JOHN PORT SPENCER ACADEMY

SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

JPSA Newsletter



28th November 2025

Dear Students, Parents, and Carers,

Thank you so much for your continued support. As you will see in this edition of the newsletter there is much to celebrate and lots of wonderful things happening in the academy—including lots of wonderful charity work.



As the weather gets colder in the rare event that we have to make the decision to close due to inclement weather or an emergency, the information will be sent by Arbor and posted on the academy website and on Facebook. In the case of closure, we aim to make a decision by 7.30am.If we have to close during the academy day, an Arbor message will be sent out and, where possible, the school bus services will deliver students home unless parents/carers contact us to tell us that they would like their child to stay in the academy. Students who do not use the bus services but who usually walk will be allowed to make their own way home unless parents contact us to tell us that they would like their child to stay in the academy. Students who stay, will remain in the academy until collected by parents/carers, or until parents/carers contact the academy with alternative arrangements. Please note that if your child stays in the academy, there will be no further bus services at the end of the normal academy day. When the decision to close is made during the academy day, the ban on student mobile phones will be lifted to allow parents to directly contact their child. Please be aware that reception is poor in Etwall and often text messages tend to work better than voice calls.



December

Tues 2nd	University of Oxford Event
Thurs 4th & Fri 5th	TEFL Enrichment Days—Sixth Form
Fri 5th	Year 13 Mock Mini Medical Interviews
Mon 8th & Tues 9th	GCSE Mock Art Exams
Weds 10th & Thurs 11th	Flu Vaccinations
Weds 10th & Thurs 11th	GCSE Mock Textiles & Photography Exams
Thurs 11th	Year 11 Parental Consultation Evening
Fri 12th	A Christmas Carol—Y10 Theatre Event
Tues 16th & Weds 17th	Year 9 Work Experience
Tues 16th	Christmas Concert
Weds 17th	BFG Theatre Trip - Stratford Upon Avon
Thurs 18th	Year 11 Leavers Exam Certificate Collection
Thurs 18th	Year 13 Leavers Presentation Evening
Fri 19th	12..30pm Finish for Students.
Mon 22nd—Fri 2nd	Christmas Holidays
5th Jan	INSET DAY
6th Jan	Students return



Our wonderful Sixth Form with the shoe box donations

JOHN PORT SPENCER ACADEMY

SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

Theatre Star:

Ava H, 9C, performed in the Derby Youth Musical Theatre production of 'Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat' at the Derby Theatre. It was a spectacular performance, and Ava was a shining star on stage. She will next be on stage in Beauty and the Beast Panto at The Duchess Theatre in Long Eaton and 'Young Fiona' in the school production of Shrek.
We are so proud!



JOHN PORT SPENCER ACADEMY

SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

Online Safety:

Supporting Your Child Online: Apps, Boundaries and Safer Digital Habits

As part of our ongoing commitment to online safety, we want to share some emerging trends in how young people are using apps and technology—and how you can help support your child to stay safe and responsible online.

Developing Trends in App Usage

Children and teenagers are spending more time on social and gaming apps than ever before. Platforms such as **TikTok, Snapchat, Discord, BeReal, and Roblox** remain popular, but we're seeing new patterns of usage:

- **Anonymous chat features and "alt" accounts** are being used to share content away from parents or teachers.
- **Private group chats** and "temporary" story functions often give a false sense of security—students believe deleted content can't be traced when, in reality, screenshots and data recovery mean it can.

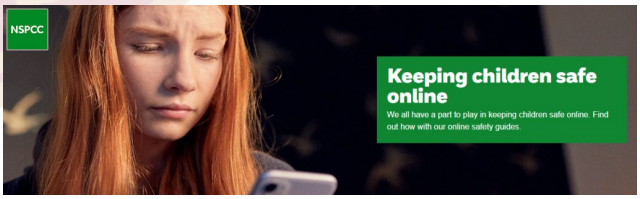
AI-powered image tools and "deepfake" filters are emerging across mainstream apps, allowing users to create realistic but misleading content. These can be used maliciously to spread false information or target others online.
We encourage parents to keep conversations open and curious—ask your child what apps they use, who they talk to, and what they enjoy online. Showing interest rather than judgement helps build trust.

