



# St Andrew's Academy Family Update Newsletter

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*Spring Term 1*

*17th January 2025*

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## Headteacher's Welcome



At St Andrew's Academy, we highly value and recognise every pupil's special interest and talent. As a result, one way in which we nurture their special interests and talents is through our Extra Curricular clubs that take part at dinner time every day and after school 3 days of the week. This body of work is led by Rebekah Brown who works closely with the class teams to be inclusive, innovative and creative to be able to facilitate such a personalised programme.

I'm keen to share the process and the aims of the extracurricular clubs in order to offer reassurance of the inclusivity, celebrate what is already in place and reveal planned next steps.

The first step we complete is to survey every class to explore what special interests and talents that they have. Our dedicated and highly trained staff use a range of communication methods

and depth of knowledge of the pupils to ascertain their responses. Rebekah then works with this knowledge, a set budget, school resources and staff good will to engineer a programme that speaks to the responses gathered. The pupils are then consulted once again, with the list of available activities as to which, if any, they would like to attend. Parents are then consulted, and we work closely with those parents in order to put the necessary arrangements in place to enable access to the activities.

Within finite resources and 158 pupils, we work on a half termly basis to rotate pupils through this provision with the aim of every pupil having an opportunity to access an extra-curricular club at some point. Due to the demand outstripping the current supply, it is taking time to move through our cohort. However, this is something we are very passionate about, and it is only in its infancy. The vision is to be able to allocate increased budget to the programme and build provision over time so that the range of clubs is increased and the volume of pupils that can access it at any one time also increases.

Do you have a special interest or talent that you'd be willing to share with our young people? Would you be willing to lead a small group, with support, for 60 mins from 3:30-4:30 on a Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday. This will require a DBS process and safeguarding which we will facilitate. Are you a keen gardener? Do you play board games? Are you crafty? Do you play the kazoo?! I'd invite you to email the school office directly if you feel you could add value in any way for a half term block. We would take your suggestion, attempt to match to interest and if there is a cohort that is interested, this may be something we could collaborate on further down the line.

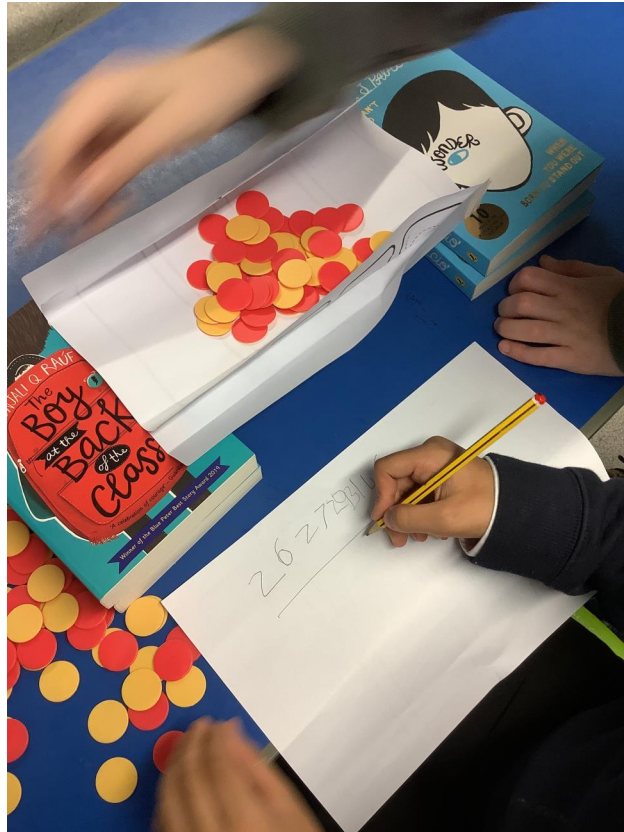
If you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

