



St Andrew's Academy Family update newsletter

10th May 2024

Head Teacher's Welcome



Summer Term is well and truly in full swing! We have a group out at an athletics event today and well as Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh. Our Forest School area on site has been buzzing with learning all week and all classes have enjoyed PE in sun. Not all the magic has been outside, we welcomed a theatre performance into school this week to perform The Hobbit in line with our English curriculum. Please check out our Facebook page for pictures.

My hope is that you can see our staff working hard to deliver an innovating curriculum offer, keeping our young people safe, fit and healthy and making the very most of their time in school. We value every day and endeavor to offer a rich learning experience and pathway to an exceptional Post 19. Your feedback is essential to enable us to deliver on the aims and outcomes that matter to you. At St Andrew's, we're very receptive to all feedback at all times. However, we do take formal parent feedback each term as coordinated by Shaw Education Trust. This feedback is in the form of an online survey. It's 23 multiple choice questions and takes around 5 minutes. If you choose to, you can enter your details at the beginning to enter into the Trust wide prize giveaway. Please see the link below to access the survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SpecialSchoolParentSurveyTerm32024>

I hope you have a wonderful weekend,

David Braybrooke

Headteacher

Athletics Disability Championships 2024

On Thursday, a group of 13 students from KS3 and KS4 represented the school at the Athletics Disability Championships in Leicester. It was a fantastic day and a great opportunity for our students to represent St Andrew's and compete against other schools from the East Midlands.

Each of the students competed in at least two different events: 100m, 200m, shot put, and long jump. For some of these students, it was their first time on an athletics track. They all showed resilience and determination to achieve their best. Highlights include the teamwork the group showed, the support they all gave to each other, and Vinnie winning his heat in the 100m with a time of 16.18 seconds.

Each student was fantastic and we hope to have even more entered next year!

Forest School Flourishes at St. Andrews Academy





I am excited to share the progress of our new Forest School program at St. Andrews Academy! This exciting addition to our curriculum has already made a significant impact on our students. They have been working tirelessly to prepare the site and make it a perfect learning space in nature.

Our students have dedicated themselves to transforming a piece of land into a vibrant Forest School area. They have been busy clearing paths, digging and preparing the soil, creating fire pits, planting vegetables, and creating safe, inviting spaces for them to enjoy. The hard work and commitment from our students have paid off, resulting in an outdoor area where they can learn and grow.

The learning opportunities in the Forest School program are varied and enriching. Students have taken part in activities such as orienteering, which helps them develop their navigation and problem-solving skills. They have also learned the art of outdoor cooking, mastering the rules of the campfire and the fire triangle. Beyond the hands-on skills, the Forest School has offered our young people a holistic experience, encouraging them to connect with the environment and themselves.

Forest School goes beyond traditional classroom learning. It fosters creativity, teamwork, and resilience while also providing students with a chance to unwind in the calming embrace of nature. We have seen our students grow in confidence and develop a sense of responsibility for the world around them.

Looking forward, we aim for the Forest School program to become an integral part of our curriculum at St. Andrews Academy. We hope that its benefits will extend beyond our current students and reach many others in the future. Our goal is to share the joys and lessons of nature-based education with the entire school community and beyond.

The future of the Forest School at St. Andrews Academy is bright, and I can't wait to see how it continues to flourish and enrich the lives of our students.

Best regards,

James Dunne













Key Stage 3

Bute class have visited Coniston Crescent this week where they have taken part in craft activities supported by our KS5/Campus Students.

This week we learnt about the different stages of growing a sunflower. We then decorated plant pots and labels ready planting.

The students loved working alongside their older peers and going out into the community.





Sun protection



It's finally here! As you can see throughout this newsletter, St Andrew's Academy highly value outdoor learning. Please could you apply sunscreen prior to school and send your young person in with a sun hat if required. We're happy to support young people with sun cream and will require a named bottle and consent to apply if needed. Additional hydration would be great but we will provide access to water throughout the day. Any questions, please contact your class team through the usual channels.

