

# St. Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy



LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE *in love*  
1 CORINTHIANS 16:14



Headteacher: Mrs J. Oliver

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## A MESSAGE FROM MRS OLIVER

We have now entered the First Week in Ordinary Time, the season between Christmas and Lent. This is often a calmer time of year and a lovely opportunity to settle back into routines and reflect on the weeks just gone.

Here at St Augustine's, we are also settling into some new routines. In the classroom, many children are excited about their new topics and are embracing their new timetables – please see Seesaw for more information. Some of your children may have mentioned the Jubilee Room. This is a classroom that is open at lunchtime, offering a range of activities away from the hustle and bustle of the playground. It provides a calm and welcoming space where pupils can relax and enjoy some quieter time if they wish.

### 2026 is the National Year of Reading – Go All In!

At St Augustine's, we love reading and are passionate about helping children discover the joy of books in many ways.

At the start of their journey, pupils learn to read through our phonics scheme. In EYFS and Key Stage One, children also enjoy listening to stories read aloud by their teacher and spending time in our school library.

As pupils move into Key Stage Two, their reading journey continues with class novels, lively discussions about characters and storylines, and independent reading. Our Accelerated Reading programme adds an element of fun and motivation, with quizzes and points to earn along the way. Pupils also enjoy visiting the library and taking part in paired reading with younger children.

Reading is woven throughout the curriculum, with non-fiction books and extracts used to support learning across subjects. Children also continue to love listening to their teachers read aloud and are often completely captivated by the stories they share.

We know that many of you enjoy sharing books at home and listening to your children read, and we are very grateful for your support. This term, we will be launching some exciting new activities to promote reading—please keep an eye out for our Open Library sessions and Reading Café events. This week, we also have two 'Writers of the Week' with wonderful submissions from Michael and Bella - we just couldn't choose between them!

I hope you have a restful and enjoyable weekend, and I look forward to another busy and happy week in school.

*Mrs Oliver*



## LET US PRAY

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

Amen  
-Loyola Press



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to Azalea and Charlie-Roy in Olive Class who are both celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday today!

Olivia in Juniper Class is 10 tomorrow - happy birthday!



Many happy returns to you all, from everyone at St. Augustine's!

## ART POP-UP!

The Stamford Arts Centre Gallery space is looking amazing with all the faces that have been created over the last month or so for the latest Art Pop-Up project!

Some of our St. Augustine's children have worked on some beautiful pieces that will be in the exhibition until Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, bringing together work from across Art Pop-Up community programmes and associate artists, and celebrates creativity as a way to connect, care for one another, and challenge isolation.

Art Pop-Up invite you to join their social on Monday Jan 19<sup>th</sup> in the gallery from 2-4pm!

Click [here](#) to book your free place.



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# JUBILEE ROOM!

**MON**



**Mindfulness Colouring**

**TUE**



**Card Games**

**WEDS**



**Puzzles**

**THU**



**Share-a-Book**

**FRI**



**Film Club**

Come and have fun inside at lunchtime!

The Jubilee Room is run by our Year 6 children as an alternative to playing outside!

## OUR PARISH CHURCH

The Children's Liturgy takes place at the 9:00am Mass at our parish church, St. Mary and St. Augustine on Broad Street, Stamford.

All children are welcome to share in this opportunity to participate in their own Liturgy of the Word at Mass at an appropriate level for them.

Please [click here](#) to read weekly newsletters from our Catholic Parish of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, by Rutland Water (formerly the Catholic Parish of Stamford, Saint Mary and Saint Augustine).



## ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, OAKHAM - HOLY MASS LIVE STREAM

For those who are unable to get to Mass in person, for one reason or another, you can now watch all Holy Masses and other services and liturgies online from St Joseph's from your home computer or mobile device. View Mass schedules and connect to the live stream [here](#) while St. Joseph's church is celebrating Holy Mass or other services are being held.

If you'd like to follow and respond in the Mass but are unsure of the words, download this PDF '[Order of Mass](#)' document which contains all of the responses.



## BOURNE & DEEPING R.C. PARISH

Please [click here](#) to read weekly newsletters from our friends at the Bourne and Deeping Roman Catholic Parish.



