

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 12th May 2025



Our Bible verse of the half term is from the New Testament and was written by Paul, an early follower of Jesus. He wrote a letter to Christians in Galatia (in modern day Turkey) to encourage them and to remind them of some of the key important aspects of the Christian faith.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

Dear Parents/Carers,

These encouraging words, written by Paul to the early Christians in what is now modern-day Turkey, speak directly to our school community at this challenging yet rewarding time of year. Paul's message of perseverance and hope resonates particularly with our examination students, who are demonstrating remarkable tenacity as they navigate this crucial period.

I want to extend a heartfelt congratulations to our Year 11 students who have successfully completed their first full week of GCSE examinations. With three intense weeks still ahead, the quality they need most is precisely the tenacity that Paul speaks of in our verse. We have been truly impressed by their positive attitudes and focused approach so far. Similarly, our A Level students have begun their examinations with commendable determination. We keep both year groups in our thoughts and prayers during this significant time.

Our Sixth Form students deserve special recognition as they balance sitting exams while planning their future pathways—whether university, apprenticeships, or employment. As our first ever Sixth Form cohort, they have established a strong standard for younger students to follow. Their journey embodies the principle in Galatians: persisting through challenges now to "reap a harvest" of opportunity in the next chapter of their lives.

Preparing for future careers is a cornerstone of life at DCS. We are fortunate to have Mrs Bingham as our full-time Careers Lead, providing exceptional guidance across all year groups. She coordinates numerous opportunities for students to explore diverse career paths, participate in work placements, and receive support with applications. I would particularly encourage parents of Year 12 students to discuss potential university open days with their children. Some students may be eligible to use their bursary for travel assistance to attend these valuable events.

As we enter the final week before half term, please watch for an email containing important reminders about school uniform and equipment requirements. These standards will be a particular focus after the break, so preparing now is essential. All necessary information is available on our website, and we remain ready to provide support for any families who need it. Please just let us know if that is the case by either contacting your child's form tutor, Head of Year or emailing [info@](mailto:info@derby-cathedral-school.co.uk) Your partnership in ensuring your child arrives at school properly equipped is one of the most fundamental ways you can support their education, and we deeply appreciate your commitment to this.

The final half term is our longest stretch, making proper preparation all the more crucial. The learning that takes place during these weeks will benefit students immediately and lay important foundations for the next academic year.

I wish you all a happy and hopefully sunny, week ahead.

Mrs Brown

Green careers – Derbyshire Wildlife Trust trip



On Monday 12th May, some of our ecologically minded year 12s were invited out to a programme led by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, where they gained valuable insights on Green Careers - from project management and construction management to ecologist and park ranger roles. The students engaged in practical activities including a wellbeing workshop, management of invasive species, researching natural flood management, identifying pollinator species and more. We were blessed with amazing weather, and being outdoors in a sunny Allestree Park was the perfect backdrop to such an informative and insightful day.



May Class Reader – Mental Health Awareness



Happy Mental health Awareness Week/Month!

Mental Health Awareness Week happens every year, and it's the biggest opportunity for the whole of the UK to come together to focus on getting good mental health. The week aims to tackle stigma and help people understand and prioritise their and others' mental health.

Over May, pupils will be reading extracts from YA books that focus on mental health issues.

Year 7 - Lemonade Sky -> Bipolar Disorder

Year 8 - The Goldfish Boy -> Obsessive-compulsive disorder

Year 9 - Am I Normal Yer? -> Obsessive-compulsive disorder

Year 10 - A Tragic Kind of Wonderful -> Bipolar Disorder

We have several ways for students to access mental health support in school, and we would encourage anyone struggling with their mental health to talk to their Pastoral Year Lead or another trusted member of staff. We are here to help.

FAITH Award

Pupils are continuing to work toward their Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates. There are a number of pupils heading ever toward the golden 3000 classcharts point, but pupils have to use their evidence on Padlet to prove they are contributing to extra-curricular activities in school for Silver and to their local community for Gold.

This is an aspirational award but we know that many of our fantastic pupils are working hard every day and updating their padlets aiming for their Gold certificate.

Congratulations to Franklin Garrett who at the time of writing has the highest points total in the school with an amazing 2922 points!

Helpful tips as we dive into the exam season

The main live exam season has just begun and we want to remind parents that there is helpful information on our school website which may give you some ideas to support your children through.

Please remember that morning exams start at 9am. It is so important that your child arrives in plenty of time to organise themselves beforehand, having had a drink and breakfast.

