SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

JPSA Newsletter

John Port Spencer Academy

Friday 19th June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

As we reach the middle of June, it has been another incredibly busy and successful period across the school, and this week's newsletter captures just a snapshot of the fantastic opportunities, achievements and experiences our students continue to embrace.

One of the most striking themes throughout this edition is the commitment of our students to supporting others through fundraising and community work. A wonderful example of this is the Year 7 bake sale, where students organised, prepared and sold a wide range of homemade goods, raising an impressive £62 for the Grow a Pound charity in support of Derby and Burton Hospital Maternity Unit.

What stands out here is not just the amount raised, but the care, teamwork and initiative demonstrated by the students. Their willingness to give their time and energy to support others truly reflects our core values of acting with care, kindness, respect and integrity. This same spirit is evident in many aspects of school life and continues to make us immensely proud.

Alongside this, the newsletter highlights academic and enrichment success across all year groups. From outstanding performances in the UKMT Maths Challenge, to the excellent fieldwork carried out by Year 12 geographers in Birmingham, students are pushing themselves academically and taking full advantage of the opportunities available to them. We also celebrate remarkable individual achievements, including students selected to represent England in cricket and a Year 12 student securing his own radio show—fantastic accomplishments that demonstrate both talent and ambition.

As this newsletter is published, our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze cohort is setting off on their expedition. This is always a significant milestone, and we wish all students the very best as they take on this challenge. The expedition is an opportunity not only to develop practical skills and resilience, but also to build confidence, teamwork and independence - qualities that will serve them well in all areas of life.

Looking ahead to the next academic year, we have been carefully reviewing the valuable feedback gathered through our recent parental consultation. Thank you to everyone who contributed - your views are important to us. We will be sharing some of the key themes and proposed developments for September in the coming weeks.

As you begin to prepare for September, I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our expectations around school trousers. Leggings and fashion trousers are not permitted. Recently, we have seen an increase in students attempting to wear flared leggings in place of appropriate school trousers, and this is something we will be monitoring closely from the start of the new term. To support families, we will provide a clear link to examples of acceptable trousers so that there is consistency and clarity for everyone.

Miss O'Leary
Principal

Reminder:

INSET DAY

The academy will be closed for all students on:

FRIDAY 26th JUNE





UNIFORM DIRECT

MADE BY PARENTS FOR PARENTS

UNIFORM DIRECT

VISIT US IN STORE

54 Babington Lane, Derby. DE1 1SX
01332 342569



LATE NIGHT SHOPPING EVENTS

MONDAY 29TH JUNE UNTIL 8PM

THURSDAY 2ND JULY UNTIL 8PM

- QUALITY UNIFORMS
- GREAT PRICES
- LOCAL & TRUSTED

APRIL – JUNE
✓ Best time to order!

JULY
✓ Expect delays

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER
✗ Not guaranteed for back to school!

OPENING TIMES

Open Mon to Sat (closed Weds & Sun)
9.30am to 5pm
TERM TIME

Open Mon to Sat (closed Sun)
9.30am to 5pm
DURING THE SCHOOL SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Joy Progress Success Act with care, kindness, respect and integrity

Key Dates

Term Dates:

Half Term 6 - 1st June 2026 - 23rd July 2026

INSET Days:

26th June 2026

June/July:

Y10 & Y12 Mock Exams ~ 18th June - 3rd July

School Events:

Fri 19th - Sun 21st June	DofE Expedition
Wednesday 25th June	Nottingham Trent Uni Lectures Taster Day
Thursday 25th June	Year 7 Parental Consultation Evening (Online)
Friday 26th June	INSET DAY
Friday 26th June	Year 11 Prom
Monday 29th June	Maths Inspiration Trip - Birmingham
Tuesday 30th June	Regional Spencer Maths Feast
Tuesday 30th June	Solutions for the Planet - National Final
30th June & 1st July	Year 7 Transition Days
Thursday 2nd July	Sports Day (AM Qualifying Session)
Friday 3rd July	Bletchley Park Trip
6th and 7th July	Geography Year 10 Fieldwork Trips
Thursday 9th July	Summer Concert
Friday 10th July	Maths City - Year 7 Trip - Leeds
Monday 13th July	Sports Day (PM Main Event)
Monday 13th July	HPV Vaccinations

Save the Date:

Thursday 25th June	Online Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening
30th June & 1st July	Year 6 Transition Days
Tuesday 7th July	Sixth Form Taster Day



