

# The Buzz

Issue 5 –  
Winter 2025



As we approach the end of the year, the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) team would like to thank each and every one of you. Without your support, your input into learning support worker contacts or EHCP reviews, we would not be able to ensure that the support we offer matches that what is needed by the students in school.

From all of the SEND team, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year – see you in 2026!

## SEND A Review of the Term

Since September, the SEND team has been working hard to welcome our new Y7 cohort and allow them time to settle in. We have also been working on a number of projects to ensure our provision for SEND students is second to none.

In September, we opened the revamped hive, with a dedicated sensory room and a larger, safer space for all of our SEND students. These improved facilities have been greatly received by all of our students, who are learning how to co-regulate with the help of our new inclusion officer, Mrs Milner. Whilst in the hive, they are developing an understanding of their emotional state and the strategies needed to improve their well-being and state of mind.

Throughout the term our team of TAs, driven on by Mrs Lucas have been working hard on fundraising for our sensory garden. The garden is starting to take shape, helped by a donation of over 100 hedgerow saplings from the Woodland trust and a new outbuilding very kindly supplied and built by Bolsover Sheds and Fencing. This multi-sensory outdoor space will support generations of students for many years to come.

Finally, in December we held our Christmas fair. This very well attended event showcased a variety of market stalls from local vendors, face painting and the opportunity to meet Father Christmas! The event raised over £350 and donations have been made to the school garden fund and Ashgate Hospice as well as the house charities. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this.



The Bolsover School SEND information report and SEND policy contain information about how the school aims to support all young people with additional needs and ensure that their educational journey is not affected by any conditions they may have. For more information visit: <https://www.thebolsoverschool.org/page/?title=SEND&pid=35>



The Derbyshire local offer is a service which helps and supports children and young people with special educational needs to be more confident in their communities and live independently. For more information, visit: <https://www.localoffer.derbyshire.gov.uk/home.aspx>



2026 will bring with it a host of new challenges and incentives. We are looking to offer more parental engagement opportunities such as coffee mornings and consultation events. If there is anything you would like to see or become involved with in 2026, please contact Mr Topley on [r.topley@thebolsoverschool.org.uk](mailto:r.topley@thebolsoverschool.org.uk)

# Understanding the 4 Broad Areas of Need in SEND

## Communication and Interaction

Difficulties with speech, language, and understanding or using social communication.

- Struggles to express themselves clearly or understand instructions
- Limited vocabulary or unclear speech
- Finds it hard to join conversations or play with others
- May avoid eye contact or misunderstand jokes and social cues

## Cognition and Learning

Challenges with learning, thinking, and remembering information.

- Learns more slowly than peers
- Difficulty remembering what was taught yesterday
- Struggles with reading, writing, or maths despite effort
- Needs lots of repetition and extra time to complete tasks

## Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)

Difficulties with managing emotions, behaviour, or mental health.

- Frequent anxiety, sadness, or anger
- Finds it hard to make or keep friends
- Withdraws from others or becomes very clingy
- Displays challenging behaviour at home or school

## Sensory and/or Physical Needs

Needs related to vision, hearing, movement, or sensory processing.

- Has hearing or vision difficulties
- Struggles with coordination (e.g., catching a ball, handwriting)
- Sensitive to sounds, lights, textures, or crowds
- Tires easily or needs special equipment to move around

If you have noticed any difficulties your child may be experiencing or would like further advice, support or guidance regarding these difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Topley at the school - [r.topley@thebolsoverschool.org.uk](mailto:r.topley@thebolsoverschool.org.uk).

*And Finally...*

If you have any questions about the learning plan for your child, do not hesitate to email the learning support worker assigned to them.