



**Respect
Collaboration
Trust**

Castle School - Bridge Street School - Kingsmead School



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all at Respect

As we approach the festive season, we want to celebrate the incredible commitment and achievements of our pupils across all our schools. From classroom activities to wider community projects, our students have shown resilience, creativity, and a willingness to support one another. We couldn't be prouder of their dedication and the positive spirit they bring every day. We wish all our pupils, families, and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - and we look forward to another exciting year full of learning, growth, and opportunities for our pupils to shine.

Bridge Street School was bursting with festive cheer on Christmas Jumper Day 2025 as staff came together in their brightest, boldest and most Christmassy jumpers. From sparkling snowflakes to dancing reindeer, the school was a joyful sea of colour and creativity.

But the day was about more than fun. By taking part in this much-loved UK tradition, staff proudly supported Save the Children, raising vital funds to improve the lives of children across the world. Every jumper worn - and every donation made - helped make a meaningful difference this holiday season.



Students build skills at J16

Two of our students have been hard at work building benches at J16 Construction — one carefully measuring, marking up and drilling to fit the seating, while the other has been crafting a mortise and tenon joint, ensuring every piece lines up perfectly and getting everything ready for assembly.

It's been fantastic to see their practical skills in action, with plenty of precision, problem-solving and teamwork throughout, as well as a real focus on working safely and confidently with the right protective equipment and tools.

The project has given them valuable hands-on experience in a real working environment, helping to build confidence and develop skills that will support their future learning and career pathways.



Pupils flex their skills at the Fitness Mill

As part of their BTEC Level 1 Introduction to Sport, pupils at Bridge Street School have been putting their learning into practice at The Fitness Mill Derby. Over six weeks, they designed personalised gym programmes and tested them in a professional setting, boosting fitness, confidence, and practical skills.

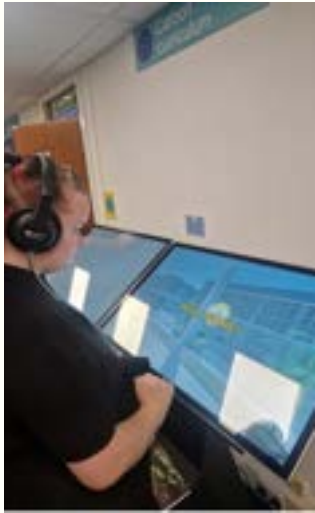
The Fitness Mill Derby provides subsidised access to schools, giving young people vital opportunities to develop health, wellbeing, and teamwork. As one pupil said, "It was amazing to use proper gym equipment and see my programme really work." We are grateful for this partnership and look forward to continuing to inspire the next generation.



Kingsmead School sports news

A group of pupils attended the Deaflympics at Aldercar School, collaborating with deaf and hard-of-hearing students, while KS3&4 pupils also took part in a local partnership event with Burton & South Derbyshire College, where BTEC Level 3/4 students planned and delivered a dodgeball coaching session. KS4 pupils are also working towards their BTEC Level 1 Introduction to Sport qualification, with Year 10 exploring post-16

pathways and developing dodgeball skills and Year 11 focusing on organisational and leadership skills. KS3 pupils have built fundamental skills across invasion games including dodgeball, handball and basketball. Year 7 have also taken part in weekly cricket sessions with the Derbyshire Cricket Foundation and begun a new swimming programme, now embedded into the curriculum with support from Julie Shelton.



Students fly high with aviation careers experience

Year 11 students from Castle School have been absolutely soaring this week as part of their Post-16, NTR and Careers activities, with a brilliant visit to the Aerozone at East Midlands Airport.

They were given a guided tour of the facility and had the chance to explore the huge mix of job roles that keep the airport running day to day, making clear links to the qualifications, skills and wider opportunities available in the aviation world.

From trying their hand at check-in desks and baggage handling to stepping inside flight simulators and getting a feel for the behind-the-scenes operations, students were able to see just how many different pathways exist within a busy, working airport.

It was a fantastic experience that really opened their eyes to future employment options and helped them understand the qualification routes that can lead them there.

A wonderful opportunity for our young people.

New Safe & Sound foundations for a bright future

J16 were delighted to attend the opening of Safe and Sound's brand-new city centre premises, one of our valued AP providers.

It was fantastic to see such a brilliant turnout, showing just how vital Safe and Sound's work is in supporting young people across our community.

