



# TDA Update

## Issue 1: 20 December 2022

### A message from our Principal

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'Greatness is not a matter of circumstance. Greatness, it turns out, is largely a matter of conscious choice, and discipline' **Jim Collins, Good to Great.**

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I write to you at the end of a very hard-working and productive term where students have lived our values of integrity, ambition and excellence. I am exceedingly proud of what our community has achieved, both inside and out of the classroom, but know we still have plenty to do as we strive towards greatness. I hope you enjoy reading the first of what will be a bi-weekly newsletter in the new year.

On Friday 16 December the Department for Education confirmed that The Dukeries Academy had been successful in its bid for a new school building as part of the School Rebuilding Programme (SRP). The project will commence between March 2023 and March 2024. I am absolutely delighted by the news as this investment will be transformational for our community. I am thankful to the team at Academy Transformation Trust who have worked tirelessly, over a number of years, to secure this bid.

Due to the unexpected death of a close family member, I have taken some time away from the Academy this past half term. I am grateful to my colleagues at The Dukeries and the Trust who have supported me with kindness and compassion as my family and I grieved. I would like to highlight the excellent work done by my Vice Principals, Mrs Rosaman and Mr Brett, who have skilfully fulfilled many of my Principal duties in my absence.

I wish you a Christmas holiday filled with happiness and joy, surrounded by family and friends.

Kind regards

Ged Rae



## Dates for your Diary

**Tuesday 3 January 2023:** All students return to the Academy

**Wednesday 4 January 2023:** Othello Trip to London (Sixth Form)

**Monday 9 January 2023:** Local Governing Body Meeting

**Wednesday 11 January 2023:** Year 10 and Year 11 Supporting Success Evening

**Friday 13 January 2023:** Year 7-Year 9 Progress Report 1 sent home. TDA Update: Issue 2 published

**Thursday 19 January 2023:** Year 9 Progress Evening

## Academy Day: Changes from 3 January 2023

**Times of the Day**

Mon & Fri				Tue, Wed, Thu			
Years 7-9		Years 10-13		Years 7-9		Years 10-13	
Staff and Student Breakfast (20)	8:20 – 8:40	Staff and Student Breakfast (20)	8:20 – 8:40	Staff and Student Breakfast (20)	8:20 – 8:40	Staff and Student Breakfast (20)	8:20 – 8:40
Staff on gates from 8.20. Whistle at 8.38am							
Set the Day (15)	8:40 – 8:55	Set the Day (15)	8:40 – 8:55	Set the Day (25)	8:40 – 9:05	Set the Day (25)	8:40 – 9:05
Period 1 (55)	8:55 – 9:50	Period 1 (55)	8:55 – 9:50	Period 1 (60)	9:05 – 10:05	Period 1 (60)	9:05 – 10:05
Period 2 (55)	9:50 – 10:45	Period 2 (55)	9:50 – 10:45	Period 2 (60)	10:05 – 11:05	Period 2 (60)	10:05 – 11:05
Break (15)	10:45 – 11:00	Break (20)	10:45 – 11:00	Break (20)	11:05 – 11:25	Break (20)	11:05 – 11:25
Period 3 (55)	11:00 – 11:55	Period 3 (55)	11:00 – 11:55	Period 3 (60)	11:25 – 12:25	Period 3 (60)	11:25 – 12:25
Period 4 (Lunch) (30)	11:55 – 12:25	Period 4 (Coaching) (30)	11:55 – 12:25	Period 4 (Lunch) (35)	12:25 – 13:00	Period 4 (Coaching/EEP) (35)	12:25 – 13:00
Period 5 (Coaching) (30)	12:25 – 12:55	Period 4 (Lunch) (30)	12:25 – 12:55	Period 5 (Coaching/EEP) (35)	13:00 – 13:35	Period 5 (Lunch) (35)	13:00 – 13:35
Period 6 (55)	12:55 – 13:50	Period 6 (55)	12:55 – 13:50	Period 6 (60)	13:35 – 14:35	Period 6 (60)	13:35 – 14:35
Period 7 (55)	13:50 – 14:45	Period 7 (55)	13:50 – 14:45	Period 7 (60)	14:35 – 15:35	Period 7 (60)	14:35 – 15:35

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*Following evaluation by senior leaders and feedback from members of our Academy community we are implementing the following minor adjustments to the Academy Day from Tuesday 3 January 2023 to further improve standards and provide additional pastoral care.*

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We have added additional time with coaches at the start of each day. This session will be called ‘Set the Day’.

