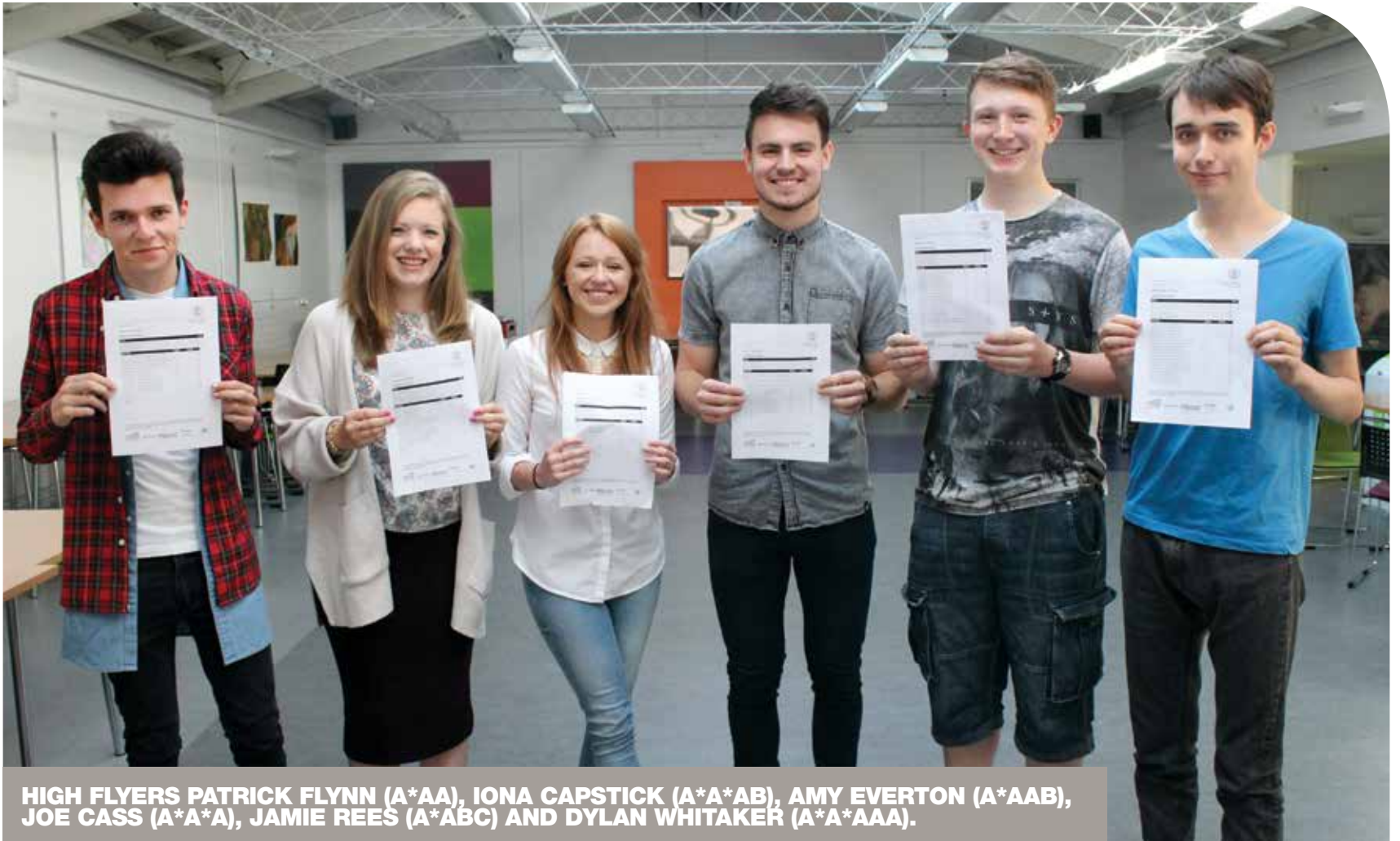


COLLEGE TIMES



HIGH FLYERS PATRICK FLYNN (A*AA), IONA CAPSTICK (A*A*AB), AMY EVERTON (A*AAB), JOE CASS (A*A*A), JAMIE REES (A*ABC) AND DYLAN WHITAKER (A*A*AAA).