Some of the A-Level exams are very long and could mean that our A Level students with afternoon exams may be slightly later home than usual. Their exam timetable will give you an idea of how long the exams on each day.

The afternoon exams start at 1pm so you will then be able to see if they have a late finish.

Rest assured that all staff here at school are doing all they can to prepare and support the students through this important time.



Word of the Week - Quell

Quell

Definition: To control or diffuse a potentially explosive situation

In Spanish: Calmar

Synonyms (words with a similar meaning): subdue, suppress, repress, quash

Antonyms (words with the opposite meaning): help, assist, aid, support

Sentences:

The police acted quickly to quell the protest.

She took deep breaths to quell her anxiety.

A kind word can often quell rising anger.

Leaders must quell rumours before they spread.

Craft Club – plant pots

This week students enjoyed decorating terracotta plant pots with a variety of individual designs. They used acrylic paints for coverage then added finer details with posca pens. Everyone took home a spider plant to complete their finished pots- we all agreed that the designs were beautiful and the students had done a lovely job.



Derby City Mission



Community Café and Community Shop (foodbank)

Please consider donating to Derby City Missions
Community Café and Community Shop.

We are grateful for all donations but please no
chilled or frozen goods.

Thank you for your support



Derby City Mission Charity Number 1140235 Previously 702027

01332 460346 - <https://www.derbycitymission.org.uk>



Derby Cathedral School are proud to be supporting Derby City Mission by collecting food donations for those in need in the local community.

We will be accepting donations at Main Reception every weekday from 8 am – 4 pm. Please hand all suitable donations to our Reception Team so they can be placed in the box for collection.