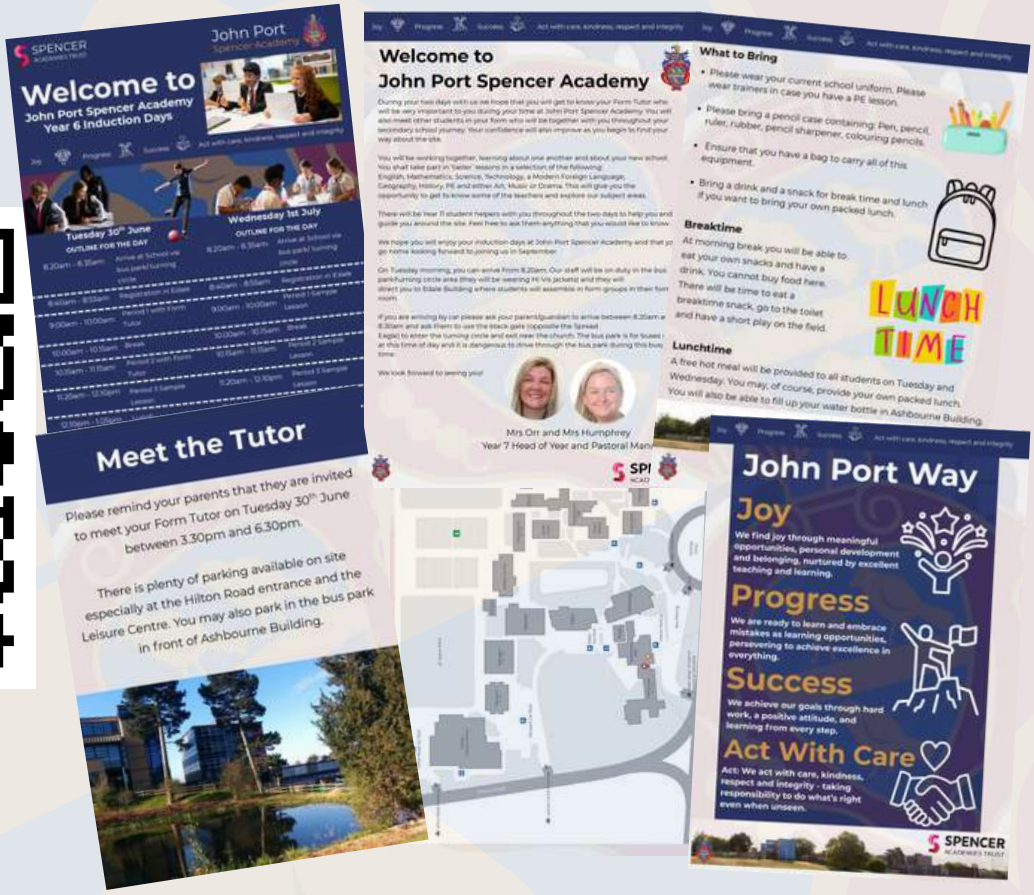
SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

Joy Progress Success Act with care, kindness, respect and integrity

JPSA Transition

Year 6 Transition Days Booklet

Our Year 6 Transition Days Booklet for students is available on our website here:
https://johnportspencer.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Student-Induction-Booklet.pdf



Key Transition Dates

Year 6 Transition Days:
Tuesday 30th June 2026
Wednesday 1st July 2026

Year 12 Taster Day:
Tuesday 7th July 2026

Meet the Tutor Evening:
Tuesday 30th June 2026



Joy

JPSA Students Selected to Play for England

Congratulations to Jack, Teegan, Ollie and Isaac who have been selected to play cricket in the England U15 Squad in the Junior World Series in South Africa later this year!
An incredible achievement and opportunity!