How to Support Your Child's Online Safety

Here are some practical steps families can take at home:

1. **Talk regularly** – Make online safety a normal topic of conversation, not just a reaction to a problem.
2. **Stay informed** – Check app age ratings and explore them together before granting access.
3. **Find how to report** – have a look through the app, make sure your child knows how to report content that is of concern or creating a risk.
4. **Set clear boundaries** – Use built-in parental controls or family-sharing settings on devices.
5. **Encourage critical thinking** – Discuss why not everything online is true or safe, and how to recognise scams or manipulation.

Model positive behaviour – Children learn most from what we do, not what we say. Showing balanced, respectful online habits helps them mirror the same.
If you are concerned about your child's online use, please don't hesitate to reach out to John Port Safeguarding team where we can signpost you in the best direction.



Useful Resources

CEOP Education – CEOP's trusted advice for parents and young people
Keep Children Safe Online: Information, advice, support - Internet Matters– Practical guides for setting filters and parental controls
Keeping children safe online | NSPCC – Expert advice and conversation starters

JOHN PORT SPENCER ACADEMY

SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

Sixth Form Updates:



T4U Shoebox Success:

We are incredibly proud of our Year 8, Year 9 and Sixth Form students for their fantastic contribution to this year's shoe box gift appeal. Thanks to their kindness, creativity and dedication, we are delighted to be donating a total of 52 shoe boxes to support this wonderful cause.



A special congratulations goes to 12H, who went above and beyond by creating seven boxes on their own. Thank you for your remarkable effort and for leading the way with such generosity.

Well done to everyone involved—your compassion will make a meaningful difference to others this season. To learn more about the charity collection, please visit *Teams4u*.



Politics Update:

UK Parliament Week

From Monday 24th November to Friday 28th John Port School celebrated UK Parliament Week. Students enjoyed a visit from the Derbyshire South MP Samantha Niblett who briefly talked to our Year 13s Assembly about her role in parliament, her MP's surgery in Derby Town Hall and how she likes to meet the public to discuss local issues to find out their views on improvements to the local area.

In the Library the Year 12 and Year 13 students have had the opportunity to cast a secret vote in our Parliament ballot box for one of the five main parties of: Labour, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, Reform UK and Green Party. Each Year 12 and Year 13 form teacher has been sent videos of each of the political party's 2025 Party Political Broadcasts and students are encouraged to find out information themselves on the different party's manifestos (from 2024) so that they can make an informed choice. Mrs Lowndes has also provided activities for UK Parliament Week to all the Year 12 and 13 Forms to do in form time this week.

Watch this space for the results of our secret ballot!



JOHN PORT SPENCER ACADEMY

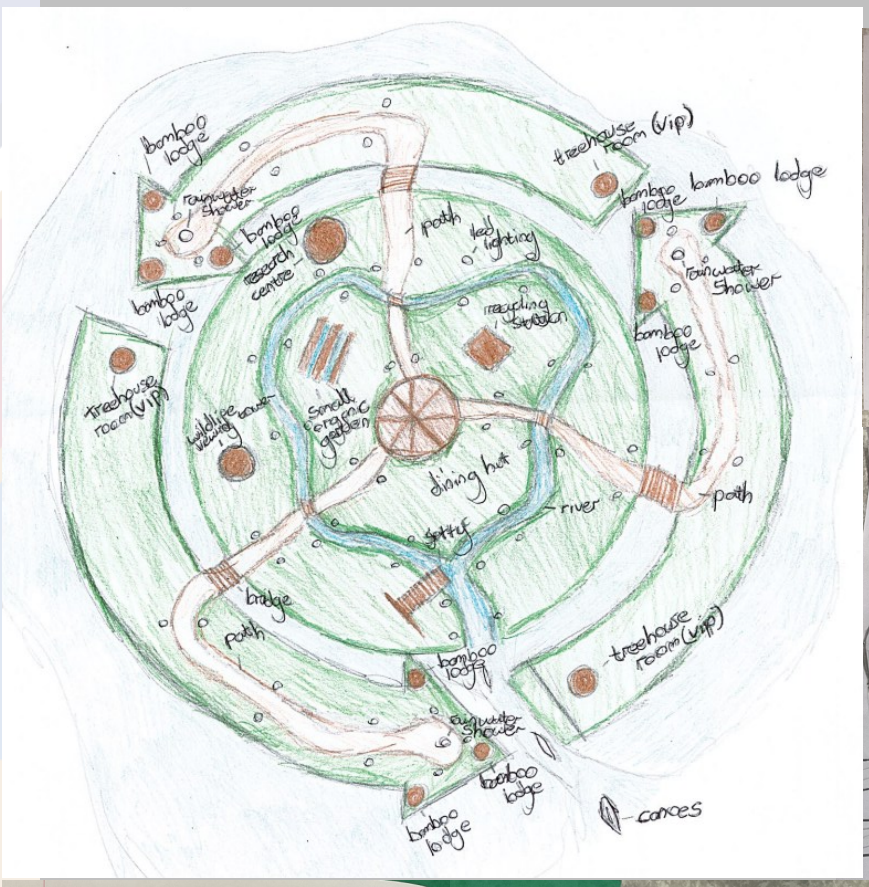
SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

