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Teacher of the Year!



Our Head of Art and DT has been recognised as Teacher of the Year at a prestigious regional awards ceremony.

Ms Stirling received the honour at the glamorous Educate Awards ceremony, held at Liverpool Cathedral on Friday 19th November.

Miss has been teaching for seven years – five of those at Stockport Academy – gives lessons in Art, Textiles, Catering and Design Technology at the academy, and also organises our annual memorial ceremony in honour of the victims of the

Manchester Arena attacks of 2017.

Accepting her award, she said: "This is probably my proudest moment as a teacher. You get small wins in the classroom every day, but the recognition on the night was just so lovely."

Ms Stirling didn't spend too long celebrating her win though. On Saturday morning, she headed off to Conway to join her GCSE Art students who were on a residential trip that she had arranged to help them develop ideas for their coursework.

It was a successful night for Stockport Academy, who were also shortlisted in three other categories.

Principal Mrs McCann said: "We were delighted to be recognised in so many areas on the night and it is a testament to the hard work and dedication that everyone associated with Stockport Academy puts into our school that makes it a truly special place to learn."

Principal's Message

As another year draws to a close, I can't help but look back and reflect on what we have achieved as a school over the past 12 months. I am immensely proud of our recent success at the North West Educate Awards, - the recognition received by Ms Stirling, Mr Farquhar, our Eco Club and Senior Leadership Team is thoroughly deserved. As a community, we are incredibly lucky to have such dedicated staff, students and families supporting our school. We have been delighted to return to organising school trips this term, and have

loved giving students many opportunities outside of the classroom, for example the Art Residential (pages 4-5). Equally, it has been brilliant to welcome some of our local primary students back into school, including those from Alexandra Park and Cheadle Heath primaries to work on anti-bullying workshops (page 7) - a prime example of cross-school partnerships that are flourishing once again. So, looking ahead to 2022, we do have even more to look forward to and it is with great excitement that we will soon begin planning for our first Prizegiving ceremony in two years,



(due to take place in July) and Kingswood Residentials for Years 7 and 8 (set to take place next term). Events like this are what Stockport Academy is all about and really captures the essence of our 'Future Me' and 'Education With Character' programmes. With that in mind, I would like to thank you for your unwavering support as we push on to even brighter days.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2022.

Mrs J McCann
Principal

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A Cracker Of A Show!

Stockport Academy hosted its first-ever live-streamed show, as viewers tuned in online to watch our Christmas Concert.

Hundreds logged onto our YouTube channel to support students and our Performing Arts department, as they put on a performance to remember in front of the cameras.

Viewers were treated to a wide range of Christmas classics, including the choir singing 'Away In A Manger', and 'It Feels Like Christmas', dance performances to 'I'll Be Home For Christmas' and 'Forever Young', and solo singing and musical renditions of 'Silent Night' and 'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas', to name but a few!

As is the tradition with our Christmas shows, students gathered just before the interval to perform readings and light the candles on our Christmas Wreath, before ending the show with some festive favourites.

Music Teacher Mrs Bassett, who organised the show, said: "We were delighted to be able to offer families and friends of the school a chance to watch the show, especially given the current Covid restrictions in place.

"Everybody worked so hard on their performance pieces and this really showed – it was an excellent start to the festive period at Stockport Academy and it was nice to see so many people cheering us on online!"

On social media, the option to watch the show as a live stream received lots of praise, with one user saying: "Thank you for streaming so grandparents who live miles away can watch," while parents and carers also sent us photos of them watching the show on their laptops and TVs.

The show is now available to watch again on our YouTube channel – the video has now received over 1,000 views!



Year 11 Art Residential

In November, Year 11 Art students set off for their Art residential weekend in Anglesey.

Students completed intensive workshops on different themes relating to Space and Depth, and created both 'prep sheets' and final pieces in time for an exciting exhibition on Sunday afternoon.

One of the workshops was called 'Into the Woods' and explored the natural shapes of the forest. In this class, students completed 5-minute continuous line drawings, wirework, acrylic painting techniques and 3D shadow boxes, all inspired by the shapes of the pine and beech trees on the grounds of the residential centre.