# VIRTUE CERTIFICATES!



Olive Class - Phoebe - Love of Learning & Determination

Sycamore Class - Adam - Love & Respect

Acacia Class - Finley - Friendship & Kindness

Juniper Class Year 5 - Remy - Hope & Confidence

Juniper Class Year 6 - Leo - Love of Learning & Determination



*Congratulations to all of the recipients of this week's Virtue Certificates - we are all very proud of you!*

## SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about a child, or if you need help and support, please don't hesitate to contact our Safeguarding team:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Worrick

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Oliver

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Taylor

The Safeguarding team can be contacted on 01780 762094 or by email: [enquiries@st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk)

If you believe that a child or adult may be a victim of neglect, abuse or cruelty, you can also contact the Lincolnshire County Council Safeguarding Team:

- Children's safeguarding - 01522 782111 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)
- Adults safeguarding - 01522 782155 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm) or 01522 782333 (outside office hours)



## E-SAFETY WITH ALAN MACKENZIE

### For Parents - Playstation Family App

The Playstation Family App came out in Sept 2025 and it is a great way to help parents set up and manage their children's Gaming experience.

Features include:

- Manage playtime.
- Activity report.
- Visibility into what children are playing.
- Approving playtime requests.

On this web page you will find detailed instructions to guide you through setting up a child account, get notified what game your child is playing in real time, approve or decline a request for extra playtime, apply content filters, privacy settings and more.

Webpage: [Playstation Family App](#)

### Online Safety Weekly Update

Alan Mackenzie  
Online Safety Specialist





## THE MARK 10 MISSION - ADVENT

I hope you are having a blessed week and a great start to the new term! I'm delighted to share with you our brand new celebration of the Word videos. The Mark 10 Mission video this week is particularly beautiful and profound. During filming, we were able to bring Jesus from the tabernacle at Hinsley Hall and expose the Blessed Sacrament whilst Sr Thérèse recorded her reflection. I pray that as children look upon Jesus in the monstrance, the reality of his true presence in the Eucharist can move and impact their hearts.

We chose to record a period of Adoration because of the words of St John the Baptist in next Sunday's Gospel. He says 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!' as Jesus comes towards him. We want to help children know that they, like John, can point others towards Jesus and that he is always moving towards them... most especially in the Holy Eucharist.

I hope you love these new videos, we certainly enjoyed making them for you and the children.

- *The Mark 10 Mission*

Click on the images below to watch the videos.



## ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 89.54%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

**Olive**- 85.96%

**Sycamore** - 93.78%

**Acacia** - 89.39%

**Juniper** - 88.59%

Being around teachers and friends in a school environment is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their potential. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care.

For more information, please visit the gov.uk website [here](#),

*\*Based on a four day school week due to Inset Day*



"From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child.  
#AttendanceCounts"



## ROBLOX: SETTINGS THAT HELP KEEP CHILDREN SAFER

Roblox can be a creative and enjoyable space, but because games and social spaces are created by users, children's experiences can vary widely. Many children start playing in primary school, often sharing games and conversations with much older users. Settings help, but they work best when combined with regular conversations and adult interest.

Most problems on Roblox don't come from the games themselves, but from social interaction — messaging, voice chat, group spaces and contact with people your child doesn't know. Safety settings are most effective when children understand why they are in place and feel able to talk about what they experience online.

Helpful conversation starters

- What games are you enjoying at the moment?
- Who do you usually play with?
- Has anything online ever made you feel uncomfortable, confused or upset?

Keeping conversations open makes it much easier for children to ask for help if something doesn't feel right.