RESULTS DAY SUCCESS!

Following the trend of recent years, Stockton Sixth Form College celebrated an excellent results day in August. With a 100% A-level pass rate across 27 subjects and a 97% BTEC pass rate, the college showed why it was named best in the area for student achievement earlier this year.

Alongside this achievement, the college attained its best ever number of A* grades and a staggering 88% high grades on BTEC qualifications.

Joanna Bailey, Principal at Stockton Sixth Form College, expressed her pride in students and the grades they had worked so hard for. She also showed her support for A2 students one last time and wished them the very best for their future.

A prime example of the college's success is shown by two of our highest achievers, Dylan Whitaker and Joe Cass. Dylan, a former Ian Ramsey student, secured impressive A*A*AAA grades in his final exams and a place to study Physics at the University of Birmingham. Joe, an ex-Our Lady and St. Bede student, achieved A* in Maths, A* in Further Maths and A in ICT. Joe secured his place at Durham University to study Computer Science.

Alongside the A2 results, many first year students also attained impressive grades. Both Oli Ross and Zoe Trainer worked endlessly to acquire A grades in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry. These students are aiming for A*s at A-level and will be attending top universities.

Congratulations to all of Stockton Sixth Form's commendable students and may we all have another year of hard work and success!

MARTY MURPHY AND CHLOE ROWE

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

World Mental Health Day was celebrated on Thursday 8th October 2015 with 'Cake and Chat'; a special event held by students studying Health and Social Care and Psychology. The event raised almost £100 for the Mental Health Foundation, but more importantly raised awareness of the stigma around mental health issues.

The theme of the event was 'dignity' – as we acknowledge mental health issues are not always portrayed accurately or realistically by the media. World Mental Health Day is important in providing information to young people as it is estimated that 1 in 4 people experience mental health issues in their lifetime. The event shared lots of information around a variety of mental health problems and advice on who to talk to for help.

Sarah Murray, Health and Social Care teacher at Stockton Sixth form College, said: "Cake and Chat aimed to raise awareness around mental health problems but to also challenge misconceptions often created by the media. We are very proud of all students who gave their time to be involved."

SAIRAH YOUNIS

COLLEGE DEVELOPS OXFORD LINK

Stockton Sixth Form College has made strong connections with Oxford University, enabling some of the college's highest achievers to visit the prestigious institution on several occasions to get a taste for university life.

Jess Robinson, currently a second year student at the college, went on a three day Oxford University residential trip in the summer. The group set off early Monday morning, arriving at Trinity College in the early afternoon where the students stayed in university accommodation for two nights.

To start their experience at the university, students took part in a Q&A with current Oxford undergraduates. The next day was more focused on academic sessions, where Jess chose Chemistry and Statistics. The students were then taken on a tour of the beautiful city – accompanied by glorious sun – and shown all the famous and historical aspects of the area. The final day was the official university Open Day, allowing students to independently explore courses and areas they are interested in possibly studying. Jess said: "I really enjoyed visiting Oxford; it was a fantastic experience that incorporated all aspects of university life."

David Ford, a previous Stockton Sixth Form College student, gained his place at Oxford University after studying A-level Biology, Chemistry and Maths. David is offering a scholarship for three students from Stockton Sixth Form who successfully secure a place at Oxford, and is working with Principal Joanna Bailey in order to make the idea of studying at one of the world's best universities a realistic goal for the students of Stockton.

David said: "I am in no doubt that attending Stockton Sixth Form was instrumental in my achievements and I am really enjoying working with the college's current high flyers to cement their future successes."