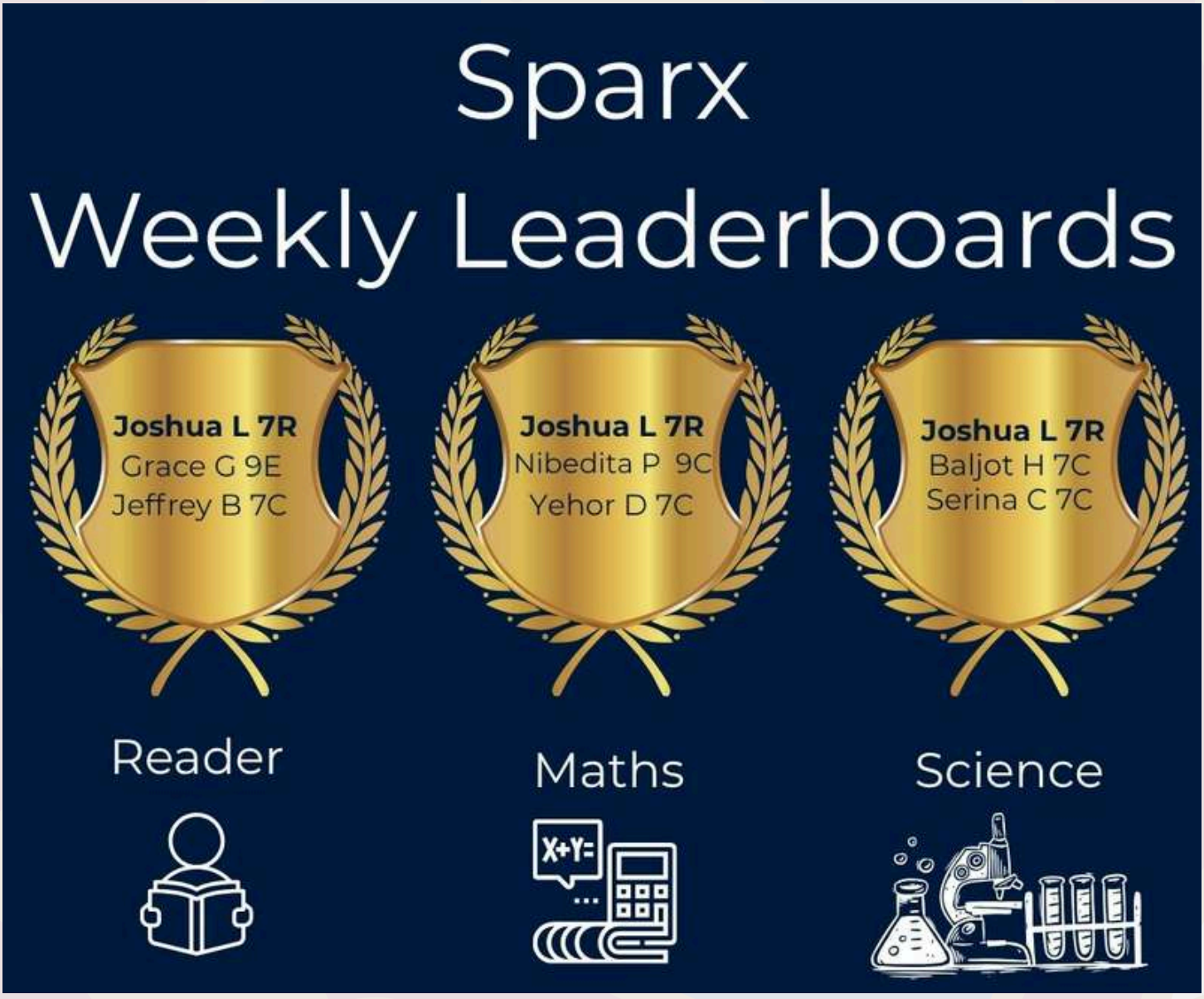


Progress



SPARX LEADERBOARDS

Well done to our current leaders!





SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

Progress

Y12 Geographers Explore Urban Regeneration in Birmingham

Our Year 12 A Level Geography students visited Birmingham on Tuesday 16th June to investigate urban regeneration in preparation for their own independent geographical investigations (NEA coursework).

Students explored key regeneration sites including the Jewellery Quarter, Victoria Square, New Street, the Bullring shopping centre and the impressive Library of Birmingham. They observed how these areas have been transformed through modern planning and investment, and discussed the social, economic and environmental impacts of urban renewal. They even got to see some regeneration plans in action with the improvements to the pedestrianised areas of New Street being made.

This valuable fieldwork gave students inspiration and practical case study examples to help shape their own NEA projects, which require them to design and carry out an independent geographical investigation over the coming months.

Well done to all our Year 12 geographers for making the most of this opportunity and for representing the sixth form so well!





Success

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge and Junior Kangaroo

Over 120 Year 7 and 8 Students took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge on Wednesday 29th April, testing their mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency.

The afterschool preparation sessions had students asking deep and piercing questions between themselves and teachers about their ideas and solutions.

Those who achieved a Bronze (Top 50% nationally), Silver (Top 25% nationally), or Gold (Top 8.33% nationally) certificate are listed below:

Year 7

o **Bronze** – Arya B-R, Tajveer B, Archie C, Aryan C, Luca C, Harry C, Sartaj D, Seren H, Ordelia H, Caleb H, Baljot H, Oscar J, Anoushka K, Rayan K, Varun K, Manvitha K, Eric M, Shanvir N, Joel P, Eoghan P-G, Alarna R-J, Aaron S, Finlay S, Logan T, Matthew T, Eva Z.

