



Jan 31, 2019 13:05 GMT

Student artwork celebrates 170 years of Stone station

Special artwork has been unveiled at Stone station, to celebrate 170 years of train services to and from the town.

Students from Abbey Hill School in Longton have produced a set of paintings, which depict the station then and now. 11 of these pictures are now displayed around the waiting shelter on platform one.

Stone station opened in 1848, turning 170 years old in April 2018. To mark the anniversary, North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership (CRP) approached the school to commission some artwork for the station.

The station is a Grade II listed building and has recently been redeveloped by Stone Town Council as a community centre.

Vicky Cropper, head of community and stakeholder for London Northwestern Railway, said: "Stone station continues to provide vital connections to and from the town, as well as providing much needed community space in the area. This new artwork, produced by local students, will brighten up the station for commuters and is a fitting celebration of how the station has evolved over the years. We want to thank to local CRP, students and teachers from Abbey Hill School for their time and dedication to creating these pieces for us and our passengers."

Claire Sandys, Community Rail Officer for the North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership, said: "We are very excited to see this display go up at Stone. The students have produced high quality work which has brightened up the platform for our travellers. At Stoke-on-Trent Station, the pupils were given a site tour, then enjoyed the short train ride to Stone. Community Rail Partnerships are all about connecting stations with the communities they serve and ensuring that stations are safe and welcoming. We are very grateful to London Northwestern Railway for their support in this project."

Sandra Warrington, teacher at Abbey Hill School who oversaw the production of the artwork, said: "The students were very excited to travel by train and then see their own art work on display at the station. The students had done a lot of research and had drawn their inspiration for their art from a visit to the station and its beautiful building. They were very enthusiastic about the project and proud of their contribution to the celebration."

On Wednesday 30 January, eight students from Abbey Hill School started their day at Stoke-on-Trent station, where they attended a short travel training session. The group then travelled by train to Stone station. The visit contributed towards the student's independent travel training programme.

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