Key settings to check:

Setting	What it affects	A safer starting point
Account age & content level	What types of games and experiences your child can access, including older-teen content	Set the account to your child's real age and choose a lower content maturity level
Age verification	How Roblox groups users into age brackets	Make sure age verification reflects your child's real age
Text chat	Who can send and receive messages	Limit chat to friends only or turn it off for younger children
Voice chat	Live voice conversations during some games	Turn off unless you are confident and actively supervising
Party / group chat	Group conversations that continue across games	Restrict or disable for younger users
Friends & contacts	Who can add your child as a friend	Restrict requests and review the friends list regularly
Private servers	Who can invite your child to private game spaces	Allow invites only from people your child knows offline
Public multiplayer games	Playing with large numbers of unknown users	Encourage smaller or friend-only spaces where possible
Screen time limits	How long your child can play each day	Agree clear daily limits that work for your family
In-game spending	Buying Robux and premium items	Set spending limits or require approval for purchases
Parental activity tools	Summaries of what your child plays and who they interact with	Link a parent account and review activity together

Further information [here](#).

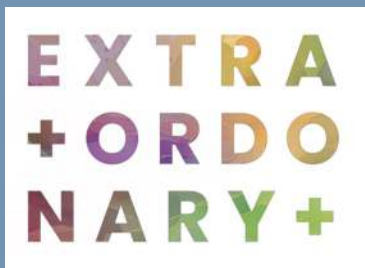
- *Andrew Hall Safeguarding*

# EXTRA-ORDO-NARY 'WORD OF THE WEEK'

Next week's word is 'Discipleship'.

Discipleship is about following Jesus and living your life according to his teachings. It is a lifelong journey of learning and growing in faith. As disciples, we are called to grow in our relationship with God, to live out our faith in the world, and to serve others.

Think of someone in need in your community who you can help and support this week.



## PARISH NEWS

The Bishop has formally amalgamated what were the parishes of St Joseph, Oakham with St Thomas of Canterbury, Exton and St Mary & St Augustine, Stamford into one parish - the Parish of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, by Rutland Water.

While the Churches continue to retain their dedication, from now onwards all we do will be under the umbrella of our new parish name, hence our new joint newsletter and, in time, a new joint website.

Our union as one Parish is important going forward and I hope that, even through the changes this brings, we can grow closer together to each other in charity and to Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest.

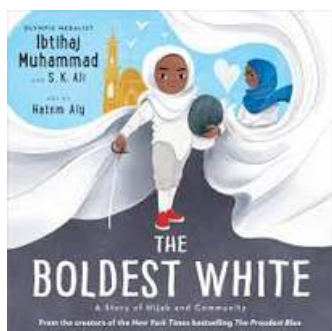
-Canon Peter Vellacott



## READING CORNER

Here's a lovely book recommendation from our friends at St. Norbert's!

The Boldest White, written by Olympic medallist Ibtihaj Muhammad, follows a young girl named Aisha who is determined to stand out in a world that often encourages her to blend in. When her class is asked to create a piece of art using their "boldest colour," Aisha chooses white—a colour many overlook. Through her creativity and confidence, she shows her classmates that boldness isn't about being the loudest or the brightest; it's about expressing yourself honestly and proudly. The story celebrates individuality, cultural identity, and the courage to see beauty where others might not. It's an uplifting, visually rich picture book that encourages children to embrace what makes them unique.



