



Dear Families,

We would like to introduce our Speech and Language Therapy provider, Powerful Voices.

The Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) team at Powerful Voices provides support across all areas of communication, offering both whole-class environmental strategies and targeted interventions for our learners.

Whilst working at Tiffield Academy, the SLT team supports the use of a Total Communication approach, which incorporates all forms of communication, including written and spoken language, as well as non-verbal methods such as gestures, signs, symbols, and facial expressions. This approach enables learners to communicate as effectively as possible using their preferred methods of communication.

The SLT team also works closely with teaching staff to identify the most appropriate communication approaches for each learner, providing training and practical support in the use of both aided and unaided Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). In addition, the team supports referrals for further AAC assessments and assists with the development and implementation of a variety of non-electronic AAC systems.

Direct intervention may also be provided, including 1:1 and group AAC modelling sessions. The SLT team can also offer advice and strategies to staff who are setting up and delivering their own focused communication groups.

SLT support can take a variety of forms, including joining learners within the classroom, participating in everyday activities while supporting communication development, observing learners, modelling communication strategies, trialling communication tools to identify effective approaches, or working directly with an individual learner where appropriate.

Communication assessments are carried out both within the classroom environment and on an individual basis to identify each learner's needs and inform effective support planning.

All therapy programmes are holistic, neuro-affirming, and entirely needs-led. We recognise that every learner is unique, and therefore our approach is never "one size fits all".

Kind regards,

Powerful Voices

