

# St Andrew's Academy

## Family update newsletter

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Autumn Term

15th December 2023

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### Head Teacher's Welcome



Simply stunning! What all of our young people have achieved in the first term of this academic year is beyond brilliant. The new routine and dynamics of the Autumn Term is notoriously a challenge but one that has been unanimously met head on. The knowledge, skills and developments in approaches to learning acquired through our consistent and sequential curriculum offer will enable pupils to seamlessly hit the ground running in the New Year and springboard their progress to July and beyond.

A sincere thanks to you, as parents, carers and our school community for the flawless engagement and support. The new website, newsletter, Evidence for learning app has taken home-school communication, and ultimately collaboration, to a new level- but we don't stop there! Research and exploration of further cutting edge methods of community engagement are being explored, with one of our class teacher's, Jordan Stringer, being appointed as Lead for curriculum innovation and digital strategy to further ensure St Andrew's receives the very latest, and best, in forward thinking systems and knowledge.

A special mention, at this time of year, must go to the staff team that make up St Andrew's Academy. We employ 103 dedicated professionals to guarantee aspirational pupils outcomes and to serve you, the St Andrew's Academy community. Our young people and you deserve the very best, and I whole heartedly believe that the adults that work hard everyday really are the finest education professionals within innovative SEND provision.

I truly hope that the festive season serves you well and I look forward to welcoming everybody back on Monday 8th January to make 2024 the very best yet!

Have a safe and restful Christmas,

**David Braybrooke**

**Headteacher**



### Key Stage 3

Key stage three have been very busy for the past 6 weeks preparing for our school Performance of 'A Christmas Carol'

The students have worked really hard preparing props, learning lines, acting and singing. We showed the Play at ST Phillips church hall, Supported by Key stages 4 and 5 who signed and sang and ran the cafe. A

fantastic achievement from everyone involved and a Big Thankyou to parents and carers who showed their support for the event.



Barra and Hoy joined classes this week to enjoy some festive competition before their Christmas dinner. Each student had to create their most elaborate Christmas hat to be judged by our very special guest (David) at lunch time! It was a hard decision but TJ was our winner! Both classes really enjoyed their Christmas dinner and having the opportunity to socialise during their class time.

## The Glens

Skye class have enjoyed working on their numeracy skills when weighing out the ingredients to make jam tarts. Some of our students used rolling pins to roll out the pastry, and cutters for the base and placed them onto the baking trays. The students enjoyed carefully spooning the jam onto the tart and of course the best part was eating them!







Students in Shetland class have continued their work with musical instruments, as well as some music technology equipment. They have explored electric and bass guitars, and amplifiers. Students really enjoyed the vibrations from the amp and the feeling of the loud sounds on the guitars!





Fair Isle class have been learning about sound in their science lessons. They have been performing some experiments with sensory rice to listen to what different types of sounds they make and observe the sound waves. In food technology they have been making jam tarts and working on extending their key vocabulary from this topic. They have also been working on their motor skills, sensory interaction, and functional maths.











## Key Stage 4



Students from Key Stage 4 and the Highlanders took a trip to see Mother Goose at Derby Arena. It was brilliant! We got to sing, dance and BOOOOOO at the tops of our voices. Students were fantastic and behaved safely throughout the trip. We had a fantastic time together and it really got us in the Christmas spirit.





Some students from Key Stage 4 visited Heart of the Park Café at Arboretum Park to meet the Manager and have a look around. They enjoyed their drinks and chatting to some of the people who was working there. Some of the KS4 students will be doing work experience there next term.









## The Highlands









This week the students in the Highlands, have taken part in a festive sensory circuit. The students have worked on balance, coordination, gross and fine motor skills.

## Key Stage 5



*1 - We had a successful Networking event last week at the Salt and Pepper cafe where we invited local businesses in to see our students working. We have had some success with this event and the employers are coming in to conduct some employer interviews in January. This is the second year our younger students will be formally interviewed by people who work in industry so its a new and exciting opportunity.*

*Here are the photos of the team. I felt so proud of the students telling all of the visitors and the team from D2n2 Partnership who support our Careers offer.*



*2 - Here is Seleena Creedon she is our Enterprise Advisor who links us to local businesses to offer new and exciting Work placements.*



*3 - The news on the careers front is we are having a visit from the Army recruitment to share about Army life. I am sure the students will love a Army information event. We are also going to be going pond dipping with the Environmental agency. Exciting opportunities ahead.*

*A massive thanks to all the people who took their time to meet our wonderful Salt and Pepper team. Thanks .*



## Bag2School Update

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who was able to donate items towards our Bag2School collection at Campus. The students worked hard sorting through the donations and we are very pleased to announce that we made £79 in total which is fantastic! Our next collection will be taking place in July so please look out for some more information in the summer.

## Community Cafe



In 2020, we created our very own Community Cafe. We started with a small group of students learning and practising cafe skills in a work environment. This flourished into the WONDERFUL Salt and Pepper cafe! We have been open for 3 years now and have served over 700 customers.

