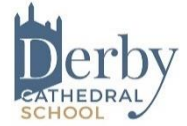


This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 16th December 2024



In 1 Peter 4:8-10 it says:

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

For us at DCS, this is a reminder to show love, hospitality and kindness by using our talents and gifts to help others.

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we draw to the close of this autumn term, I am moved to reflect on the powerful message from 1 Peter 4:8-10 as shown above. These words have truly come to life throughout our school this term. I have witnessed countless examples of our students embodying these principles – from our Sixth Form students undertaking their activities as part of the Endeavour programme, to the tremendous effort all tutor groups have put into organising the Christmas reverse advent calendar and the staff donating to the ‘Christmas dinner in a box’ appeal.

I want to express my gratitude to all our students for their hard work this half term. Our FAITH values have shone brightly in so many ways: from the aspiration shown by our year 11 and 13 students in their PPEs to the outstanding fellowship and tenacity displayed in our recent Christmas concert. Your commitment to living these values makes DCS a truly special place.

To our Year 11 and Year 13 students, I know that the upcoming spring term holds particular significance. With approximately 15 weeks remaining before your examinations, these next few months will be crucial. While the holiday break is certainly a time for rest and rejuvenation, I encourage you to use some of this time to thoughtfully plan your revision strategy. Remember, effective preparation is about balance – ensuring you have both productive study periods and essential downtime.

As we approach the Christmas break, we can reflect upon the Bible message from Peter about using our gifts to serve others. This has been evident in many aspects of school life, from the classroom to our extra-curricular programme and social action projects.

On behalf of all staff at DCS, I wish you and your families a peaceful and joyous Christmas, and a Happy New Year. May this holiday season bring you time for fun, relaxation, and precious moments with family and friends. We look forward to seeing our students again on Monday 6th January 2025!

If you wish to visit the Cathedral over the Christmas period, please see details of all services on their website: <https://derbycathedral.org/events/special-services/cathedral-carol-services/>

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Brown

Tree Planting

We received 420 saplings from The Woodland Trust (another 420 arriving in March) to plant with. They are a variety of hedgerow species which have been selected those that produce flowers and berries to make them wildlife friendly.

All year 7 planted many of the trees in their Geography lessons this week as well as considering why trees are important (both for the environment and for well being) and students have also come up with ideas to improve the school site for nature, which will feed into the education nature park work that we're doing. We successfully bid for a £2000 top up grant last month which will be used to enhance the plans for our biodiversity on school grounds.

Year 13 planted in one of their morning tutor time as did year 11. There are plans for a plaque so it is a legacy project for them. Other year groups will be continuing the activity in March and we will be able to apply for further trees next year.

A huge thank you to the site team as their support has been invaluable. Similarly to Mrs Woodward and the geography team who have provided the inspiration and time for this project.



Christmas Fun

We've really enjoyed the end of term activities which celebrate Christmas in a variety of ways.

Our Christmas dinner was fantastic and as ever, the sprouts were a love or hate situation! A big thank you to our catering team who did a fabulous job with such a hectic service. They were ably supported by a number of teaching staff who volunteered to help out.



We were so grateful and impressed by Denis and Adam who dressed up on Christmas jumper day and brought in sweets for the staff. It was such a lovely example of our FAITH values in action and it was really appreciated by all recipients!

Our Cathedral service was a lovely occasion that enabled years 8, 10 and 13 to have some time to reflect on the message of Christmas that brings good news to all. Many students gave readings and musical performances that were incredibly beautiful and helped give time to pause and think.

We're also grateful to all Heads of Year and Pastoral Year Leads for the end of term achievement assemblies where they recognised the many positives that we see on a daily basis. The students also had a lot of fun and were brilliant supporters of each other – what great fellowship!

Staff Changes

We have a number of staff changes that have happened recently or are planned for after Christmas.

Mr Olatunbosun is standing in for Mr King and Ms Barron is covering for Miss Woodward after they both recover from planned surgery. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Mrs Motokawa has joined us to teach Business and Spanish.

Mrs Young (DT) and Mr Bailey (PE) are sadly leaving us at Christmas to move to other roles. We are really grateful for their support and care during their time with us at DCS and we wish them all the best in their new jobs. Mr Round will be joining the DT dept and Mr Robinson is joining PE to cover both of those posts.

Mrs Wood is also moving from her Head of Year role to take on responsibility for Chemistry within the science department. We would like to thank her for all of her work and support with her year group over the past few years. Mr Ali (currently in safeguarding) will be working with Miss Gordon as an additional Pastoral Year Lead for Year 9 for the remainder of the year. We will be recruiting a longer term Head of Year for this year group who is likely to start in September.

We have two new receptionists starting in January: Ms Simms and Mrs Simons. Mrs Yousaf who is currently in reception, will be moving to work in safeguarding along with Mrs Harmsworth. Joining them will be a new Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Mr Barton. This is part of our work to increase the safeguarding and welfare support for our students.

