



**Respect
Collaboration
Trust**

Castle School - Bridge Street School - Kingsmead School



Students serve up success

Students from Bridge Street School's King's Trust programme have recently completed an exciting six-week block of tennis sessions at the fantastic facilities of Derby Tennis Centre, as part of their work towards the Achieve Qualification in Personal Development & Employability Skills.

Across the six weeks, Year 10 and Year 11 students demonstrated outstanding commitment, enthusiasm and resilience as they developed a wide range of tennis skills and tactical understanding. Learners worked hard to improve key technical skills including forehands, backhands, volleys and serves, while also exploring important aspects of gameplay such as scorekeeping, manoeuvring opponents around the court and recognising the right moments to attempt point-winning shots.

It was fantastic to see the confidence and ability of all students grow week by week. Pupils showed real determination to improve their game, encouraging one another throughout the sessions and taking great pride in the progress they were making. The positive attitudes, teamwork and perseverance on display throughout the programme were a real credit to all involved.

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The programme concluded with an exciting round robin tournament, where students had the opportunity to put all of their newly developed skills into practice in a competitive setting.

Congratulations go to one of our Year 11 students who emerged victorious as tournament winner after a series of excellent performances.

To celebrate the achievements of all learners, members of staff from the King's Trust team attended the final session to recognise the success and commitment shown by every student. Pupils were presented with goodie bags containing King's Trust merchandise and enjoyed a well-earned celebration with a selection of pizzas together at the end of the event.

A huge well done goes to our current Year 11 cohort, all of whom have successfully achieved the highest possible qualification level - Level 2.

They leave Bridge Street School with a valuable range of skills, experiences and knowledge gained through the King's Trust programme, which will support them as they move forward into the next stage of their lives. Congratulations to all students involved on a fantastic achievement!



Bake sale boosts funds for rescued horses

A group of students at Castle School organised a fundraising day in April in support of Redwings Horse Sanctuary, an organisation very close to one of the student's heart.

The event featured a bake sale, tombola and a 'guess the sweets' competition, bringing the school community together for a great cause. Thanks to everyone's enthusiasm and generosity, over £100 was raised to help care for rescued horses.

A huge thank you to all who donated, took part, and volunteered. Your support made this event a real success and helped create a positive impact within our wider community.

Growing confidence with The Island Project

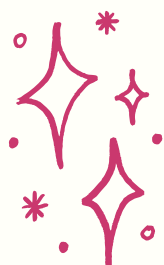
Two students have made an excellent start at The Island Project, showing growing confidence, enthusiasm and a strong commitment to learning through hands-on experiences.

One student has impressed staff with their energy and determination during physically demanding gardening tasks, including turning a compacted compost pile and sowing carrots with care. They have also engaged positively with a range of animals, including pigs, chickens and small animals, carrying out welfare tasks responsibly and contributing well to daily routines.

Meanwhile, another student has shown remarkable progress in confidence and independence, recently completing the full pig-care routine on their own - a significant achievement.

They have taken part in a variety of farm activities, including caring for animals such as alpacas, as well as engaging in creative and academic sessions, from art projects to themed learning activities.

Both students have embraced life on the farm, demonstrating teamwork, curiosity and a positive attitude. It has been fantastic to see them develop new skills and confidence, and staff look forward to seeing their progress continue.



100% success in VTCT Hair & Beauty

We are incredibly proud of our Class of 2025/26 leavers who have successfully completed their VTCT Hair and Beauty Skills qualification.

Every student achieved this recognised award, demonstrating commitment, resilience and professionalism throughout the course - a fantastic achievement for the whole group.

Well done, Year 11! Your hard work and dedication have been outstanding, and we wish you every success in your future studies and careers in the hair and beauty industry.

A wild day at Trentham Monkey Forest

On Tuesday 12th May, students from Years 7–10 at Castle School enjoyed a fantastic trip to Monkey Forest in Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent.

Travelling by coach, the group explored the forest before settling down for a picnic lunch. The adventure playground was a big hit, with students especially enjoying the swings - and giving staff a push too!

Although rain threatened to interrupt the day, the weather soon cleared, allowing everyone to complete a full walk around the forest.

Students were fascinated by the free-roaming monkeys, watching them up close and even spotting some carrying their babies. They also learned about the monkeys' behaviour and how they adapt to a different climate from their native Africa.

It was a fun-filled day for all, with plenty of memorable moments shared by both students and staff. A fabulous day monkeying around!



Creative learning at ID Derby

Students attending alternative provision at ID Derby have been exploring a range of arts, play and sensory activities to support their emotional and physical wellbeing.

Using a child-led approach, facilitators meet learners where they are, encouraging creativity and helping them make sense of their experiences through the creative process.

Each piece of work created holds personal meaning and value, supporting the development of self-awareness, confidence and self-expression.



New providers

We're pleased to share that two new Alternative Provision providers - SL Drama Academy and Imbue Ventures - are now part of our offer at Junction 16.

S L Drama Academy provides creative support for KS1 and KS2 pupils with SEMH needs, behavioural challenges or school disengagement.

Through drama, digital music, movement, film and art, pupils are supported to develop emotional regulation, confidence, communication and positive behaviour, helping them re-engage with learning and thrive in education.

Imbue Ventures offers an immersive, tech-based provision focused on building confidence, independence and key life skills through hands-on learning.

Caving adventure in the Peaks

King's Trust students from Bridge Street School recently took on an exciting caving expedition in the Peak District with Acclimatize – and what a success it was!

Throughout the experience, students drew on everything they've been developing in their Personal Development & Employability Skills qualification, particularly their personal development and teamwork skills. Working together, supporting one another, and showing real determination, they successfully navigated a challenging caving route from start to finish.

Along the way, regular stops gave students the chance to tackle a range of challenges, as well as learn about the fascinating history of the caves and the geographical processes that formed them.

We are especially proud of our King's Trust students, who engaged brilliantly throughout the day. Every student approached each task with positivity and effort, representing Bridge Street School in an outstanding manner.

A huge well done to everyone involved – your teamwork, resilience and commitment truly shone through. It's fantastic to see such positive progress as you continue your journey through the qualification!

