



# Respect Collaboration of Schools

*Castle School - Bridge Street School - Kingsmead School*

## Castle School welcomes Ellen Wilkinson as new headteacher

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Ellen Wilkinson as the new Headteacher at Castle School.

Ellen brings a wealth of experience, a passion for education and a commitment to supporting every student to reach their full potential.

As Ellen begins her journey with us, she shared her thoughts on what lies ahead. She said: "I am truly excited and pleased to join Castle School as the new Headteacher.

"As I step into this role, I want to express my gratitude for the warm welcome I have already received from staff, students, and parents alike.

"I am passionate about fostering an inclusive and supportive environment where every young person can thrive, and I look forward to working closely with you all to continue building on the school's strong foundation of excellence and achievement.

"Together, we will ensure that every student feels valued, and inspired to reach their full potential. Over the coming months, I am eager to meet as many of you as possible, hear your thoughts and ideas, and collaborate to make our school an even better place for all.

"My door is always open, and I encourage you to reach out with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

"I'm looking forward to what we can achieve together, and I'm excited for the journey ahead!"



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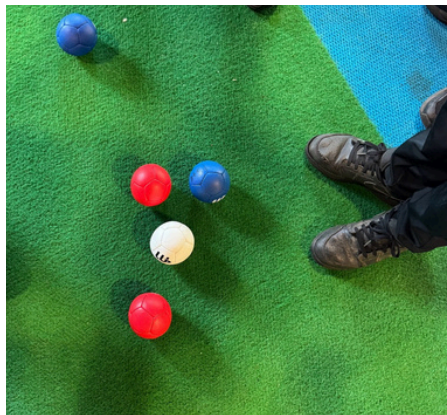
## Building new skills, one Lego brick at a time

This month, pupils at Bridge Street celebrated International LEGO Day. This day marks the anniversary of the submission of the first LEGO brick patent in 1958 in Denmark. Throughout the day, students from all year groups came together for a fun-filled session of free-choice LEGO play. The activity sparked their imaginations and encouraged the development of problem-solving skills. It was wonderful to see the children collaborating with one another, demonstrating impressive teamwork and resilience as they built and created together.



## Spinning tales of Derby's history

Year 11 students from Kingsmead School visited the Museum of Making as part of their humanities topic. They've been exploring how the Industrial Revolution transformed Derby and this visit allowed them to see first-hand the important role the former Silk Mill played in these changes. After the trip, the students created informative leaflets detailing the history of the silk industry and its impact on both Derby and Derbyshire during this pivotal time. A fantastic learning experience for all involved.



Seven of our Year 7 Kingsmead School pupils recently had the opportunity to visit Willows Sports Centre for a day of fun, challenges and new experiences. From archery and curling to axe throwing, football and Boccia it was a fantastic afternoon of exploring unique sports and stepping out of their comfort zones. It was wonderful to see our students not only trying new activities but also working together, supporting one another and building their teamwork skills. Among all the exciting sports, archery was the clear favourite, with many students saying it was the most fun and rewarding.

## Pupils hit the mark with teamwork and brand new challenges

This event was made even more special as our students got the chance to interact with peers from two other Derby secondary schools – a perfect opportunity for building connections and making new friends. We're so proud of the positive attitude, enthusiasm and teamwork displayed by all our students throughout the afternoon. Well done.

## Kingsmead students are jumping for joy as they soar at the sports hall athletics event

There was more sporting success from Kingsmead School this half term at the Sports Hall Athletics Plus Event at the Derbyshire Tennis Centre. Representing our school with pride and excellence, students demonstrated impeccable manners and listening skills that left a lasting impression on the organisers. Their heartfelt thanks and handshakes at the end of the event were a true reflection of their exceptional character. Throughout the day, other schools praised our students for their compassion and encouragement towards one another.

Two students stood out as remarkable leaders, offering invaluable support to their peers in understanding some of the activities. It was wonderful to witness all our students engaging with peers from various schools across the city, building connections and fostering camaraderie.

The event featured a range of exciting activities including relay races (with hurdles), javelin throws, fast feet, broad jumps and throwing a 1kg ball. We're eagerly awaiting the results and will share them as soon as they are announced.



# Students at Kingsmead are making strides in their BTEC qualification

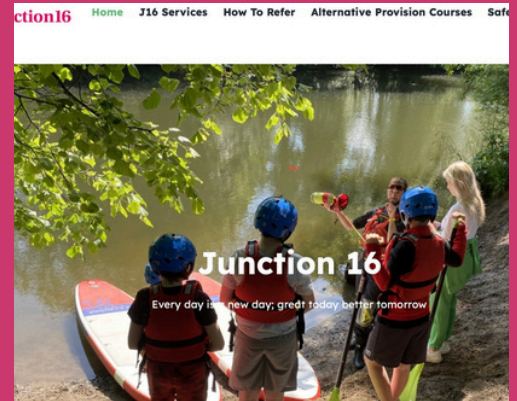
Our Year 10 and 11 students at Kingsmead have been making excellent use of gym facilities in Derby as part of their BTEC qualification, where they've been exploring the impact of exercise on the body and honing their skills in training program planning.

