



St Andrew's Academy

Family Update Newsletter

Spring Term 1

23rd January 2026

Headteacher's Welcome



My hope is that as members of our school, you can see that constant improvement and refinement of our offer is a high priority for us. We were the benefactors of £1.1M in the Summer Term to redevelop our Main site and open a new 6th Form. The impact of that investment is immeasurable and the offer every young person receives as a result is genuinely life changing- but we don't stand still! We have a shared goal and responsibility of continued excellence for all and that requires a constant strategy for improvement, not just to the infrastructure of St Andrew's but to every element that makes the fabric of our offer.

I'm pleased to share that we have been successful with a bid of £22,000 for a new Outdoor Ed area. A new kitchen is being installed at Whitaker Rd this week, following investment in their outdoor area and works have begun at our old 6th form site on Fieldsway Drive to develop a Community Hub. The Community Hub will be used for sports and performance arts and will include a library and cafe, and is kindly being joint funded by **SEN UTD** and **TJ & Tash's Army**. If you'd like to find out more about any of the projects or feel you could contribute or signpost in

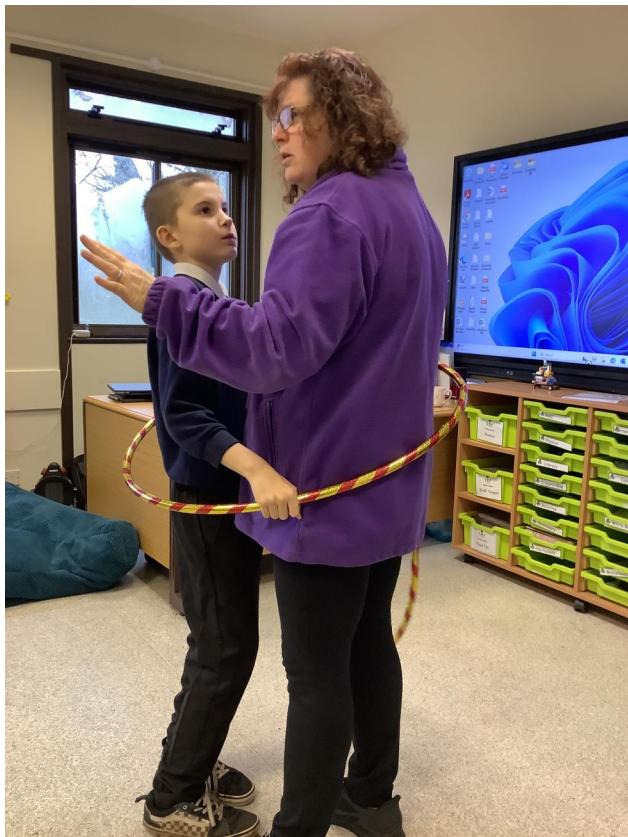
any way to help us build for the life outcomes of our young people, please do reach out in the best way that suits you.

David Braybrooke - Headteacher

KS3

This term Barra students have been learning about personal space and why it is important in everyday life. Through practical activities and visual supports, students explored appropriate boundaries, learned to recognise good and bad behaviour, and practised making positive choices. These skills help students to feel safe. We used visual support such as cones and hula hoops to help the students to understand this.







The Glens



Mull Class have jumped straight into the Spring Term with lots of excitement and learning after the holidays!

We kicked things off by exploring shapes and textures, before travelling to our brand-new topic — Africa! The children have been curious, creative, and full of enthusiasm as we learn together.

In Food Technology, it's been all about tasty fun! We've been making pizza and chips, with everyone enjoying rolling, cutting, and shaping their pizzas into circles and squares. We also made delicious Moroccan biscuits, carefully shaping them too.

Our number lessons have been full of action as we used numbered cars and “parked” them in our very own car park. This hands-on activity was a huge hit, and the students were wonderfully engaged.

