



St Andrew's Academy Family Update Newsletter

Autumn Term 2

6th December 2024



We're incredibly proud and constantly impressed by our young people's achievements and outcomes but this week really has seen our Learning for Life skills in action. Whilst exciting, whole school events like dress rehearsals and Christmas Markets can be a source of anxiety and challenge for some young people. However the resilience, independence and problem solving skills shown unanimously across our school has been a real joy to share. Taking well measured, resourced and calculated risks to push what's achievable is paying dividends for our young people with many successes and firsts to celebrate, such as communicating to large crowds, performing on stage, serving the public and being in new spaces.

All of these successes can only be achieved in close partnership with clear, open and honest communication and collaboration with the parents and wider school community. A huge thank you to the 43 parents who have managed to complete the Shaw Education Trust St Andrew's Academy online questionnaire. I have already started to weave the feedback into our school development plan and act on the insights shared during this process. As always, the most

effective way to help us to fully meet your needs and serve our community is timely, direct personal contact with any member of the team. We take our shared goal of excellence for your young person very seriously and no issue is too small or problematic to share.

The deadline for the questionnaire is Friday 13th December. So far, the average time of completion is a little over 4 minutes. I'd be extremely grateful if you could find the time to help us to make our school better for your young person using the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPageV2.aspx?subpage=design&FormId=48aZkktFFECrk1vXiMa8-hWMdldXAdZAu-SgKi5SZLtUN1NXRVo4NjBNOFg1Sk5WN0tFN043SjhUVi4u&Token=28a0b671b7144590a36b75c535a7cace>

Have a great weekend,

David Braybrooke - Headteacher

Pantomime Reminder

The Christmas Pantomime (Cinderella) is taking place on 18th December. A polite reminder to those whose child has been invited to please pay your outstanding balance on ParentPay, if you have not already done so. The price is £17. Thank you!

Key Stage 3

In Lewis Class the students have been thinking about how our soldiers would have felt in WW2 during Christmas time. We watched and joined in with a Christmas performance with soldiers. The students really enjoyed this and recognized how a concert would have cheered them up.









The Glens

In The Glens this week we have been doing all things Christmas. We have made decorations and today we went to a SEND showing of The Snowman. A fun time was had by both Staff and Students.

Key Stage 4

This week KS4 students went carol singing at Morrisons. We sang lots of Christmas hits like Silent Night, Away in a Manger, Felis Navidad, Merry Christmas Everyone, and many more! It was great spreading cheer in our community and it was brilliant seeing the confidence and joy from the students. We are hugely grateful to Sarah at Morrisons for supporting us and to SEN Utd for helping us set everything up.



The Highlands



The Highlands students have enjoyed learning about Advent and how to prepare for Christmas! Taransay and Iona class have been planning a Christmas party as part of their Home Economics sessions and they are excited for the big day. The classes have been using their organisational and decision making skills to choose food and activities for their party. The classes have also enjoyed a Christmas music session to get in the mood for festivities.







Jura class have been busy making mince pies to sell at the St Andrews Christmas market! The students have been excited to complete their enterprise and have developed many skills during the process including communication and independent life skills!

We have some wow moments from our wonderful students this week where they have been excelling in their EHCP targets!





Key Stage 5



The students have been busy sewing ready for this week's Christmas Fayre and working hard on their Skillsbuilder skills, developing 8 essential areas that employers seek. Problem solving has been key to this term's work. We have made over 20 masks and have had a lot of problems to

solve, including frustrating threads , tiny needles and very thick fabric to cut. Danielle was super proud of her Christmas packaging and worked well in the team. Faye organised the groups and set up mini factory working lines for us to make the sewing kits to sell. She loved sewing extra hearts on her work. We have had lots of laughter putting the packs together and sewing. Team work is one of the essential skills. Mary has aimed high and motivated herself to work hard. Her peers helped her when she was feeling tired. Hafsa used her creativity skills to put colours and textures together. Our kits contain all the things you need to sew your own beautiful eye mask. We made 60 to sell on Wednesdays Fayre.









