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# 100% Success



**W**e hosted our first ever Virtual Prizegiving ceremony at the end of term, celebrating the achievements of our students in the past academic year.

With the ceremony unable to take place at Stockport Plaza due to social distancing restrictions, our Senior Leadership Team took to the camera to present over 200 awards during the half an hour event, which was premiered on our YouTube channel on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Among the award winners were six Year 11 students who were recognised for achieving five years 100%

attendance and presented with either an iPad or laptop to support their future studies.

Other prizes included form effort and attainment, subject awards, head of year awards and Future Me awards, the latter recognising students who went the extra mile to contribute to school life outside of the curriculum.

All students who won were sent an invite and a commemorative programme in the post to keep as a memento, and they will be presented with their trophies in school at the start of next term.

Principal Mrs McCann said:

“We have been so excited to celebrate our amazing students and everything they have achieved – their resilience, determination and enthusiasm to learn while faced with the challenges we have been up against throughout the year has been nothing less than inspirational.

“It was brilliant to see so many families attending our virtual prizegiving, and hopefully this time next year we will once again be reunited at Stockport Plaza to celebrate in person.”

If you missed the ceremony or would like to watch it again, it is now available on our website.

# Principal's Message



Mrs Janine McCann,  
Principal

As another term draws to a close and the Summer break beckons, I have spent much of the past few weeks reflecting on what has been yet another unforgettable year at Stockport Academy!

Lockdown, virtual lessons, self isolation; pre-pandemic, these phrases will have had little or no meaning to any of us – how that has changed!

Yet despite the numerous challenges we have faced over the past year, we have risen as a community to overcome them and I believe we have become much stronger together as a school in the process.

I have always been proud of our students' resilience and desire to learn and do the best for themselves with every opportunity presented to them – this has never been more apparent this year. We have achieved things we never thought possible,

found solutions to problems we never expected to come up against, all while still maintaining the standards and ethos that makes our school so special.

It was wonderful to celebrate some of these achievements at our first ever Virtual Prizegiving ceremony a couple of weeks ago, and I truly can't wait to be able to present some of these awards in person at the start of next term. The fact we had a record number of Year 11 students achieving 100% attendance during their five years with us is once again a reflection of their dedication to their education.

This newsletters offers just a snapshot of some of the amazing things that have taken place in the past term, and I hope you enjoy reading all about what we've been up to in this time.

We also look forward to welcoming our New Year 7 students in September – yet again we are delighted to be recognised as the school of choice for the area and guarantee that every one of this new cohort will have access to an outstanding education with character during their time here.

Finally, I would like to thank our unrelenting staff, wonderful families and supportive governors for everything you have done for us throughout 2020-21. Wishing you all a happy, healthy Summer.




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## Brilliant Club



Year 10 students enjoyed a university-style graduation ceremony after completing the school's Scholar's Programme.

The group have been working on university-level work since October as part of

Brilliant Club, with a specific focus on Digital Capitalism and Modern Society.

During this time, they have enjoyed working with their own university PhD mentor from Manchester Metropolitan University who is researching Digital Politics - specifically, global digital capitalism, imperialism, and Africa. The research interrogates the histories of economic systems (from feudal times to the present), empires, and their relationship to the current geopolitics of

technology. Students have had the opportunity to explore these concepts with their tutor, while completing assignments alongside their own GCSE work in school.

Students attended a virtual graduation ceremony where they received certificates and even enjoyed the traditional throwing of their graduation mortar boards to celebrate completion of the course.

Assistant Principal Mrs Milnes said: "I am so proud of all the students who have completed this programme and they fully deserve the recognition they have received for their perseverance, resilience and determination to stretch themselves.

"I would like to thank Greater Manchester Higher for supporting us with Brilliant Club – it has offered our students an invaluable insight into higher education and has given them a real enthusiasm to continue their studies into university and beyond."

## BIG Award!

Stockport Academy's anti-bullying programme has been recognised nationally for the FIFTH year, after it picked up another Bullying Intervention Group (BIG) Award.