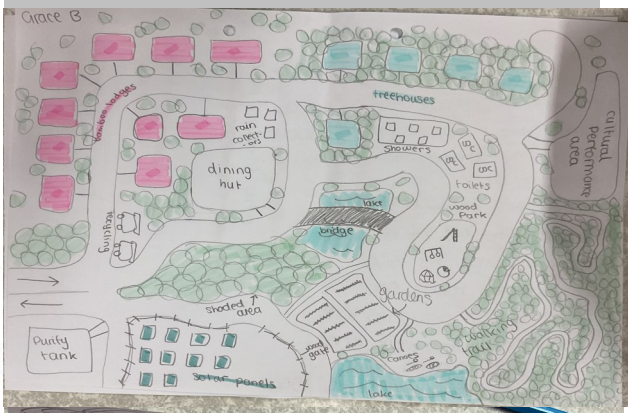
Geography Update:

In recent geography lessons, Year 9 students took on the challenge of designing their own eco-resorts as part of their studies on sustainability and tourism. Working individually, each student imagined a resort that balances environmental responsibility with visitor appeal.

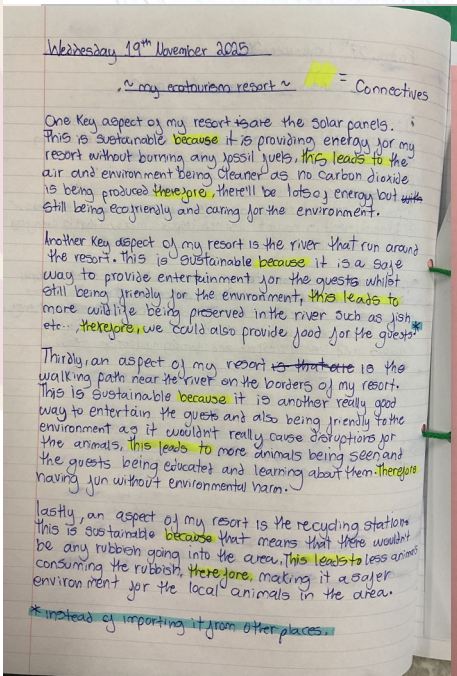
From solar-powered cabins and composting toilets to wildlife-friendly landscaping and locally sourced materials, the designs showcased a wide range of creative and thoughtful ideas. The task encouraged students to consider the real-world impact of tourism and how sustainable choices can protect both people and the planet.

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to apply their knowledge in a practical and imaginative way. Geography teachers were impressed with the outcomes.








