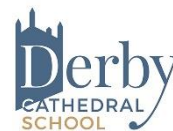


This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 11th September 2023



In Acts 20 verse 2 it says:

“Paul travelled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people.”

For us at DCS this shows that as we set out on new adventures and challenging travels, we should remember to encourage those we meet and share the journey with.

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

It's been great to see our students settling into the routine of school this week. Our Sixth Form students now have their lanyards and swipe cards and are coping well with the changes to their style of timetable. They have impressed us all with their calm focus and feel a big part of our community so quickly. We're really looking forward to seeing what 'endeavours' they choose in the coming weeks. Endeavours are a variety of enrichment and voluntary experiences that continue to help build their FAITH values and experience. One of our Sixth Formers commented to a member of staff this week that they are really enjoying their start at DCS because of how calm and friendly the environment is.

Equally year 7 have continued to cope extremely well with their transition to secondary school. They are very quickly finding their way around and supporting each other. Our students have really shown their growth through our FAITH values and often demonstrate the same encouragement to each other as Paul showed in the verse above.

We have two open evenings this half term, one for year 6 and one for Sixth Form. More details are further in the newsletter but please do feel very welcome to come if you have children in year 6 or year 11 and/or pass on the information to anyone else who may be interested.

Our big piece of news this week is about another member of our team who will be starting this week: Daisy the DCS dog! You may already be aware that many schools have a support dog working with students to help support their wellbeing. We are delighted to be able to provide this support in the very cute form of Daisy. Please do read the article for more information. A separate email will also be sent to all parents/carers.

I wish you all a positive week.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Brown
Headteacher

No sprays/aerosols in school

This week we will be reminding all students that aerosols and sprays are not allowed in school. We have had to respond to someone suffering an allergic reaction due to a spray being used in the building this week. We also have a number of students with asthma who are put at risk.

Please can you ensure that your child/children do not bring these into school. If they wish to have deodorants with them then a roll-on version is fine.

Introducing Daisy

We are pleased to announce that we will be introducing our own school dog and will be joining The Dog Mentor Programme. The Dog Mentor programme has built upon the benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially.

Over the last nine years The Dog Mentor programme has been proven to have a positive impact on children in all areas including self-esteem, behaviour, peer relationships and better engagement skills. These improvements then result in improved academic achievement.

Mr Coucill will be bringing his dog Daisy into school from Thursday 21 September. We envisage that The Dog Mentor Programme will bring a positive influence into the school environment as a whole and look forward to the impact The Dog Mentor programme will have on our children. Full training will be given to both Daisy and our staff that will work with Daisy in order to ensure that the welfare of everyone involved is maintained as a top priority. Daisy will initially only be in school for one morning a week to continue with her training with key staff. Over time, she will be in school for longer periods and more days. Daisy will have her own schedule and planned activities with certain students/areas in school. It is not the case that she will be able to roam freely around school or that students will be able to see her on demand. This is part of the dog mentor programme and helps to ensure her work is targeted correctly and reduces stress and anxiety for her and all students.

Please feel free to visit The Dog Mentor's website and Facebook page for more details and to see some of the schools that have introduced their dogs into school:

www.thedogmentor.co.uk

www.facebook.com/thedogmentor

We will be sending an email to all parents with the above information as well as giving you the opportunity to state if you do not wish your child to have any contact with Daisy.



Gardening Equipment Needed

We are starting a gardening club for our students in Nurture. We are planning to grow fruit and vegetables together. If you have any unwanted/spare gardening equipment you don't need, we would really appreciate it. For example, spades, trowels, gardening gloves, compost...

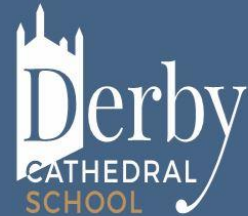
If you have any items that can be donated please bring them to main reception.



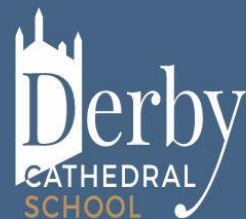
Open Evenings

We have two open evenings planned for this half term: year 6 and Sixth Form. The year 6 open evening is for any parents who are thinking of sending their child to DCS for year 7 in September 2024. Our Sixth Form open evening is designed for any year 11 students looking at their options for September 2024. If you have children in these year groups we would love to see you there!