Salt and Pepper Cafe provides an ideal opportunity for our students to learn transferrable work skills in a supported environment. The students can then take these skills out to external employers. Students have learnt so many skills and the cafe has provided us with a place to master the 8 Skills Builder essential Skills including Teamwork, Staying Positive, Problem Solving and Aiming High.

We are so proud of our Cafe. We have invited you here today to show you what we can do.

We would also love some Employer interview experience. If you can offer us some interviews please email

Tracy.corden@sas.set.org

## Residential Department

An extremely busy last few weeks of activities in residential and out in the local community. This week highlights include a visit to Derby Theatre to watch Cinderella and special termly treat tea out at Mcdonalds. 🎅🎄❄️



4 - Last weeks visit to watch Wish at Scala Cinema in Ilkeston.



5 - Every student helps decorate the Christmas trees in residential.



6 - Festive fun and games along the way.



*7 - A wonderful, magical and uplifting production of Cinderella at Derby Theatre, with fantastic sets and original songs. Staff and students loved it.*



*8 - After weeks of cooking our own residential meals, the students were rewarded with a trip out to McDonalds.*





9 - A thumbs up for vegetarian option. "Can we do this every week"

## SEND RELEASE Holiday Club

### **WHEN?**

Christmas Holidays

2nd – 5th January

10-12.30pm

### **Where is it?**

Déda,

19 Chapel St,

Derby,

DE1 3GU

## Who's it for?

7-12 year olds with SEND needs

Release is four days of Fun, Games, Friendship building, Creative Activities such as Hip Hop, Song writing, Performance and much more!

**This is a FREE HOLIDAY CLUB** designed for young people with SEND needs who are eligible for free school meals. It is part of the widely recognised Holiday and Activity Fund scheme funded by Derby City Council

Children who are eligible for free school meal will take priority however anyone can book as we now have paid for places at a reduced cost 🤗

## Benefits for the students:

The students will be encouraged to:

Express their emotions and creativity.

- Work as a team and build friendships.
- Develop skills in dance, singing and song writing.
- Develop a deeper understanding of the impact of social media, exploring positive healthy usage.
- Learn coping mechanisms to deal with anxiety and stress.
- Increase confidence.
- Complete the 4 days with a huge sense of achievement and pride.
- Free Food, yummy snacks and drinks each day.
- Experience of working with highly trained industry professional from the creative industry

Due to the nature of our SEND Release Holiday programme, facilitators are unable to administer medicine or personal care to students attending. You are welcome to remain onsite and recoup in the CUBE café whilst your child is in the session.



**FREEDOM FOUNDATION**  
PRESENTS



**FREE EVENT**



BOOK HERE

**SEND  
RELEASE**

**SONGWRITING SINGING STREETDANCE**

 **FREEDOM FOUNDATION**

**SUPPORTED BY**  
Derby City Council   
Community Action  Department for Education

# RELEASE

FOR CHILDREN AGES 7-12

## VENUE

DÉDA

19 CHAPEL STREET  
DERBY DE1 3GU

2<sup>ND</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup>  
JANUARY

10am - 12.30pm

LUNCH  
INCLUDED

## LIMITED SPACES

CHILDREN ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND ALL 4 DAYS

## FUN, INCLUSIVE AND CREATIVE SESSIONS

THIS IS PROVISION FOR CHILDREN  
IN DERBY CITY WITH SEND NEEDS

£10 PER DAY PAID OPTION AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN NOT ELIGIBLE  
FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS OR A FUNDED REFERRAL PLACE

SUPPORT WORKERS WELCOME



freedomfoundationuk



freedomfoundation\_uk



freedomfdn\_uk

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST GET IN TOUCH

0115 993 2370

info@freedomfoundationuk.org



## Parent Survey

### ***Calling all parents and carers!***

At St Andrew's, we pride ourselves on seeking feedback to continue improving our provision. As part of Shaw Education Trust, we invite you to complete the termly parent online survey. Please see link below:

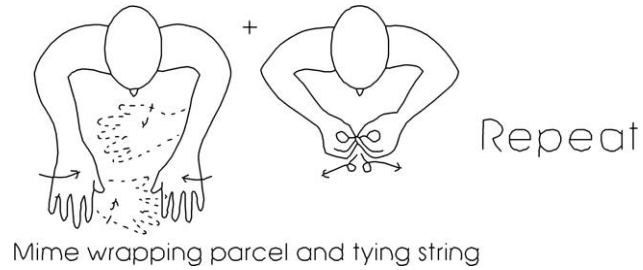
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parentalsurveyspecialterm12023>

The deadline is Friday 15th December



Many thanks.

## Makaton Sign of the Week



Mime wrapping parcel and tying string

*10 - Take a look at the Makaton.org website to see the Countdown to Christmas. There are lots of video's and signs to help you celebrate with your*

## Contact Us

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