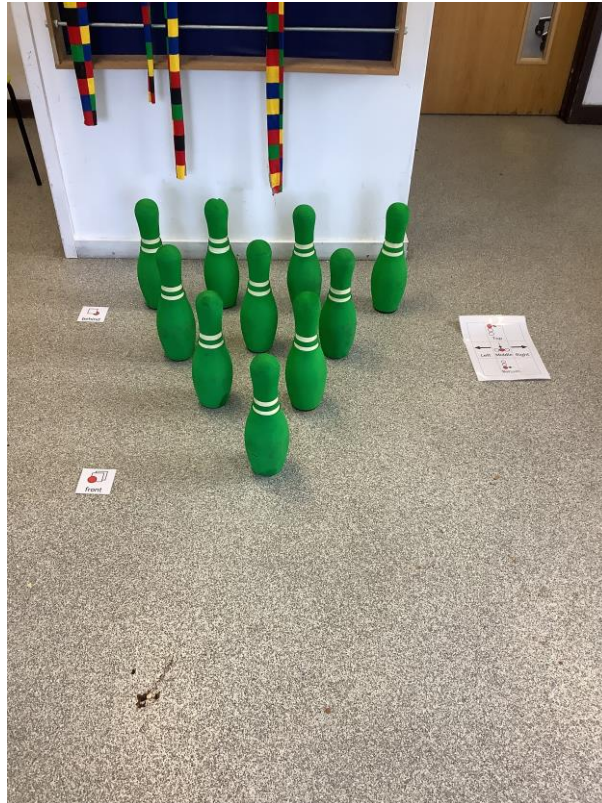
The Glens

Skye Class have had another lovely week in the beautiful sunshine! The students have been working on positional language in Maths this week through a game of bowling, they have listened to the instructions of rolling/throwing the ball 'forwards' and waited patiently for their turn. Two of our students thought it would be much more fun if they ran towards the skittles to knock them all down - that's one way to get a strike!

Some of our students from Skye, Mull and Fair Isle also enjoyed watching 'The Hobbit' performed by a drama production team, there were many smiles and laughs throughout.







Key Stage 4

Students in Stronsay class have taken advantage of the sunshine this week and cleared our D of E gardening area. We had a lot of clearing to do and had to make sure we used tools safely. We had to clear dead leaves, remove old raised planters and soil, take items to the skip, clear the greenhouse, clear overgrown plants and get rid of lots of pesky weeds! Students worked incredibly hard and we have now managed to plant some green beans and onions that we started growing in class into our garden area. We have got some peas and carrots to put in soon courtesy of Barra class too!



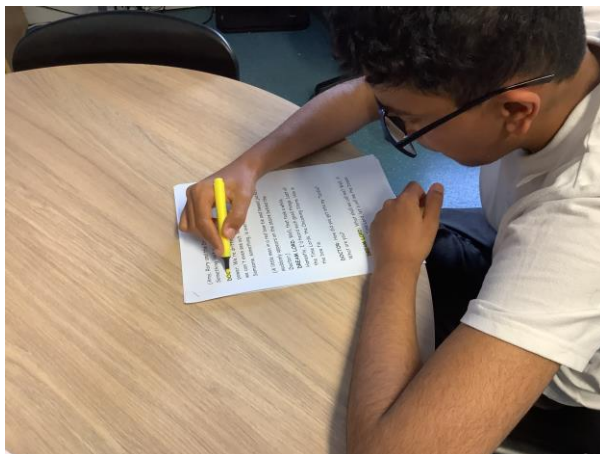


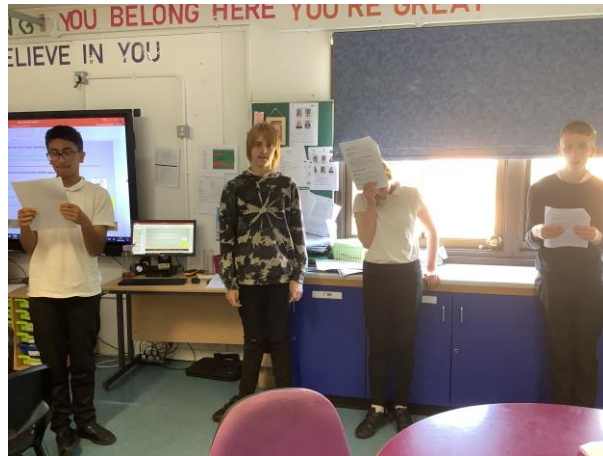






This week in English, Stronsay class looked at scripts and texts. We chose one of our favourites... Dr Who! We learned about character, stage direction and dialogue and then had a go at acting out the script! It was great fun and students did an amazing job at becoming the characters... particularly the scary Dream Lord!