We are proud to be the only school in Stockport to hold the honour.

Judges were particularly impressed by our peer mentor programme, which sees older students take an active role in welcoming new students into the classroom and offer them individual support if they feel they might be struggling with any aspect of adapting to life at the academy.

Mrs McCann, Stockport Academy Principal, said: "We are delighted to receive this award again in recognition of our zero tolerance approach to bullying in school. Our students' wellbeing and happiness is at the heart of everything we do at Stockport Academy and it is so important to us that they feel safe and secure in their learning environment."

Val McFarlane, Director of the Bullying Intervention

Group, said: "Stockport Academy are extremely proactive in their anti-bullying work. They have a wide range of strategies in place, including an impressive peer

support scheme, with fully trained peer mentors who formally apply for the role. Despite Covid restrictions, this academy has continued to maintain their excellent bullying intervention work with innovative and successful ideas to raise awareness

"We are always impressed with the anti-bullying portfolio submitted by this school, who also work closely with their primary schools, to ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary for younger pupils. This is particularly important as it is a crucial time for pupils' mental wellbeing."



# A Bright Start for Year 7!

Our new Year 7s got off to the best possible start to life at Stockport Academy with an action-packed programme of activities at our Summer School.

Taking place over two weeks in August, nearly every single one of our soon-to-be students attended, making the most of the opportunity to meet many of their new classmates for the first time and find out more about the differences between primary and secondary school.

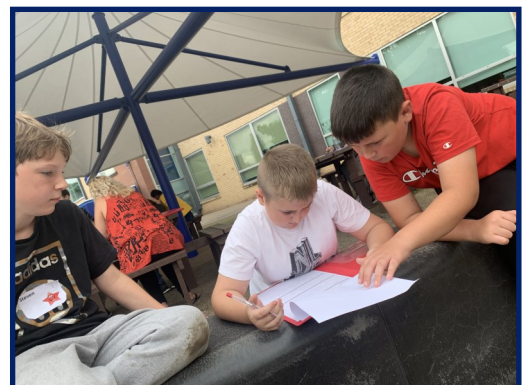
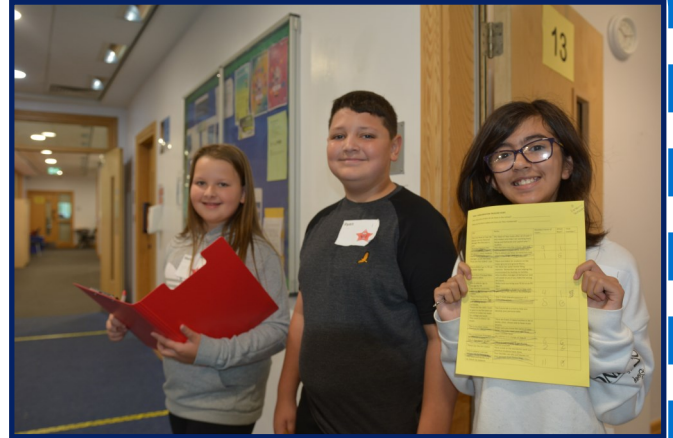
In between ice-breakers and treasure hunts to help them find their way around the building, they also had to chance to try out activities such as cooking, dodgeball, archery and comic book writing.

They even got to go on their first ever school trips with us, as we organised visits to Yorkshire Wildlife Park and Old Trafford!

To cap off an amazing two weeks, students and their families were invited into school for a celebration barbecue ahead of them joining as fully-fledged Year 7s in September.

Assistant Principal Mrs Milnes, who organised Summer School, said: "We have had so much fun getting to know our new Year 7s and they have been absolutely brilliant as they've pushed themselves out of their comfort zones and really hit the ground running with life at Stockport Academy."

Principal Mrs McCann added: "We are so excited for the start of the school year and can't wait to welcome our newest cohort to the family. They have been so well behaved and shown such a positive attitude to starting secondary school, and I am confident they will make the absolute best of the next five years with us."