o **Silver** – Abbie B, Olivia C, Luke G, Erin H, Seb H, Archie H, Isaac K, Sourish K, Daphne L, Isobel P, Katie R, Tanisha S, Angad S

o **Gold** – Joshua L (Best in Year), Grace P

Year 8

o **Bronze** – Zorawar B, William C, Thomas C, Fabian G, Hannah G, Eleanor K, George M, Charlotte M, Gabriel O, Samantha P, Emelia R, Ava R, Emily T

o **Silver** – Thomas A, Amelia G-P, Poppy G, Lilah H-B, Hannah H, Alfie K, Mila M, Luke P-J, Aiman S, Isaac T, Maisey W, Edward W, Jako W

o **Gold** – Millie B, Freddie C, James F (Best in School), Isabelle N

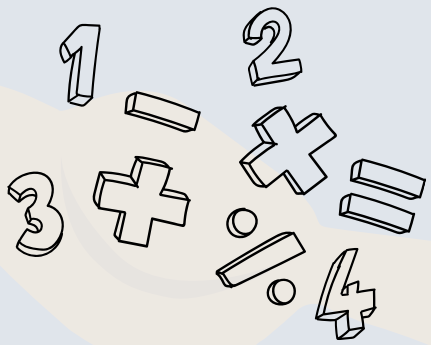


Success

We'd like to specially mention Isaac T, who took part in the challenge despite having to write with the wrong hand.

The students who achieved a Gold Award were invited to take part in the Junior Kangaroo follow-on round on Tuesday 9th June and achieved outstanding results!

The awards for the Kangaroo are listed below:





Year 7

- **Qualification** - Grace P
- **Gold** – Joshua L (Best in Year)

Year 8

- **Silver** – Millie B, Freddie C, Isabelle N
- **Gold** – James F (Best in School)

Thank you to all the students who took part in the Junior Maths challenge and Junior Kangaroo. Your determination to push yourselves to become the best mathematicians you can be is amazing! We look forward to seeing your results from future challenges.

Here is a sample question should you wish to test yourselves.

Andrew wants to write the letters of the word KANGAROO in the cells of a 2×4 grid such that each cell contains exactly one letter. He can write the first letter in any cell he chooses but each subsequent letter can only be written in a cell with at least one common vertex with the cell in which the previous letter was written. Which of the following arrangements of letters could he not produce in this way?

A

K	A
N	O
O	G
R	A

B

N	G
A	A
K	R
O	O

C

O	O
K	R
A	A
G	N

D

K	A
N	G
O	O
R	A

E

K	O
A	O
R	N
A	G

The solution is provided at the end of the newsletter!



Success

Y12 Politics Student Offered Show on Burton Radio

ON AIR

Max S in the Year 12 Politics group was recently offered a slot on Burton Radio during 'The Politics Show', where he did so well that he was offered the opportunity to not only be a permanent guest, but to have his own show called 'Chats with Max' from Friday 19th June!

Every Friday from 5pm-6pm, Max will be talking to young people about their aspirations and hobbies, and discuss topics affecting the youth of today, including social media, mental health and studies.

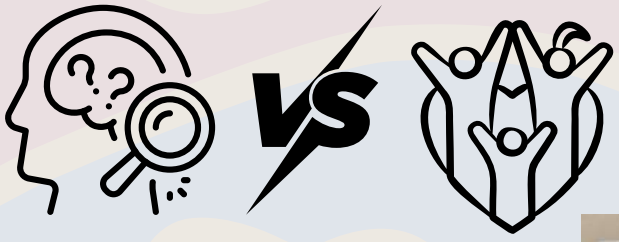
This is an amazing achievement, well done Max!

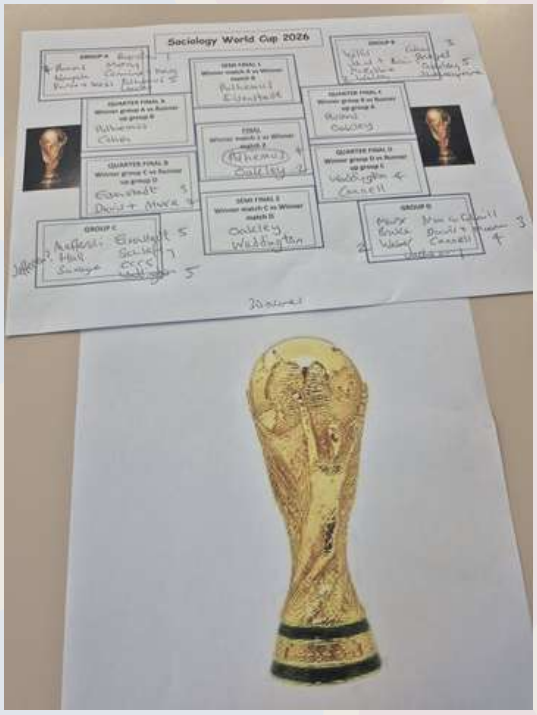




Success

Psychology versus Sociology - Debates in Revision





During revision lessons in Psychology and Sociology this week, we have been revisiting our favourite Psychologists and Sociologists, some of which are named on the Specification too.

