

St Albans' Daisy Cooper opens Links Academy 'wonder room'

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EDUCATION

ST ALBANS

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Richard Boxer, Links Academy St Albans Health Lifestyle Lead, and Daisy Cooper MP demonstrate how to use an old telephone (*Image: Courtesy of Daisy Cooper*)



Daisy Cooper MP opened a new classroom at a school in St Albans this week which aims to prepare pupils for the future - by showing them the past.

The new "wonder room" at the Links Academy in St Albans is filled with pieces of technology and ordinary household items that, until recently, were a normal part of all our lives.

Typewriters, old telephones and early computers are among the items that have been donated, alongside old toys, books, and even an old-fashioned doll's house.

The idea is that these unfamiliar items will prompt discussions among the pupils and help them learn about history, technology and other subjects.

Links Academy provides an alternative to mainstream schools in St Albans and across Hertfordshire. It also has a specialist School Intervention & Support Team that goes out to other schools to work with children whose behaviour is causing concern.

Daisy said: "It was lovely to open the 'wonder room' of old technology. "It might seem surprising to some that items like landline phones and even CDs are now old fashioned - but to school pupils, they tell stories about the world in which they're growing up. "The wonder room will be a fantastic space outside the classroom, where pupils can relax, explore the historical items and use them as a conversation starter. "It's a great resource and just part of the excellent work that Links Academy does to support pupils who may not have found

the support they need initially in mainstream education. I hope the students enjoy it for years to come."

The school has been helped by donations from local businesses such as Rug Maker of St Albans which donated the flooring for the room.

Links Academy is also appealing for more old gadgets or technological items, and is asking anyone who can donate any items to get in touch.