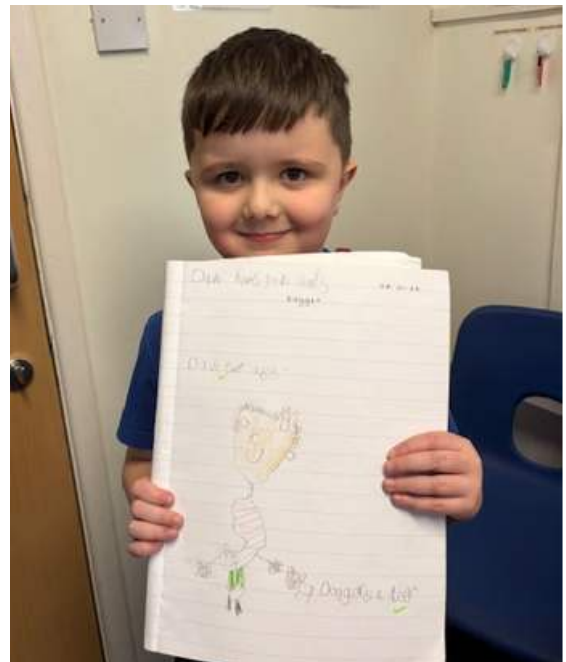
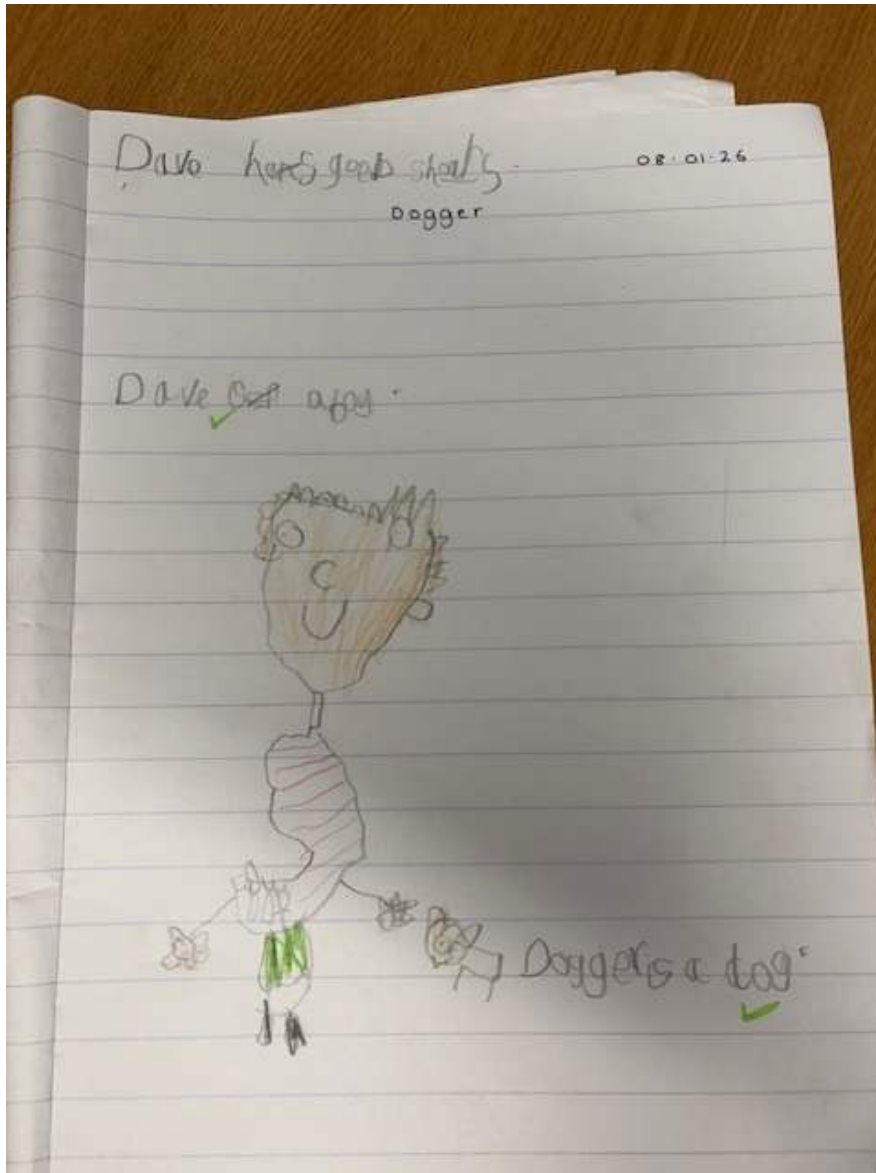
Click on the image on the left to listen to the book being read aloud.



# Writer of THE WEEK

Our Writer of the Week is Michael from Olive Class! Michael wrote about Dogger, from the book by Shirley Hughes, and drew a beautiful picture too!

Fantastic work, Michael - well done!