In Y12 Sociology, we had 30 names across Papers 1 and 2. We drew these names randomly into Groups A-D - just like the World Cup. Students then had to provide an argument as to why their Sociologist was the best, and then students voted on these. The top two Sociologists in each of the groups then went through to the quarter finals.

There were some hotly anticipated matches: two Functionalists in a local derby (Eisenstadt vs Davis & Moore) and popular with the crowds (Waddington vs Connell). Students had to use their skills to argue against their opponent to secure their place in the Final.

Going head-to-head in the final were Polhemus and Oakley, it really was a game of two halves, but Polhemus (Postmodernist) defeated Oakley (Feminist) in extra time!

Well done to Sommer and Carina - it was a great debate!

Act

7A Bake Sale Achievement

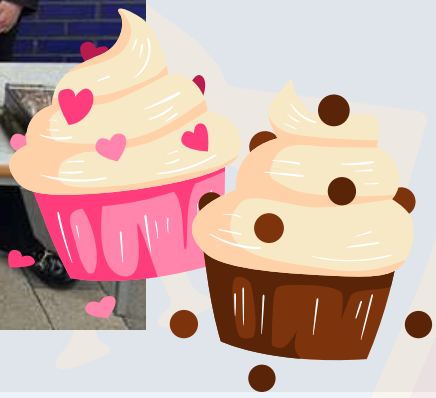
7A held a bake sale on Wednesday 17th for the Grow a Pound charity, where they raised money to make helpful packages for the Derby and Burton Hospital Maternity Unit.

The girls baked all the goods themselves and sold an impressive (and delicious) range of brownies, rocky roads, muffins, cookies, cupcakes, jam tarts and rice crispy cakes – most of which sold out quickly!

They worked really hard and raised an amazing £62 in just one lunchtime. This is an amazing example of acting with care, kindness, respect and integrity - well done!









SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

Attendance Matters



WHY YOUR ATTENDANCE MATTERS!!!

Students with GREEN attendance rating (97% or higher) achieved 1 ½ grades higher in each of their GCSEs than students with a RED attendance rating (below 90%). The results are similar at A Level.

Unlock Rewards

Red	< 90%
Red Amber	90 - 93%
Amber	94 - 95.9%
Amber Green	96 - 96.9%
Green	97+ %



Attendance postcard rewarded every half term

Weekly mentions as part of Feel Good Friday

DID YOU KNOW?



Poor attendance could lead to you earning around **£10,000** less by the time you're 28 compared to someone who shows up to school almost every day.

The John Port Experience



Sheffield Hallam Sports Conference

A group of Y9 & 10 current and future Gcse PE students have had a great day at Sheffield Hallam University for the Student Sports Conference. The day gave students the opportunity to explore future study and career opportunities linked to GCSE PE and the sports sector. During the day, students experienced multiple workshops such as Sport Business Management, Strength & Conditioning, Heat Acclimatisation for the World Cup, Training Athletes of the future & Sport & Exercise Science; the data behind the beautiful game. We also had a keynote talk from Georgie Van Dijk who is an Academy Coach at Brentford FC and a Sheffield Hallam Graduate.









As part of the Gatsby Benchmarks (eight national guidelines that support high-quality careers education in schools and colleges) today's experience has enabled students to clearly see how the knowledge and skills developed in PE, both practical and theoretical, link directly to real-world career pathways. Students gained a deeper understanding of how topics studied in lessons are applied in professional settings, for example:

- **Anatomy & Physiology** → careers in sports science and physiotherapy
- **Fitness Training** → roles in strength and conditioning
- **Commercialisation** → sponsorship & the Golden Triangle of sport, media & sponsorship.

For students with an interest in PE and sport, a wide range of career pathways are available, including:

- **Sport Performance**
- **Health & Fitness**
- **Science & Analysis**
- **Medical Support**
- **Teaching & Education**
- **Business & Media**
- **Public Services**