We warmly welcome all new staff to the DCS family.

End of Term Break Up – Friday 20th December 2024

A reminder that school will close to all students at 12:10 pm on Friday 20th December 2024 for the Christmas Break. Term starts again on Monday 6th January 2025.



WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Student Recognition Award

We are extremely proud to announce that one of our students has achieved an accredited Arts Award through his work at Derby City Virtual School extra-curricular creative activities.

He has demonstrated amazing hard work and dedication to his project and was one of the first VS students to achieve multiple Arts Awards this year!

Congratulations to Dominic on your 'Discover' Award for hard work on the OneDay film, and 'Explore' Award for your work at the Puppet Making Club.



What is Arts Award?

Support young people to grow their creativity and gain 21st century skills

Arts Award takes children and young people on a creative journey, exploring the arts world, discovering their potential as artists, developing leadership skills - and gaining a recognised qualification along the way. Open to anyone aged 25 or under, this unique set of arts qualifications builds skills essential for success in the 21st century: Creativity and communication, along with problem-solving, reflective-thinking and confidence.

Young people can achieve Arts Award in any art form, from music to mime, poetry to pottery, dance to drumming. Through the five levels - [Discover](#), [Explore](#), [Bronze](#), [Silver](#) and [Gold](#) - young people:

Click the link below to find out more about Arts Award;

<https://www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=1346>

Bridge the Gap



Radiant Minds - for girls aged 12-15

Building strength, self-love, and resilience

1 hr	£7.50	Saint Mary's Gate
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Link to book:

https://www.jwbridgethegap.com/booking-calendar/radiant-minds-for-girls-aged-12-15?referral=service_details_widget&utm_campaign=633bd141-1b50-487b-b958-66c0e1b44f3f&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=b21d2a86-4eb0-4bee-9f9e-c9974077b960&timezone=Europe%2FLondon

www.jwbridgethegap.com

Family Fun Day



WINTER



FAMILY FUN DAY

JOIN OUR FREE EVENT FOR LGBT+ FAMILIES OF ANY SHAPE AND SIZE. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME - BRING YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY!



2.30-5.30PM ON SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER
2.30-5.30PM ON SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER
AT 25 CURZON STREET, DERBY, DE1 1LH

YOU CAN DROP IN FOR A BIT, STAY THE ENTIRE SESSION OR JOIN BOTH DAYS IF YOU WISH!

TO BOOK ON, EMAIL FAMILIES WORKER SONIA AT SONIA@DERBYSHIRELGBT.ORG.UK



HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT:



a hot meal
(vegan and gluten free options)



craft activities
and facepaint

games and
puzzles



Derbyshire LGBT+

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans*

01332 207 704

INFO@DERBYSHIRELGBT.ORG.UK

DERBYSHIRELGBT.ORG.UK

[@DERBYSHIRELGBT](https://www.instagram.com/DERBYSHIRELGBT)

grounding
activities



storytime
and films

E-scooters

Did you know?

- ▶ It is illegal to use an e-scooter in public areas.
- ▶ An e-scooter can only legally be used on private land with the owner's permission.
- ▶ Parents may also be liable for prosecution as well.

As of Friday 1 November, officers who engage anyone using an e-scooter in a public place will seize the e-scooter, before sending it to be disposed after 14 days.

Previously, those caught offending were warned for a first offence of riding an e-scooter on a public road, pavement or cycle path. Going forwards there is no longer any requirement in Derbyshire to warn the rider.



Fusion Scape - Free Community Events



DERBY U13 CHRISTMAS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

FREE LUNCH
PRIZES TO BE WON

29th December, 2024
11:30am-3:30pm

DERBY RACECOURSE
St Mark's Road
Derby
DE21 6AL

More Info:
+447423796177
admin@fusionscape.org
www.fusionscape.org



YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHRISTMAS TRIVIA NIGHT

12-16YRS

FUN - GAMES - MUSIC - FREE FOOD

23rd DEC
4:30pm-7:30pm

Indian Community Centre
Rawdon Street, Derby
DE23 6QR

+447423796177
admin@fusionscape.org
www.fusionscape.org



Reach Community Grocers



REACH COMMUNITY GROCERS

• **NEWLY OPENED!** •
OPEN 10:00AM - 4:00PM MONDAY - FRIDAY

You are invited to visit our newly opened community grocers.

Reach Community Grocers,
Riverside Court, Derby,
DE24 8HY

www.reachcommunitygrocers.org
hello@reachcommunitygrocers.org
01332 332044 (option 4)



REACH COMMUNITY GROCERS

Are you struggling with the cost of living crisis and finding it difficult to put food on your table? If so, the community grocers is for you.

You can become a member for £5 per year. This will allow you to make up to three visits per week. For a contribution of only £6 each time, you can choose a range of good wholesome food valued up to £25.

