

Issue 58
Spring 2025



Stockport Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

It's All Good!



In this issue...

- Y7 Residential
- Ski Trip
- Young Enterprise
- Boxing Champ Visit
- Transition Sports Camp

... and much more!

We are delighted to announce that following a recent Ofsted inspection, Stockport Academy has been graded 'Good' across all areas.

We are incredibly proud of this achievement, which reflects the hard work and high standards of our staff, students and everyone associated with our community.

For more information, please continue reading on page 3...

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Principal's Message

I am delighted to present the Spring Edition of our school newsletter. With so much going on across school over the past term, we've actually had to increase the size of the newsletter by 25% to accommodate everything this time around!

The front page says it all though - our recent Ofsted result summarises everything we already knew about our school and I couldn't be more proud of how our school community has pulled together - not just over the two inspection days, but every single day of the year - in order to achieve this superb result. This term really has been all about our school mission to 'Create Opportunity To Succeed' - from organising and executing our first ski trip in the French Alps to running an incredibly successful Year 7 residential (against all odds - you may be aware that the original trip had to be cancelled due

to the provider going into administration just weeks before the trip was due to take place). I would like to thank all of the staff who have given up their time to make these experiences possible for our students. We've also enjoyed getting to know our newest cohort of students, who are due to start in September. This is a really exciting time to be joining our Academy. Our Easter Sports Camp was very popular, in the first of several opportunities Year 6 have to visit us ahead of becoming fully fledged members of our community. We've also enjoyed some extra-curricular success - congratulations to our Young Enterprise team who were awarded the prestigious 'Company of the Year' Award at the regional finals. Obviously you can read all about this and much more in the following pages of this publication.



Looking ahead to the Summer Term, there is still much to be excited for. I am particularly proud of our Year 11 students who have been working tirelessly to prepare for their final GCSE exams, with our Easter and half term revision sessions really well attended - reflecting our school's core value of Aspiration - your hard work will be rewarded.

I hope you enjoy reading through our newsletter and look forward to sharing more updates with you in the coming weeks and months.

Mrs J McCann
Principal



It's All Good (cont'd)

A copy of the latest report can be viewed on our website, but in summary, the school was considered to be good in the following areas:

- Quality of Education
- Behaviour and Attitude
- Personal Development
- Leadership and Management

Inspectors spent two days in school back in January, speaking to students, staff, governors and our families about what it is like to be part of our community.

Among their findings, they concluded that:

- "Pupils behave extremely well and learn free from distraction"

- "Pupils are happy and feel safe in this caring school"
- "Pupils know there is no ceiling put on their success"
- "Pupils are kind to one another"
- "Pupils enjoy the sense of community"

Principal Mrs McCann said: "I am very pleased that Ofsted has rated Stockport Academy 'good' in all areas and that the inspectors' report is full of praise for our school. In particular, I am delighted that the inspectors commented on our friendly, vibrant and aspirational school culture in which everyone is supported to be the best they can be."

Following on from the report's publication, we were pleased to offer 220 places to Year 6 students to start with us in September - with over 100 more on the waiting list to join. You can find out how our newest cohort have got on in their first transition activity with us during Easter Sports Camp on page 15.



A Taste For Hospitality



Our Y10 Hospitality and Catering students had a fantastic opportunity to experience the inner workings of the hospitality industry during a visit to the Village Hotel in Cheadle. Students were given exclusive access to different areas of the hotel, meeting with key staff members to learn about the diverse range of roles that keep a hospitality business running smoothly. From front-of-house operations to kitchen staff and fitness trainers, they gained valuable insights into the

skills and dedication required in this fast-paced industry.

One of the highlights of the day saw students step into the kitchen, where they had the chance to make their own pizzas under the guidance of the hotel's chefs. They learned about food preparation, presentation, and the importance of teamwork in a professional kitchen environment.





Company Of The Year

Our Year 10 Enterprise Directors have once again showcased their business acumen and creativity at the Young Enterprise Greater Manchester Regional Finals. The team, named 'Disc-o-Designs', worked tirelessly in preparation for the competition, where they were judged on their business report, interview, trade stand, and presentation. Competing against 15 other teams from across the region, including some from Year 12, they faced tough competition but rose to the challenge with professionalism and determination.

The judges were particularly impressed with Disc-o-Designs' innovative approach to repurposing old vinyl records and CDs into unique crafted wall hangers and clocks. Their commitment to reducing waste and promoting sustainability was highly commended.

