



**Respect
Collaboration
Trust**

Castle School - Bridge Street School - Kingsmead School



National recognition for Junction 16

Respect Collaboration Trust and Junction 16 were proud to be recognised at the PRUsAP Awards 2026, receiving nominations across three prestigious national award categories:

- AP Practitioner – Support & Intervention 2026: Pete Benyon
- AP Leader 2026: Libby MacPherson (Bridge Street School)
- AP Team 2026: Junction 16 AP Team

Pete Benyon, SEMH & Inclusion Advisor, and Amelia Goodman, Junction 16 Officer, represented Respect Collaboration Trust and Junction 16 at the PRUsAP Dinner and Awards, held on Friday 26 June 2026 at the Birmingham Conference & Events Centre.

The evening also featured an inspiring keynote address from J Grange, an internationally recognised public speaker and neurodiversity advocate, who shared powerful personal experiences and valuable insights that resonated with colleagues working across education and alternative provision.

Although we were not successful this year, it was a tremendous honour to be shortlisted alongside so many outstanding individuals, teams and organisations from across the country. We are incredibly proud of Pete, Libby and the entire Junction 16 team.

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Pupils bend over backwards for music and movement classes

Students at Castle School have been enjoying music and movement sessions delivered by ID Derby, one of Junction 16's Alternative Provision providers.

These sessions provide a fun, safe and inclusive environment where young people can build confidence, enhance their wellbeing and express themselves creatively through music and movement.

This photograph perfectly captures the joy of feeling comfortable in your own body and having the confidence to express yourself without fear of judgement. It also highlights the positive impact of staff taking part alongside students.

When adults join in, they model enthusiasm, strengthen relationships and help create a supportive school community where every young person feels encouraged to participate and be themselves.

A huge thank you to ID Derby for delivering these inspiring sessions and to our staff for embracing every opportunity to support our students' wellbeing and personal development.



A night to remember: Castle School Year 11 Prom



Year 11 pupils celebrated the end of their time at Castle School in style with a fantastic prom.

The evening was filled with delicious food and drinks, plenty of photographs to capture the memories, and lots of dancing as everyone celebrated together.

It was wonderful to see everyone looking so smart and having such a fantastic time.

We hope they all enjoyed a truly memorable evening!



Future engineers shine at Derbyshire Design Challenge

Four of our Year 10 students recently represented Castle School at the Young Engineers and Scientists of Derbyshire (YESD) Design Challenge 2026, held at the University of Derby.

This year's challenge, "Is It Coming Home?", invited teams to design, build and test a goal-scoring contraption. Following a real engineering design process, students developed initial ideas and sketches before constructing their final design and presenting it to a panel of judges.

Working within a set budget, teams had to carefully manage their spending by purchasing the materials needed for their project. This added an extra layer of challenge, encouraging students to think strategically, balance cost with performance and make informed engineering decisions.

Throughout the day, students also worked alongside engineering professionals from a range of companies, receiving expert advice and guidance to help refine their designs. The experience offered a valuable insight into engineering careers and industry practices while developing problem-solving, teamwork and communication skills.

The competition concluded with each team showcasing their finished design to judges, fellow competitors and spectators.

Our students represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating creativity, resilience and collaboration throughout the challenge. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, determination and professionalism. It was a fantastic day of STEM learning and an inspiring opportunity to nurture the next generation of engineers.



Learning lifesaving skills through water safety

KS2 students at Bridge Street School enjoyed taking part in water rescue activities this term. The children learned valuable lifesaving skills, including how to perform CPR and how to respond in an emergency situation.

With the recent warm weather, they were also reminded about the dangers of open water and learned the Water Safety Code, helping them stay safe while enjoying time outdoors.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in delivering this important and engaging learning experience! We are incredibly proud of how enthusiastically our pupils participated and embraced the opportunity to learn skills that will benefit them for years to come.

Paul Allen selected for England Cricket Coaching Team

We're delighted to share that this summer our very own Paul Allen has the honour of being part of the coaching team for the ECB England Mixed Disability Cricket Team as they take on India in an international series.

The England Mixed Disability Team brings together talented players with a range of impairments, including deaf, learning disability and physical disability cricketers — all representing their country with incredible pride, passion and determination.

This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the growth of disability cricket and the importance of making sport accessible and inclusive for everyone.

The tour begins right here in Derby, with the team playing at the Derbyshire County Cricket Ground:

Wednesday 5 August – 2:30pm start

Friday 7 August – 2:30pm start

Paul would love to see as much support as possible from the local community, and we'd encourage our school families, friends and cricket fans to come along and cheer the team on.

The players have worked incredibly hard to earn the opportunity to represent England, and this is a brilliant chance to celebrate their achievements and show support for disability cricket.

PLAYING THE LONG GAME

FROM TEENAGE ENGLAND PICK TO A COACHING CAREER, PAUL ALLEN REFLECTS ON HOW CRICKET HAS HELPED SHAPE HIS OUTLOOK AND WHY HE LOVES THE DPL

Paul Allen smiles as he recalls making the decision that was to change his life – or at least listening to the advice that led to that change.

