



# St Andrew's Academy Family update newsletter

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**Autumn Term**

**6th October 2023**

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## Head Teacher's Welcome



Parental communication, engagement and collaboration is at the very heart of enabling the best outcomes for our young people. We're passionate about sharing information, listening to feedback and working alongside parents, carers and our school community. You can find out about our school in this newsletter, communicate with class teams in the home school diary and phone the school at any point for a conversation or book at appointment at anytime to come into school - even if it's just for a chat or catch up. We respect that many young people are transported in or spend time in resi and this can diminish the opportunities for the 'school gate conversation' as experienced in other settings.

It was great to welcome the new parents into school. We're really keen to host all parents and we will have a parents evening date very soon. As with most building projects, our significant building project for a new reception, meeting room and office space makes hosting large events not possible due to a restriction of space in school and parking. Our new completion date is 16th October but as we will have slipped 6 weeks from the original completion date, I'm reluctant to schedule parents evening when it may slip further.

As we continue to innovate our outward facing profile, our new website will be live next week - watch this space for further details. In the meantime, please do take the time to watch our video sharing what we love about our school. This is a shortened edit of a longer 8-minute video we recently filmed in school to share the genuine magic and brilliance that is the fabric of our school week. The longer version will be available to watch on the new website. I make no apology for saying I absolutely do love being just one of an exceptional team at St Andrew's and this video shows I'm not alone!

