

## **FEEDBACK**

The community project was really well received by the schools involved, the parents of the children and Bookmark, the charity that we supported.

Their feedback was fantastic, here are a few examples.



"I've come into the office this morning and opened our copy of the Stockton Stories! I've shared images of it round with the whole team and we all agree it's such a lovely, heart-warming initiative and we are so grateful to be part of it. Thank you so much to everyone involved on your end and I hope it's well received by the community!"

Laura Burke Corporate Partnerships Executive, Bookmark



"I just want to say it was soo lovely being able to see all the children so happy with their books today. It was a lovely turnout and Ellis was soo happy even though he is a little shy. I'm soo soo very proud of him and he went and bought a lovely book from Drakes book shop afterwards. Thankyou soo soo much, I know its a day Ellis and myself will cherish."

Louise Snabel Ellis' mum (one of the authors) "The best piece of post I've received in a long time! My own copy of Stockton Stories. Thank you so much for reaching out and giving us the opportunity to support this fantastic initiative. We can all agreed our young people have been hit hard by the pandemic and this challenge was just what they needed. Some of the stories are eye opening. So proud of them all"

Sarah Lamb Careers co-ordinator at Tees Valley Authority

### MEMBER OF PARLIAMENTS

It was great to hear feedback from those involved in the project and particularly exciting when local MP Matt Vickers sent a letter to all the children that featured in the book, who told the children:

"Your work shows that you have been very busy throughout lockdown. You should be extremely proud of this achievement. I am sure this is only the start for you on the road to becoming a budding author."

But the icing on the cake was when we received a letter from the **Prime Minister** to compliment the book!







Head of the Direct Communications Unit

22 July 2021

### Dear Ms Taylor

I would like to thank you for your recent letter to the Prime Minister detailing your excellent campaigns to help your local community. The Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

I was delighted to read the enclosed Stockton Stories, written by such talented children. I am pleased to see that young people remain so engaged with creative writing during such a difficult time.

On behalf of the Prime Minister, I would like to thank you for all you are doing within your local community. I am sure it is equally as appreciated by all those you have helped.

Thank you, once again, for writing.

Yours sincerely

MANDY GODRIDGE

# A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN!

The book has not just acknowledged by members of parliament but from Her Majesty the Queen!

This really is wonderful to receive and the children will be very excited to know that the Queen herself has read their stories about their experiences in lockdown.





22nd July 202

Deas Mis Taylor,

The Queen wishes me to thank you for your letter in which you told Her Majesty a little about the community campaigns with which you have been involved and about your latest campaign, Stockton Stories.

The Queen was interested to learn that many of the children from your local primary schools have contributed to this initiative by writing stories about their own experiences during the lockdown period and that these have been combined to create a book. It was kind of you to enclose a copy of this publication for Her Majesty to see.

The Queen was pleased to know how much the children have enjoyed taking part in this project and I am to thank you, very much, for your thoughtfulness in writing to Her Majesty at this time.

Your sincerely,

Susan Rhodus.

Lady-in-Waiting

Mrs C Taylor

### AWARD WINNING!

#### **SCEPTRE AWARDS 2021**

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR**

The SCEPTRE Awards recognise the best practice and the best people in the shopping centre industry. They are the pre-eminent accolades in the shopping centre industry, putting the spotlight on management teams, retailers and suppliers that demonstrate real excellence.

The judges were impressed with the centre for engaging with the local children to promote literacy during such a difficult time and producing something everyone involved could be proud of.



#### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR**

ICSC's awards are the most recognized accolades in the Marketplaces Industry, honoring excellence in creativity and innovation that's moving our industry forward.



### **NOT-FOR-PROFIT CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR**

The awards recognise excellence within the fields of marketing, digital and PR from all industry sectors operating in the North East. Stockton Stories was up against six other local campaigns held in the North East area.