The new site was officially opened by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, marking an exciting new chapter for the organisation and the families they support.

We're proud to continue our partnership with Safe and Sound and can't wait to see the positive impact their new space will bring.





Castle School students experience life on the front line

Students from Castle School recently spent the morning with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, taking part in a range of hands-on activities.

As part of our post-16 offer, the visit aimed to introduce students to different occupations and working environments. During their time at the station, students explored the fire engine and its equipment, tried on fire rescue clothing and protective gear, and learned about the various roles, skills and qualifications needed to work within the Fire Service.

They also had the chance to witness firefighters responding to a practice call-out and even got involved themselves—using hoses and machinery used in real emergency situations.



J16 students branch out for a greener future



Students at J16 Outdoor Education are really branching out as they learn essential bushcraft skills and techniques, while gaining a deeper understanding of woodland laws and stewardship.

Working in close partnership with the Peak District National Park, students and staff are exploring ways to promote a sustainable approach to the activities they undertake.

Recently, students learned about coppicing — a traditional technique that allows trees like hazel to regrow from their stumps, helping to maintain healthy woodlands. The hazel collected will be recycled and put to good use for upcoming woodcraft projects and shelter building at the Darley Barn Education Centre.

FUN FACT: Hazel trees can live up to 80 years in a single growth, but when coppiced, they can survive for hundreds of years!



Down the rabbit hole of creativity

Two of our talented shared placement students at J16 Hair & Beauty teamed up for an incredible Alice in Wonderland-inspired project. One student created a stunning Mad Hatter makeup look, perfectly bringing her imaginative mood board to life, while the other confidently stepped into the role of model, showing maturity beyond her years. Their creativity, professionalism, and teamwork truly shone throughout the session, earning them well-deserved praise for both artistry and collaboration.



J16 Hair and beauty students embrace the Learning Curve

J16 Hair and Beauty took two of our students to visit Learning Curve, a post-16 hair and beauty provision. Both students were a pleasure to take — they asked excellent questions and showed great enthusiasm throughout the visit. The staff member who guided us around commented on how confident and mature our students were, which made us very proud. It was also lovely to see some of our former hair and beauty students, who are progressing really well on their course. Overall, the visit was a great success and has helped us establish a fantastic new link with the college.

Climbing to new heights

Students from Years 10 and 11 at Bridge Street School, took part in The Respect Collaboration Trust's Achieve Programme by enjoying an inspiring day of climbing at The Wall in Wirksworth. Guided by instructors from Acclimatize, they tackled indoor rope climbs and bouldering as part of their Personal Development and Teamwork units.

For many, it was their first experience of climbing and the walls tested both confidence and resilience. Despite some nerves, every student pushed past their comfort zone—reaching new heights, solving tricky routes and supporting each other throughout. The group's encouragement and teamwork shone through every activity, creating a positive atmosphere from start to finish.

The day became a celebration of personal growth, with students showing determination, strong communication and real pride in their achievements. They returned to school with a renewed sense of confidence and a better understanding of their own strengths. Staff from Acclimatize praised the group's attitude and teamwork, and look forward to welcoming them back next term for their next big challenge: caving!



Stripes that stand out



One of our talented students at J16 Hair and Beauty is putting the finishing touches on her final nail art assessment — and we're loving her striking zebra design.

Our students have been practising on each other, offering plenty of support, encouragement and creativity along the way. It's amazing to see their skills and confidence grow with each design.

A Star in the making at J16 hair and beauty



We're so proud of this student at J16 Hair and Beauty, who is now completing one of her final assessments — and doing it with total confidence!

Here she is expertly washing a live model's hair, using fantastic communication skills to make sure her client feels relaxed, comfortable and truly cared for.



Developing teamwork and confidence

At J16 Outdoor Education, learners took on the challenge of building natural and man-made shelters—from stick-built dens to tarp setups and intricate lashings. These activities go beyond survival skills, developing problem-solving, resilience, critical thinking, teamwork and communication.

Learners plan, adapt, and learn through trial and error, turning each shelter into a symbol of determination, curiosity and collaboration. Younger learners gain practical skills in a supportive environment, while older learners build confidence, teamwork and leadership. Every activity encourages creativity and perseverance, helping learners apply these skills beyond the classroom. At J16, we believe in learning by doing—developing independence, self-belief and life skills through hands-on challenges in nature.