Wednesday 19th November 2025

~ my ecotourism resort ~ = Connectives

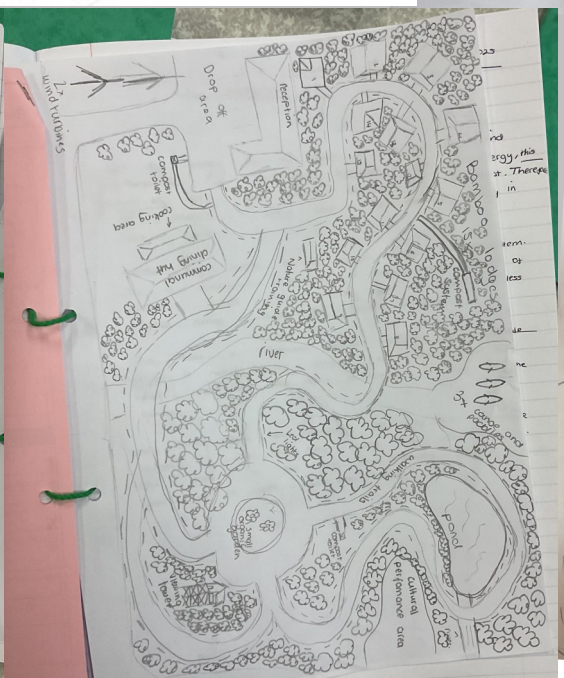
One key aspect of my resort is/are the solar panels. This is sustainable because it is providing energy for my resort without burning any fossil fuels, this leads to the air and environment being cleaner as no carbon dioxide is being produced therefore, there'll be lots of energy but still being ecofriendly and caring for the environment.

Another key aspect of my resort is the river that run around the resort. This is sustainable because it is a safe way to provide entertainment for the guests whilst still being friendly for the environment, this leads to more wildlife being preserved in the river such as fish etc... therefore, we could also provide food for the guests.*

Thirdly, an aspect of my resort ~~is that are~~ is the walking path near the river on the borders of my resort. This is sustainable because it is another really good way to entertain the guests and also being friendly to the environment as it wouldn't really cause disruptions for the animals, this leads to more animals being seen and the guests being educated and learning about them. therefore having fun without environmental harm.

lastly, an aspect of my resort is the recycling station. This is sustainable because that means that there wouldn't be any rubbish going into the area, this leads to less animals consuming the rubbish, therefore, making it a safer environment for the local animals in the area.

* instead of importing it from other places.

