SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

JPSA

John Port
Spencer Academy

Newsletter

Celebrating Joy, Progress, Success & Acting with Care and Kindness

Friday 18th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

As we reach the end of the second week of the academic year, I would like to take a moment to celebrate what has been a fantastic start at John Port Spencer Academy.

It has been wonderful to welcome our students back to school and see such a positive atmosphere across the academy. We are particularly proud of how well our new Year 7 and Year 12 students have settled into school life. They have embraced new routines, formed new friendships and approached every opportunity with enthusiasm and maturity. Their positive start has been a pleasure to see.

We were also delighted to welcome record numbers of families to our Year 6 Open Evening. The incredible attendance reflects the strength of our school community and the reputation of John Port as a place where students can thrive academically, socially and personally. Thank you to everyone who attended and to the students and staff who gave up their time to make the evening such a success.

As highlighted throughout this week's newsletter, we are proud to offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities through the John Port Experience. From sports and performing arts to academic clubs, leadership opportunities and enrichment activities, there truly is something for everyone. I would encourage all students to explore the opportunities available and get involved in the many experiences that can enrich their time at school.

Most importantly, I have been incredibly impressed by the way our students are demonstrating our core values of care, kindness, respect and integrity every day. Staff have been delighted to recognise so many positive contributions, with a significant number of reward tickets being entered into our prize draw this week. These small acts of hard work, kindness, effort and responsibility help to create the positive culture we are so proud of at John Port.

Thank you for your continued support as we begin another exciting year together. I look forward to sharing more successes and achievements with you in the weeks ahead. Wishing all our students, families and staff a restful and enjoyable weekend.



With Kindest wishes,

Laura O'Leary
Principal

Year 6 Open Evening 2026




ITERACY SCHOLAR
Look for layers of meaning
ROALD DAHL
Matilda

Key Dates

Autumn Term	
Tues 22nd - Sat 26th Sept	Melle Music Exchange at JPSA
Thurs 24th Sept	Melle Music Exchange Disco
Thurs 24th Sept	Melle Music Exchange Derbion Trip
Fri 25th Sept	Melle Music Exchange Concert
Thurs 1st Oct	SEND Information Evening
Thurs 8th Oct	GCSE Music Solo Performance Exam
Thurs 8th Oct	Sixth Form Open Evening
Fri 9th Oct	6th Form Trip: University & Apprenticeship Fair
Thurs 15th Oct	Year 11 & Year 13 Raising Achievement Evening
Mon 19th Oct	Year 7 & Year 8 Flu Vaccinations
Tues 20th Oct	Year 9 & Year 10 Flu Vaccinations
Thurs 22nd Oct	Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening (Online)
Thurs 22nd Oct	Year 11 & Year 13 Alton Towers Scarefest Trip
Fri 23rd Oct	Year 11 Flu Vaccinations
Mon 26th - Fri 30th Oct	**Half Term**
Mon 2nd - Fri 13th Nov	Year 11 & Year 13 Mock Exams
Weds 4th Nov	Ski Trip Information Evening
Fri 6th - Sun 8th Nov	Ingestre Hall Residential Arts Trip
Thurs 12th Nov	Parent Forum
Thurs 19th Nov	Maths Inspiration Trip, KS4 & KS5
Thurs 26th Nov	Year 13 Parent Consultation Evening (Online)
Fri 27th Nov	**INSET DAY**
Tues 8th & Weds 9th Dec	GCSE Art Mock Exams
Thurs 10th & Fri 11th Dec	GCSE Textiles & Photography Mock Exams
Thurs 10th Dec	Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening (Online)
Thurs 10th & Fri 11th Dec	Year 9 World of Work Day
Tues 15th Dec	Year 10 'A Christmas Carol' Theatre Performance
Weds 16th Dec	Christmas Concert
Thurs 17th Dec	Christmas Dinner Day
Thurs 17th Dec	Year 13 Presentation Evening (2026 Leavers)
Fri 18th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 18th Dec	**End of Term - 12.30pm finish for students**