M I C H A E L   K V A S N O V S K Y



# Writer of THE WEEK

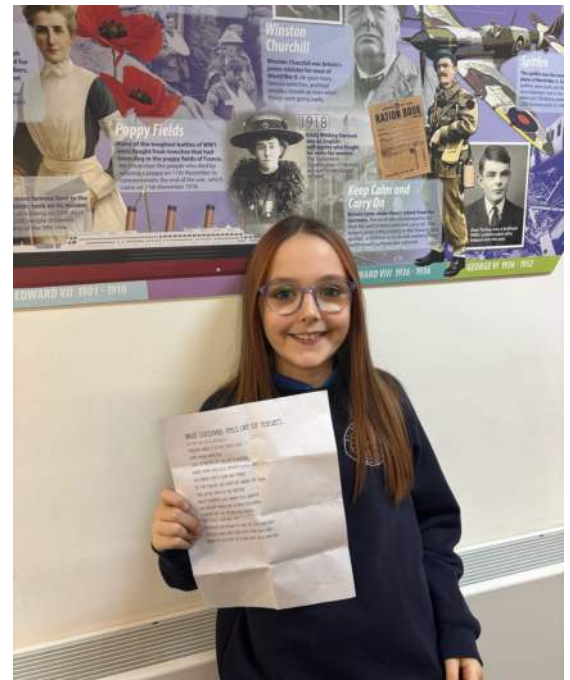
Our Writer of the Week is Bella from Juniper Class! Bella has written a wonderful poem, 'What Christmas Feels Like For Teachers'. Mrs Oliver was so moved by the thought and detail that Bella had considered for her poem.

Beautiful work, Bella.

## WHAT CHRISTMAS FEELS LIKE FOR TEACHERS.

WRITTEN BY BELLA BECKWITH

TEACHERS WAKE IN IN THE FROSTY COLD  
SOME YOUNG SOME OLD  
THEY SIT WAITING FOR THE CAR TO DEFROST  
HANDS NUMB, KEYS COLD, PATIENCE ALMOST LOST  
THE ENGINE STARTS SLOW AND STEADY  
BUT THE TEACHER SAT THERE NOT AWAKE, NOT READY  
THEY ARRIVE EARLY IN THE MORNING  
WHILST STUDENTS JUST AWOKE STILL YAWNING  
THE TEACHER MAKES THE ACTIVITY CHRISTMASY  
STUDENTS ARE SAT EXCITED AND FIDGETY  
THE SCHOOL TERM WILL END  
BUT BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, IT WILL BE CHRISTMAS AGAIN  
STUDENTS COME BACK SOON AFTER NEW YEAR'S DAY  
OONOW ITS THE START OF A NEW YEAR AND A NEW DAY



B E L L A   B E C K W I T H

# SPOTLIGHT - JUNIPER CLASS!

Many congratulations to Peggy - she has been recognised to receive a National Medallist award in this year's East Midlands Gymnastic Association regional awards because of her achievements in 2025. Peggy will attend a very special ceremony in Loughborough tomorrow night - how exciting! Peggy, we are so proud of you and wish you a super evening - you have worked so hard for this moment.

Huge congratulations to Remy who has been selected for Leicester City under 10's. He trains 3 times a week with a match every Sunday. Remy, we are extremely proud of your resilience and how much effort you have been putting in to your school work - keepy uppy your hard work!

Last term, Ellie-Mae was selected to play Netball for the County. She travels to Lincoln, even after school, to take part in a rigorous training programme and is due to play matches shortly. Ellie-Mae's commitment and determination shines through in all that she does, and we couldn't be more proud.

Holly was part of the cast of the Wizard of Oz pantomime at the Stamford Corn Exchange over Christmas. The show's opening night was on Holly's birthday, and her lines as 'Munchkin Number 1' opened the show. Holly is a shining star and great role model for our St. Augustine's children - we are delighted to have her as our Head Girl!



Peggy



Remy



Ellie-Mae



Holly



# DINNER AT THE WHITE HART, UFFORD, WITH GEORGE'S FOOD HUB!

George's Food Hub Christmas Dinner at The White Hart in Ufford, was postponed in December, but we've now got a new date - Thursday 29th January at 5:30pm.

We'd love you to join us for dinner, on us & our friends at The White Hart. We have 35 spaces left, for a free chicken main course & dessert. Vegetarian & vegan options are available, so please let us know of any dietary requirements or allergies in advance & we can look to accommodate. Drinks not included.