## SA's Got Talent!

Our students showed exactly what we've been missing on stage over the past year with a phenomenal talent show.

The competition was launched as part of a wider Greater Manchester initiative led by Manchester United Foundation, with the eventual overall winner getting the opportunity to perform at Manchester International Festival this summer.

Around a dozen acts made it to the final, with students performing in front of a panel of judges that included Mrs Milnes, Mrs Zuppinger and Mr Shiels, who is the Chief Executive of Manchester United Foundation.

The panel was wowed by a wide variety of performances, including dancing, singing, and musical instruments ranging from the saxophone and violin to ukulele. We even had a magician and two rock bands!

After some stunning performances, the judges retired to make the tough decision of who would be going to represent Stockport Academy in the next round. After delivering feedback to all of the acts, they announced that Firdous in Year 9 was the winner for her emotional and beautifully thought-out dance routine.

Mrs Milnes, Assistant Principal, said: "It has been a pleasure to watch so many talented students perform today and clearly all worked so hard to perfect their acts.

"Picking one performer out of this amazing group has been such a difficult decision to make as the standard throughout the competition was absolutely exceptional, and as a panel we would like to say well done not only to Firdous but to every student who had the confidence to get up and show us all exactly why Stockport Academy has Talent!"



## Author Inspires Young Writers

Our Year 7 students were treated to a writing masterclass with an author who has penned over 230 books during his career.

Steve Skidmore spent the day in our library leading a series of workshops to inspire and inform our youngest cohort, and sessions covered a wide range of topics, including the necessity for writers to borrow and reshape their ideas from other works; making sure to match characters with the theme and setting of their fictional worlds; and creating tension by applying the Magic 3 for character development (the set up – repetition or development – the resolution) before moving on to discuss both the techniques of foreshadowing and the use of conflict to pique a reader's interest.

Librarian Mr Clarke said: "Our students were treated to a writing masterclass, which was structured to not only benefit students' future writing endeavours, but also, and perhaps more importantly, to bring students a little bit of joy after a challenging year.

Throughout, students were encouraged to engage and provide imaginative solutions to fantastical problems of every kind, every step of the way. To say they left feeling capable of writing the next great classic would be something of an understatement!"



## Mental Health Awareness Week

Students and staff celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week by sharing their love for the great outdoors.

This year's event was themed around nature – and how people can make the most of it to support their wellbeing.

In school, students were encouraged to take part in a gratitude challenge that involved them writing down or drawing what they liked best about nature, while form groups also competed to see how many students could walk or cycle to school instead of coming in the car.

Meanwhile, our school counsellor held some of her sessions outside – which went down brilliantly with students.

One Year 10 said: “Now we are back at school, I feel we spend a lot of time in the classroom so it has been nice to walk outside and get some fresh air. I have found it relieving and relaxing being outside for the eco sessions. Being out in nature,

hearing the birds, seeing the trees has definitely improved my mood.”

A Year 11 student added: “Walking in nature makes me feel relaxed and calm. It grounds me back to reality. All my worries seem to lessen as I am in nature. I focus on the different bird sounds and the water trickling, it is really calming. I found this has helped me in school as Michelle the counsellor understands as it calms my nerves.”



## On The Road To New Adventures



We were delighted to add an extra minibuss to our growing fleet in July, thanks to our ongoing partnership with local vehicle-leasing firm Lex Autolease.

The addition means we are now in proud possession of three 17-seater minibusses, which means that from September we will have extra capacity to be able to take more students on a

wide range of trips across the country.

The latest minibuss was taken out for the first time during our recent D of E excursion, which you can read about here.

Lex Autolease's Head of Pricing, Procurement and Remarketing Andy Hartley, who is also a community governor at Stockport Academy, said: “As a local business, Lex Autolease is delighted to be able to continue its relationship with Stockport Academy and we know that providing this minibuss will enable the Academy to offer many invaluable

experiences to students to enrich their education”

Principal Mrs McCann said: “We are so grateful to Lex Autolease for supporting our school, and the extra minibuss is another reflection of our growth over the past few years. We look forward to using it in the coming months and years to provide some really exciting opportunities to all of our students!”