To finish, Mull Class worked as a team to create a giant world map, exploring what is land and what is sea. The students loved working together and showed fantastic teamwork and creativity.

What a brilliant start to the term — well done, Mull Class!

















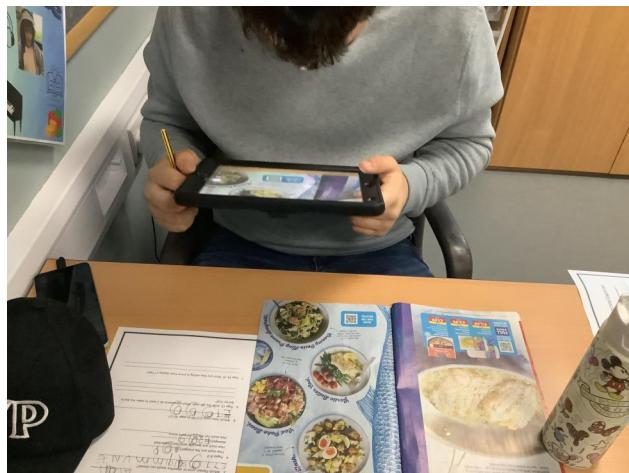


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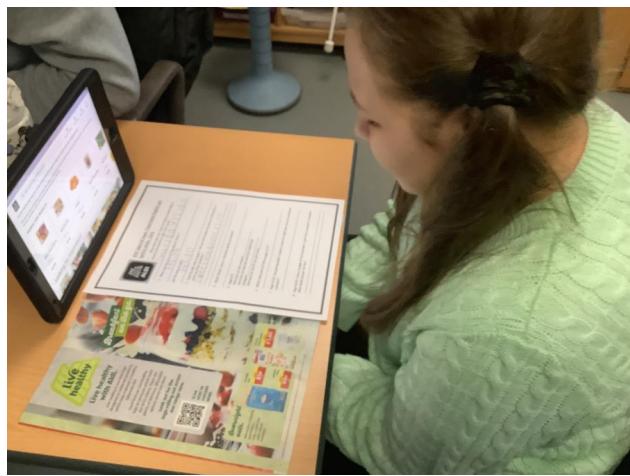
In Key Stage 4, students have been developing their functional skills through a range of practical, real-life activities. They explored the difference between prescription and over-the-counter medications, learning how to read labels carefully and recognise correct dosages.

As part of their English and life skills learning, students also used online shopping websites and catalogues to practise budgeting. They were challenged to choose a present for someone close to them while staying within a set budget, helping them build confidence with money management and decision-making.

These activities support students in developing independence and applying their skills to everyday situations.











Therapy Input



Tactile desensitization is an important foundation for helping students develop a positive relationship with food, particularly for those who experience sensory sensitivities. We use tactile desensitization by gradually and safely exploring different textures through touch, such as playing with or handling different textures. This process supports the nervous system to tolerate new sensations and textures, builds confidence, and increases feelings of control and predictability. Over time, improved tolerance of textures through touch can transfer to greater willingness to smell, taste, and eventually try new foods, making mealtimes a more positive and successful experience.





FE Campus

Building work is continuing at a pace here at Whitaker Road! The outdoor fencing area is now complete and we can begin working to develop this area for our young people. The student

group attending the Workshop have a new project building some picnic benches and the Thursday afternoon group have started work to replace the old tyre planters.

Within the building, students have been enjoying their timetabled sessions. Groups using our health and wellbeing room have been enjoying developing their hair and beauty skills.