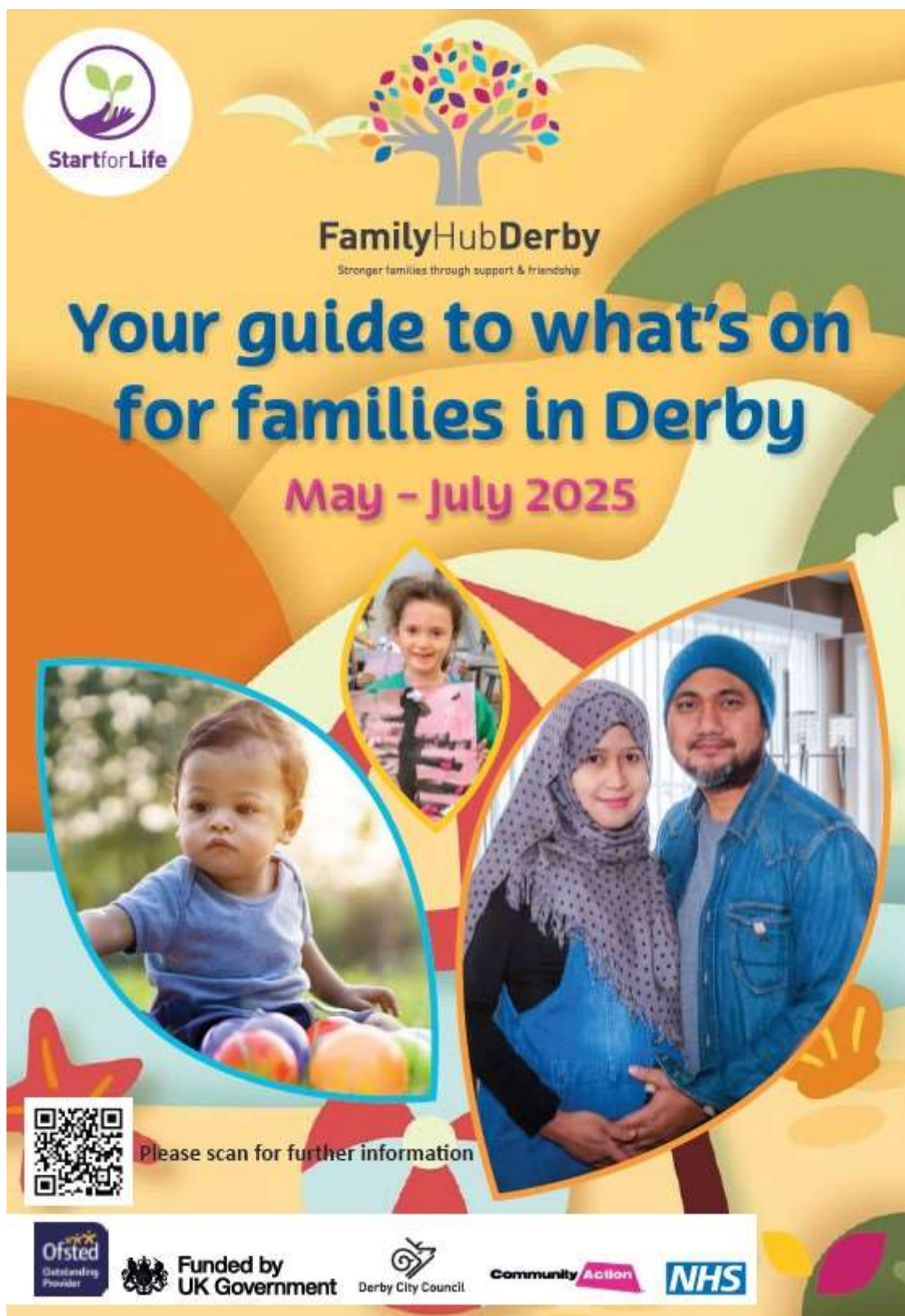
Thank you for your generosity 😊

Speeding – Please keep our children safe

We have received reports of vehicles speeding around or nearby the school site. Can we please remind parents, staff, sixth formers and anyone else who brings a car to school to drive carefully and be considerate of pedestrians. The beginning and end of the school day are especially busy times, and keeping children safe is our priority.

Family Hubs – what's on in May

Derby City Council's Family Hubs have lots going on in May, [follow this link](#) to discover what's going on in your area for your child's age group.



The poster features a vibrant, abstract background with large, overlapping shapes in shades of orange, yellow, and green. At the top left is the 'StartforLife' logo, which includes a stylized green plant growing from a purple hand. To its right is a colorful tree with a grey trunk and branches, and leaves in various colors. Below these is the 'FamilyHubDerby' logo, with the tagline 'Stronger families through support & friendship' underneath. The main title, 'Your guide to what's on for families in Derby', is written in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title, the dates 'May - July 2025' are displayed in pink. The central part of the poster contains three circular photographs: a young child sitting on the ground with colorful balls, a woman holding a pink folder, and a man and woman standing together, with the woman wearing a hijab. In the bottom left corner, there is a QR code and the text 'Please scan for further information'. The footer contains several logos: 'Ofsted Outstanding Provider', the Royal Coat of Arms, 'Funded by UK Government', 'Derby City Council', 'Community Action', and the 'NHS' logo.

StartforLife

FamilyHubDerby
Stronger families through support & friendship

**Your guide to what's on
for families in Derby**

May - July 2025

Please scan for further information

Ofsted
Outstanding Provider

**Funded by
UK Government**

Derby City Council

Community Action

NHS

Bridge The Gap - Drop-In Hub

Free walk-in support every Tuesday and Wednesday
9am - 11am



Lost Property

During last term we had an excessive amount of lost property handed in, which is subsequently put out on display three times per week in the school canteen and can be collected after school or before Period 1 on each occasion. To enable us to return lost property back to students, please ensure all items are labelled with student names.

Moving forwards, any lost property items that are put out for two consecutive weeks and not collected will either be disposed of or sent for recycling as we do not have the space to continuously store these items long term.

Medical Illness within School

As the spring and summer months approach, we see more students visiting us with hay fever symptoms. We cannot provide any medication in school unless prior arrangements have been made between parent/carer and the Medical Officer, Miss Smith. If you wish for your child to keep medication at school, please collect a medication consent form from reception and hand the medication in to Miss Smith in its original packaging. If your child suffers from hay fever, please ensure they take their medication before school in a morning where possible.

It is also essential that all student have a water bottle to ensure they stay hydrated during the school day. Students can purchase a reusable water bottle from the reward shop if they do not already have one.

Contact/Meeting Requests

Our phone lines are extremely busy for the majority of the school day. If you have a query for a member of teaching staff or Head of Year, the easiest and quickest way to obtain a response is to email info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk. Please include in your email who you wish to speak to/meet with, along with a brief message. Your email will then be forwarded on to the relevant member of staff who will aim to respond to your request within 48 hours.

Teaching staff, Head of Years and Pastoral Year Leads will not be available to meet with parents/carers at any time during the school day without a prior appointment being arranged. Any requests of this kind will be declined by the Reception Team.

If you have an urgent safeguarding issue to report, please contact our Safeguarding Team on safeguarding@derbycathedralschool.org.uk. If a child is at immediate risk of harm, please call reception and your concern will be raised with the safeguarding team.