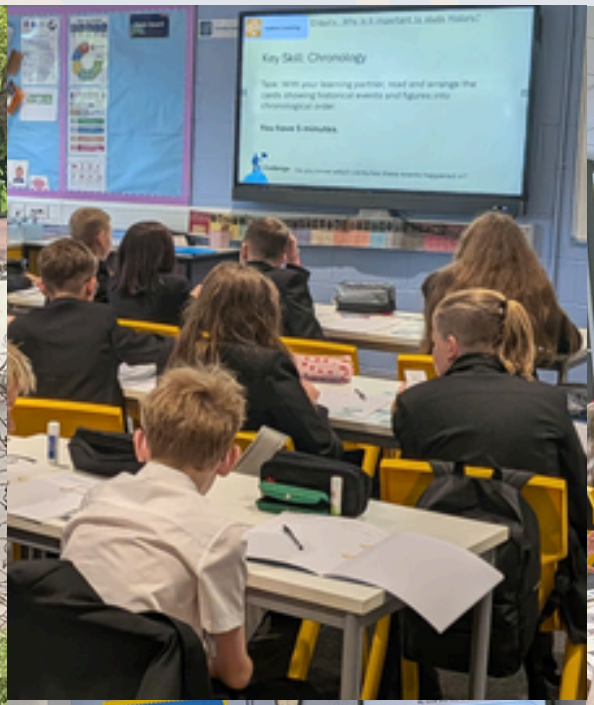
Joy

Year 7 Students Settle in at John Port

We are incredibly proud of our new Year 7 students. They have started their first half term looking smart, enthusiastic, and ready to learn.

A fantastic start, great job Year 7!





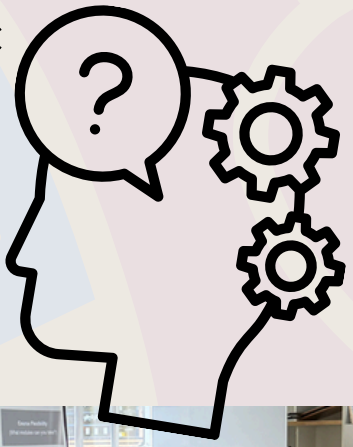




Progress

Sixth Form Students Off to a Great Start!

Our Year 12 students have made a fantastic start, settling into Sixth Form life brilliantly!



Year 13 University Talk

Year 13 welcomed Lancaster University for an insightful session on the value of high-tariff universities and making the most of their UCAS choices.



Lancaster University UCAS

A brilliant start to what promises to be an exciting year ahead!





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Progress



PE Reminders & Updates

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well. As we settle into the school year, I'd like to share a few important reminders and updates regarding PE lessons and extracurricular activities to help ensure a safe, organised, and enjoyable experience for all students.

PE Kit

We would like to thank parents/guardians for your continued support in providing the correct PE kit for your child. If a student forgets their PE kit once, they will be issued with a C2 behaviour point. Each subsequent time in the same half term will result in a C3 behaviour point. Please encourage your child to pack their kit the night before to avoid any disruption to their learning.

Injuries

If your child is injured and unable to participate in PE, please send a note to their PE teacher; either in their homework book or on other paper. Where possible, we still expect students to change into PE kit for their lesson as they will still be included in the lesson in a different role (for example officiating, scoring or managing).



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PE Reminders & Updates

Jewellery and Hair Safety

For safety reasons, jewellery must be removed before PE lessons. This includes earrings, necklaces, and watches. As in line with professional associations and governing bodies, we do permit students to wear fitness watches in certain activities. If students wear religious jewellery, we will work with them to provide a safe solution. Students with long hair should bring a hair bobble to tie it back during physical activity. These measures help prevent accidents and ensure everyone can participate safely.

Lost Property

Please ensure all PE kit items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Students can check for lost items at the PE staff office or at Student Services.

Afterschool Clubs

We are proud to offer a wide range of afterschool sports clubs over the academic year. A full timetable is available on the school website (https://johnportspencer.org.uk/extra-curricular/) and PE department noticeboards. We encourage all students to get involved in our afterschool clubs. If your child participates in an afterschool club, we recommend agreeing a pickup point at the leisure centre car park highlighted below.



As always, thank you for your continued support and we look forward to another successful year of sport and physical activity! Mr Roberts.

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Success



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.

Act



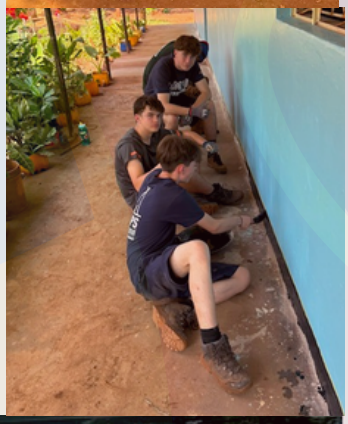


Tanzania 2026

We are incredibly proud of the students who demonstrated outstanding care, respect and integrity throughout the 2026 Camps International Tanzania trip. They worked hard in challenging conditions to help improve primary school buildings, immersed themselves in the local culture, explored safari parks, enjoyed hiking and scuba diving, and made lifelong memories along the way. Their positive attitude, resilience and willingness to embrace every opportunity were truly commendable.