## Paying Our Respects

Our school paid tribute to the lives lost during the Manchester Arena terror attack with a moving remembrance ceremony.

Students sat down to form a giant bee in the middle of the Atrium as the service began, while others lined the corridors on the first and second floors.

After observing a minute's silence, our SA Dance group put on a wonderfully-choreographed piece, before Eden in Year 9 sang in front of the audience. As she performed, students dropped hundreds of paper bees onto the floor, each one with a handwritten message of reflection from students.

Elsewhere, Year 9 Art students spent their lesson designing bees using lino print – you can see the end result in the photo gallery below.

All students and staff were invited to wear black and yellow for the day for a £1 donation, with the money going towards building water tanks in Yemen, with 21 of these being provided as a result. The idea was organised by our Gold Ties.

Bebe in Year 11 said: "This provides a family with water for a whole month and is something we take for granted daily. All tanks will be built all

signed with 'Stockport Academy Class of 2021' and a Bee, so this will really help to make a lasting mark on a community that needs our support."

Principal Mrs McCann said: "The Bee Drop was a beautiful way to pay tribute to the victims of the Manchester Arena attack and I am so proud of the way our school community comes together every year to reflect upon the impact of this terrible event."



## Mr McCarron OBE

Our former Principal Mr McCarron has received an OBE for services to education in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Mr McCarron retired last year from his role as Executive Principal of Stockport Academy, Manchester Academy and William Hulme's Grammar School, having dedicated over 40 years of his life to children's education – 26 of those as a headteacher.

He said: "To receive an honour for services to education from Her Majesty ranks as the pinnacle of my career and I feel privileged and honoured to have been recognised for the role I have played in



shaping young lives over the years.

"I would like to dedicate this achievement to all of the former colleagues I have had the pleasure of working with over the years and particularly to the students and their families who entrusted me to provide the very best education for their children.

Having spent the majority of the past year in retirement, Mr McCarron now enjoys making the most of his spare time with his three grandsons. He also continues to contribute to local schools in a voluntary role as chair of the governing body at Cravenwood Primary school. Congratulations sir!

# An Excellent Expedition!



Towards the end of term, a group of our staff supported Year 10 students who have been completing their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Silver and Bronze awards this year.

The awards were achieved through a five-day expedition that

started at Bredbury Hall and ended at Errwood & Fernilee Reservoir in Whaley Bridge. Students were responsible for not only planning the route, but also navigating terrain as a team and setting up camp each night until they reached their destination.

Year 10 student and newly-appointed Head of the Prefectural Board Ewan Harkness wrote this report about his experience:

*This term, some Year 10 students, including myself, finished their DofE Bronze and Silver awards by completing an expedition.*

*The expeditions were 10km treks going through hills, under bridges and next to rivers. Navigation was completed by the student team, and members of staff were positioned at check points along the way, so if you got lost you had to figure it out yourself.*

*However, before the expedition even began, months of time and effort had to be put in by the participants. This was because in order to receive the award, you have to complete three sections: skill, physical and volunteering. For two of those activities, three months of tasks and prep had to be completed for each and then six months for the final activity.*

*Everyone who completed the awards*

*have learned new skills, become physically fitter and, volunteered for a charity. We all say that we will continue with these hobbies after the award has been completed.*

*After completing the DofE Bronze and Silver awards, we reflected on the journey to this point, which was made more difficult by the impact of lockdown and Covid-19, and we all felt great pride at what we achieved.*

*I would urge everyone to take part in DofE as it is incredibly rewarding, fun and everyone who took part enjoyed it greatly.*



# A Term In Tweets

What's being said on social media? Follow us @sptacademy



**Stockport Academy**  
Posted by Hootsuite  
Sunday at 08:10 · 🌐

From the Stockport Academy astro pitch to the #Euro2020 final at Wembley... wishing Phil and the rest of the England football team good luck for an historic day. It's coming home! #ENGITA #EuroFinal #ItsComingHome

**#ItsComingHome**

How it started  How it's going



237

**Elyn Corfield**  
@LBGAmbNorth

It's a real pleasure @sptacademy. We cherish our close relationship with the school and I'm really pleased that @lexautolease could continue to support and help pupils broaden their education experience with visits further afield.