MILLY HUTCHCRAFT



OXFORD OPEN DAY 2015

NEWS IN BRIEF

MEDIA STUDENTS GET A TASTE OF JOURNALISM

On Tuesday 15th September, 20 Media students had an opportunity to visit Teesside University to undertake three taster workshops in relation to Journalism.

Students were able to explore the news in two forms of media from three possible workshops, from designing a front cover to writing their own news report and recording it in Teesside University's radio studio. Some students had the chance to film their own news in a different workshop.

Through these activities, Media students were able to gain a taste of Journalism and experience what university would be like if they went on to study the course at degree level.

Paul Wheatcroft, Media Studies teacher at Stockton Sixth Form College, said: "Students enjoyed the trip and gained experience using different types of media. Hopefully the activities will inspire them in their choice of university course."

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

In February 2016, students of Travel & Tourism, Media, Geography and Business will have the opportunity to go to New York for four days and participate in unique activities which will benefit their coursework and revision.

Whilst in New York, they will have the chance to visit famous attractions such as Central Park, the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building. Geography students will also visit the American Natural History Museum. On a night time, students will be able to explore Times Square and see why New York is nicknamed 'the city that never sleeps'!

ALL BLACKS

On 8th October, Sport students had the chance to watch the impressive New Zealand 'All Blacks' rugby team train at Darlington Mowden Park. They were able to watch a session where the players participated in fun and games as part of a coaching session aimed at local schools and colleges.

The 'All Blacks' also took time to sign autographs and meet local fans who came from far and wide to show their support in the only open training session that New Zealand have held throughout the Rugby World Cup.

JAMES GREGORY



FEARLESS FASHION WEEK GOES OUT WITH A BANG

September 2015 has officially gone out with an explosion of colour, shape and texture, being the host of the iconic New York and London fashion weeks. It's officially the month of high-class fashion as worldwide gods and goddesses like Marc Jacobs, Public School, Betsy Johnston and Vivienne Westwood debuted their 2016 Spring and Summer collections to the rest of the world. To say that we were impressed would be an understatement!

This year has been as mad as ever and we have seen everything from metallics to plastics to sheer fabrics, all presented in the most exquisite manner. Who knew that plastic from a bottle could become such a beautiful creation of wearable art? Jeremy Scott certainly did and many others are still feeling the 70s vibes which trended last summer and this autumn.

The audience was as star-studded as the Golden Globes, as worldwide celebrities of the fashion industry including Kate Moss, Cara Delevingne, Suki Waterhouse and Gigi Hadid all showed up looking as radiant as ever; rocking the seasons latest and greatest, showing huge support for the designers.

Something which rocked the runway was this year's diverse use of 'plus size models' as designers including Ashley Graham strutted her stuff down the runway with her curvy lingerie collection in New York, showing that you don't need to be a certain size to feel great and be beautiful.

On a whole this year's shows have definitely left a lasting impression on us as the audience. Not only have we seen wild, stunning designs but we have witnessed huge steps in the new direction of high fashion and it has certainly been worth the wait.

LAUREN RAYNER



HALLOWEEN HAUNT

This year at Preston Park on All Hallows' Eve a twisted circus is coming to town to delight and fright all those who dare to walk at night.

Last year's haunting was as successful as ever with the most prominent scream being brought from a coven of vampires with other supernatural creatures playing their part. I attended and they sure gave me a fright!

What can we expect to be attending this year though of frightening manifestations? Word has it that clowns visiting with the ring master while the carnival music plays. Fright Night at Preston Park has always been fun and if you don't have the courage to walk the forest then amusement rides will be available in the car park and even cotton candy if you have a sweet tooth!

The event is orchestrated by Stockton Borough Council but the fear is brought by the fantastic drama group Page2Stage who have been based at Preston Hall for more than two years. The group's leader, Kelly Fairhurst, said: "It is a fantastic experience and an excellent chance for young actors to work on their skills." It will surely be a night worth remembering!