Disc-o-Designs' exceptional efforts were recognised with the prestigious Company of the Year – Judges' Award.

This accolade reflected the incredible journey they had been on throughout the competition, particularly evident in their detailed business plan and interview performance.

Mr Lewis, who runs the school's Young Enterprise Club, praised the students for their dedication: "I am incredibly proud of the hard work, commitment, and entrepreneurial spirit shown by our students. They demonstrated resilience, creativity, and professionalism throughout, and this award is a testament to their fantastic efforts."



A Champion Day

We welcomed professional boxer Conah Walker for an inspiring visit, where he shared his journey to success and motivated students to pursue their goals.

Conah, a former WBA International Silver Welterweight Champion, started the day with a Q&A session in the main hall. Students from all year groups had the chance to ask him about his career, training regimen, and the mindset needed to compete at the highest level. During lunchtime, Conah posed for photos with students, proudly displaying his championship belts. He then led breakout sessions, offering smaller groups valuable advice on discipline, mental toughness, and the mentality required to achieve success in professional sport.

The day concluded with an exclusive boxing training session for students who attend Stockport Academy's boxing co-curricular club. Under Conah's guidance, they worked on technique, footwork, and fitness—gaining first-hand experience of what it takes to perform in the ring.

Mr. Bramley, who organised the visit, said: "It was an honour to have Conah visit our school. He is a fantastic role model, and our students were truly inspired by his journey and dedication to his sport."





A Win For Y7 At Winmarleigh



Over 120 of our Y7 students took part in what has now become a true Stockport Academy rite of passage – the annual residential visit - this year to Winmarleigh Hall near Preston.

For three unforgettable days, students immersed themselves in an action-packed itinerary, designed to build teamwork, confidence and resilience. From scaling rock climbing walls to testing their survival skills by building shelters and lighting fires in the wild, each activity gave students the chance to step outside of their comfort zones and try something new.

Other highlights included the adrenaline-pumping nightline challenge – a blindfolded obstacle course requiring teamwork and trust – as well as orienteering, trapeze jumps, and a variety of problem-solving games that tested both brains and bravery.

Evenings were just as eventful, with students enjoying traditional campfires, toasting marshmallows, and dancing the night away at the disco.

Trip organiser and Head of Transition Ms Foster said: “Our students were absolutely brilliant throughout the whole trip. Their behaviour was exemplary, and they threw themselves into every activity with such enthusiasm and positivity. It was wonderful to see so many of them pushing themselves beyond what they thought they could do – they should all be incredibly proud.”

The residential was a huge success, not just as a fun experience, but as a key milestone in our students' journey through secondary school – helping them form friendships, grow in confidence, and make memories that will last a lifetime.



"Creating Opportunity To Succeed"

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Celebrating British Science Week



Stockport Academy recently celebrated British Science Week with a fantastic programme of events designed to engage students in this year's theme: Change and Adapt.

The Science Department put together a wide range of activities, encouraging curiosity and creativity across all year groups.

Throughout the week, Ms. Asigbetse ran a Bioart Competition, where students combined Science and Art to create stunning visual representations of biological processes. Meanwhile, Mrs. Staniforth led an insightful lesson on bird migration, exploring how different species have evolved and adapted to their environments to survive changing climates.

Mr. Routledge brought science fiction to life for KS3 students, running engaging Sci-Fi activities that sparked their imaginations and encouraged them to think about the science behind futuristic ideas. Later in the week, Mrs. Llewellyn's Science Knitting Club blended crafting with scientific concepts, showing students how patterns in nature can be represented through textiles.

A highlight of the week was a fascinating lecture by Mr. Cox for Year 9 and 10 students, where he explored the mind-bending question: "Does 'Now' Exist?" This thought-provoking session challenged students to think about time, reality, and physics in an entirely new way.

The celebrations ended with two spectacular Big Bang Science Shows—one for Year 5 pupils at Alexandra Park, Cale Green and Lark Hill Primary Schools and another for our own students. These shows featured explosive demonstrations, including the ever-popular elephant's toothpaste and methane rocket, leaving the audience amazed and inspired.



Y11 Art Residential



A group of Year 11 GCSE Art students took part in a fantastic three-day residential designed to support their coursework and help them gain at least a grade in their final assessments.

Taking place at the Conway Centre in Anglesey, the theme of the weekend was 'Mapping the Landscape,' with students exploring the connection between buildings and nature through various artistic techniques. Across four inspiring sessions, students worked with professional artists to develop their skills in different mediums.