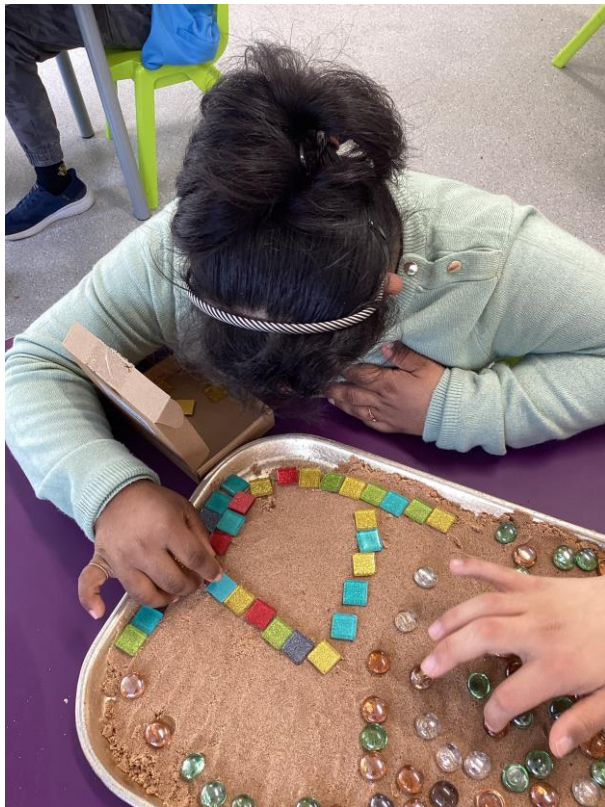




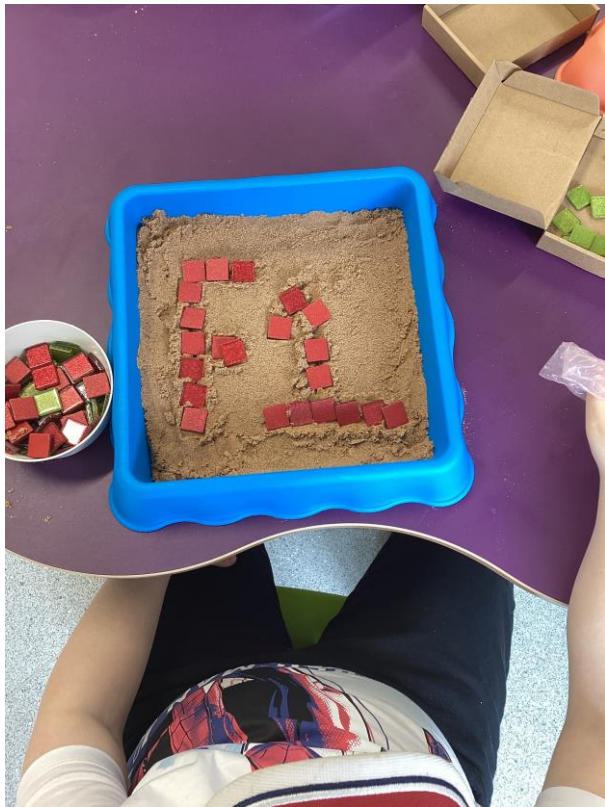
In our expressive arts session this week, students in Canna class have been designing their own pieces or mosaic artwork. Students really enjoyed showing their creativeness using sand as a base for their mosaics.