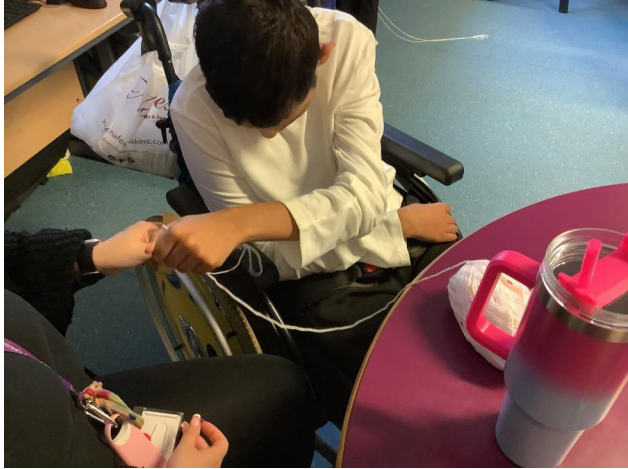


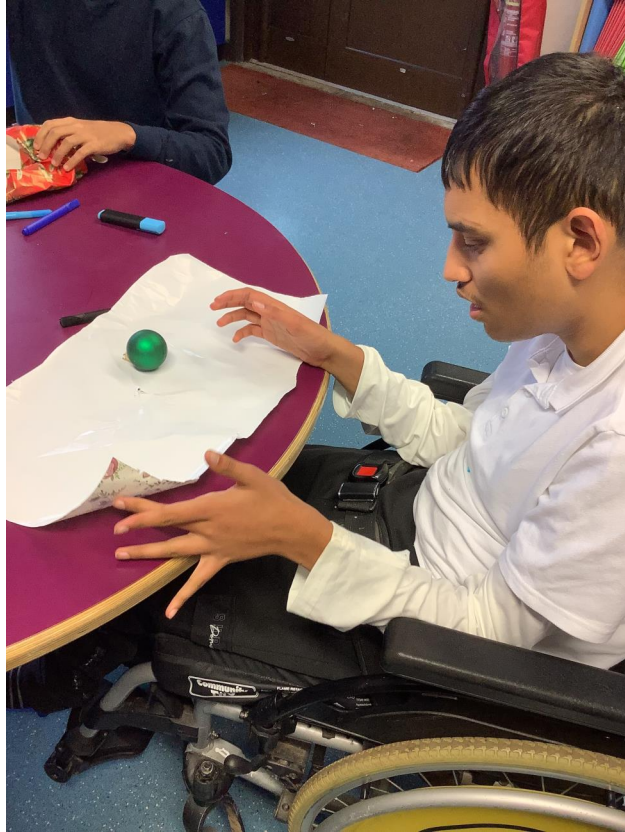
Occupational Therapy



Umair has had a busy week developing his fine motor skills and gaining strength in his Physio programme.

He has been able to transfer the skills he's learnt in the Fine motor sessions, over to his classroom sessions with help from staff to produce some beautiful Christmas decorations that were then sold at the Christmas market.





Extra Curricular

This week our Outdoor Ed club worked as a team to build a shelter using limited materials and using things they could find in Forest School. They showed some amazing team work and communication skills during this. Hopefully next week we will be able to enjoy a hot chocolate there as they finish their project.

At Sports club the students played some hockey, working on passing, dribbling and then some games.

Art club have been busy working away on the crafts for their Christmas craft hampers.











Residential Department



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas this week in Residential. Students spent time decorating every room of the residential unit, and dressing our three Christmas trees, all while listening to Christmas songs and carols. 🎅🎄

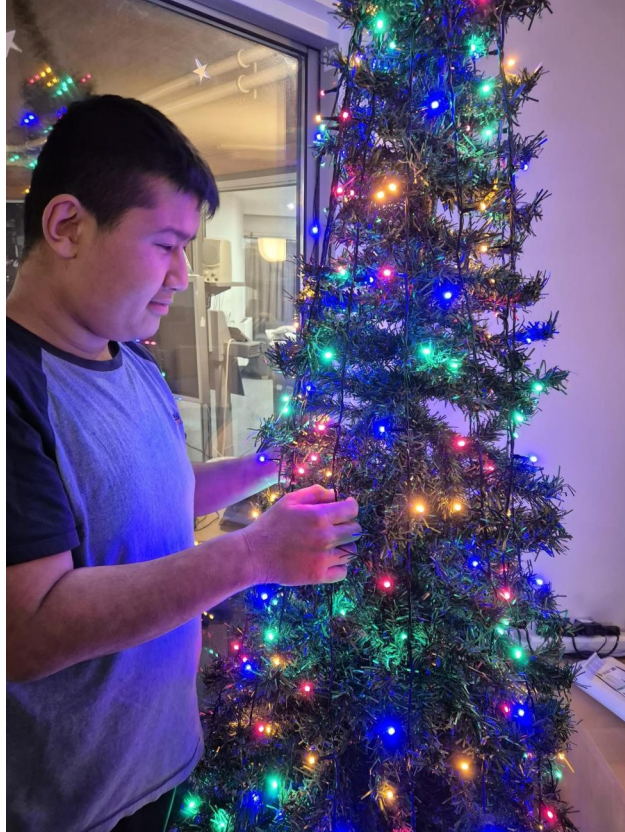
Other activities this week included Super 1s cricket session, Adaptive Karate and a weekly drama and dance workshop at Deda Dance studios in Derby.