Another workshop explored the theme through architecture, where students created tonal sketches of elements inside the building and then developed these into 3D

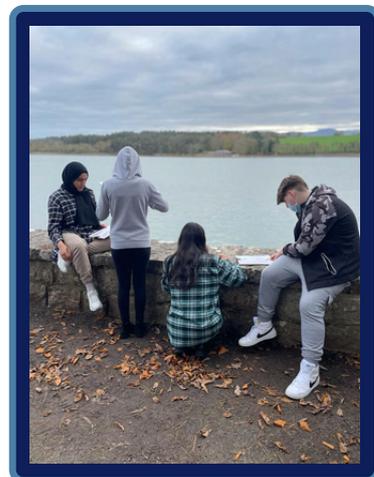
I shapes which showcased the different layers of built structures. Students considered ideas about depth, fragmentation and boundaries in their final pieces.

Other workshops explore landscape through painting, 'seductive surfaces' through print and tiling, and architectural space through folding and stitching.

Year 11 celebrated their hard work with a 'Bongo's Bingo Bonfire' on the Saturday Evening, with toasted marshmallows and lots of prizes!

Ms Stirling, Head of Art and Design Technology, said "We are so proud of our students and the hard work and dedication that they have demonstrated during the weekend. They showed real perseverance and maturity during the workshops and tried and excelled at skills and techniques which were

completely new to them. They have been a real credit to the school – a huge well done!"



Autumn 2021



Bronze Award: Achieved!



We are delighted to have been awarded the 'Bronze: Rights Committed' award, as part of our Rights Respecting Schools Award journey with Unicef! This award shows that we are

committed to learning about, and fighting for, children's rights in our school.

Our Activism Club, who make up our student panel, has already begun to think about ways that we can keep improving and making our school culture more rights respecting, and we can't wait to see some of those ideas take hold during the year, as we begin working towards the 'Silver: Rights Aware' stage. As we continue our journey

and consider ways to improve, students' voices and experiences are vital for informing our next steps. We will be focusing on Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that 'Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously'. Students will find out more in assemblies and during form tasks, after Christmas.

Thank You Karen!

We bid farewell and wished good luck to one of our longest-serving members of staff at the end of this term as Head Cook, Karen, left us to start her retirement.

Karen has been with the school for 40 years, and was given a proper send-off with a presentation and afternoon tea during our INSET Day in December.

On social media, there were plenty of messages of support, with former Executive Principal Mr McCarron tweeting: "Karen looked after me for 8 years at Stockport. She is a lovely lady who I could stand chatting to for ages. She really cared about the staff, children and colleagues in the Academy and will be sorely missed."



Anti-Bullying Week



Our school teamed up with local primary schools to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week. Pupils from Cheadle Heath Primary and Alexandra Park Primary were invited into school to work with our Peer Mentor Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to share ideas on how to raise awareness of potential issues in school and to support each other. Cheadle Heath pupils will continue to visit our school over the coming weeks, as we look to develop those thoughts as part of a wider project. Our Anti-Bullying Lead Ms Uehlein said: "The groups worked brilliantly together, with some really productive

conversations taking place around the topic of bullying and how to stop it making a harmful impact on people's lives."

Elsewhere, every student in Years 7-11 participated in an hour-long workshop with Stand Against Violence – a charity organisation that spoke more about the consequences of bullying and encouraged everyone to consider the impact our words and actions might have on other people.

Our peer mentors also led their own anti-bullying assemblies, which were expertly delivered – again looking at what can happen when someone is being bullied.

The national theme for Anti-Bullying Week was 'One Kind Word', and we celebrated this as a school by creating a giant paper chain that is now displayed around the atrium. Each chain contains a kind word written by each student.

Ms Higgins, who leads the Peer Mentors, said: "Our Kind Word chain is a real statement around school and a reminder that everyone can choose to be kind to make a positive difference to others instead of a negative one. We've had a great week raising awareness of the effects of bullying and I would like to thank our Peer Mentors in particular for making it such a success."



Skills To Pay The Bills

Our Year 11 students spent a day putting their Future Me skills to the test during our Careers Day in November.

Students had the opportunity to take part in a series of workshops that focused on some of the key topics relating to higher education and the world of work, such as university life and the pay index – what students can expect to earn at the start of their careers.

There were also sessions that supported students with their CV writing, revision and interview skills.

Every student was invited to take part in a mock job interview during the day, which involved staff from local businesses asking them questions before giving feedback on



how they improve when it comes to the real deal.

Mrs Thandi, CEIAG co-ordinator, said: “The mock interviews will hopefully give our students invaluable experience as they prepare for life after secondary school, and the skills they have picked up today will support them in doing exactly that.”