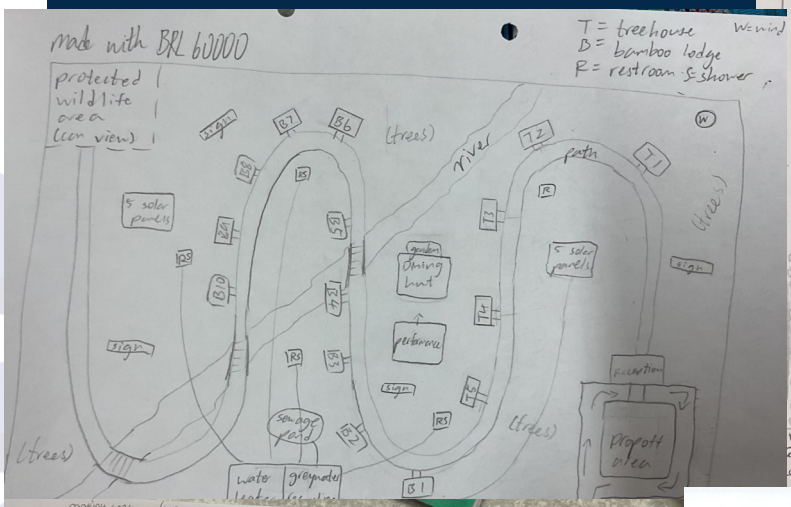


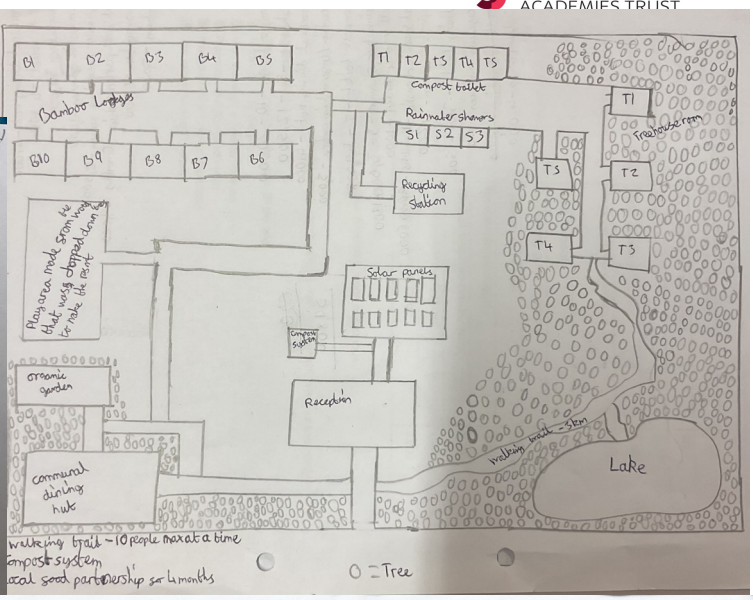


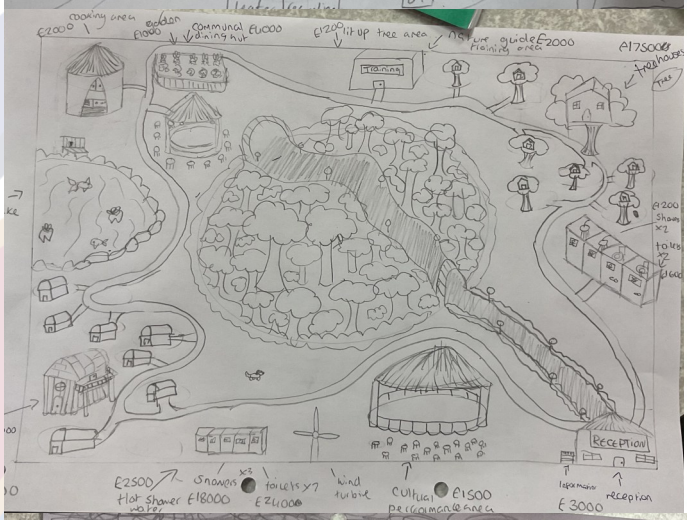
JOHN PORT SPENCER ACADEMY

SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

Geography Update:

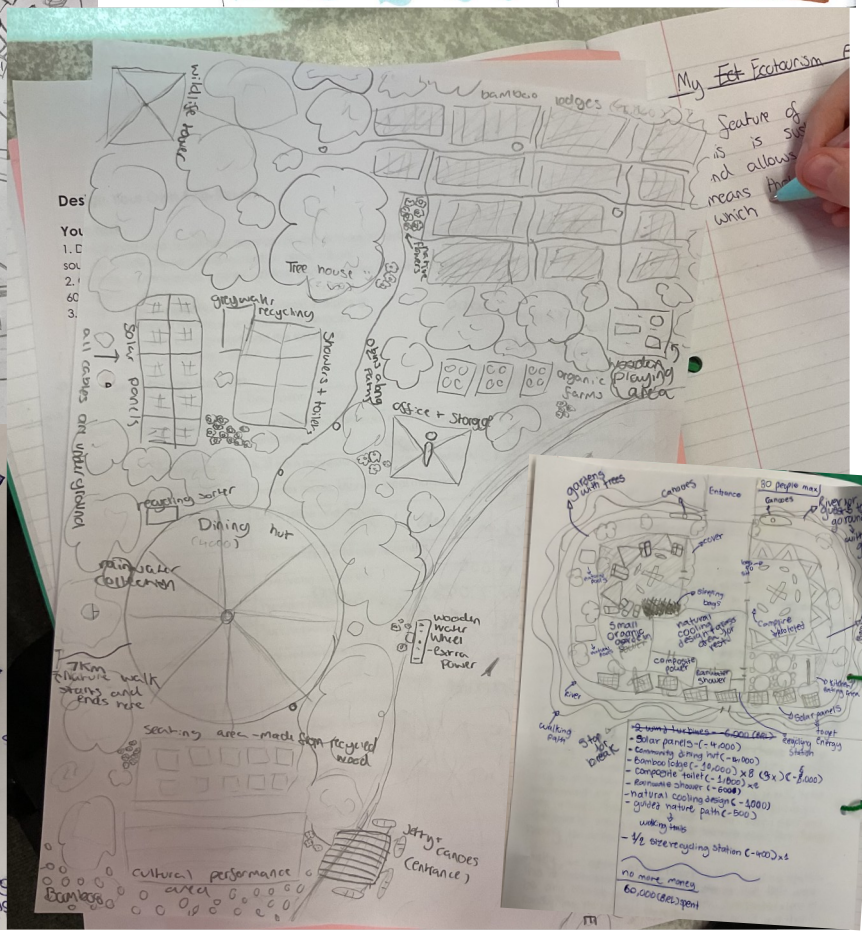


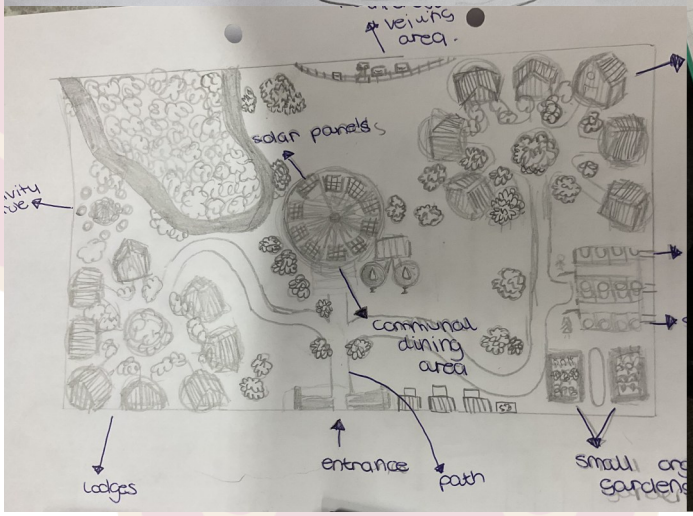












Science Update:

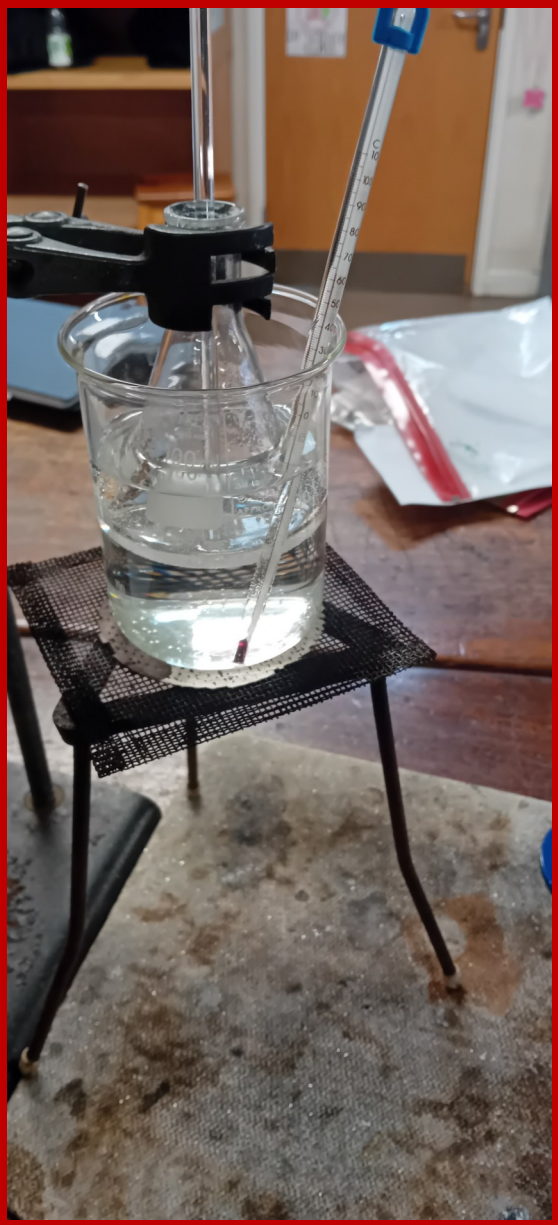
Year 13 Chemists Complete Aspirin Synthesis and Analysis Project

Our Year 13 Chemistry students recently undertook an advanced practical project in which they synthesised and analysed aspirin, gaining valuable insight into techniques used in pharmaceutical chemistry.