- 15 minutes on Monday/Friday. 25 minutes on Tuesday-Thursday
- Additional time with coach each day to provide greater opportunity to support students to achieve and demonstrate excellence
  - Monday/Friday – Registration, Standards Check, Daily Bulletin, Pastoral Support
  - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - Registration, Standards Check, Bulletin, Attendance Focus, Reading/DEAL Focus, Pastoral Support.
- This will mean lunch is shortened to:
  - 30 minutes on a Monday and Friday
  - 35 minutes on Tuesday – Thursday,
- There is no change to the start and end times of the day.

## Attendance Matters




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*Research has found that poor attendance at school is linked to **poor academic attainment** across all stages (Balfanz & Byrnes, 2012; London et al., 2016) as well as **anti-social characteristics and negative behavioural outcomes** (Gottfried, 2014; Baker, Sigmon, & Nugent, 2001). However,*

*evidence suggests that **small improvements** in attendance can lead to meaningful impacts for these outcomes.*

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## **Overall attendance**

Overall attendance – 93.6%

- Girls – 94.5%, Boys – 92.5%
- **Our attendance is currently 2.1% higher than national averages within secondary schools but we want it to be even higher.**
- Attendance was 2% higher in September compared with December. Our team recognise the importance of school attendance and we encourage parents/carers to contact the Academy if they need support to ensure their child regularly attends school. Our expert Pastoral Leaders will work with you to remove any barriers to good attendance.
- We have seen a rise in cold and flu illness in Half Term 2. To minimise transmission, government guidance continues to be advise that students:
  - Wash their hands properly with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.
  - Use a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes and ensure these are placed in a bin to stop the spread of infection.
  - If feeling unwell, students should not attend the Academy until symptoms subside - particularly a high temperature.
- Limiting the impact of illness. The Academy keeps areas clean throughout the day and ensures that toilets always have hand soap available. Ensure good practices are encouraged at home as well as in school to limit the spread of illness and reduce absenteeism.
- We have written to you separately regarding updated information regarding the current increase in Strep A cases nationally.

## **Attendance by Year Group**

- Year 7 – 94.8%
- Year 8 – 92.8%
- Year 9 – 93.3%
- Year 10 – 93.7%
- Year 11 – 92.9%

## **Top Form in each Year Group**

- Year 7 – 7.4ED 96.64%
- Year 8 – 8.3JS 93.43%
- Year 9 – 9.1LCH/MC 93.18%
- Year 10 – 10.4JSA 93.29%

- Year 11 – 11.2ES 96.18%

### **Attendance focus/priority**

- Addressing lateness to school will be priority in the coming term. Being on time is an important part of developing positive working habits for leaving school. Being regularly late to school can have a negative impact on learning, adversely affect attendance and lead to intervention from the Academy and LA.

## **Safeguarding**

At TDA all teaching and support staff have a stake in ensuring we have a strong culture of Safeguarding. Students themselves are fully involved in this and, in addition to learning embedded in the relationships and sex education programme, students also receive a bespoke safeguarding curriculum delivered by their coach.

### **Autumn Term Safeguarding Curriculum**

This term, topics have included prejudicial language, bullying, extremism, radicalisation, mental health and sexual harassment. We have also been lucky enough to have Year 7 and 8 sessions on healthy relationships delivered by our partner organisation Equation as well as a presentation on County Lines to all year groups by Sally Cartwright, our police early intervention officer. Information for parents and carers about the risks of County Lines to children can be found here <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/county-lines>