Have a wonderful weekend,

**David Braybrooke**

**Headteacher**



<https://sway.office.com/46VDAefiG8OBlerE#content=a5Ayclv3yII04Y>

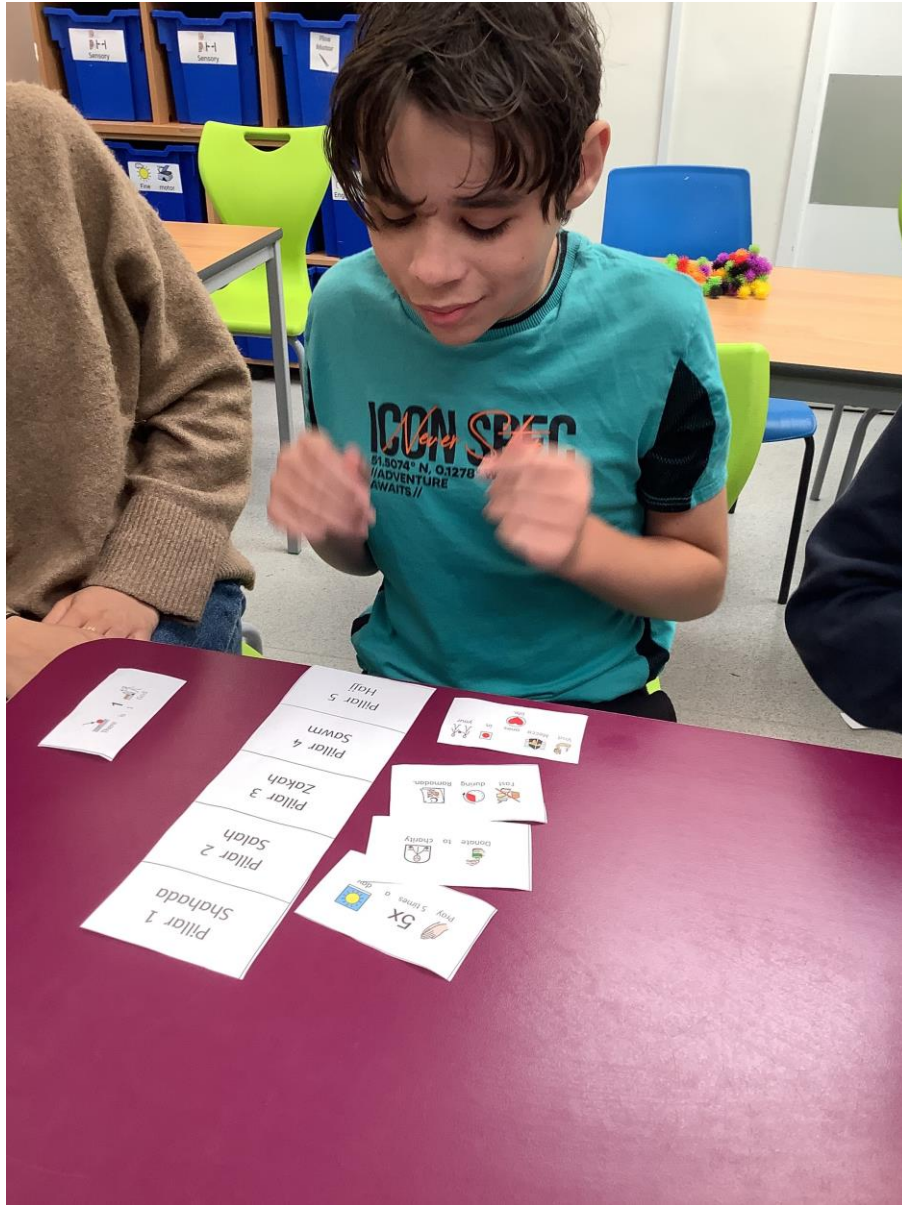
## General Information

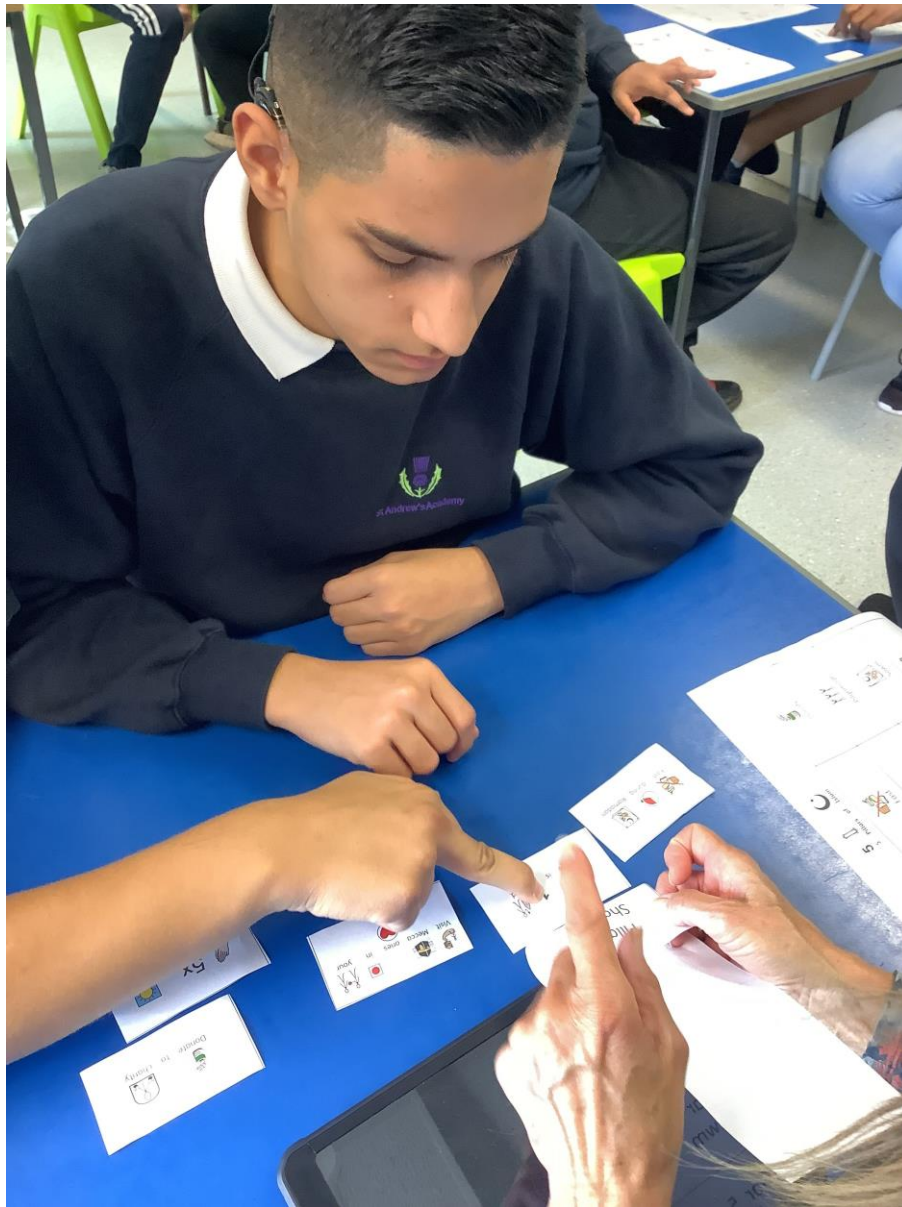
- A reminder for KS3 students to bring waterproofs and wellies for forest school each week as we go out in all weathers. Happy for them to keep them in school. Wednesday: Lewis and Orkney and Thursday: Bute, Hoy and Barra.
- There will be a new parental communication app next week. More information to follow...

## Key Stage 3

This week, Barra, Bute and Hoy class have continued learning about the different religious beliefs. We have looked at the 5 pillars of Islam this week and have linked the name of the belief to its meaning. We then started to make comparisons between the beliefs of Islam and Christianity.

It was a pleasure to hear some of our students who follow Islam talking about their own beliefs and teaching us more about their faith.







## Key Stage 4

Students in Canna class have been harvesting thier vegetable, they helped to plant and look after in the spring.









