



## **STOCKPORT COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION POSITIVE IMPACT 2020**

### **James Clark - Headteacher, Dial Park Primary School, Offerton**

‘They say that love is blind. Football fans love their clubs, of that there is little doubt. But it is also important to open our eyes to the amazing work in the community that happens beyond the 90 minutes which fills us with joy, dread and a host of other emotions on a weekly basis.

Stockport FC Community Foundation have worked with Dial Park Primary School for a number of years. Over this time our partnership has grown and now we are supported by them with after school and holiday clubs, assemblies and sports lessons. It is great to see the pride with which the Community Foundation coaches operate in all they do. It is also amazing to see the pride this builds, not only in the club, but throughout the community. This is especially true with the lifelong fans who work or are governors in our school; people like Karen and Barbara Baird and John Benvie. They can feel the pride of supporting a team who reach out beyond the matches on the pitch and make a real difference to the children of Stockport.

The Stockport FC Community Foundation wouldn’t achieve these outcomes without committed people and Dave Wardle epitomises this. His work to support the vision of Stockport County being a community focussed club which grows supporters and kind, active children and young people is something we can all believe in. His work means that when we sit and (hopefully) enjoy the match, we can feel safe in the knowledge that we are all a part of something much bigger.

The Community Foundation reaches even further than this. It is great to be able to come along today with my good friend Charles Young who has also been a lifelong supporter of Stockport County as guests of the Community Foundation. Charles was made up when he chatted with Jim Gannon 2 years ago and I snapped this picture of the moment he met his hero! It says a lot about Jim and the club when they can reach out to fans within community like this.

So thank you Stockport County and the Community Foundation. Thanks for working with our school. Thanks for working with our community. And thanks for taking the time to read this! I hope that I have been able to open your eyes to the importance of the Community Foundations work. Today we can all rest assured that we are a part of something just as important as the 90 minutes on the pitch, we are a part of Stockport Community, a place where we can all feel proud be; win, lose or draw...but let’s hope we win’

James Clark