### **Staying Safe Over Christmas**

#### **Online Safety**

- Many children will receive new devices for Christmas. This Safer Schools guide provides tips for parents on keeping children safe on their new device [https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2022/12/15/guide-to-gifting-tech/?utm\\_content=231985205&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&hss\\_channel=fbp-2225985804309255&fbclid=IwAR1T3ly4wKd7AlENzxIHhRmghWQGEpxH-74Lk55kXChNmghHePZ-NfZ9Hokk](https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2022/12/15/guide-to-gifting-tech/?utm_content=231985205&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&hss_channel=fbp-2225985804309255&fbclid=IwAR1T3ly4wKd7AlENzxIHhRmghWQGEpxH-74Lk55kXChNmghHePZ-NfZ9Hokk)
- Online safety advice for parents <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- CEOP, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre provides a link to report online abuse as well as a wealth of online safety information for parents and young people <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

**The following links can be used if your child requires emotional support over the Christmas Holidays;**

- Kooth online Counselling <https://www.kooth.com/>
- Childline online 1-2-1 counselling <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/1-2-1-counsellor-chat/>



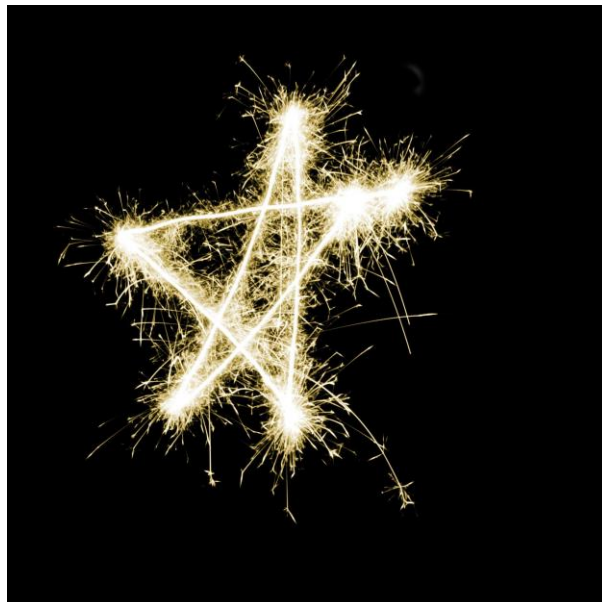
- Papyrus Hopelink <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>
- Samaritans <https://www.samaritans.org/>

# COPING AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas can be tough. That's why it's important to know there's always someone you can talk to.

 <p>☎ 0300 123 3393 📞 Helpline 🌐 <a href="http://mind.org.uk">mind.org.uk</a></p>	 <p>☎ Text SHOUT to 85258 📞 24/7 text service 🌐 <a href="http://giveusashout.org">giveusashout.org</a></p>	 <p>☎ 116 123 📞 24/7 helpline 🌐 <a href="http://samaritans.org">samaritans.org</a></p>
 <p>☎ Text YM to 85258 📞 24/7 text service 🌐 <a href="http://youngminds.org.uk">youngminds.org.uk</a></p>	 <p>☎ 0800 58 58 58 📞 Helpline for men 🌐 <a href="http://thecalmzone.net">thecalmzone.net</a></p>	 <p>☎ 0800 068 4141 📞 Under 35s Helpline 🌐 <a href="http://papyrus-uk.org">papyrus-uk.org</a></p>

## Culture and Climate



Star of the Lesson

In December, we have been awarding **Star of the Lesson** to students. Fast becoming a December tradition, Star of the Lesson is awarded to students for **Exceptional Ambition** and **Consistent Excellence** in lessons. In our final assemblies of the year, students will be awarded with our first ever Star Student trophies. In each year group, one student will win the Star of the Year group trophy, with a £20 Amazon voucher. We are also very excited to find out which student will achieve the most prestigious award of all, Star of the Academy. Up for grabs is the Star of the Academy trophy and a £30 Amazon voucher. We have seen a real buzz around the Academy as students have worked exceptionally hard to achieve these rewards in lessons.

Look out for a number of new rewards and recognition activities in the new year.