1 - Happy Advent.



2 - Constructing the manger scene.



3 - Sparkle and shine.



4 - Carefully adding the baubles.



5 - Ho. Ho, Ho!

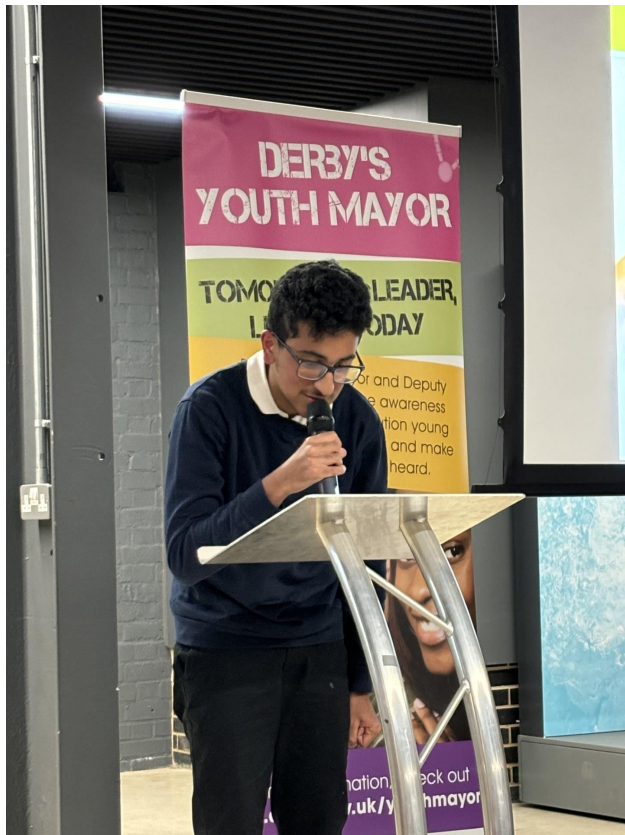
Student Voice

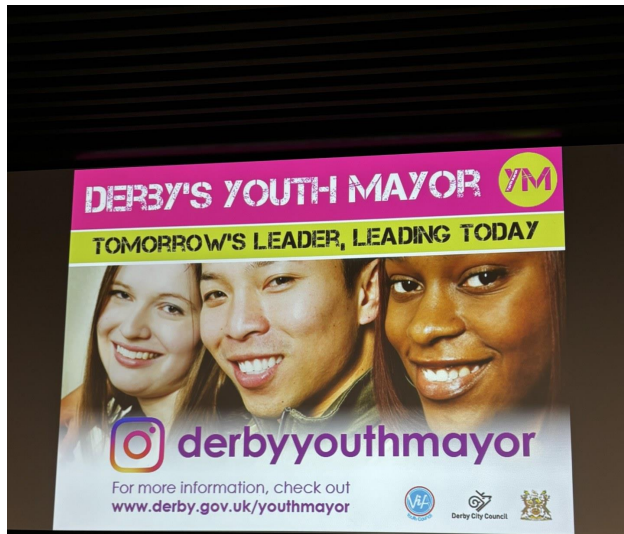


Talha attended the Hustings Evening at the Museum of Making for his Youth Mayor speech. Talha was confident and excited, he did remarkably well in delivering his speech loud and clear. Talha spoke about how he would be the voice of young people with special needs and have more activities available where young people can go and meet their friends. Talha is a passionate young person keen to make a change. Unfortunately he did not make it to the final stage, but this will not stop Talha-he is a keen member of Voices in Action and will continue to attend and make a difference.

Well done to Talha for an incredible speech for the position of Youth Mayor!







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