



St Andrew's Academy Family Update Newsletter

Autumn Term 2

19th December 2025

Headteacher's Welcome



A weekly reflection of our young people's achievement is a real joy to write every week for this newsletter, but reflecting and celebrating Autumn Term 2025 is something else! Today is a milestone of 9 years at St Andrew's for me, and the pupils and their staff teams have never ceased to impress and achieve outcomes far beyond what we thought was possible. To belong to such an inspirational school community, as both you and I do, is to belong to something very unique and humbling. What may appear to be a small step to some is life changing for others and prioritising a person-centred approach to our educational offer continues to yield the highest returns for our pupils.

The last week of term has certainly not disappointed, with Pantomimes, Christmas dinners and Festive fun, our young people have once again shown that they can push past what has not been possible before, thrive in new situations and implement taught strategies to not just cope- but to thrive!

2026 is shaping up to continue our rapid positive trajectory with many more opportunities for you to come into school, connect with the community you belong to and continue to collaborate with us on our shared goal of excellence for your young person. I thank you for your exceptional commitment and can't wait to kick start the new year as our young people continue to amaze us all.

Have a wonderful Christmas and superb New Year.

David Braybrooke - Headteacher

Erin Madison Christmas Party Fundraiser



Thank you so much to everyone who bought tickets, donated prizes, shared and supported the St Andrew's School Christmas party raffle. Your kindness and generosity has helped raise an amazing amount for the students to enjoy a christmas party today with their classmates. A special thank you to Nikki Marriott for organising this fundraiser!

You can head over to the **Erin Madison Foundation on facebook** to see the live draw and winners announcement- Nikki has contacted winners directly.

Congratulations to all of the winners!!

A huge thank you!

A huge thank you to Gullenoor and Aliyaan's Mum Saira for bringing in samosas for all the staff at St Andrew's - they were greatly appreciated and enjoyed!



Key Stage 3

Our recent trip to Dick Whittington at Derby Arena was an absolute hit! Students travelled brilliantly and were fully immersed in the sights, sounds and characters of the pantomime. From booing the baddie to laughing at the jokes and reacting to the music and lighting, there were smiles everywhere (and yes, plenty of shouting too – as panto law demands). The experience supported communication, attention and sensory engagement in a fun, memorable way, and many students showed anticipation and excitement throughout. Luckily for staff ears (and sanity), there was only *one* “six... seven!” reference in the entire show — we’ll call that a festive miracle. The real showstopper though? The absolutely heroic dancing to *Demon Hunters’ Golden*.

A big thank you to staff for making the trip run so smoothly and to Derby Arena for a welcoming, accessible performance. Look out later in the school year for information about next year's visit to Snow White!

The Glens



The Glens had a magical Christmas trip to the Snowdome, where they laughed and played in the snow and zoomed down the toboggan slides. They enjoyed watching the mini pantomime of Beauty and the Beast and were very excited to see Santa. Afterwards, they explored Santa's Village, where they met the animals, rode on the merry-go-round, and posted their Christmas letters in Santa's special postbox. It was a wonderful day full of festive fun and happy memories.











Key stage 4 Christmas Performance

We performed our Christmas show 'Home Alone in Oz' to parents and carers this week! It was a wonderful and crazy mix of the Wizard of Oz and Home Alone! Students worked incredibly hard learning lines, creating set, props and costumes. We also had a signing choir instead of a traditional one which showcased our students signing and Makaton talents. Students learned lines, choreography, signing and stage directions. They were amazing!