A special thank you to the staff who made this unforgettable adventure possible.



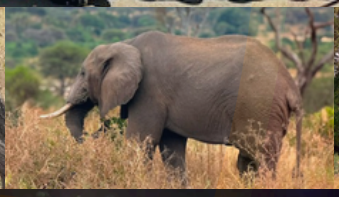


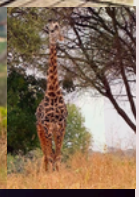




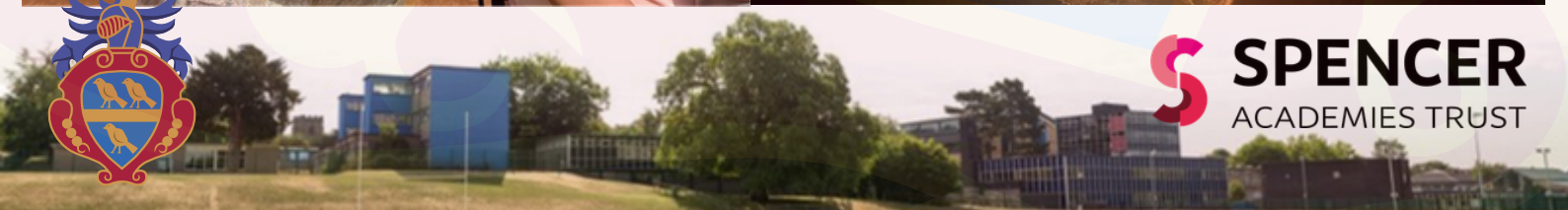












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Student Leadership

Welcome to John Port Spencer Academy! Whether you are starting your journey in year 7 or entering Year 12 as a Sixth Form student, we thank you for choosing us and hope to see you thrive here at John Port. As the largest secondary school in Derbyshire, it can be quite daunting entering the next chapter of your life here, but we pride ourselves on the support and guidance that is offered to students across all year groups. Each year group has its own Head of Year and Pastoral Manager who provide consistent support for all students, so there is always a member of staff available to talk about any concerns. We also have an incredible team of staff here at John Port who work together to make students feel comfortable and happy whilst gaining their education.

With around 2,000 students attending John Port, it can be overwhelming at times and students may not always want to talk to teachers about any issues they may have. I am one of the Head Students here at John Port and along with the rest of the Student Leadership Team, we aim to make sure that all students have the most memorable and happy experiences at secondary school. We act as a support system, and we are always working on ways to improve the school and make it the best it can possibly be.



Student Leadership

At John Port, we offer a wide variety of subjects, clubs and extra-curricular activities so all students are given the opportunity to get involved with the school community. Whether that's the school football team, Drama club, Art clubs or even Chess club, John Port has something for everyone and information about different clubs can be found all around school on notice boards and are announced in form time. Over the years, school has been involved in different competitions, both internally and externally and many competitions are offered on a yearly basis. We encourage students to get involved in as many activities as they can and opportunities to volunteer in different events are also presented to throughout the year.

In the post-16 block, there are many areas for students to study and socialise with access to computers and laptops. Sixth Form prepares students for life after school and they are encouraged to be more independent, given a set number of hours for independent studying a week. If you are an external student, John Port is extremely welcoming and supportive, helping you feel like a member of the school community from the get-go. Help with future careers and the University application process is provided by external career leads as well as our Head of Year and Administration officers.

So we wish you all the best and cannot wait for you to join us in September to start your journey here at John Port!



The John Port Experience

We are extremely proud of the opportunities we provide for students to go 'beyond the curriculum', which exist to enhance their personal development and support their cultural and social awareness so that they can flourish into versatile individuals.

Clubs and activities change from term to term and, whilst we are pleased to be able to provide these opportunities, enrichment at John Port Spencer Academy is about much more than simply our after-school clubs. We want to help enrich our students' lives and provide them with new experiences, help them to gain new skills, develop talents and seek out new interests and hobbies.