The first session introduced them to 3D sculptures, where they manipulated wire to create unique structures. In the second, students experimented with embroidery architecture, stitching intricate designs onto images. The third session encouraged a birds-eye view of buildings, using mixed-media collage techniques. Finally, students explored textiles in the fourth session, layering different materials to produce stunning mixed-media pieces.

Outside of their creative workshops, students had the chance to relax and bond as a group, enjoying a campfire, roasting marshmallows, and listening to music under the stars.

Ms Higgins, Head of Art and Design Technology, praised the students' enthusiasm, saying: "This was an amazing opportunity for our Year 11s to develop their creative practice in a completely different environment. Every single student fully embraced the experience, and the work they produced was outstanding. I have no doubt this will have a lasting impact on their confidence and final GCSE pieces." The weekend was a fantastic success, and we can't wait to see how this experience shapes our students' future artwork!





Hitting New Heights In The Alps

A group of 40 students from Y8 to Y10 swapped their school shoes for ski boots as they embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure to the stunning slopes of Val Cenis Ski Resort.

The group flew into Italy before making the scenic journey across the border into France, settling into a week full of snow, skiing and unforgettable memories. To prepare for the challenge, students first took part in a two-hour training session at Manchester's Chill Factor, helping them get a feel for the basics before hitting the real mountains.

From day one, it was all action on the slopes. Every student showed aspiration as they tackled new skills, learned to navigate the pistes, and took on challenges they never imagined possible. Starting on gentle green runs, many progressed to blue and, by the end of the week, some were even confidently skiing down red runs from the mountain summit – an incredible achievement for first-time skiers!

When they weren't skiing, students soaked up the full experience of alpine life. Evenings were packed with community-building activities, including pizza nights, karaoke, quizzes, and film screenings. There was also a cultural visit to a traditional fromagerie, where students learned how local cheeses

are made.

Snowball fights and playing in hip-deep snow added to the magic of the trip, with plenty of laughter and shared moments among friends and staff. Pupils supported one another on the slopes, respected their instructors and environment, and proudly represented Stockport Academy throughout.

Ms Jackson, our Co-Curricular Lead, said: "This truly was a once-in-a-lifetime trip for our students – an experience they'll remember forever. Every single one of them did themselves and the school proud. To see their confidence grow each day and witness the bonds they formed as a group was incredibly special. They embraced the challenge, supported each other, and made huge progress on the slopes. They were outstanding ambassadors for Stockport Academy."



"Creating Opportunity To Succeed"

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Y10s Mean Business

Our Y10 Young Enterprise Directors continued their busy term with a visit to HSBC's regional offices in Manchester for a day to find out more about running a business. As part of the tour, the team met three of HSBC's latest trainee recruits who are on the organisation's Foundation & Graduate Apprenticeship Programme. John, Will and Anoushka delivered an informative presentation about this exciting route into higher education before running a fun and engaging workshop with our students.

Mr Lewis, who runs our Young Enterprise programme, said: "I would like to thank our hosts and the graduate apprentices for their efforts in supporting our students. Opportunities like this are amazing at raising aspirations for our students, whilst at the same time providing them a real insight into the latest opportunities that are available in developing their careers. Thanks again to the team at HSBC!"



A Magical Experience



A group of Stockport Academy students enjoyed a truly unforgettable trip to London as they took part in the launch of an exciting new musical project in partnership with United Learning and the Royal Opera House. Held at the world-famous Royal Opera House, Everybody Sing The Magic Flute marked the beginning of a nationwide collaboration based on Mozart's iconic opera. As part of the initiative, students from 53 United Learning schools – including our own – have been working alongside professional artists to learn and perform songs from The Magic Flute, helping to

develop their creativity, confidence and collaboration.

Our students joined more than 1,700 pupils in performing six songs from the opera at the launch concert, accompanied by the Royal Ballet & Opera Orchestra and professional opera singers in a truly spectacular celebration of music and learning. This concert is just the beginning – students will continue rehearsing the rest of the repertoire over the coming weeks, before showcasing their talents once again at a major performance at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall later in the summer term.