As a 16-year-old from Cheshire, held across the Peaks to join the England Deaf camp for a weekend meet in Sheffield. "I walked in and walked straight back out," he says. "I said: 'Dad, this isn't for me, I'm not deaf' – this was when deaf cricket was profoundly using signing. Luckily enough, he persuaded me to stay and do the weekend. That was 24 years ago. I wouldn't be where I am now without that session."

Fast forward almost a quarter of a century and that reluctant teenager is now one of the disability game's most-respected coaches. That first – almost aborted – England weekend put him on the road to winning 37 caps for his country. The highlight, a man-of-the-match four-wicket haul in the 2005 World Cup semi-final win over Australia was England's first Deaf success against them.

There was also a 7-30 Ashes Test haul in 2011, a remarkable effort given that he was receiving acupuncture for back spasms 10 minutes before taking the field.

While he's more than happy to talk about that, Allen, now 41,

is looking forwards. Carving out a coaching path alongside the day job as a recently qualified teacher, his DPL credentials speak for themselves: his Pirates side have appeared in each of the first four finals. Winners in 2024 and beaten in last year's bowl-out, they'll be strongly fancied for the 2026 crown.

It's not difficult to understand their consistent success – this is a team that plays in the coach's image, one that looks like it has having fun. In Allen's world, strong emphasis is placed on the 360-degree approach: the building of a strong team identity through getting to know what makes the individuals within it tick, a fostering of loyalty to the cause. It's a mantra you'll hear Pirates captain Anthony Clapham repeat elsewhere in these pages.

"There's two things that I always say in the DPL," Allen says. "One, that we're a bunch of good blokes – and the other thing is, regardless of the impairment, that we find a way. Whether you have one arm, one leg, or an imbalance because of your deafness, or it's a processing issue, we'll find a way."

Determination and strength of character, vital commodities in cricket at the best of times, have been key in Allen's own experience. His use of a hearing aid brought regular accusations over the extent of his deafness – not least from Australian opponents keen to gain any psychological edge over a player they feared. That toughened him up quickly in a world

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where, like anywhere else, politics can lurk beneath the surface.

Not one to take a backward step in his youth – "I'd have probably walked away from 17-year-me as a coach," he reflects – age and experience have mellowed him. "If you ask anybody about me as a player, then me as a coach, it's vastly different," he says. "As a player, there was a lot of controversy around me with the politics of deaf sport – and I lived up to that a little bit." The teenager who had never considered himself deaf now firmly advocates for the acceptance of disability in others, aware of the benefits it can bring. "I have this conversation a lot with people coming into disability cricket," he says. And DPL, with its umbrella approach to mixed disability, has offered the chance to grow through the challenge of bringing the best out of others.

While he still occasionally questions his capabilities, he has found a spot in which he feels at home. "I reckon over the last couple of years I've found what I'm good at – I think my strength is the ability to build relationships," he says.

"There are better coaches out there, certainly with regard to technical and tactical ability, but I think I can build relationships with people pretty quickly and build a positive environment – that's been the biggest development for me." That back story – the hard yards done in the proving ground of international cricket – is a compelling one for youngsters to hear. In DPL, Allen has the next generation to help shape – he is also involved in England's coaching set-up. He can tell today's players tales of relative privation from the recent past: of buying their own kit, paying for travel and hotels, things that now all seem a distant memory in an ECB-backed set-up. "The growth of disability cricket – including the DPL – has been exponential in the last six years," he says. "I played D40 for the first time myself last year for Derbyshire – and the standard of that, two divisions! The counties are buying in, there are just so many opportunities – it doesn't matter about the range of your impairment – you'll be accepted and included and find your community," he says. "DPL is broadening people's knowledge of

disability cricket, too – I think it has made more friendships, more relationships and made it more accessible, because the net is broader. I was hesitant initially, but I think it's fantastic for the game and is making it more sustainable. It always excites me when it comes around."

Next year will mark 25 years of Allen's involvement with disability cricket. "Yeah, it'd be nice to get something for that service," he grins. "Maybe a Rolex." Joking aside, he'd be the first to admit that he's had the time of his life already. "Disability cricket is part of who I am – it has given me a sense of belonging and identity," he says. "I'm incredibly proud to say I'm a disabled cricketer, but I'm incredibly proud to say when there's so much going wrong in the world, I'm a cricketer in a sport that is so loved and continues to develop."

And where does he see himself in 25 years? Would he eventually like to move into an administrative role, maybe? "I'll do whatever the game needs – or what ECB feel I can benefit with – to help this game continue to grow," he says. "I'm privileged to coach – I never thought I'd get into coaching, so who knows what the future holds?"

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INTERNATIONAL CAREER (2004 - 11)

CAPS: 37	TESTS: 5
OIS: 23	T20s: 9
RUNS: 647	@ 21.88
WICKETS: 45	@ 18.91
HIGHEST SCORE: 54	V SOUTH AFRICA, IT20 1.9.2013
BEST BOWLING: 7-30	V AUSTRALIA, TEST 18.1.2011



Conference strengthens inclusivity

Staff and colleagues from Junction 16 (J16) and Respect Collaboration Trust were proud to attend the Derby City Inclusion Partnership's Annual Conference (2026), joining professionals from across the sector to share best practice and strengthen our commitment to inclusive education.