The event takes place on 31st October 2015 at Preston Park, 4.30-5.30pm, 6-7pm and 7-8pm. Tickets: £4.50 per person, free for under-5s.

STACEY MCMASTER



RAF AWARD

The college was honoured to be presented with an award for the strength of our relationship with the Royal Air Force earlier this term. Flight Lieutenant Dan Jones visited in September to present the college with a Platinum Partner award for the exceptional contribution former students have made to the service. Principal, Joanna Bailey, said: "We are exceptionally proud of this accolade and hope to secure more of our students' next step in the RAF in the years to come."

THOMAS CROFT





SPAIN FOR THE SUMMER

Eight students in their second year at Stockton Sixth Form College were presented with an opportunity to complete work experience on the Costa Brava Coast in July.

The group of students were each given roles involving interaction with customers based in a well-known hotel located in the town of Tossa De Mar, North of Barcelona. Each student gained an insight into working life in Spain whilst developing their communication skills.

Furthermore, the group were able to work towards the prestigious continental Europass qualification during their time spent abroad. This qualification is internationally-accepted, helping to boost CVs and making students stand out from the crowd, an excellent edge in an increasingly competitive world of work.

Stockton Sixth Form College has led the successful Erasmus+ programme for the last eight years, providing students with work experience around Europe to support the subjects they are studying in college.

Joanna Bailey, Principal, said "The college's Erasmus+ programme gives Stockton Sixth Form students the edge in securing a future career. Experiences like this really set our students apart as they look to progress from college."

SAIRAH YOUNIS

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

This issue was written and produced by the college student newspaper team. Come along to E016 on Fridays between 9-10am.

TIMETABLE REVAMP

Stockton Sixth Form College has made big changes to its format for a successful college day, launching a new timetable this September at the beginning of the college year.

A new timetable structure has been put in place so students have their lessons condensed into a four day teaching week, with the final day dedicated to enhancing progression opportunities. A four day teaching week? Sounds good!

The idea of the new timetable is to keep students busy, with less free periods during the week to distract from core studies. The new set up has also changed the way lessons are run, as what were once two hour lessons are now 1hr30, and 50 minute lessons have bumped up to one hour.

'Focused Friday' makes Stockton Sixth Form College different from other colleges in the area. It offers a day away from formal studies for students to pick up new skills and hobbies in order to help them with their progression after college. The college provides a wide range of enrichment for students to take part in such as rehearsing for a college production, Zumba, Geology Club, Student Council, Arts and Crafts, a First Aid course and much more.

As a lot of young people know, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find work experience or volunteering opportunities that fit around studies; 'Focused Friday' gives students the opportunity to make time! Students have already gained work experience in law firms, digital marketing agencies and local primary schools so far this year.

The new college timetable has proven very successful so far, with a significant amount of students diving straight into 'Focused Friday' in the first term.

MILLY HUTCHCRAFT



COMENIUS RETURNS

The Comenius project returns to Stockton Sixth Form College this year with the exciting theme of using art to teach English abroad. This project attracted a lot of attention from students last year and is sure to do the same again.

Comenius enables our students to travel and take part in events with students from schools across Europe. The aim of the project is to teach students about different cultures and broaden their horizons as to how people live and learn in neighbouring countries.

Last year students took part in a wide range of events in college and abroad. Students from other colleges in the EU also came to Stockton to experience our culture.

Steve Keeling, who runs the project in college, said: "Comenius gives students the opportunity of a lifetime. They get to meet lots of new people whilst learning about different cultures and traditions."

Students have found doing this project helps them with their future aspirations. The project is highly regarded by universities and it helps students stand out from their peers. It can also help in applying for future jobs as it can be a good thing to be seen on your CV.

The college has secured over 180,000 euros to continue with the project up until 2016 and is committed to enabling students from a wide range of subjects to travel the continent to enhance their time at college.

THOMAS CROFT