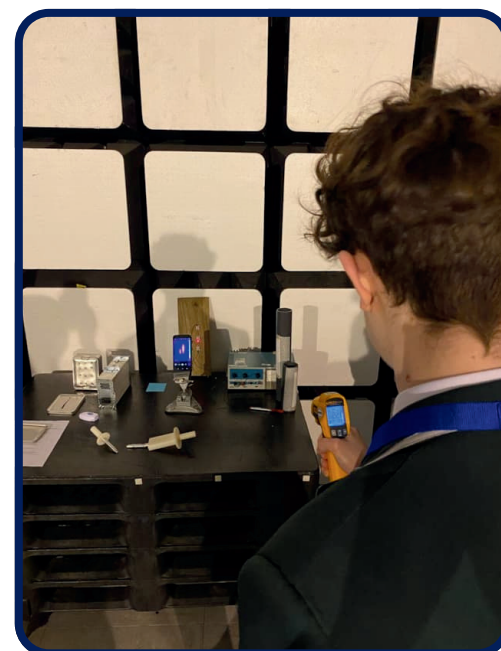
Science Careers Trip

A group of our Year 10 Scientists had an inspiring day at Waters in Wilmslow, gaining valuable insight into the world of analytical science and technology.

Waters, a global leader in scientific instruments, opened its doors to our students, providing them with the opportunity to explore how its cutting-edge equipment is used in the pharmaceutical and food industries, as well as in testing for banned substances in sport. A highlight of the day was a fascinating session on mass spectrometry, where students learned how scientists detect different compounds in substances – a crucial process in everything from medicine development to food safety.

The visit also included hands-on workshops, allowing students to put their skills to the test in a range of STEM challenges. They explored coding, developing key digital skills essential for the modern workplace, and even took part in a creative engineering challenge, building bridges out of pasta!

Miss Quigley, Lead Practitioner for Science, said: "This was an amazing opportunity for our students to see how science is applied in the real world. They were really engaged throughout the day, and the experience has given them a real insight into the careers available in STEM fields. Huge thanks to Waters for hosting us!"





County Creatives

Some of our students recently participated in an inspiring workshop hosted by Stockport County Community Trust, where they explored their creativity through a combination of creative writing and mosaic tile making. The workshop, held at Edgeley Park, aimed to promote artistic expression and teamwork among young people in the local community. The initiative is part of Stockport County Community Trust's ongoing efforts to foster creativity, confidence, and collaboration among students. The morning session began with a creative writing workshop where students were encouraged to delve into their imaginations, penning short stories and poems inspired by a

letter from the words "Stockport County FC". After a brief lunch break, the focus shifted to mosaic tile making. Arranged by GRIT Studios under the guidance of Manchester mosaic artist Francis Thorington, the students learned how to design and assemble their own mosaics, using tiles in Stockport County's iconic blue and white colours. The finished artwork is now displayed in a trail throughout Edgeley and Alexandra Park, ending at Edgeley Park football ground, as a testament to the students' creativity and hard work. Francis said: "Your students were amazing! I can't believe how neat and tidy each one is! For first timers, that level is genuinely incredible."

The Trust plans to organise similar events in the future, continuing to provide opportunities for young people to develop new skills and connect with their community. For these six students, the workshop was an unforgettable experience—one that left them proud of their accomplishments and eager to explore more creative pursuits.



Y6 Sports Camp

We welcomed a group of excited Year 6 pupils during the Easter break for a two-day Sports Camp, designed to give them a head start on their journey into secondary school life.

The camp – part of our partnership with Manchester United Foundation – focused on football following feedback from the pupils themselves, and included a mixture of team-building activities, technical drills, and friendly afternoon tournaments.

As well as giving students the opportunity to get active and develop their sporting skills, the camp served as an important transition experience, allowing future Y7s to make new friends, build confidence, and familiarise themselves with the Stockport Academy environment ahead of September.

The event strongly reflected the school's core values of Aspiration, Respect and Community, with students encouraged to support one another, aim high, and take pride in representing their new school.

Mr Bramley, our Manchester United Foundation Partnership Officer, said:

"It was fantastic to see so many of our incoming Y7s having fun, getting stuck into the activities and starting to build friendships that will carry on into the new school year. The confidence and enthusiasm they showed over the two days was brilliant to see, and I'm sure this experience has given them a really positive start to their journey at Stockport Academy."

The next opportunity for all pupils to visit the school ahead of September is the Transition Day, which takes place on 3rd July.





Term Dates and Contact Details

Summer 2025

28th Apr - 23rd May
All students in

27th May - 30th May
Half Term

2nd June - 18th July
All students in

5th May and 26th May
Bank Holidays - School
Closed

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Year 10 - Mrs McCann - linda.mccann@stockport-academy.org

Year 11 - Ms Porter - sarah.porter@stockport-academy.org

Transition - Ms Foster - transition@stockport-academy.org