Students in Stronsay class have been taking part in home management classes each week. They have been learning about care labels, locating labels in clothes and learning how to wash and dry them. They have been using their critical thinking and problem solving skills to help them with this as well as applying some decision making. We are working towards more independence and taking care of their belongings.



## Key Stage 5

Two students from FE have been working at Derby Garden Centre. This week, their job was to unpack Christmas decorations (yes, it is October), check the price by scanning a barcode, attach the price using a pricing gun and place the ready to sell decorations in baskets to be sold in the shop. Both students thrived at this task and enjoyed working hard! They followed verbal instructions fantastically and completed the activity with minimum support.



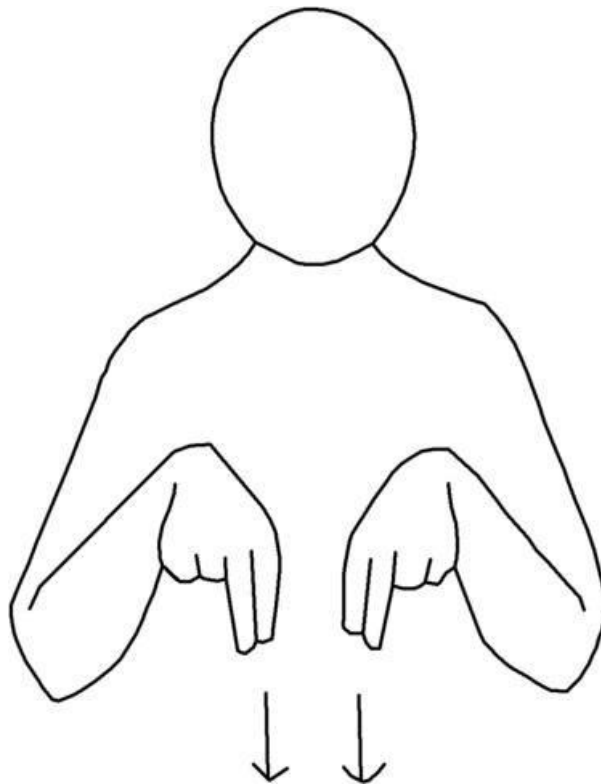
## Residential Department

- A big well done to new starters after their very first overnight stay. They are very excited about coming back next week.
- Games night in residential is always popular. Students find it hilarious when their friends lose, but think its even funnier when staff get splatted in the face.
- The final cricket match of season. Over the past few months the students have been working hard practising their bowling, batting and catching skills.





## Makaton - Sign of the Week



*1 - This week's sign is **dog***

## The Inclusive Choir

The Inclusive Choir is open to anyone up to age 25 and is free to join. . We aim to be as inclusive as possible, and actively try to remove barriers to participation from those with severe and profound learning disabilities. The choir encourages participation and expression in any way, including using Makaton signing, singing, making sounds on instruments, using technology or through movement and dance. (It is therefore accessible to pre/non-verbal participants.)

The choir will rehearse in a mixture of face-to-face and online rehearsals so participants can join in however is best for them.

- **Online rehearsals** Fortnightly on Wednesdays 5.00 - 6.00pm on Zoom
- **Face-to-face rehearsal** December 2023 – date and venue TB

Visit [mehem.org/inclusive](https://mehem.org/inclusive) for more information

The poster features a dark blue background with musical notes and symbols scattered around. At the top right, the logo for MEHEM (Music Education Hubs East Midlands) is displayed. The main title 'EAST MIDLANDS INCLUSIVE CHOIR' is written in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below the title, five diverse cartoon characters are shown: a girl in a red dress, a girl in a wheelchair, a boy in a blue shirt, a girl in a purple shirt, and a boy in a blue shirt. Below the characters, the slogan 'everyone has their own voice to share!' is written in yellow. The text below the slogan states: 'It's FREE and welcomes anyone up to age 25 and their families. With online and in-person rehearsals you can make music your own way! sing, move, dance, sign, make sounds with an instrument or soundmaker.' There are two sections for rehearsal details: 'Online rehearsals' and 'Next in-person rehearsal'. The 'Next in-person rehearsal' section has a white rectangular box. At the bottom left is a QR code. At the bottom right, it says 'FIND OUT MORE + SIGN UP' and 'mehem.org/inclusive'.

**MEHEM** MUSIC EDUCATION HUBS EAST MIDLANDS

# EAST MIDLANDS INCLUSIVE CHOIR

*everyone has their own voice to share!*

It's FREE and welcomes anyone up to age 25 and their families  
With online and in-person rehearsals you can make music your own way!  
sing, move, dance, sign, make sounds with an instrument or soundmaker.

**Online rehearsals**      **Once per fortnight during term time**  
Via Zoom – a link will be sent to those who sign up

**Next in-person rehearsal**



**FIND OUT MORE + SIGN UP**  
[mehem.org/inclusive](https://mehem.org/inclusive)



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