There is always something going on at John Port. As part of our John Port Experience, we offer a huge range of extra-curricular activities, clubs, trips, and opportunities to hear from guest speakers, and we actively encourage our students to try out as many as they wish, as they help to enrich the experience of life at school. Our activities and clubs often involve several year groups, allowing pupils of various ages to socialise, forge new friendships, and learn from each other.

Our extra-curricular timetable is available here:

The John Port Experience – John Port Spencer Academy







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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.

Listen to this newsletter



National Coding Week takes place from 16th - 23rd September, it aims to help adults and children learn and share their digital skills. There are many benefits of learning to code. It's a useful and important skill for the future.



Coding is the process of translating instructions into a language computers and machines can understand and execute. Programmers write code, which allows websites and apps to operate. For anyone interested in a career in coding, learning more about the types of jobs available may help them find a role that suits their individual skills and qualifications. In this article, you can read about nine types of coding jobs, along with average salaries, primary duties and required skills.



Different coding languages can be difficult to understand. From popular ones like Python, JavaScript, and Java to powerful low-level languages like C and C++, plus web essentials like HTML/CSS, modern innovations like Rust, and database languages like SQL, this video breaks them all down quickly and simply.

Here are a few places where you can complete free online coding courses:



- Brilliant.org: Interactive problem solving that's effective and fun. Master concepts in Python, programming, algorithms, and beyond.
- freeCodeCamp: Offers hands-on, project-based certifications covering responsive web design, JavaScript algorithms, and Python fundamentals.
- Codecademy: Provides free introductory interactive courses for programming languages like Python, SQL, and HTML/CSS.



- School of Code: A highly popular, fully remote, 100% free coding bootcamp open to anyone in the UK. It takes you from a complete beginner to a job-ready software engineer through collaborative, real-world project work.
- Code First Girls: Dedicated to women and non-binary individuals in the UK. They offer free online "MOOCs" and intensive coding courses covering web development, Python, and data science, often connected to hired employment placements



This forbes article, entilted "Programming In The Age Of AI: Why Code Still Matters" outlines why it is so important for us (humans!) to learn and understand code.

JOB OF THE WEEK

Software Developer

A software developer designs, builds, tests, and maintains computer programs and applications to solve user and business needs.

Writing code is a major part of the job, but a developer's work covers the entire life cycle of a project. This can include designing systems, debugging, updating software and working as part of a team to overcome challenges.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

Here are the top five best paid roles that involve coding in the UK. This shows their average salary.

Chief Technology Officer (CTO) - £110,000
Software Architect - £92,000
Machine Learning / AI Engineer - £84,000
DevOps / Platform Engineer - £78,000
Data Engineer - £73,000
Source

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

Careers





The government has committed a further £9 million to Discover Creative Careers, DCMS's flagship programme connecting young people with creative careers & this time delivered by a fresh collective (Futures For All, Creative UK and Creative Access). The funding targets 11–24 year olds from under-represented backgrounds and underserved regions. Head to their website to learn more about how they can support you.



The government is introducing a bursary of up to £4,500 a year for some families on benefits whose children start an apprenticeship, to offset the Universal Credit they currently lose. The £30million fund follows a report warning the benefits system was actively discouraging apprenticeships for families on low incomes.



Advertising is a dynamic industry that uses creative storytelling to inspire and influence how we think, behave, and consume. Over 600,000 people are employed directly in the advertising and marketing industry in the UK, across agencies and in-house marketing teams. And these jobs are spread right around the UK, with 60% of industry employment based outside of London. Check out these career simulations to learn more about what it's like to work in the advertising industry.



The Solent University 52 Weeks to Go guide is a step-by-step countdown program designed to help prospective students prepare for university life over the course of a year. It will helpl you with future planning, including exploring career goals, lifestyle choices, and deciding if university is right for you.



Apprenticeships are real jobs with real employers, allowing you to work, earn a salary and gain valuable qualifications and experience. With over 700 different apprenticeship standards covering everything from accountancy to zoo keeping, there is an apprenticeship out there for everyone. Apprenticeships offer choice, opportunity, qualifications, support and a head start into a future career. Explore these resources to discover everything you need to know about apprenticeships.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"At JPMorganChase, we drive innovation and gain valuable skills for the future with opportunities catered to students and graduates interested in pursuing a tech career.

Our slogan is "Make dreams possible for everyone, everywhere, every day"

You'll find a variety of career paths and opportunities to learn and grow. We're committed to supporting our employees and helping them succeed every step of the way."