This hands-on experience has done wonders for their confidence, helping them gain valuable skills that can be



applied both in and out of the gym, preparing them for success in all areas of life. We are incredibly proud of the hard work, dedication, and commitment our students have shown throughout this journey, as well as the way they've represented the school both in and out of the classroom.

## The future looks bright on updated J16 website!



We're excited to announce the launch of our newly updated J16 website. It now features fantastic videos highlighting our three internal J16 alternative provisions: Construction, Hair and Beauty and Outdoor Education.

Check it out by visiting:  
[www.junction-16.co.uk](http://www.junction-16.co.uk)

## A brew-tiful way to support school library

Last year, a fundraising day was held to support the new library at Castle School. In January, Darren, Sophie and the nurture class students visited Park Farm Centre with a collection of second-hand adult fiction books. The books were donated to three charity shops and with the money raised new teen books were purchased for the library.

In total, 74 books were gathered, packed into a large bag for life and a full suitcase. To celebrate their success, the group stopped for a well-earned Frappuccino – definitely a highlight for the students involved.





## Pupils dig in to help create a greener tomorrow

Year 10 and 11 pupils from Castle School have been completing hours towards the volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. They have been making an incredible impact in the local community by supporting Down to Earth, a nature-based regeneration organisation in Derby City which creates exciting spaces where 'people connect, culture blooms and nature takes the spotlight'. This invaluable experience is a key part of their Junction 16 Outdoor Education provision, helping students gain practical skills while making a positive impact on their local environment.

They have been travelling to the Electric Daisy site in the city centre, a once forgotten space that has been turned into a vibrant hub of activity, to support Down to Earth's hard work by helping

with land management, grounds maintenance and community garden projects.

The work they have been doing will have a lasting impact on both the environment and the local community. They have started to help rejuvenate areas that were once underused and turned them into vibrant, sustainable spaces that people can enjoy for years to come. Their contribution is vital to making Derby a greener, more environmentally friendly city, whilst also appreciating the significance and benefits of volunteering. Through their efforts, they have gained hands-on experience in environmental regeneration. Whether it's learning how to manage a garden, restore natural habitats, or work with a team, these skills will help them both for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and in future life.



## Love is in the hair and beauty

Getting into the Valentine's spirit, we asked our students to create their own Valentine's inspired hair and beauty images. They researched ideas online and then brought them to life, showcasing their creativity and skills. It was great to see how they interpreted the challenge and created such unique designs.



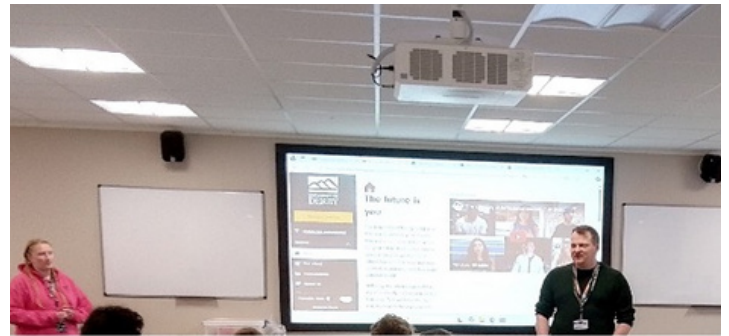
As part of the CEIAG (Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance) pupils from Castle school had the fantastic opportunity to visit Broomfield College to explore their impressive facilities and learn more about the wide range of courses on offer around P16. This visit was a part of our commitment to supporting the CEIAG offer, bringing the curriculum to life by allowing our students to engage with potential future providers. By visiting institutions our students may apply to, we aim to provide them with the tools and information needed for confident, informed decision-making regarding their next steps. It's a great way to raise their aspirations and broaden their horizons for the future.

## Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) at Castle School



Around 20 students from both KS3 and KS4 also recently visited Derby University for an inspiring CEIAG experience. They had the chance to attend a series of informative workshops led by Derby University lecturers, providing them with valuable insights into higher education and the wide range of career paths available to them.

One of the highlights was a visit to a replica hospital environment, where students got to see firsthand how future medical professionals are trained. It was an incredible experience that sparked curiosity and excitement about the possibilities that lie ahead.



Castle School's leadership met with Derby College's EHCP Transitions Coordinator, Grace Elliot, to improve student transitions. The college is supporting students through the CEIAG programme before applications and interviews, offering personalised support. Grace will present on available courses and EHCP student support, and students will visit Derby College to experience lessons before the next academic year.