



St Andrew's Academy Family update newsletter

8th March 2024

Spring Term

Head Teacher's Welcome



At St Andrew's we pride ourselves on being professionally generous and supporting outside agencies, external professionals and interested parties to showcase our exceptional cohort and add a reciprocal value to the school as well as their needs. This week was week 2 of a 3 week project with Derby University to host their BA SEND students to share good practice in our total communication approach. 10 students spent time across the school observing the use of Makaton, signs and symbols and the use of communication devices and strategies to enable our young people to express their understanding as well as their needs and wants. The feedback from the students was highly complimentary with each professional sharing the value of observing excellent communication in action.

Effective communication and empowering pupil voice is a corner stone of St Andrew' Academy. Through opportunities for pupils to share their interests and accept opportunity, a group of pupils expressed an interest in trying golf for the first time. The Wednesday after school club attended Morley Hayes Golf driving range, hitting a ball off the tee for the first time. Every barrier to play the sport was effectively removed with all pupils striking the ball by the end of the session. It was genuinely my pleasure and with much pride to witness the determination and enjoyment of attempting a new sport for the first time. A huge thank you to the staff who gave up their time for free to ensure all pupil needs were met.

Please enjoy the rest of the incredible achievements showcased in this weekly newsletter.

Have a wonderful weekend,

David Braybrooke

Headteacher

Key Stage 3

With the weather gradually warmer, it's been great to get outside and utilise our forest school area. This week, we have been working on the maintenance of the area, learning how to safely use tools.





The Glens

Skye class have been developing their communication skills through communication boards, makaton sign, verbal, symbols and switches. The highlight this week has been during our good morning song; the students all wait patiently for their turn and use symbols to express how

they are feeling. They then all have a choice of which friend they want to choose from by looking at their pictures and name. Week by week their confidence and concentration skills have been improving.







Fair Isle class have had another busy week of learning activities. Students have been working hard with their maths and reading skills and are showing great progress. Activities have included recording a tally chart of different colours of cars in the car park, and signing whilst ordering days of the week. Students have also been practising their number skills working with Numicon. We hope everyone has a lovely weekend.







Key Stage 4

Canna Class has been enjoying learning about global warming in humanities and are doing a team challenge in the lesson. This week we looked at how the Polar ice caps were melting, the students split into two teams and had to rescue as many animals as they could before the ice melted.







Highlands



This week in art, the highlanders have been creating cards for Mother's Day! We have been baking biscuits for our lovely Mum's and carers, we hope you all have a lovely weekend celebrating.







FE College Campus Information Session



4.00pm – 4.30pm: Campus Tour and 'Meet the Staff'

4.30pm – 5.00pm: Curriculum Offer Presentation

This is an open invitation to all young people and their families who will be progressing into FE in September 2024 to come and meet the FE team, see the campus building and find out some more information about the FE curriculum offer your young person will be following next year.

You will receive an information form for your young person to complete. This information will help to inform student groupings and timetables for the new academic year.

Please could these forms be returned by May 24th 2025.

Please email campus@sas.set.org to register your interest in attending this event.

Residential Department



Last week the residential department was inspected by OFSTED, all students were friendly and welcoming and happy to share their personal thoughts and experiences of residential with the inspectors.

This week activities have included local library visits, daily meal preparation sessions and sports. The students really enjoyed a focussed fitness session using the indoor gym equipment.





Student Voice

Our Student Voice Members have been very busy this week.

They have attended the Send Ambassadors meeting which was held at the Museum of Making.

They were very excited to attend. The main topic of focus was the Send Strategy.

The SEND Strategy is working together to help children and young people aged 0 – 25 with a special educational need, and/or disability to:

- Learn at school, college, university and in training.
- Have a job in the future.
- Be healthy and happy.

- Be independent.
- make friends, have relationships and be part of the community they live in

They gave Ideas on how they would like support on different topic:

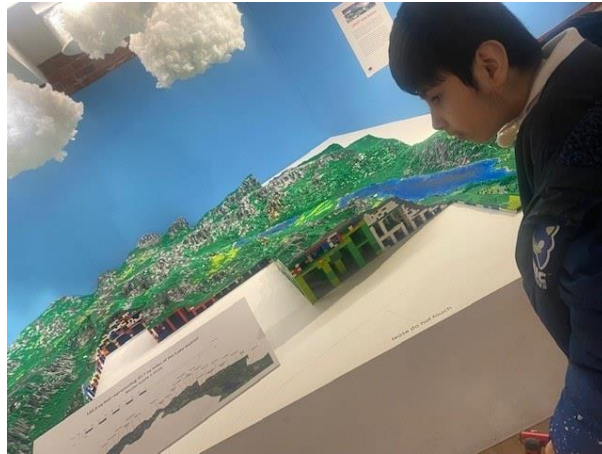
- Be healthy and happy
- Learn to help you get a job in the future
- Make friends, feel part of where you live, socialise
- Be independent to communicate, dress, feed yourself, and in the future manage your own money, live independently – cook, clean, shop, go out with friends, work

At the end of the meeting they had the chance to look at the Lego Exhibition in the museum









Extra-curricular activities

Some photos from our Extra Curricular Sports After School Club, we visited the driving range at Morley Hayes. The students were amazed by the facilities so many had never seen a driving range before let alone ever think they'd go to one and have ago. We practised golf in school at last weeks club and transferred these skills to the driving range every student managed to hit a ball independently of the tee and most importantly they all walked away with a smile and proud of what they had achieved. Some have even said they are going to ask parents and carers to take them back. This is exactly why we run extra curricular to introduce new sports, new skills and give the students an opportunity to access their hobbies, interests and talents with no barriers!







Some snaps from another one of our amazing Extra Curricular Clubs After School Clubs , the students have been attending Art club and have completed a few projects. They have loved meeting new students and staff as it gives them a chance to socialise and see students from across the school. They've enjoyed getting creative and showing of their Art work



Red Nose Day

Friday 15th March is Red Nose Day. The theme this year is poverty and the cost of living crisis. Therefore, we are asking students to bring in a tin or packet to donate to the food bank which school

shall deliver. On the day, students can wear items that are red if they wish. We shall be decorating biscuits and participating in fun craft activities throughout the day.



Transport Information

There are a number of dates booked for parents to discuss the post-16 travel assistance policy in more detail and to answer questions:

- Friday 15 March 2024, 1.30pm-2.30pm
- Wednesday 20 March 2024, 5-6pm

This is a meeting aimed at parents of current year 11 students, with a focus on post-16 travel assistance.



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



SEND HUB Creative Workshops

FREE weekly workshops in dance and movement, drama, music and percussion



Open to learning disabled, neurodivergent and Autistic young people aged 13-18 who are keen to develop their skills

Every Thursday from 29th Feb 2024

Come and see if this is for you on our

Taster sessions:

7th March

14th March

4.30 - 6pm

Workshops are all FREE, funded by the CANVAS project



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Where?

Our Hubbub home and new SEND inclusive hub at Deda



19 Chapel Street
Derby DE1 3GU

Booking essential



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