J16 hosted a stand within the conference

marketplace. This provided an opportunity to showcase their work, share their approach to ensuring high quality provision and connect with other providers and partners.

Staff from across the Trust attended a range of keynote sessions and workshops, engaging with innovative ideas and approaches to inclusion.

Inspiring future athletes at the Nottingham Open during a smashing day out



Pupils from both BTEC Sport and King's Trust programmes enjoyed an exciting and inspiring trip to the Nottingham Tennis Centre to attend quarter finals day at the Nottingham Open.

The visit provided students with a fantastic opportunity to experience professional sport first-hand while also taking part in practical tennis activities designed to develop their own skills, confidence and understanding of the game.

Throughout the day, students watched elite athletes compete at the highest level and gained valuable insight into the physical, technical and mental demands of professional sport. One of the highlights was an incredibly exciting men's doubles quarter-final which went all the way to a dramatic tie-break within Set 1.

Alongside spectating, students took part in a range of tennis-related activities delivered at the venue, allowing them to develop their own skill sets, build confidence and gain new sporting experiences in a positive and engaging environment.

The trip also provided an opportunity to celebrate the excellent progress students have made throughout this academic year within their respective courses. Staff were delighted to see students demonstrate outstanding behaviour, enthusiasm and willingness to challenge themselves—qualities that reflect the growth, resilience and commitment they have shown all year.

Experiences such as this continue to support learning beyond the classroom and reinforce the importance of participation, aspiration and personal development through sport.

A huge well done to all students involved for representing the school so positively and making the most of a memorable day at the Nottingham Open.



National Recognition for Rebecca at ArborFest

Congratulations to Rebecca Baynes, Director of Systems and Digital Strategy, who has received a prestigious national Arbor Award at this year's ArborFest.

Rebecca was recognised for her outstanding work in implementing and developing Arbor workflows that have transformed systems and processes across our schools. Her innovative approach has helped to streamline everyday operations, improve efficiency and ensure colleagues across the Trust are well supported in making the most of the Arbor platform.

Working closely with Kelly Cartledge, Rebecca has played a key role in successfully embedding these workflows across the Trust. Together, they have developed effective processes that not only enhance the way our schools operate but also create more consistent and efficient ways of working, ultimately benefiting both staff and pupils.

To make the achievement even more special, the awards ceremony was televised nationally, providing a fitting platform to celebrate Rebecca's success and the impact of her work. This award is a fantastic and thoroughly deserved recognition of Rebecca's expertise, dedication and commitment to driving digital innovation across Respect Collaboration Trust.

Congratulations once again, Rebecca, on this outstanding achievement—we are incredibly proud of you!



Year 9 pupils keep their vocational options open

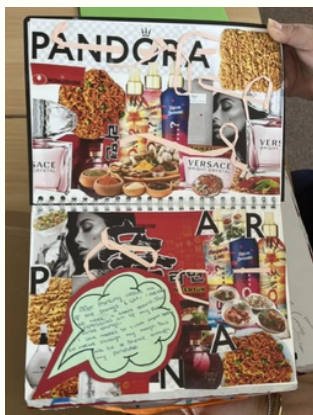
Our Year 9 students recently took part in an exciting KS4 Options Afternoon, giving them the opportunity to experience each of the six vocational subjects available from Year 10.

Through interactive, hands-on sessions led by our subject specialists, students gained a real insight into the courses on offer, helping them make informed decisions about their future studies.

They explored Art, Food, Sport, Animal Care, Childcare and the King's Trust programme, discovering the skills, qualifications and career pathways each subject can offer.

The afternoon was a fantastic opportunity for students to ask questions, try new activities and consider where their interests and strengths might lead them.

A huge thank you to our dedicated staff for delivering such engaging sessions and inspiring our students as they begin the exciting journey of choosing their Key Stage 4 pathways. We look forward to seeing the choices they make and wish them every success as they prepare for the next stage of their education.



Year 11 students celebrate their next chapter

Bridge Street School recently celebrated the end of Key Stage 4 for a group of Year 11 students with a special leavers' event, marking an important milestone and recognising their achievements.

Students enjoyed a shared lunch at Omomo, where they tucked into delicious noodles and refreshing non-alcoholic mocktails. The event provided a chance to reflect on their time at Bridge Street School, celebrate how far they have come, and spend quality time with friends and staff.

We are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished during their time with us and wish them every success as they take their next steps. Congratulations - we look forward to seeing what the future holds for you!



PCSO Daisy supports our pupils with important community safety sessions

Police Community Support Officer, Daisy, is a regular visitor to Castle School and works with pupils throughout the year.

This term, Daisy has delivered sessions on:

- County Lines
- Knife Crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour

Pupils engaged well throughout the presentations, listened attentively, and contributed positively to discussions. These sessions help pupils build their understanding of the risks associated with these issues and make informed choices to keep themselves safe.

