

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 14 November 2022



Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves. Phillipians 2:3

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

November is well underway and we certainly are having the rain to match the season! Despite this, we have still managed to carry on with many planned activities this week including the visit to the Cathedral with year 7 and most of our inter-house sports competitions this week.

We are really blessed to have a strong link with the Cathedral and are in the process of planning activities throughout the school year so that every student will be able to visit the Cathedral every year.

This week we have also been planning arrangements for the England world cup match on Monday 21 November. It is always a difficult decision to take time away from curriculum activities and we have to balance this with providing cultural activities for our students. We are also aware that hosting the event in Qatar has proved somewhat controversial. We have taken the decision to use this opportunity to highlight the human rights and equality issues this has raised and to discuss how this differs to the law in the UK.

All schools have to cover these issues in our curriculum and all students will discuss the British values of: The rule of law, tolerance and respect, democracy and individual liberty. We also teach students aspects of the Equalities Act and the impact of discrimination. As a school where we celebrate our rich diversity, we expect our students to be respectful of those with different views and beliefs. In particular, we work to build positive relations and remove discrimination against protected characteristics including: gender, sexuality, race and religious beliefs. We also hope that our students will enjoy the experience of watching a big national event together. We are also providing other activities for those who do not wish to watch it.

Please do read the articles below to see what else has been happening this week in school as well as the latest 'Meet the Team' section.

As stated in the key dates section. School will close at an earlier time of 2.10pm on 29 November due to Year 9 Parents' Evening.

I hope that you all have a great week.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Brown
Headteacher

Meet The Team!

Meet our Pupil Premium support team:

Photo (l-r) Mr Emberley, Mrs Boyle

Pupil premium is a government initiative that supports students who have been entitled to free school meals in the past 6 years. Schools are able to decide how to best support this group of students with the aim of improving their educational outcomes. One of our strategies is to provide additional support and mentoring.

Mrs Boyle is our teaching assistant who supports a group of students but is often there for anyone who needs her – she is a very popular lady! Mrs Boyle supports students in their lessons and runs mentoring sessions to help with personal organisation, increasing aspiration and helping with any issues that may be a barrier for students to learn in the best way possible. She is extremely creative and makes various websites and competitions so that students can access support at any time. You can see one of her amazing displays in the photo!

Mr Emberley (Assistant Headteacher) is responsible for overseeing Pupil Premium; this is an area that schools have to report on every year. He makes decisions about how we best support students and how effective this support is. He also looks at the wider support on offer such as ensuring trips and activities are more affordable and that our students are entering into the full life of the school e.g. attending extra-curricular activities.

If you think that your child is entitled to free school meals, please do contact the school office on info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk and we can help access this funding.



Christmas Card Competition

Our students have been demonstrating their creative talents this week. It is the deadline of the Diocese Christmas Card competition and we've had some great entries. A big thank you to Ms Gibson for organising it in school.

The competition has been set by the Diocese of Derby Board of Education and all Church of England schools can participate. The winning entry will be used for Derby DBE's official Christmas card for 2022 and sent out far and wide throughout the country!
The winning pupil will also receive a £10 book token.

Well done to all DCS participants and good luck!



Year 7 Cathedral Visit

On Wednesday all year 7 students had a very special visit to Derby Cathedral.

This impressive building is a great asset to the city and a fantastic link for us as a school. The newly appointed Canon: Carla Vicencio Prior led the special service that introduced the students to the Cathedral.

Our students were able to walk to and from the Cathedral, with some travelling a little earlier to help set up the Cathedral with their order of service sheets.

During the service they were taught a song and were well supported by the musical team from the Cathedral. Whatever, your beliefs, it is always a very moving experience to see and hear the fantastic choir perform in this beautiful building. We are delighted to have some of our students as part of the Cathedral choir and it is always a joy to watch and hear them perform.

Sadly, due to illness, they were not able to receive their copies of the New Testament from the 'Good News for All society (formerly The Gideon's Bible Society). However, this will be rearranged for another date so they won't miss out!

DCS and Derby Cathedral have a strong working relationship and we aim to ensure that every student has a planned visit to the Cathedral every year throughout their time with us. The Cathedral is a landmark building for the city and hosts many artistic and spiritual events that can be enjoyed by everyone. We hope that our students are really proud to be associated with the Cathedral and will feel part of this cultural experience over the years. We are really grateful to the Cathedral staff who are so passionate about including our students in so many of their activities.

We are in the process of planning Christmas and Easter services for our students so watch this space for more information!

Dates Ahead

World Cup Match

The England game will be shown in school on Monday 21 November – kick off is 1pm. Students who do not wish to see this have alternative activities planned.

Your Choice Workshop 23 November

Year 9 will experience a workshop focusing on making safe and appropriate choices for their lives. This is part of the personal development and safeguarding programme.

Year 9 Parents Evening 29 November

More details about booking appointments etc. will be sent to parents. School will have an earlier finish of 2.10pm

INSET day 2 December

School will be closed to all students

Christmas Concert 15 December

Save the date!