

COLLEGE TIMES



COLLEGE CELEBRATES RECORD RESULTS

This August, Stockton Sixth Form College received its best ever AS results with current second years setting a very high standard for new students!

Students achieved:

- Excellent 98% A-level pass rate and the college's best ever number of A* grades
- 99% BTEC Level 3 pass rate
- Highest ever AS-level pass rate with best ever high grades (A*-B).

The results marked a huge achievement for hard-working students and staff and followed a year of success at the college after it was judged to be 'Good' across all areas by Ofsted.

In addition, the college secured the highest success rate of all local colleges (BIS, 2014), making Stockton Sixth Form an increasingly attractive choice for prospective students and leading to a bumper enrolment in the summer.

Of course, these exceptional results were due to very high attendance and outstanding course retention (which Ofsted described as "striking") as well as lots of revision and support outside of lessons. Everyone's hard work clearly paid off!

Joanna Bailey, Principal at Stockton Sixth Form College, said: "We have had a very successful year at Stockton Sixth Form College, being judged 'Good' across the board by Ofsted was a great achievement for us. Following this, the results our students achieved after facing a difficult challenge in the wake of changes to Level 3 qualifications, were exceptional. This has been a very positive year and we hope 2014/15 allows us to continue on this road of success."

FAYE DIXON

LEVEL 2 SUCCESS

This summer, Stockton Sixth Form College saw its best success rate on Level 2 courses (GCSE or equivalent) with a record number of students staying on at the college to progress to Level 3.

The number of students who achieved a C grade or above surpassed the national benchmark, securing the college's best ever Level 2 results.

The college's vocational Level 2 courses attained an 86% pass rate, and proved extremely popular with students – with almost double the number of enrolments than the year previous.

Retention of Level 2 students also exceeded the national benchmark, joining Level 3 retention rates as some of the best in the area!

JAMES GREGORY



OPEN EVENINGS

Interested in studying at Stockton Sixth Form College? We are hosting Open Evenings for prospective students and their families on Thursday 23rd October and Tuesday 25th November, 6-8pm. Come along for your chance to view our facilities, meet staff and students and learn more about why we're the best college in the area for student success!



ENGINEERS KICK START COURSE

Students aiming for a career in the region's engineering industry are studying a BTEC Extended Diploma in Engineering at Stockton Sixth Form for the very first time. The college launched the course in September after unprecedented demand from applicants.

The full-time course juggles four days at college studying the Maths, Science and other interesting elements of Engineering with a one-day practical placement at NETA. Work experience, industry mentoring and guest lectures are also offered to ensure students are well-placed to progress after leaving college.

To secure your place to study Engineering for 2015/16, visit www.stocktonsf.ac.uk

EDITOR

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

On Friday 10th October, Psychology and Health and Social Care students came together to raise money and awareness for the Mental Health Foundation on World Mental Health Day.

Activities were held in the common room during Supported Study; students had been busy baking treats for the cake sale and creating posters for the mental health awareness quiz and competition.

One in four people will develop a mental health issue at some point in their lives and it is nothing to be ashamed of. The focus of World Mental Health Day was to raise awareness and help lose the negative stigma that has been placed on mental health.

Overall the event was a great success and helped raise lots of money for a fantastic cause!

ZOE MCLONE



FILM CLUB TAKES STUDENT WORK TO THE BIG SCREEN

September saw the new 'Film Club' enrichment introduced to Stockton Sixth Form College, allowing students to receive free cinema tickets and watch newly-released films.

The first trip out of college for Film Club students involved the premiere of 'Cold in July' starring Michael C. Hall, who plays the main character in hit series 'Dexter', and the chance to view fellow students' Media coursework on the big screen.

The enrichment benefits from a newly-formed college partnership with ARC, in Stockton town centre. Teacher of Media, Paul Wheatcroft, said: "We want to provide all students the opportunity to watch films for fun; it's not just limited to Media students!

"In the summer we entered into a partnership with ARC and they are committed to helping us bring the course to life and also to providing work experience for our students. There are two kinds of experience available, the chance to work a single day where students will get to go behind the scenes to watch and review a film, and also a unique one-week placement offered as a reward for our 'student of the year'.

"The enrichment and subsequent work experience will provide really good opportunities for those wanting to get into the media industry."

Joe Greenan, a second year Media student said: "I really enjoyed the first instalment of Film Club. It was interesting to see a new genre of film in a different type of atmosphere."

LUKE FLEMING



STUDENTS TRAVEL THE CONTINENT WITH EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Stockton Sixth Form College is reaping the rewards of two European projects which have enabled students to visit Germany, Malta, Spain and Slovakia in the last year.

The college secured over 100,000 euros in funding in 2013 to expand opportunities to visit neighbouring countries with a host of different subjects.

Throughout the summer, Travel and Tourism students were given the opportunity to complete paid placements on the Costa Brava coast in Spain, working in a busy hotel. The students, Kate Bircham, Katie Foulger, Gillian Hardy, Sophie McArthur, Stacey Mills and Olivia Wilson, worked at the busy Tossa de Mar resort, gaining unique work experience in customer-facing roles.