Future Me Day



Key Stage 3 students took part in a series of workshops which focused on further study, careers, mental health and personal development. In October, external organisations joined us in

delivering a ‘Future Me Day’ packed with interesting information about university, mental health, budgeting money and more.

Year 7, 8 and 9 enjoyed workshops on a range of topics, including: First Aid, how to navigate online digital life, managing stress and anxiety, self-esteem, understanding gender, animal rights, knife crime,

understanding Humanism, healthy eating. Year 9 explored ‘Higher Education Uncovered’, where they discussed university courses and campus-life with GM Higher, and they also found out about how bank accounts and budgeting work with sessions facilitated by Barclays.

Year 6 Open Evening

We were delighted to welcome Year 6 families back into school for our first Open Evenings since 2019.

This year, the format was slightly different to previous events, being held over two nights instead of one and by appointment only – with our Gold Tie students doing a brilliant job of being tour guides to show prospective students around. Both evenings were fully booked within 24 hours of appointments being made available.

Staff from every department proudly showed off exactly what makes our school so special, with some brilliant interactive presentations and activities for families to get involved with.



Principal Mrs McCann said: It has been absolutely wonderful to invite the community back into our school after so long and we are so pleased that we were able to do so in a safe and friendly environment.

We have been honoured by the level of interest in our school, hosting more Year 6 visitors than ever before and over a longer period of time. We look forward to welcoming them as our own Year 7s in just under a year!”

Due to social distancing restrictions, last year’s event was held virtually – with a record number of students applying for a place at our school once again.



GCSE Results On Cloud 9



Students at Stockport Academy celebrated the awarding of GCSE grades during the Summer break, with the qualifications reflecting their hard work and commitment over the past five years.

Due to the cancellation of external examinations, GCSEs were awarded following Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). As part of this assessment process, students at Stockport Academy sat in-class exams and completed coursework.

The results morning was an excellent opportunity to congratulate students for their diligence and perseverance in the face of disruption caused by the pandemic.

On the day, Mrs McCann, Principal at Stockport Academy said:

“I’d like to congratulate all our students celebrating today and thank them and our staff for all their hard work and determination over the past eighteen months. These GCSE qualifications are students’ first steppingstone on their journey to university, the professions, and happy, successful adult lives. No one is going to forget the challenges that this cohort of young people have faced and my admiration for them and what they have achieved is considerable. As a school, we’re very proud of our Year 11s and we wish them the very best of luck for the future.”



A Term In Tweets



Julia Hewer @leh2609 · Sep 24

Replying to @sptacademy

Thanks to all the staff and students that gave their time- we came away with a great impression of the school and all the opportunities. Lovely to see the confident and inspiring young people!



Cheadle Heath Pri @CHPSchool · Oct 11

Über proud to hear that ex #teamCHPS pupil Ewan is #headpupil @sptacademy! Ewan was a star from the moment he started school - diligent, enthusiastic, hard working, resilient and humble, all in equal measure. #aspirebelieveachieve #fromsmallbeginnings



Educate Awards @EducateAwards · Nov 19

It is time for the Teacher of the Year category, sponsored by @CEREducation and presented by senior divisional operations manager for the North West, @ElaineBerryCER.

The winner is... Kerris Stirling from @sptacademy! Well done Kerris ★ #EducateAwards



Shaun Brady @shaunbradymusic · Nov 11

It's a unique honour as a saxophonist to be asked to play the Last Post every year on Remembrance Day.

Thank you for having me once again @sptacademy ♥

#LestWeForget



Sian Louise @siannybuck · Dec 2

@sptacademy Thank you for giving Amelia the opportunity to sing a solo in the Christmas production. @CaleGreenPS where her singing started and you would be so proud of her.



Term Dates and Contact Details

Spring 2021

6th January - 11th February
(staggered start 6th/7th Jan)

*Monday 7th Feb
INSET Day*

14th January - 18th February
Half Term

21st February - 1st April
All students in

*4th April - 18th April
Easter Holiday*

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 and Transition: Mrs McCann - linda.mccann@stockport-academy.org
Year 8: Ms Porter - sarah.porter@stockport-academy.org
Year 9: Ms Howarth - lisa.howarth@stockport-academy.org
Year 10: Ms James - danielle.james@stockport-academy.org
Year 11: Mrs Shaw - sarah.shaw@stockport-academy.org