



# St Andrew's Academy Family Update Newsletter

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*Spring Term 1*

*28th February 2025*

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## Headteacher's Welcome



What an exceptional first week back from our young people this week. We have picked up where we left off before half term and have launched ourselves into the new learning opportunities and planned curriculum delivery. Whilst we've been away, our site team have worked hard to repaint corridors and deep clean the school to continue our programme of refurbishment. Please keep your eye out for an upcoming invite to our rescheduled Outdoor Ed evening. The aim is to share all of our exciting Outdoor Ed provision but also a great opportunity for you to connect with your school community. As always, please don't wait for an invite, this is as much your school as it is ours and you're very welcome to arrange time to connect with the class team or senior leaders at any point.

Have a great weekend,

**David Braybrooke - Headteacher**

## Free Parent SEND Event in Derby City



DERBY SEND VOICE

Derby City Council

NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board

LIVING MY BEST LIFE

### Let's Talk SEND

Join us Monday 3rd March  
5pm - 7pm  
At the Museum of Making



For an open conversation around  
SEND in Derby City



With representatives from Derby City Council  
Health, Education & Social Care



For FREE tickets follow this link  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/send-in-derby-city-tickets-1251473513969>

Email us at  
derbysendvoice@gmail.com

Or scan the QR code



t O G E t h e R

## School Fundraiser: Emma and Sarah are running 10k!





Emma and Sarah (and hopefully more of the St Andrew's team) are bravely running the Carsington 10k on 21st June 2025 to raise money for sensory integration equipment for students at St Andrew's. We are very excited to support them and cheer them on!

If you would like to support Emma and Sarah and raise money for a great cause, their GoFundMe link is below:

<https://gofund.me/db669786>

We wish them both the best of luck!

### Key Stage 3

Barra class was invited to play in a Table Cricket tournament. We played against other schools and each student took turns to play. All of the students played and it was amazing to watch them work as a team and encourage each other. Well done Barra class!





## The Glens

Mull class have been working hard on their fine-motor and mark making/writing skills. Students have enjoyed exploring different shapes, colours and textures to work towards their personalised targets. Have a lovely weekend everyone!





## The Highlands



It's been a busy first week back and the students in the Highlands have been working hard! All three classes have done very well to be back in the swing of things after a lovely break.

Taransay class have been continuing their topic work on the Modern World by learning all about the 1980's! Students have enjoyed recalling facts about the decade in their functional literacy lessons and have been using their creative thinking skills to create collages of all things 1980's.

Iona class have been focusing on the Eat Well plate in their science lessons. Students have done very well to identify the different food groups and understand why each one is important. They have continued to expand on their independent life skills by planning a healthy and balanced meal that they can cook with independence.

Jura class have enjoyed continuing learning about change and growth during puberty for their PSHE lessons. Students enjoyed interacting with a social story about male and female puberty and have been focusing on body changes such as having spots. Students have been identifying that spots appear on the face and have been washing their faces to understand the importance of personal hygiene in the teenage years. Students have also enjoyed an experiment where they squeeze jam donuts to imitate spot popping, and are encouraged not to pop those dreaded spots!











# Occupational Therapy



As a therapy team we also work on tactile desensitisation with our students. Some of our students have an aversion to certain textures or even the smell of different foods/items. This can affect feeding, dressing, washing or even coordination.

We start by looking at the texture hierarchy table, and move our way across it. We explore different textures and items in play sessions, with staff modelling what's expected from the student but putting no pressure on them at all. It's all about showing the students that its ok and safe to touch/smell or even just be around different textures.

Two of our students are accessing these sessions and have made great progress, putting their fingers in slimy pasta, picking dinosaurs out of wet water beads or even touching wet orange peels!!!







Residential Department



A great first week back for residential students! Activities have included meal preparation, cooking our own teas each evening, Arts and Crafts and our regular offsite cricket and Creative Arts sessions based in Derby City Centre.

The highlight of the week though is the return of our Impact Adaptive Karate sessions run by the fantastic sensei John Johnston. New students joined the six week training program and thoroughly enjoyed their first taster session, learning key karate elements and keeping fit.



*1 - Kitted up and ready to go.*



*2 - High leg kicks.*



*3 - Some great bag work.*



*4 - Learning key footwork and balance techniques.*





*5 - Instructor motivation to keep up the high intensity aerobic exercise.*



*6 - Focus and accuracy while keeping a solid stance.*

## Autism & ADHD workshops for parents Jan-April 2025



**Autism and ADHD – workshops for parents**  
\*Limited FREE creche places are available

**What is Autism?**  
Wednesday 29 January, 1-3pm at Osmaston Allenton Family Hub\*  
Call 01332 956850 to book  
Monday 10 February, 9:30 – 11:30am at Mackworth Morley Family Hub  
Call 01332 208175 to book  
Monday 31 March, 9:30-11:30am at Rosehill Family Hub  
Call 01332 641315


**What is ADHD?**  
Thursday 3 April, 6-8pm at Sinfin Family Hub  
Call 01332 956967 to book

**Using Visual Resources**  
Includes FREE sets of visual resources to support your child at home.  
Tuesday 11 February, 1-3pm at Osmaston Allenton Family Hub\*  
Call 01332 956850 to book  
Monday 3 March, 1-3pm at Becket Family Hub\*  
Call 01332 640250 to book


**Communicative Behaviour**  
Wednesday 12 February, 6-8pm at Mackworth Morley Family Hub  
Call 01332 208175 to book

**Understanding Social Communication**  
Monday 3 February, 6-8pm at Becket Family Hub  
Call 01332 640250 to book  
Wednesday 2 April, 1-3pm at Derwent Family Hub\*  
Call 01332 641010 to book

Please book a place for yourself and a supportive family member or friend.



Please scan for further information



Family Hub Derby - What's on Guide - January to April 2025:

<https://www.derby.gov.uk/media/derbycitycouncil/contentassets/documents/communityandliving/familyhubs/whats-on-guide-jan-april-2025.pdf>


### Free Counselling Sessions by **Disability Direct**

Disability Direct are offering **free counselling sessions** at their head office for disabled people, family of disabled people, carers (including support workers within organisations) and anyone who is struggling with their mental health.

If anyone is interested, they can **self-refer by contacting Tegan Butcher on 01332 299 449** or [tegan.butcher@disabilitydirect.com](mailto:tegan.butcher@disabilitydirect.com).



# School Term and Holiday Dates



**St Andrew's Academy**  
School Term and Holiday Dates  
2024-2025

Autumn Term	Summer Term	Bank Holiday (Shut to all)
Spring Term	School Holiday	Inset Day (Shut to students)

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2024							January 2025							February 2025							
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			

March 2025							April 2025							May 2025									
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S			
						1	2			1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	4
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31																							

June 2025							July 2025							August 2025									
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31			

195 Days – including up to 5 days to be taken as professional development days for teaching staff.

## Contact Us

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