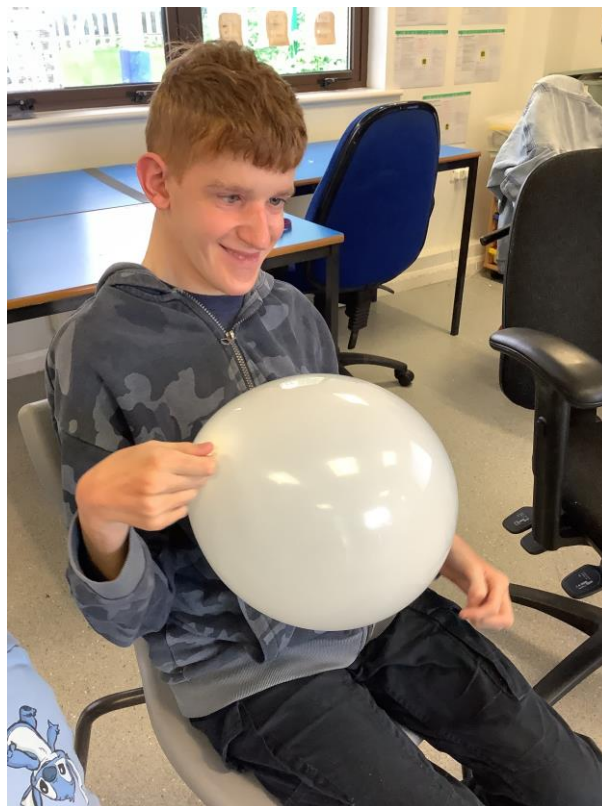




Highlands



This week in the highlands we have been doing lots of work to improve our fine and gross motor skills. We have been working our bodies by playing volleyball with balloons and walking to the local park. Also on our walk we have been perfecting our road safety skills! Our fine motor skills have been used to chop onions and peel potatoes for food tech. This week we have been learning all about food from Lithuania and enjoyed delicacies such as potato pancakes and cepelinai.







Seven Stories of the Sea at Déda

KS5 students joined other young people from Derby to take part in an interactive performance at Déda, the city's premier dance centre, recently. Our students have been practising for this special event, entitled 'Seven Stories of the Sea', with Déda staff for several weeks.

Everyone had a fantastic time. Thank you so much to all the staff from Déda who have made the last few weeks so inspiring for our students.









Little Chester Allotments Open Day, Sunday 12th May, 11am- 3pm



Residential Department



A shorter week but that did not stop the fun in residential. On Tuesday all students as a treat and a break from cooking their own tea every evening, instead visited two local restaurants. Students studied the menu and ordered their own food and drinks with staff support. This week also saw our

termly Residential Voice meeting take place, a visit to DEDA Dance studio and local community walks for exercise and to practise road safety skills.



1 - I prefer this to cooking.



2 - Thumbs up for the fish and chips.



3 - Can we do this every week.



4 - A group enjoyed celebrating a 16th Birthday carvery meal at the Toby Carvery.



5 - Every term both groups come together and attend Residential Voice, a meeting where students can discuss all things residential, share ideas, and listen to key updates and information.

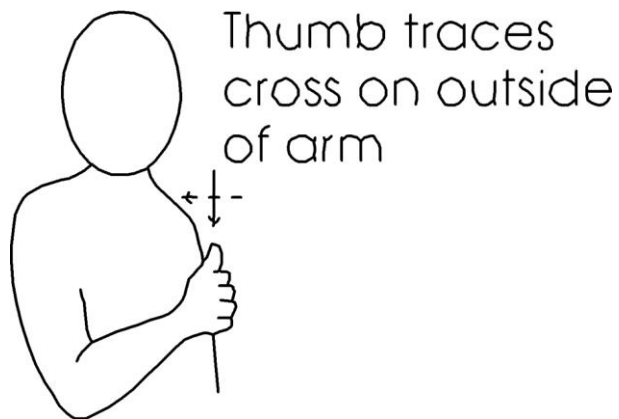


6 - A student did not want to change out of his athletics kit after competing in 200m race at the regional 2024 Disability Athletics Meet in Leicester.



7 - Students enjoying a quick break at DEDA Dance studio, after an intensive creative dance session.

Makaton Sign of the Week



8 - This Weeks' sign is NURSE

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