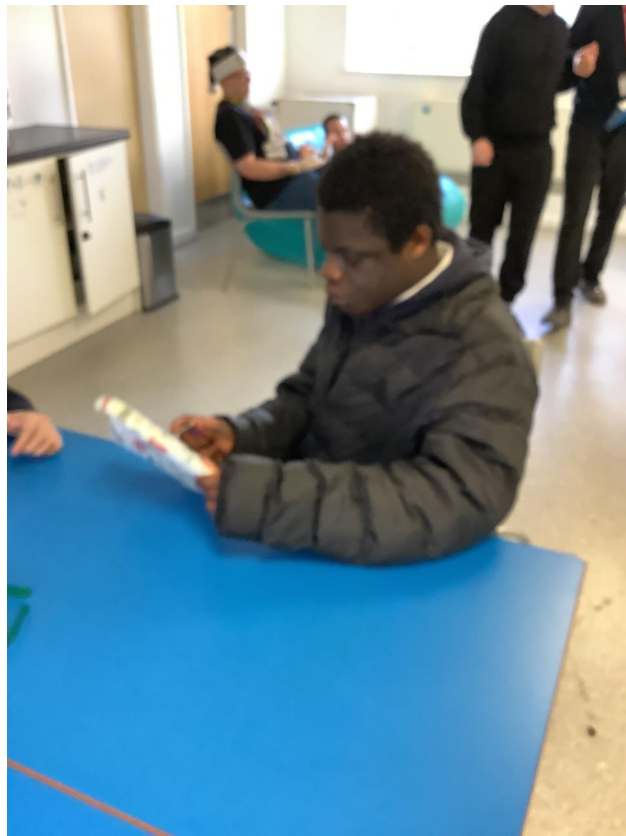
The Highlands

This week in the Highlands both classes joined together to celebrate Christmas, where students played games like pass the parcel. They made Christmas cards to take home to families. If our week wasn't fun enough a group of children went to the pantomime and enjoyed Dick Whittington with good Christmas spirits. Our students were extra excited and very well behaved throughout the show.





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Therapy Input



We have enjoyed incorporating Christmas crafts into our sensory integration sessions this week. Craft activities such as cutting, gluing and handwriting help develop fine motor skills, hand strength and even their bilateral coordination.

Merry Christmas 🎄







Extra Curricular

Some students went down to Morrisons to perform Christmas carols. As part of their Duke of Edinburgh award they chose a skill they wanted to work on. These students chose music and over the last few months have been perfecting their singing voices and learning to play musical instruments.

This week we hosted our family Christmas crafts event, pupils were joined by family members to get creative and enjoy some mince pies!















10% off School Uniform offer

Myclothing is offering a 10% discount off St Andrew's school uniform over the festive period.
Please see the link and code below

myclothing.com/discount/10MYC2025

Code: 10MYC2025

Valid until: 31.12.2025

Newsletter & Social Media Feedback – Help Us Improve!



We would love your feedback on our school newsletter and social media. This quick survey asks how you stay updated, what content you enjoy most, and how we can make our communication more useful for you. Your input will help us share news, celebrate students, and keep you better connected!

[Parent / Carer feedback survey questions \(Newsletter and social media\)](#)

Makaton Countdown to Christmas

[Countdown to Christmas daily Signs](#) - Please follow the link for the Makaton Christmas countdown.

School Term and Holiday Dates



St Andrew's Academy School Term and Holiday Dates 2025-2026

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

September 2025 (19 days)							October 2025 (18 days)							November 2025 (20 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

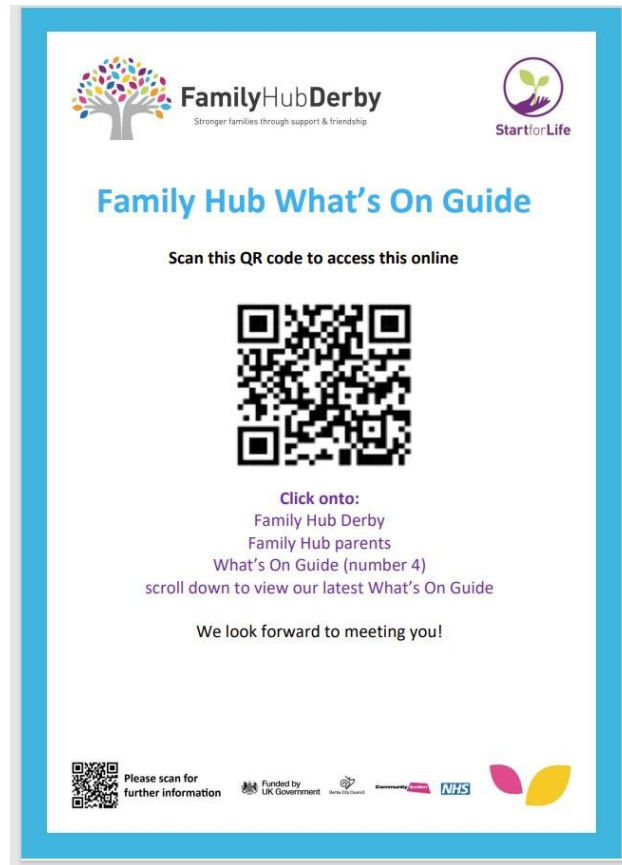
December 2025 (15 days)							January 2026 (20 days)							February 2026 (15 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026 (20 days)							April 2026 (14 days)							May 2026 (15 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
30	31					1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026 (22 days)							July 2026 (17 days)							August 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	31					1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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

Family Hub QR Code and Family Fun Sessions



Go and Follow our Social Media Pages!



Facebook - [St. Andrews Academy](#)

Instagram - [Standrews.academy](#)

LinkedIn - [St. Andrews Academy, Derby](#)

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