Sheffield Hallam University





SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

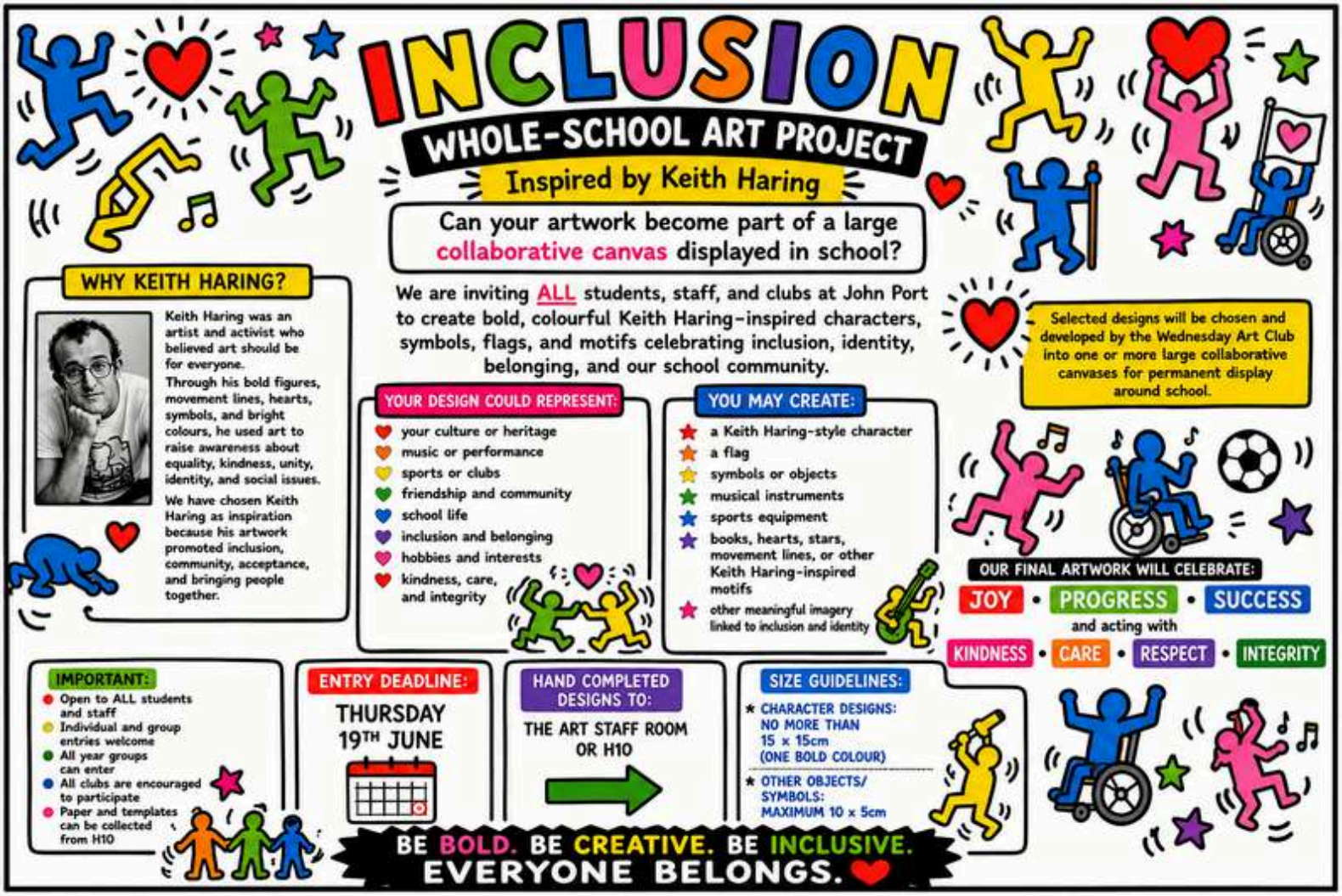
The John Port Community



The John Port Community

Join our Whole-School Art Project!

Templates and paper are available from H10 or students (and teachers) can design their own.



Joy Progress Success Act with care, kindness, respect and integrity

Careers



This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.



Happy PRIDE Month! 🏳️‍🌈 Everyone should feel valued and accepted in the workplace. There are many different ways that employers may demonstrate they are an inclusive organisation for LGBTQ+ employees and it can be useful for potential applicants to know what to look for. This guide provides a few examples, and there will be other excellent approaches that employers have in place.



Launched in 2021, The Queer Student Awards (QSAs) are the U.K.'s first standalone annual student awards event celebrating LGBTQ+ students, apprentices, interns and graduates who are proudly leading in their lives, and the communities around them. You can read about the 2026 finalists here.

That's the work place considered, but what support is available for LGBTQIA+ university students? Check out this guide to the different types of support that may be available, including scholarships and peer networks.



This week is also National Freelancer Week. Your guide to freelancing in the creative industries. Learn how to start, grow and succeed as a freelancer through short talks, videos and real advice from people working in the creative industries. All online, all on demand. A new talk topic will unlock each day this week.



Here is the Government backed advice and guidance to help you develop your business idea and identity, understand finances and funding and build your business in the right way from the start.

In this one hour Springpod Sprint, you will explore what it's really like to work in an area shaping the future: AI engineering. From the entry routes and pathways involved in entering the sector, to the most rewarding and challenging things about this revolutionary role. You'll understand what AI Engineers really do, what the job does during a typical week, and what salary and benefits come with the role. Plus, hear from an AI Engineer at AXA UK, and get to grips with the type of work you'd be doing during your Simulation activity.