This 10-week secondments, part of the 'Leonardos' project, gave students the knowledge and skills needed to pass the recognised 'Europass' qualification, an internationally recognised award that helps set students apart when applying for universities and future careers.

The college's second European project, Comenius, allows students from lots of different courses to travel on all-expenses paid trips across the continent, meeting students from foreign partner schools. We are exceedingly proud to announce that we have students from Germany visiting Stockton Sixth Form this week as part of the project. We hope that they enjoy themselves at our great college and take back many fond memories!

Joanna Bailey, Principal of Stockton Sixth Form College, said: "Not many colleges have the opportunity to offer their students chances to visit cities and countries across the continent – these projects offer unique, once-in-a-lifetime experiences which will no doubt boost their aspirations as they look to leave college."

STACEY MCMASTER



NATHANIA SCOOPS WINSTON CHURCHILL CUP

Stockton Sixth Form College student Nathania Ewruje has been awarded the English-Speaking Union's (ESU) Winston Churchill Cup for Public Speaking after impressing judges at the competition's national final.

Nathania, 16, a first year college student, beat off stiff competition from nine finalists from across the country in a speech delivered in front of a panel of judges at the Churchill War Rooms in London.

All finalists were tasked to speak on a Winston Churchill quote from 1953 on the occasion of his award of the Nobel Prize for literature; "The power of Man has grown in every sphere, except over himself."

Nathania spoke of society's race for power versus individual self-control; discussing modern-day examples including the London riots in a six-minute speech.

Jane Easton, Director-General of the ESU, commented in delivering the panel's adjudication: "Nathania gave a speech which was not only technically excellent, but had an exceptional level of engagement with the audience and a natural connection with great warmth and humour.' Well done, Nathania!

EDITOR

ASPIRING MEDICS VISIT UNIVERSITY AUTOPSY

Students from Stockton Sixth Form College learnt more about a career in clinical science when they visited a human autopsy at Newcastle University in October.

The group of 24 students, all aspiring medics, travelled to the University's renowned Medical School to gain a rare glimpse in to the human anatomy.

Different work stations allowed the group to learn more about individual organ systems, whilst analysing organs in situ.

The students are part of the college's Pathway to Clinical Science enrichment programme, which aims to give specialist and tailored guidance to students aiming for competitive careers in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science. The successful programme saw eight college students offered places to read Clinical Sciences at universities across the country last year.

Angeline Keightley, head of PaCS at Stockton Sixth Form College, said: "The PaCS enrichment is all about providing unique and rare opportunities for students, allowing them to expand their scientific knowledge outside of college and therefore impressing in future interview situations.

"As the next generation of clinical scientists, this was a fantastic opportunity for our students to gain insight in to a real-life human autopsy – an experience which only served to enhance their passion for working in Medicine in the future."

EDITOR



MY FAVOURITE TIME OF YEAR

It's October and officially the time to leave barbecues and the beach behind, ditch the shorts and sandals and bring out our all-time favourite clothing – the oversized jumpers, cosy fluffy socks and ankle boots!

That crispness and chill means we get to exchange greens on the trees for the beautiful oranges and reds of autumn. It doesn't seem to last very long when it finally arrives, but everyone loves the cooling weather and the seasonal flavours (Starbucks has already sent me an email regarding the pumpkin spice latte!).

I love getting home from college and making myself a delicious hot chocolate! Just in case I haven't already evoked your autumn spirit, here's the best hot chocolate recipe ever.

This isn't just a regular instant 'make in the mug' cuppa, spend a bit of time and you will not regret it! This should make two mugs, you will need 565ml of milk, 2 tablespoons good-quality drinking chocolate, a handful of marshmallows and, if you're not sweet enough, sugar to taste. For a truly hot chocolate heaven you could even add some cubes of your favourite chocolate bar.

- Place your milk into a saucepan and heat gently
- Prepare your mugs
- Once it's simmering (NOT boiling) tip a little milk into your favourite mug and stir in your hot chocolate powder, then add a few marshmallows to your mugs. If you are a real chocoholic add some solid chocolate too!
- Pour the remaining milk over the marshmallows and chocolate and drink your way to a warming chocolate paradise!

ZOE MCLONE

MACMILLAN COFFEE AND CAKE MORNING

On the 26th of September, the charity enrichment team organised a coffee and cake morning dedicated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Daisy Hampton and Tamar Rafferty, two of the students who are involved in college fundraising, were in charge of the cake and coffee stall and managed to raise a very respectable £60 for the charity. This may not seem a lot, however, raising just £51 can buy a liquidiser for a cancer patient who can no longer eat solid food as a result of their treatment.

Many people will know about Macmillan as it has raised so much awareness to help cancer sufferers. Every penny counts towards helping people cope through such difficult times. Last year alone the charity managed to raise over £20m, let's hope we can help them reach a new record this year!

AMY BOWES