Breakfast Club – FREE breakfast for all Students



Our Breakfast Club is open Monday to Friday from 8:20 – 8:35 am

During the above times, all students are entitled to have breakfast items totally free of charge from the Dining Hall. Items available are:

- Toast
- A variety of cereals (subject to availability)
- Porridge

To request Gluten free toast or to discuss any other special dietary requirements, students should liaise directly with the catering staff who will aim to source the necessary items however, advance notice should be given.

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO DRINKS OR OTHER FOOD ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DURING BREAKFAST CLUB

ParentPay Credit/Top ups

Thank you for your support with our parent pay system. The vast majority of families are ensuring there are sufficient funds on their child's accounts to purchase food in school. We are very grateful for this.

Unfortunately, there are an increasing number of requests from students to call home to have ParentPay accounts topped up so meals can be purchased. This is adding significant pressure to reception staff who have limited capacity to deal with the multiple requests.

We would ask that all families ensure students have sufficient funds on their ParentPay account to pay for these items. This will allow your child sufficient time to purchase food and consume it without having to queue at Student Services and wait for a phone call home beforehand; therefore reducing their break/lunch time considerably.

Please also note that students can purchase a 'main meal deal' at **lunch time only**, for the great price of £2.50, which is by far the best value for money on our menu. A meal deal includes a Hot or Cold Main Course, Dessert and Cuplet drink, whereas a sausage roll alone is currently £1.45.

For those who qualify for Free School Meals, the allowance does enable students to purchase items at break time if they wish, however this will leave them unable to take advantage of the meal deal option at lunch time. If you wish for your child to purchase additional snacks at break time, please add extra credit each day/week to their ParentPay account to cover the cost of these items. Alternatively, students are welcome to bring in snacks from home to consume at break time.

Full details of our Catering Menus and Price Lists can be found on the Derby Cathedral School Website or by scanning the QR code



Period Poverty – a message from Aldi



Breaking the cycle of Period Poverty

At Aldi, we believe that access to period products is a basic right, not a privilege. That's why from March 2025, we'll be providing free pads and tampons in our stores and office toilets. Customers and colleagues will be able to take what they need, when they need it—no questions asked.

Why Access to Period Products Matters

Period poverty is a reality for far too many. Research shows that 41% of Brits struggle to afford period products with 30% forced to choose between buying them or other essential items like food or clothing. Without access to these products, some rely on

substitutes like toilet paper, kitchen roll or old clothing, leaving them feeling embarrassed, stressed and excluded from everyday activities such as work, school and social events.

By taking this step, we hope to support those who menstruate while encouraging others to join the effort to end period poverty for good.

Community Pharmacy First Services



Providing NHS services

Most pharmacies can help you
with **seven common conditions**
without needing a GP appointment

- **Sinusitis**
(adults and children aged 12 years and over)
- **Sore throat**
(adults and children aged 5 years and over)
- **Earache**
(children and young adults aged 1 year to 17 years)
- **Infected insect bite**
(adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- **Impetigo**
(adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- **Shingles**
(adults aged 18 years and over)
- **Urinary tract infection**
(women, aged 16 to 64 years)



Ask your pharmacy for more
information about this
free* NHS service

**Visit your
Pharmacy First!**

*NHS prescription charge rules apply where a medicine is supplied



Dates Ahead

School Holidays 2024-25

26th May 2025 – 30th May 2025 – May Half Term (inc Bank Holiday)

24th July – Last day of term

INSET Days 2024-2025 – School closed to all students

Monday 30th June 2025

Parents Evenings / Opening Evenings 2024-25

Thursday 12th June 2025 – Y9 Parents Evening, 3 pm – 6 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm

Please Note:

For any students sitting exams on the above dates, they will be required to stay in school until the exam has ended.

****NEW**** - School Term Dates and INSET days 2025-26

Please click on the link below to view the Term Date calendar and INSET days for 2025-26:

[DCS Term Dates 2025-26 with INSET.pdf](#)

INSET Days 2025-26 – School closed to all students

Thursday 4 Sept 2025

Friday 5 Sept 2025

Friday 5 Dec 2025

Monday 2 Feb 2026

Friday 26 June 2026

Other Key Dates

- Thursday 26th June 2025 – Y11 Prom 2025
- Friday 27th June 2025 – Y13 Leavers Prom 2025

Term and key dates can also be found on our calendar on the school website:

<https://derbycathedralschool.org.uk/>