JOB OF THE WEEK

Charity Fundraiser

As a charity fundraiser, you'll raise awareness of the work charity organisations do, with a goal of seeking donations. In a larger organisation, you'll usually specialise in one specific area, but in a smaller one, you may cover several types of fundraising.
This means you can choose a cause/charity that you're passionate about and make raising money for them your full time role!

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

The "Assessment of priority skills to 2030" reported by the UK Government states that sectors such as Digital Technologies, Adult Social Care, Construction, and Engineering will experience the largest increases in job demand.

Source

If you have any questions or need support, please email RLowndes@johnportspencer.org.uk

Careers





There are lots of University Open Days taking place in June and July. You can find them on the UCAS website, UniTasterDays website and the individual university websites (just search the name of the university followed by "open day" to find the correct web page). On UniTasterDays, you can also look at the open day incentives to see what discounts and travel support may be available.

An open day is the best way to get a real taste of university life. You can explore the local area, check out the facilities on campus, and speak to current staff and students. Here's everything you need to know to plan and get the most out of your visit.



University of East Anglia have pulled together a helpful video guide to make sure you get the most out of your day. You'll be able to speak to the lecturers and get those questions answered about the course you want to study. Meet current students on the campus tours who will give you their experiences. As well as visiting the accommodation to be able to decide where you want to live.



The Parents' Guide to University 2026 will help you support the young people in your life to make an informed choice about university. It includes articles to guide them in deciding whether university is right for them, what they should study, and where they should study it. Contributions have been provided by over 80 university representatives from across the UK, along with expert voices from outside the sector, such as educator and TV personality Baasit Siddiqui.



Introducing The Uni Guide Podcast: In this podcast series, the hosts will be providing listeners with the cutting edge and most up-to-date information and conversations about university. In plain English, without the jargon, and from the lived experience of everyone involved in the process - including guest experts, current students and recent graduates.



The Student Room is the UK's largest online community for school, college and uni students. Find friendly and supportive discussions on everything from GCSEs to uni life, from A-levels to Ucas applications.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"Our purpose is to connect everyone and use technology to improve lives. Whether you're joining us as a graduate or apprentice, this is more than just your first job — it's your first step into a career which makes a real impact on the people and world around you. Here, you'll find a place to belong. A space to explore your passions, discover your strengths, and build a future you're proud of." Find out more about Vodafone here.

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Nearly four out of five UEA graduates are in professional work or further study. We use a range of teaching styles to inspire you, including hands-on classes, real-world research and exciting projects. And you can even enhance your studies with a placement or internship. All you need to do now is decide which of our courses is right for you. "
You can learn more about University of East Anglia here.

UK Electronics Skills Foundation



Girls into Electronics

Aston University Birmingham

3 July 2026

Discover Electronics on a one day course at a leading university.

A unique opportunity for girls aged 14-17.

- Hear from women who are working in the Electronics industry
- Attend a sample lecture, a department tour and meet current students
- Get hands-on with Electronics activities
- Find out about rewarding careers in the Electronics industry (green energy – artificial intelligence – healthcare – consumer electronics – autonomous & electrical vehicles)
- Invitation to apply for the Apple Mentoring Program

"This event was genuinely career altering... I can truly see myself having a career in Electronics/ Engineering."
Girls into Electronics Participant 2025

To sign up or find out more information:
ukesf.org/girls-into-electronics

SCAN ME!

Online Safety



What's On in the Local Area

ETWALL Dental Practice

Etwall Dental Practice are currently accepting new NHS child patients for a **limited** time.

How to Register: Contact the Etwall Dental Practice directly on 01283733391



What's On in the Local Area

Being Us Together

ACTIVITY GROUPS

For neurodivergent children & young people aged 11–16 and their parent/carer.

Two groups for residents of South Derbyshire

GIRLS

6:00pm – 8:00pm
Hilton Village Hall

Girls' Group meets on alternate Tuesday evenings during term time.

Boys' Group meets on the Tuesdays in between.

BOYS

6:00pm – 8:00pm
Hilton Village Hall

Boys' Group meets on alternate Tuesday evenings during term time.

Girls' Group meets on the Tuesdays in between.

A welcoming, creative and supportive space where children/ young people and their parent/carer can attend together.

www.theSENDdynamic.co.uk

The SEND Dynamic C.I.C.

What's On in the Local Area

The SEND Dynamic C.I.C.

What to Expect

Each session is part of a user led flexible programme of creative expressive arts and special-interest themed activities. Through playful exploration and creativity, we support emotional wellbeing, self-expression, and social connection.