**Cheadle Heath Pri** @CHPSchool · Jun 11

Congratulations to @sptacademy former Principal & Executive Principal @fmccarron1 who has been awarded an OBE for services to education in the Queens Birthday Honours list. An amazing achievement recognising years of dedicated service to education. Congratulations from #teamCHPS

**Greater Manchester DofE** @DofEGMTeam · Jul 9

Replying to @sptacademy and @DofENorth

Fabulous photos from your expedition and of the views. Well done to all involved, showing great resilience and perseverance after a challenging year. Thank you to all who supported the expedition.

**Julia Hewer** @leh2609 · Jun 26

The library at @sptacademy (with its brilliant staff librarian) is a much loved and essential space for my teen. Wonderful provision #schoolibrariesareessential

**Debi Coppel** @babsicov · May 28

@sptacademy @APPS1912 can't believe how fast the time has gone - thank you to both schools for helping my daughter become the wonderful young lady she is.

**sharon cooper**  
@Redstarr0603

Replying to @sptacademy

Proud parents tonight and 2 very happy bacon girls with a total of 5 awards between them.thank you for acknowledging all their hard work this year.

# Term Dates And Contact Details

## Term dates for Autumn 2021

Monday 6th September to Thursday 21st October

All Students In (staggered start on 6th-7th Sept)

Friday 22nd October to Friday 29th October

Half Term

Monday 1st November to Tuesday 21st December

All Students In

(Friday 10th December is Planning Day

- closed for students)

## Follow us on social media to keep up to date:

**Twitter:** @sptacademy

**Instagram:** @StockportAcademy

**Facebook:** @StockportAcademy

**Website:** [www.stockport-academy.org](http://www.stockport-academy.org)



## Group emails

Group emails allow you to get in touch with staff quickly. Simply use the relevant email address and include the staff member you wish to contact in the message. You will get a response within 48 hours during term time.

Pastoral Managers email:

### Transition and Year 7

[linda.mccann@stockport-academy.org](mailto:linda.mccann@stockport-academy.org)

### Year 8

[sarah.porter@stockport-academy.org](mailto:sarah.porter@stockport-academy.org)

### Year 9

[lisa.howarth@stockport-academy.org](mailto:lisa.howarth@stockport-academy.org)

### Year 10

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

### Year 11

[danielle.james@stockport-academy.org](mailto:danielle.james@stockport-academy.org)

## Group emails—faculty addresses

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[maths@stockport-academy.org](mailto:maths@stockport-academy.org)

[science@stockport-academy.org](mailto:science@stockport-academy.org)

[humanities@stockport-academy.org](mailto:humanities@stockport-academy.org)

(includes Geography, History, RE)

[technology@stockport-academy.org](mailto:technology@stockport-academy.org)

(includes Art)

[ict@stockport-academy.org](mailto:ict@stockport-academy.org)

(includes Business Studies, Computing and ICT)

[expressivearts@stockport-academy.org](mailto:expressivearts@stockport-academy.org)

(includes Drama, Dance, Music)

[mfl@stockport-academy.org](mailto:mfl@stockport-academy.org)

(French and Spanish)

[pe@stockport-academy.org](mailto:pe@stockport-academy.org)

## Have your say....

What would you like to see in the newsletter?  
Is there something you particularly like or dislike? Please tell us by emailing [marketing@stockport-academy.org](mailto:marketing@stockport-academy.org).

## Contact us:

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**Telephone:** 0161 286 0330

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