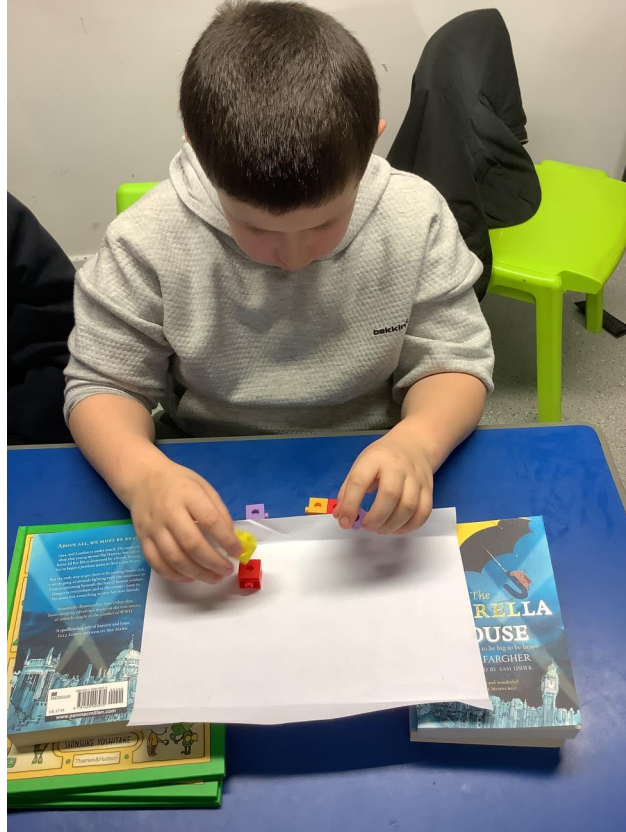
Have a wonderful weekend,

**David Braybrooke - Headteacher**

## Key Stage 3

Year 7 Bute class has been having fun with bridges in their Design and Technology lessons this week. The students first learned about what makes bridges strong and stable. Then working in teams, they built their own bridges using materials given to them. To test how well their bridges worked, the students placed counters and bricks on top to see how much weight they could hold. It was a great way for everyone to learn about building strong structures while working together.







Key Stage 4





Canna Class have been working on their Work Related Learning project this term by running Salt 'n' Pepper café. It was their first time serving customers. We had a little help from some experienced Stronsay students to get us started! The group did amazingly well and they each had a different role (Kitchen Assistant, Server and Cleaner) that they took very seriously to make sure our customers had a great experience!







## The Highlands



The Highlands have excelled during their PSHE lessons this week. Iona have been developing their self-awareness skills by discussing their likes and dislikes and have enjoyed trying new foods to express personal preference. Taransay and Jura have been learning about the different stages of life, from being a baby to a teenager to an adult and have done well to understand the physical changes that happen as we grow up.

The Highlands have also thoroughly enjoyed their outdoor education sessions this week where they have been using their creative thinking skills by making bird feeders out of recycled materials.













## Key Stage 5



Hello everyone we hope you have had a great start to the year because we have here at campus. We have been to Hickory's and helped with cleaning and setting the tables. Mary has also been to the nursery where she helped with the snacks. The other students have also been taking part in boxing, art activities, Erewash sounds and have been to the gym.

Goodbye everyone, we hope you all had a great week!

# Occupational Therapy



Skye class had a great afternoon accessing the sensory integration equipment in the hall. One student found the squeeze machine really relaxing :)

All students getting great proprioception and vestibular input from the swing and therapy balls especially, so they hopefully go home calm and happy.







## Extra Curricular

All our students have been working really hard and enjoying After School club.

At Outdoor Ed the students have worked really hard maintaining our Forest school area and have been practicing some outdoor skills. They have been learning to put up and safely pin down a tent and take it down again. We all enjoyed marshmallows and hot chocolates around the fire to reward the hard work!

In Art club the students have been busy being creative making their own models from clay. In Sports Club our students enjoyed a game of dodge ball...we think they were definitely aiming more for staff than students!





















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