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*At The Dukeries Academy we set exceedingly high standards but will always work to support students to meet them.*

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### **Uniform and Equipment**

Thank you for your on-going support with uniform and equipment. Since the letter dated 30/11/22, we have seen a huge improvement in uniform and equipment standards in all year groups. After Christmas, to continue supporting our high standards, we have updated the Academy day to include **"Set the Day"**, which will take place first thing in the morning. This session, with coaches, will serve as a formal uniform and equipment check, attendance tracker and reading session. Alongside **Standards Gate**, the introduction of **Set the Day** will ensure that all students are fully equipped and ready for learning.

## **Quality of Education**

### **Excellence in lessons**

This term, we have been focussing on Excellence in the classroom. Through effective planning, questioning and feedback techniques developed by our staff, we've seen evidence of critical thinking and well-developed responses from our students during feedback opportunities. Moreover, students are taking increased pride in their bookwork, resulting in a high standard of work and presentation in books across the Academy.

### **Home Learning**

We continue to provide high-quality home learning opportunities to our students. Research indicates that home learning positively impacts student progress by an average of 5 months, particularly with pupils in secondary schools. As part of the 'Memorise' home learning tasks, we see greater use of Seneca Learning and Sparx Maths online learning platforms due to their effectiveness in developing and testing student knowledge. Students have spoken highly of these platforms. On

the ATT Seneca league tables, The Dukeries Academy is in 5th place, with 62, 492 XP points, narrowly trailing behind Pool Hayes Academy, Walsall. Let's keep pushing for 1st place.



## Sixth Form

This term Year 13 have been sending off their university applications, we have had successful Oxbridge applications and interviews. All students that have applied have had at least one offer back. Courses applied for range from paramedic science to Japanese studies!

It has been a busy time for our Student Union Charity Committee as they have collected money for: Hello Yellow – Young Minds mental health charity, McMillian Cancer support and Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day.

Year 12 and 13 visited Durham University Open Day in September to experience university life and Year 13 went to the careers fair in Newark to learn about other routes available at Post 18. Sixth formers also supported our Open Evening in November, sharing their experiences of life in the sixth form and what the subjects at A level are like. **We still have places for 2023 available please check out our prospectus on the website for more information.**

<https://www.dukeries.attrust.org.uk/sixth-form/course-guide/>









## Academy News

### Drama and Music

We have had a superb half term in Drama and Music. We started with a theatre trip to see Bugsy Malone at Nottingham Theatre Royal, followed by auditions for our own version of this iconic show where over 70 talented singers, dancers and actors made casting very difficult. We look forward to beginning rehearsals in January.

Our students helped us to put together a community Christmas Fayre which included lots of games, refreshments and stalls selling a wide variety of goods from the local community, as well as items students have been making in their Extend and Enrich lessons. We raised over £1000, which will go towards staging Bugsy Malone in the summer.

On the 12th of December members of our Extend Choir joined Forest View Academy and The Dukeries Singers at St Paulinus Church for a **Carols By Candlelight** concert. It was fantastic to see so many members of our local community in one place and to hear the beautiful singing.

Finally, we ended the term with a Christmas Showcase which featured performances from over 70 students from Year 7 – 13. The show featured dancing, singing, acting and musical performances in front of a sold out audience. The students performed brilliantly and it was wonderful to see how much talent we have in school.

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1603170387952816128>

We look forward to next term, which will include a trip to see An Inspector Calls with Year 11, a trip to see Noughts and Crosses with Year 9, rehearsals for Bugsy Malone, rehearsals for our Body Rhythms dance show in conjunction with our local primary schools and auditions for our Key Stage 3 Extend Drama group for Our Day Out.













## Physical Education

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*We have had a fantastic term of events taking place, including numerous football fixtures, district cross country championships, a tag rugby tournament, interform competitions, dance performances and primary school events. Here is a brief rundown of the amazing contributions from our #TDAmazing students in PE.*

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### **School Sports Fixtures:**

**Football** - this term has seen both boys and girls football teams competing in County Cup fixtures, along with other tournaments against local schools.

Y8/9 Girls Football had their first ever match against Carlton le Willows in the County Cup back in November. The girls took this game into extra time unfortunately losing 2-1, knocking us out of the cup. They worked extremely hard and represented the school incredibly - some of the girls had never played a football match before!! They should be proud of themselves and take the experience forward into future games.