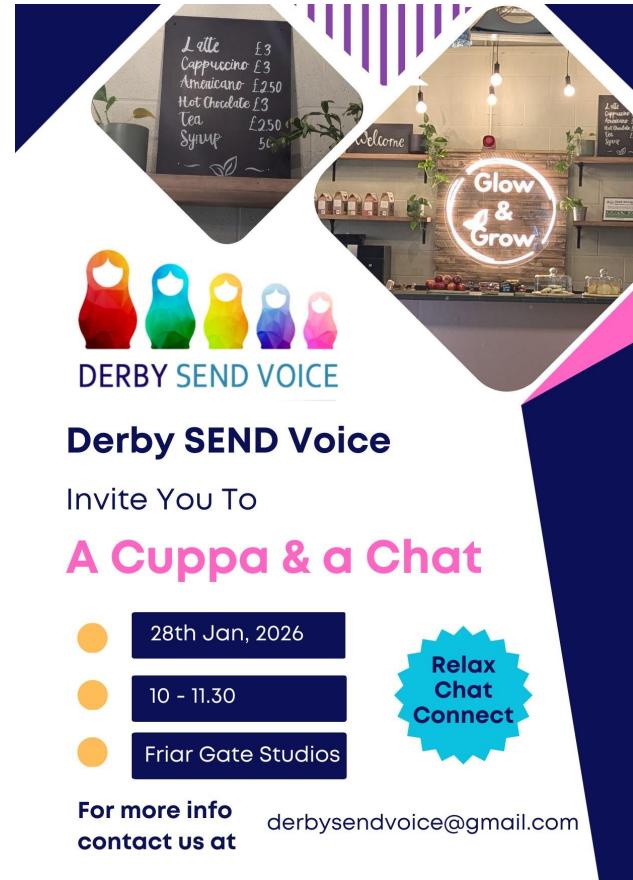
This week, Paul and Georgina took some students down to the new SEND skills hub at Friar Gate studios to participate in the Young Star Voices discussions around improving SEND services across the city. The students were fantastic and really enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to going again next month.







Derby SEND Voice Event



A message from Derbyshire Immunisation Service - Upcoming Year 9 vaccinations

Dear Parents/ Carers

Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio (Td/IPV) & Meningitis ACWY Immunisations are due to take place at your school on **Friday 27th February 2026**. These vaccines are free of charge.

Most children have been immunised against Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio and Meningitis C as part of the childhood UK schedule. Guidance from NHS England recommends that your child now receives a booster dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio and Meningitis ACWY.

Information regarding these vaccines is available on the website:

MenACWY vaccine - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

[3-in-1 teenage booster overview - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

If you have any questions, please contact us on the below contact number.

Please complete the link below to give consent for the vaccinations, this will close on **13th February 2026**. If you do not wish your child to have the immunisations, you can complete a refusal via the same link.

<https://nhsimmms.azurewebsites.net/session/0e962013>

Please be aware that if we do not receive either a completed consent form or a refusal, each young person will be individually assessed by a healthcare professional to self-consent on the day. If they are deemed Gillick competent, they may be offered the vaccination.

If your child is outstanding their MMR vaccination and you would like for them to receive this vaccination, please contact our office on the details below.

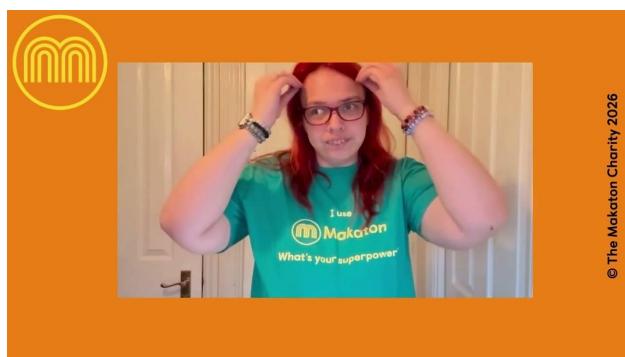
[MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Immunisation Team on 033 3358 3397 option 5 or Immunisations.Derbyshire@intrahealth.co.uk

Tips for Reading with your Young People at home



Makaton- Sign of the week



School Term and Holiday Dates

 St Andrew's Academy School Term and Holiday Dates 2025-2026																																																																																																																																			
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195 Days – including up to 5 days to be taken as professional development days for teaching staff.

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