



Respect Collaboration Trust

Castle School - Bridge Street School - Kingsmead School

At The Kingsmead School, we are passionate about preparing our students for the world of work.

As we plan our upcoming Career Week, we are looking for local businesses and professionals to bring the workplace to life. Whether you run a small business or a large company, your insight is invaluable.

You could give a career talk, host a workplace visit, offer workplace encounters to highlight essential skills, or support our mock interviews to give students a real insight into the process.

Our students study subjects ranging from ICT, construction, hair & beauty, motor vehicle, sports and coaching, music and core and we'd love to connect them with professionals across all fields.



By getting involved, you'll help bridge the gap between the classroom and the workplace, inspiring the next generation of talent in our community. This really will

help to change lives. If you're interested in supporting, please send an email to the following address: a.wildblood@kingsmeadschoolderby.co.uk

Castle School moves its towers

Castle School has said a fond farewell to their Cedar Street site and moved into their new home at St James House on Mansfield Road.

We wish the whole school community the very best during this transition and look forward to the new opportunities this environment will bring, supporting students, staff, and families as they continue to learn, grow, and thrive.



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Castle School students gear up for a future at Rolls-Royce

Students from Castle School were thrilled to explore the exciting opportunities offered through the Rolls-Royce Skills Academy.

The academy provides young people with the chance to develop valuable skills in engineering, manufacturing and technology, while also gaining real-world experience and industry-recognised qualifications. Programmes like this play an important role in inspiring future careers, raising aspirations, and demonstrating how learning in school can open the door to high-quality pathways with world-leading employers.

During the visit, students heard directly from current Rolls-Royce apprentices about their chosen career paths and experiences. They also had the chance to try their hand at practical activities, including virtual welding and Lego robotics, giving them a hands-on taste of the skills and technologies used in the industry.



Wood you believe that leftover timber is helping our forest school thrive

Working with the local community is an integral part of Outdoor Education and sustainable practice. The J16 team has partnered with Sisk Construction, who champion sustainability within the building trade.

Wood removed during new construction and building projects is recycled for Forest School activities and to enhance biodiversity at our education centre, including the creation of deadwood habitats.

Feeling sweet at Safe & Sound

At a recent session at Safe & Sound, one of our J16 Alternative Provision learners took part in an activity focused on understanding emotional triggers and learning how to manage them more positively.

During the session, the learner made emoji cookies, which were used as a creative way to explore the different emotions that can influence everyday behaviour. Through this activity, they discussed practical ways to recognise emotional triggers, reduce negative reactions, and replace them with healthier, more positive responses. It was a fab, fun session that encouraged reflection, confidence and personal growth.





Shaping emotions one brushstroke at a time

During a creative group activity, pupils at iD Derby - one of J16 alternative providers - worked collaboratively to produce a significant piece of work that reflected their internal feelings and emotions, including the challenges associated with processing those emotions.

Over the course of 50 minutes, they externalised their experiences using a

variety of artistic mediums which was very well received by everyone.

Once the activity was completed, the lights were dimmed and calming atmospheric music was introduced to support regulation and soothe participants.

A safe and supportive environment was also created, featuring large soft-play

equipment and a giant tipi. This space allowed students to practise slow, calming and regulated breathing exercises, helping them to establish their own sense of safety and experience the soothing effects of creativity.

The resulting work was very impressive and a great time was had by everyone during this activity.

Mocking up success at Castle School



Students at The Castle School recently took part in a Mock Interview Day, giving them a valuable opportunity to develop and practice essential employability skills. Throughout the day, students met with a range of volunteer interviewers who provided guidance, feedback, and encouragement, helping them to build confidence, enhance their communication abilities, and strengthen their resilience in preparation for future career opportunities.

Welly good work at Bridge Street

One of our talented Year 11 students from Bridge Street School has been hard at work designing and creating a Wellington boot storage rack for our younger Bridge Street learners in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

This project highlights their creativity, practical skills and their commitment to supporting the wider school community. The new rack will provide a practical and organised space for our younger students to store their wellies - especially useful during outdoor learning and wet-weather days.

We are really proud of the care, skill and effort that has gone into producing this piece of work.

A fantastic achievement—well done!



Turning old gems into new masterpieces

We're delighted to share this work from iD Derby - one of J16's valued alternative provision partners. Students attending iD Creative Wellbeing sessions have been working with recycled jewellery to design and create a stunning framed project.

This activity is more than just art - it's about developing creativity, patience and attention to detail, while promoting wellbeing and self-expression. By using recycled materials, students also learn about sustainability and the importance of reusing resources in innovative ways.

The finished piece is a beautiful example of what can be achieved when imagination meets practical skill.



J16 student builds a gift worth chirping about

One of our Year 11 J16 Construction students has been busy this week building a birdbox as a special gift for his nan.

It's a great example of the practical skills our students develop and how they can use them for meaningful real-life project. Well done — fantastic work!



Students raise the bar and climb their way to career success

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 and 11 students completing the King's Trust Personal Development and Employability Skills pathway. Their commitment and resilience have been outstanding, both in and beyond the classroom.

This term, students have taken part in a range of practical experiences to build key employability skills. Highlights include developing new skills at Morley Hayes Golf Club, completing the Tissington Trail cycle challenge, working with a local fitness provider, and pushing themselves during an indoor rock climbing day. These activities have strengthened teamwork, leadership, communication, resilience, confidence and organisation.

Students have successfully linked these experiences to the theory elements of the qualification, reflecting thoughtfully on their progress and clearly evidencing their skills. We are delighted that they are achieving Level 2 qualifications across the board - a fantastic achievement.

The programme continues after half term with a World of Work Tour at Tesco Superstore, a caving adventure in the Peak District and tennis sessions at Derby Tennis Club, further developing workplace skills and personal growth.

Well done to all our King's Trust students - your progress and determination are truly worth celebrating.