Y7/8 Girls Football have played in both the County Cup and a local 7 a side tournament. They took an 8-0 win against Quarrydale in the County Cup which puts us into the next round against Rushcliffe School to be played in January. In a 7 a side tournament against the schools in the West Notts PE Association the girls brought their outdoor skills inside achieving 3rd out of a group of 8 schools.

Year 7 Boys – Unfortunately it wasn't a round to remember for the Year 7 boys in the County Cup, who travelled away to play a very strong Ashfield side. Considering it was the first time they had played together, and with very little practice they can hold their heads high as not once did they give up as they battled hard despite going down 9-0. Year 7 have also travelled to Sutton Lawn this term where they competed against four other schools in a 7-a-side competition. Again, they battled hard throughout the competition with some standout performances and came third overall.

Year 8 Boys - Following a fairy-tale run to the County Cup semi-finals in Year 7, confidence was high for the Year 8 boys team stepping up to 11-a-side this year. A long-awaited local derby at neighbouring Tuxford kicked off the season for this talented group of players with several debutants

also giving their all. An emphatic 5-0 away win was followed with a geographically challenging away draw in the next round against George Spencer Academy. A to-and-fro game saw Dukeries go into the break 1-0 up but saw their fortunes change in the 2nd half. A strong comeback in the last 5 minutes saw Dukeries pull it back to 3-2 but it was a step too far, with GSA taking the win. The Year 8 team now look forward to starting their District Cup campaign after Christmas.

Year 9 Boys – A slow start against Retford Oaks saw our year 9 boys concede in the first minute, before taking control of the game in a hard-fought contest, eventually running out 4-1 winners in their second-round County Cup tie and setting up a third-round triple header against George Spencer Academy as Year 8 and 10 also faced off against them in their equivalent round fixtures. George Spencer Year 9s had booked their place in the third-round with a 7-2 victory, so our 9's knew it wasn't going to be an easy game and another slow start saw them undeservedly 3-0 down at half-time. A much closer second half with several chances taken, we were unfortunately on the wrong end of a 4-2 score line. In both games the boys showed our school values of integrity, ambition and excellence in abundance and should be proud of the way they performed. Lots to build on as we look forward our second-round fixture against Manor in the district cup. Next term will also see our Year 9 boys compete at the county 7-a-side football competition.

Year 10 Boys - A challenging away draw at Carlton Academy saw Year 10 begin their County Cup campaign this year after mixed fortunes in Year 9. With several Year 9 students playing up a year it was always going to be a challenging tie. Dukeries kept things tight in the first half but conceded close to half-time. Excellent leadership and strong play in central midfield saw the tide turn our way - a wonderful team goal and a delightful free kick alongside excellent game management saw Dukeries take the win. The next round saw yet another tie with George Spencer Academy (away). With several key players missing, Dukeries fought valiantly and had the better of the chances in an even first half. 1-0 at the break soon turned into a difficult 2nd half. Hampered by limited numbers and fatigue, Dukeries worked hard but had little left in the tank. GSA showed their superiority running out 6-0 winners by full-time. Year 10 will hope to put things right with a strong District Cup run after the Christmas break.

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*There are plenty more opportunities to come for all students in a variety of different sports. Looking forward we will have the opportunity to enter teams in Basketball, Trampolining and Netball competitions in the next term. We are also excited to announce that, sometime in the Spring, there will be the return of our Body Rhythms Dance show for students to perform in too – date to be confirmed.*

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**Cross Country** – we took a small team of students to Sherwood Pines for the Newark and Sherwood District event on the 29th November. All of the students who ran finished in the top 15 for the district in their respective events but 4 of our students finished in the top 12, qualifying for the County Championships to be held at Berry Hill in Mansfield in January. Special congratulations go to **Maddison E** who finished 7th in the Y10/11 girls event, **Ethan D** who finished 5th in the Y10/11 boys event, **Alfie A** who finished 4th in the Y7 boys event and finally **Sam H who WON the Y8/9 boys event**. Well done to all who ran – fantastic achievements and representation from TDA students.