We are also delighted to be able to provide FREE TRANSPORT, to & from The White Hart. A coach will leave from the Stamford Free Church at 5pm (for sit down at The White Hart at 5:30pm). The bus back will likely leave The White Hart about 7:30/8pm (& drop everyone back at the Stamford Free Church).

This dinner invite is open to our Food Hub customers & all in the local community that would like to join us for the evening. Families & children are, of course, welcome, as are any members of the community that may be new to the area or would like to get to know more neighbours.

If you'd like to attend, please contact George at [georgehetherington2@gmail.com](mailto:georgehetherington2@gmail.com) or 07891437914, by next Thursday 22nd January. We'll need a name for the booking & information of people joining you (numbers, dietary requirements & if you'll be using the transport provided).

Hope to see you there,  
All at George's Food Hub



## Farewell to Miss Bush...

We are saying farewell to Miss Katie Bush, who is moving on to a new opportunity after ten years with us at St. Augustine's. During her time with us, she has worked as a Teaching Assistant and more recently as our RPO.

We thank Miss Bush for her dedication and the support she has provided to our pupils and staff over the years. We wish her every success in her next chapter.





**Parent & Carer Autism Support Group**

Your story matters; we're here to listen

**MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> January**  
**1.15pm - 2.45pm**

The MindSpace Hub, 6 Red Lion Street, Stamford  
info@mindspacestamford.com



# Churchish

A welcoming space for families to explore faith through worship, creativity and cake

**Come for the cake**  
**Stay for the community**

All ages welcome at  
the Unity Centre, Scotgate  
3rd Sunday of the month,  
from 3.00 - 4.30pm

Stamford All Saints  
Inclusive Church



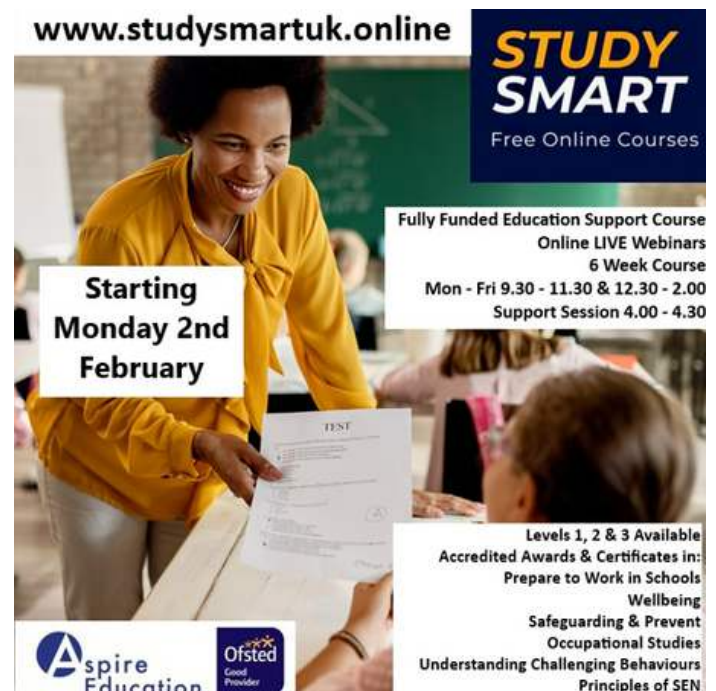
## Worried about your energy bills?

**We can help.**

We're here to support you with making savings on your gas and electricity, dealing with energy debt, and giving information about switching suppliers. We also offer dedicated advice to households on pre-payment meters.

**Call Adviceline on 0808 278 7996 to speak to an adviser.**

citizens advice South Lincolnshire



www.studysmartuk.online

## STUDY SMART

Free Online Courses

**Starting Monday 2nd February**

Fully Funded Education Support Course  
Online LIVE Webinars  
6 Week Course  
Mon - Fri 9.30 - 11.30 & 12.30 - 2.00  
Support Session 4.00 - 4.30

Levels 1, 2 & 3 Available  
Accredited Awards & Certificates in:  
Prepare to Work in Schools  
Wellbeing  
Safeguarding & Prevent  
Occupational Studies  
Understanding Challenging Behaviours  
Principles of SEN

Aspire Education Ofsted Good Provider