UNI SPOTLIGHT

The University of Glasgow, founded in 1451, is one of the UK's oldest universities and a member of the Russell Group. Located in Glasgow, Scotland, it offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

It is known for excellent research, historic architecture, diverse students and a vibrant student experience.

You can learn more about University of Glasgow here.

The John Port Community



Online Safety

Keep Your Child Safe Online



T E C H

TALK

Talk to your child about their internet use and safety

Have meaningful conversations about how they use the internet

Praise your child for safe online behaviours

Welcome your child if they want to ask you a question or tell you about a problem, even if they've done something unwise themselves

EDUCATE

Learn as much as you can about games, platforms, parental controls and the benefits and risks of online activity

Teach your child about specific issues and concerns

Teach your child about safe and unsafe relationships and how to repair friendships following disagreements online

CO-VIEW

Co-view your child's online activity at least 1x/week

Interact with your child online

Model appropriate online behaviour

Co-operate with each other to promote the well-being of all



HOUSE RULES

Set clear routines, rules and boundaries ("house rules")

Keep to age ratings and guidance for apps, games and devices

Restrict online activity to daytime and communal areas

Use filters and parental controls

Spend regular screen-free time with your child



AGE 11+ for a basic phone or highly restricted smart phone without internet access or social media

AGE 14+ for a smart phone with parental controls

*Agree a contract with your child to encourage responsible phone use

Support



citizens advice Mid Mercia

NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board

Joined Up Care Derbyshire

Support

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.

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



Safeguarding information is available on our website here:

https://johnportspencer.org.uk/safeguarding/



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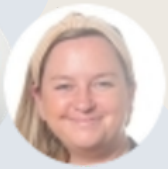
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Who to Contact

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



Year 8:
Mr Collier - NCollier@johnportspencer.org.uk
Miss Spray - TSpray@johnportspencer.org.uk




Year 9:
Miss Perry - HPerry@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mr Gaynor - CGaynor@johnportspencer.org.uk




Year 10:
Mr Bray - LBray@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mrs Dare - TDare@johnportspencer.org.uk




Year 11:
Miss Woodward - DWoodward@johnportspencer.org.uk
Ms Askin - LAskin@johnportspencer.org.uk




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

What's On in the Local Area





View from Hilton over flooded fields to St Mary's Marston on Dove

TUESDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 7pm
ST HELEN'S CHURCH, ETWALL, DE65 6LT

THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING

Chris Packham along with leading climate and nature scientists – a 50-minute film followed by a discussion relating to the climate crisis

- **What's really happening to our climate?**
- **Why does it matter now?**
- **What can we still do about it?**

If you care about local flooding, air pollution, the cost of living and food prices you might want to watch this

To book this free event including refreshments:

- https://buytickets.at/faithful5/2333271, or
- use this QR code

⚠ Suitable for ages 16+.

ST HELEN'S CHURCH, ETWALL DE65 6LT



PAUL KERENSA

A NIGHT OF COMEDY

COMEDY WRITER AND STAND UP COMEDIAN

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 7PM

£15 INC LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

British Comedy Award-winning co-writer BBC's Not Going Out, Miranda, Top Gear, ITV's Royal Variety, C4's TFI Friday, CBBC, BBC1 Sunday Morning Live, Radio 2 Pause for Thought, Radio 4 Extra Daily Service

PHONE 07791001415/07969757449 OR ADD NAME TO LIST IN CHURCH TO BOOK

HILTON SCHOOL OF DANCE



We are a new local dance school passionate about sharing the joys of dance through a range of classes and styles for all ages.

ENROLLING ALL AGES NOW!

Why choose us?

- **Highly trained and qualified teachers**
- **DBS-checked and safeguarding-trained teachers**
- **Classes held at Hilton Spencer Academy and Hilton Village Hall**
- **Opportunities to dance in shows, graded exams, performances and competitions**



SPONDON ROVERS FC Est. 1980

U16 GIRLS

Spondon Rovers Diamonds

26/27 season (year 10 and 11)

We are looking for outfield players to join our friendly team!

We train on:
Wednesday evenings at the Racecourse.

Matches are on:
Saturday mornings

For more information please contact:
07534 242 847

SPENCER
ACADEMIES TRUST

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Etwall
Derbyshire
DE65 6LU

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info@johnportspencer.org.uk
www.johnportspencer.org.uk