### Tag Rugby – Girls

Way back in October, several of our Year 7 and 8 girls were given the opportunity to attend a Touch Rugby afternoon at Mansfield RFC led by some of their youth coaches. Our girls were able to take part in a skills and drills session, understanding the fundamentals of rugby including ball familiarisation and getting used to the difficult concept of running forwards and passing backwards! The second half of the afternoon saw students from all schools mixed up and put into 6 teams where they played several minigames to put what they had learnt into practice!



At the end of the session, our girls were lucky enough to play friendly match as Samworth Church Academy. With several standout performances from a few of our girls, some who had never picked up a rugby ball before, we were able to come away winners which was an additional bonus to what was a superb afternoon showcasing the sport of Rugby.

### **Interform Football/Netball**

In November, we ran an Interform competition in Football and Netball for all of our KS3 students, which saw Coaching groups compete against each other to win the title of Interform Champions for the Autumn term. We had an amazing event, despite the cold weather and our students really enjoyed both competitions. Results from this are as follows:

**Year 7 overall winners: 7.3OS**

**Year 8 overall winners: 8.5LR**

**Year 9 overall winners: 9.2 MV**

All points will be carried forward to our next event in the Spring Term and will contribute to us crowning the winners following the summer event.







### Dance – Enrich

Wednesday 14th December also saw some of our Enrich Dance group contribute to the whole Perform Faculty event - The Christmas Showcase. This saw our dancers perform alongside our music and drama students to put on an amazing showcase to celebrate the work they have been doing this term. Congratulations to **Ella A, Chloe M, Tianna A and Amelia B** for their fantastic performances, showcasing their own choreography and creativity. Well done to you all!

### Primary School Festivals

The Dukeries Family of Primary Schools sporting calendar finally got underway during the second half of the Autumn term with the Year 3/4 Tag Rugby competition. It was attended by **King Edwin** who entered two sides, **Parkgate, Forest View** and **St Marys**. The Dukeries also provided 12 Sports Leaders (Y7/8) and two referees (Y10), who were fantastic with all the young people who competed at the competition. Our leaders paired up and led the warm-ups for children at each school before taking on the role of a coach, discussing tactical ideas and cheering them on from the side-lines as well as running scores from our referees to the table and taking pictures of the event. The eventual winners were **Parkgate** by one point! But all participants seemed to have a fantastic morning showing us all that Tag Rugby really was the winner!



Unfortunately, due to the unpredictability of the British weather, the Year 5/6 competition that was scheduled for the week before, was cancelled with a new date to be confirmed for after Christmas. The EYFS/KS1 multi-skills was also postponed and will be rescheduled for the Spring Term.

As we look forward to the new term, primary schools will get the opportunity to participate in many upcoming sporting competitions including Basketball and indoor athletics as well as the eagerly



anticipated Dance show – Body Rhythms – which makes its comeback at Easter for the first time since Covid restrictions were lifted! We hope everyone within our primary school family have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and hope that you are ready for a jam-packed Spring Term.

## Ambition Nottingham

A group of ambitious Year 11 students enjoyed a fun, informative and very cold day out at the University of Nottingham. We were taken on a tour of the amazing campus, exploring societies, accommodation, a library with a selection of the 1.3 million books at the university and even a newsroom and TV studio.

During the visit we also took part in a range of interactive games and discussions that helped dispel myths and answer pressing questions about student finance, discovered popular and obscure courses, and also grilled a panel of Masters, medical and Zoology students!

A brilliant day at University Park Campus. Thank you to the Ambition Nottingham team at University of Nottingham.









## Riding for the Disabled Association: Graded Qualifications

The Dukeries Academy and Riding for the Disabled Centre would like to champion the Academy's fabulous students who have participated in RDA graded qualifications for both horse care and riding. Since the start of the academic year the students have been attending the stables working through the grades. December was a special month for the students as all their hard work was rewarded with a presentation of their achievements.

The stables are run by June and her fabulous team of volunteers who work alongside the fully qualified riding instructors.

The Dukeries stables are a fully licenced riding school with a 5-star rating offering RDA graded qualifications for both horses care and riding.