Expressive arts activities may include:

- Drawing and painting
- Collage and mixed media art
- Sculpting and clay work
- Mask making
- Textiles, crochet, knitting and needlework
- Dance and movement activities
- Creative writing and journalling
- Poetry and storytelling
- Role-play and drama
- Music and drumming circles
- Coding and digital creativity
- Board games and tabletop games



To find out more about joining, email us!

info@theSENDdynamic.co.uk

DERBYSHIRE County Council

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

The SEND Dynamic C.I.C. Registered Office: 20 Royal Scot Road, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8AJ.
Registered in England & Wales Company Number: 14675290.

ETWALL
Dental Practice

SNUS & NICOTINE POUCHES



1 IN 3 ORAL CANCERS WORLDWIDE ARE LINKED TO SMOKELESS TOBACCO*

*International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Lancet Oncology 2024

NO SMOKE. NO VAPOUR. STILL NOT RISK-FREE.

WHAT EVERY STUDENT (AGES 13–18) NEEDS TO KNOW

DAMAGES YOUR GUMS
Snus and nicotine pouches can cause gum recession and inflammation where the pouch sits. Damage can be permanent.

SENSITIVE TEETH
Gums shrinking away from your teeth can cause pain, sensitivity and a higher risk of decay.

NICOTINE IS ADDICTIVE
Nicotine can affect your concentration, mood, sleep and stress levels. The younger you start, the easier it is to become addicted.

LINKED TO ORAL CANCER
Around 1 in 3 oral cancers worldwide are linked to smokeless tobacco and areca nut use. Discreet doesn't mean safe.

RISKS IN PREGNANCY
Use during pregnancy may increase the risk of cleft palate and other complications for your baby.

THINK BEFORE YOU TRY

- Is it worth risking permanent damage to your gums?
- Do I want to become dependent on nicotine?
- Am I making this choice for myself or because of pressure from others?



YOUR SMILE IS FOR LIFE. LOOK AFTER IT.

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR GUMS?
GET A FREE STUDENT GUM HEALTH CHECK

- ✓ Check your gums and teeth
- ✓ Look for early signs of damage
- ✓ Ask questions
- ✓ Confidential
- ✓ No judgement
- ✓ Expert advice

EARLY CHECKS CAN PREVENT LONG-TERM PROBLEMS.

Easy to hide

No smoke No vapour

Often marketed as "safer"

Cheaper than smoking



Damage usually happens where the pouch sits.

Look after your smile for life.

BOOK YOUR FREE STUDENT GUM HEALTH CHECK TODAY!

CALL US TODAY
01283 733391
JUST MENTION: STUDENT GUM HEALTH CHECK

SCAN ME

ETWALL Dental Practice
01283 733391
www.etwalldentalpractice.co.uk
31 Main Street, Etwall, Derby DE65 6LB

Healthy smiles for life

Open to students in our local community. Ages 13–18.

Derbyshire Family Health Service

NHS
Derbyshire Community Health Services
NHS Foundation Trust

Public health nurse contact details

Whether your child or young person is in school or home educated, we can support with...



For parents/carers of 5-19 year olds in Derbyshire text us on 07312 263744

Available Monday to Friday 9am-4:30pm (except bank holidays)

We can also support young people aged 11-19 with all of the above as well as sexual health, drugs and alcohol support.

Young people aged 11-19 years in Derbyshire can text us on 07507 330025

Available Monday to Friday 9am-4:30pm (except bank holidays)

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derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk

DerbysFamilyHealth

Safeguarding



Our latest Safeguarding Parent Newsletter is available here:

JPSA Parent/Carer Safeguarding Newsletter



Who to Contact

General Enquiries - info@johnportspencer.org.uk
Sixth Form Enquiries/Attendance - Sixthform@johnportspencer.org.uk
Reporting Absences - Attendance@johnportspencer.org.uk
Arbor Enquiries - arbor@johnportspencer.org.uk
Safeguarding - safeguarding@johnportspencer.org.uk



Principal:
Miss O'Leary - HT@johnportspencer.org.uk
Leadership Team - Please see our website



Year 7:
Mr Collier - NCollier@johnportspencer.org.uk
Miss Spray - TSpray@johnportspencer.org.uk




Year 8:
Miss Perry - HPerry@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mr Gaynor - CGaynor@johnportspencer.org.uk




Year 9:
Mr Bray - LBray@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mrs Dare - TDare@johnportspencer.org.uk




Year 10:
Miss Woodward - DWoodward@johnportspencer.org.uk
Ms Askin - LAskin@johnportspencer.org.uk




Year 11:
Mrs Orr - LOrr@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mrs Humphrey - SHumphrey@johnportspencer.org.uk




Sixth Form:
Mr Barker - GBarker@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mrs Lowndes - RLowndes@johnportspencer.org.uk

SPENCER
ACADEMIES TRUST

John Port Spencer Academy
Main Street
Etwall
Derbyshire
DE65 6LU

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www.johnportspencer.org.uk