During the practical, students carried out the full process of preparation, purification and characterisation, including recrystallisation and melting-point determination. These methods allowed them to evaluate the purity and quality of the aspirin samples they produced, mirroring the procedures used in professional laboratory settings.

This challenging activity not only strengthened their understanding of organic synthesis but also developed their confidence and independence in practical work.

We congratulate all students for their methodical approach, high standards of laboratory practice, and excellent scientific analysis.









Food Technology Update:

These are photos of Year 7s practical dishes this week - we have completed Rock Cakes and a Fruity Crumble - both dishes require knowledge and understanding of the rubbing in method and students have demonstrated this well to produce some amazing dishes.











Ingestre Hall Artwork:

Our students created some beautiful art work during their residential trip at Ingestre Hall, art work will be on display in the academy soon:







JOHN PORT SPENCER ACADEMY

SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

What's on in the Community:







JOHN PORT SPENCER ACADEMY

SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

What's on in the Community:

citizens advice Mid Mercia

South Derbyshire Neurodevelopmental Community Hubs

ND HUBS Embracing Neurodivergence

Joined Up Care Derbyshire

December 2025 dates:

Swadlincote Library

Civic Way, Swadlincote, DE11, OAD

Monday 1st December10am-4pm

Monday 15th December 10am-4pm



If you can't attend the hub, please get in touch to book a free appointment with one of our advisors at a more convenient time to receive the same support over the phone or via email:

NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board

Telephone: 01332 228744

Email: ch@citizensadvicemidmercia.org.uk

citizens advice Mid Mercia

South Derbyshire Neurodevelopmental Community Hubs

ND HUBS Embracing Neurodivergence

Joined Up Care Derbyshire

December 2025 dates:

Citizens Advice Mid Mercia

114 Church Street, Church Gresley, Swadlincote, DE11, 9NR

Monday 8th December 10am-4pm

Monday 22nd December 10am-4pm



If you can't attend the hub, please get in touch to book a free appointment with one of our advisors at a more convenient time to receive the same support over the phone or via email:

NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board

Telephone: 01332 228744

Email: ch@citizensadvicemidmercia.org.uk

JOHN PORT SPENCER ACADEMY

SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

What's on in the Community:

East Midlands Airport is gearing up for winter with a brand-new fleet of snowploughs – and need your help to name them!

They've invested £2.5 million in six powerful Compact Jet Sweepers and a Snow-cutter Blower that can shift 5,000 tonnes of snow per hour. These machines are not only fast – clearing the entire runway in just 24 minutes – but also green, running on vegetable oil-based bio-diesel to help us reach net zero carbon by 2038.

They're inviting children in local schools and colleges to take part in a fun competition to **name three of the new vehicles**. Think witty, imaginative, and memorable – similar naming competitions for road gritters have resulted in the likes of 'Gritney Spears' and 'Brad Grit'. Airport staff will be naming the other three vehicles.

Winners will have a snow vehicle marked up with their suggested name and will be invited with a parent/guardian to the airport on **Tuesday 30th December to see the snow fleet up close** *(all visitors will require a valid passport or driving licence)*. Each winner will also receive **a family ticket for Twycross Zoo's 'Lanterns of the Wild'.**

Closing date for entries is **Monday 15th December 2025**.

Entries to be submitted via:

Snow plough naming competition – Fill in form







What's on in the Community:



Spaces are limited, so we encourage booking as soon as possible.

FREE For children and young people eligible for benefit-related free school meals, booking can be done via https://app.holidayactivities.com/

Non-eligible children/young people, Session Fee is £15 per day –Including lunch. Register via the link: Lightzone 2025 Christmas HAF Registration and Consent Form – Fill in form