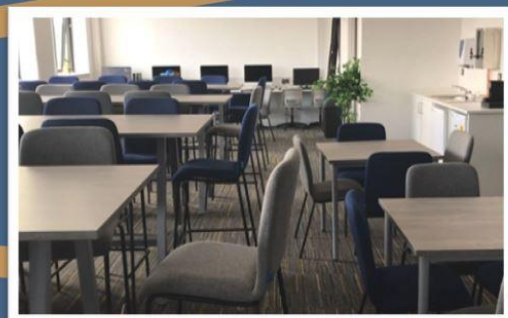
Please also pass on these details to anyone you know who may be interested.



Year 6 Open Evening Wed 4th October 5:30 – 7:30pm



Sixth Form Open Evening Thu 12th October 5:30 – 7:30pm



Wizard of Oz Auditions



We are starting to prepare for our FIRST WHOLE SCHOOL production which will be The Wizard of Oz!

Provisional performance dates will be 20th – 21st March 2024 and there is a lot to prepare!

Auditions will be held after school on Wednesday 20th September 3.10pm – 4.00pm and Wednesday 27th September 3.10pm – 4.00pm.

Form tutors will be advertising this to students during form time but please encourage your child to come and audition if they have an interest in acting, singing and/or dancing!

Home – School Communication

With the addition of our new Sixth Form opening this September, we are thrilled to have over 1100 students as part of the Derby Cathedral School community.

As we continue to grow, it is essential to maintain clear communication channels between parents and our dedicated staff.

It can get very busy at Reception and on the phone lines throughout the day so we appreciate your respect and understanding, and ask that unless you have an immediate safeguarding concern regarding a child, you e-mail us on info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk as a first point of call and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Most staff have full teaching timetables, and if they are not teaching, they are engaged in working directly with students or participating in important safeguarding meetings, which are critical to ensuring the well-being of all our students.

To facilitate efficient communication and maintain the high standards of education and safeguarding in school, we kindly request your cooperation in the following matters:

1. **Appointment Scheduling:** Please be aware that same day appointments with staff members are generally not available unless made in advance. This is to ensure that our teachers and support staff can effectively manage their timetables and continue to provide a high level of support to our students in school.
2. **Response Time:** When contacting school staff, we ask that you allow up to 48 hours for a response, except in cases of urgent safeguarding matters. Your patience in this is greatly appreciated, as it allows our staff to prioritize their responsibilities effectively.
3. **Contacting Teachers or Pastoral Year Leads / Heads of Year:** The best way to get in touch with a teacher or your child's Pastoral Year Lead or Head of Year is to send an e-mail to info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk and put in the subject of the e-mail "FAO (Name of person you want to speak with)". Our Reception team will ensure that your message is promptly forwarded to the correct person.

If you have any urgent concerns or safeguarding matters, please do not hesitate to contact us immediately and we will respond appropriately.

Thank you for your understanding and support and we look forward to a successful school year with your continued partnership.

Dates Ahead

Key Dates in the Autumn Term

w/c 18 September: Year 7 baseline assessments

19 September: Year 11 Information evening (times tbc – this will be emailed to all year 11 parents/carers)

3 October: Year 12 Senior Maths Challenge

4 October: Year 6 Open Evening

9 October: School photographs for all students

11 October: Year 12 Open Evening

Wc 23 October: Year 9 Holocaust survivor visit

24 October: Year 7 Meet The Tutor Evening

9 November: Year 11 Parents' Evening (early finish of 2.10pm for all students)

28 November: Year 12 Parents' Evening (early finish of 2.10pm for all students)

1 December: INSET day. School closed for all students

Term Dates

Friday 27 October: break up for Autumn half term

Monday 6 November: return to school

Friday 22 December: break up for Christmas holiday

Monday 8 January: return to school

Friday 16 February: break up for Spring half term

Monday 26 February: return to school

Thursday 28 March: Break up for Easter holiday

Monday 15 April: return to school

Friday 24 May: break up for Summer half term

Monday 3 June : return to school

Tuesday 23 July: break up for Summer holiday

INSET Days – school closed to all students

Friday 1st December

Monday 5th February

Friday 28th June

Term and key dates can also be found on our calendar and terms dates sections on the school website.