a poppy, which displayed a personal message of reflection, expressing gratitude and sharing thoughts of remembrance. After Mr Bocock played The Last Post following an impeccably-observed 2-minute silence, Mrs McCann dropped her poppy, initiating the release of hundreds of poppies from the students on the upper floors, creating a powerful visual tribute. After the poppies were dropped, students from Years 7 and 8 carefully gathered them to be used to create a commemorative display within the

school. The event concluded with a moment of silence, allowing students and staff alike to reflect on the importance of remembrance.

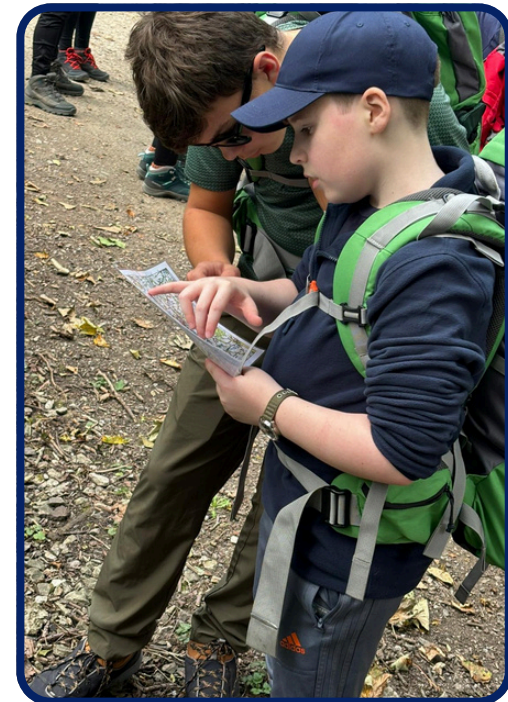
Ms Stirling praised the students for their respectful conduct, saying: "The Poppy Drop showcases our students at their very best. It is a moving tribute that brings us all together to honour those who have served, and I'm so proud of how our students participated with such respect and sincerity."



D of E Students Conquer Peaks!

Our dedicated students embarked on an exhilarating Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) expedition in the stunning Peak District, showcasing their resilience and teamwork - despite some unpredictable weather! Starting their adventure on Saturday, the group trekked through some of Derbyshire's most picturesque landscapes. They set off from Haddon, making their way to the charming town of Bakewell, where they joined the scenic Monsal Trail, continuing towards Topley Pike. The day began with a mix of sunshine and cloud cover, and as luck would have it, the sun shone brightly until late evening, allowing everyone to fully appreciate the breathtaking views that Derbyshire has to offer.

As the day ended and the group returned to camp, they faced a dramatic turn in the weather. The heavens opened up, bringing heavy rain along with impressive thunder and lightning. However, this did little to dampen their spirits! Sunday morning saw an early wake-up, setting off at 7:30 AM. Despite the challenging conditions, their attitudes remained upbeat and focused on the task ahead. They embarked on a rigorous 8.6-mile trek, which they completed successfully in just 3.5 hours. D of E co-ordinator Mr Sherwood said: "I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all those involved. A special thank you to the staff who volunteered their weekend to support our students, the parents for their encouragement, and, of course, to the students themselves for their hard work and dedication to earning their DofE award."





Term Dates and Contact Details

Spring 2025

6th Jan - 14th Feb
All students in

17th Feb - 21st Feb
Half Term

25th Feb - 11th Apr
All students in

24th Feb and 21st Mar
Inset and Planning Day -
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 - Ms Bickerton - lynn.bickerton@stockport-academy.org
 Year 8- Mrs Shaw - sarah.shaw@stockport-academy.org
 Year 9 - Ms James - danielle.james@stockport-academy.org
 Year 10 - Mrs McCann - linda.mccann@stockport-academy.org
 Year 11 - Ms Porter - sarah.porter@stockport-academy.org