Our friendly volunteers will be here to help you with your shop and any further information.



Reach Community Grocers,
Riverside Court,
Derby,
DE24 8HY.

Bring this flyer along for an extra free shelf item when you join as a member.

© 2024 Reach Trust (formerly East Midlands Christian Fellowship)
Registered Charity No. 1000594

Reach Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 367867.
The Reach Centre, Riverside Court Pride Park | Derby | DE24 8HY

National Saturday Club

The graphic features the National Saturday Club logo in the top left, 'Society & Change' in the top right, and the main headline 'I'M GOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE' in large, bold, black letters. Below this is a red banner that says 'IT STARTS ON SATURDAY'. The central image shows three young people (two girls and one boy) looking at a laptop screen. At the bottom left, there is a red box with the text 'Free local Saturday Clubs for 13-16 year olds', a QR code, and the text 'Find your Club @natsatclub saturday-club.co.uk'. At the bottom right, it says 'funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND'. A navigation bar at the very bottom shows '1 / 1' and search icons.

The National Saturday Club is an established UK-wide network, that gives 13—16-year-olds of all abilities the unique opportunity to study subjects they love for FREE, on a Saturday at their local university, college or cultural institution. The Club provides a welcoming space for young people to build their skills, develop their confidence, and discover pathways to further study and future creative careers.

For more information, please click on the link below:

<https://schoolsportal.derby.gov.uk/schools-circular/otherarticles/national-saturday-club/>

Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Scheme

Places are still available for FREE holiday clubs during the winter holidays. Visit www.derby.gov.uk/derbyHAF for more information. If you have not got your Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) code to book your place, speak to school reception. Codes can only be issued by school during term time. If you do not have a code, you will not be able to book a place.

Medical Illness within School

During the winter months, we see an increased number of students presenting at Medical with coughs/colds and stomach bugs; however, please be aware that we are unable to treat minor illnesses such as nausea, stomach cramps and headaches, usually related to winter viruses. Students are encouraged to be resilient and self-manage where appropriate. We encourage students to stay hydrated and eat a warm meal at break or lunch.

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.

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



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.

Year 12 – Outreach and Wider Engagement Opportunities

This is a really important time for Year 12 with lots of applications still open for outreach and wider engagement opportunities. It is fantastic to see so many Year 12 students engaging with these so far and getting their applications in. These opportunities really do have **the power to change your future!**

For the most up to date list of opportunities, please [click here](#) or scan the QR code below.

These are all opportunities that you must apply for in Year 12 - most of the deadlines are before Christmas. In Year 13, you will not be able to apply, so you must be proactive!

If you need any support or have any questions, please speak to Mrs Bingham.

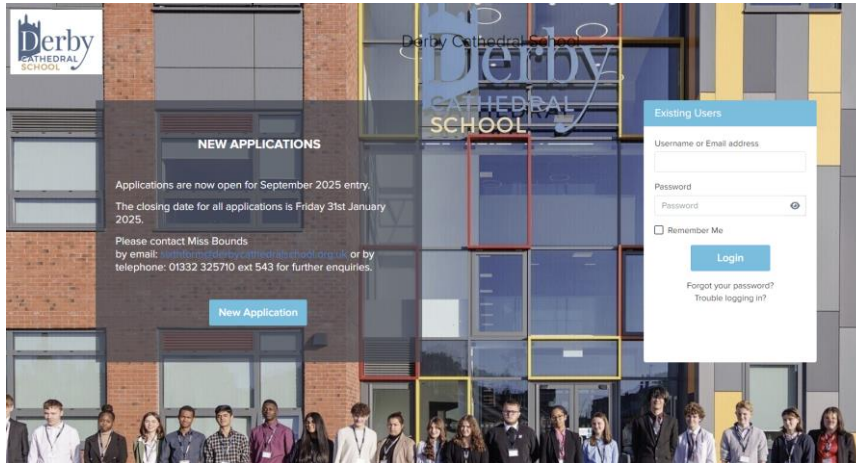


Sixth Form Applications

Applications can be made directly on our website: <https://derbycathedralschool.org.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-admissions>

If you click the 'Application' link it takes you to the page below.

Our current students are already in the system and just need to enter their school email and password in the 'Existing Users' box to start their application.



If you weren't able to make it, or you want to investigate a few more courses, don't forget to look at our prospectus and subject videos on our website. They can all be found on the Sixth Form Admissions page (see link above).

The deadline for applications is **Friday 31st January**.

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

23rd December 2024 – 3rd January 2025 – Christmas Break
17th February 2025 – 21st February 2025 – February Half Term
7th April 2025 – 21st April 2025 – Easter Break (inc Good Friday and Spring Bank Holiday)
5th May 2025 – Bank Holiday
26th May 2025 – 30th May 2025 – May Half Term (inc Bank Holiday)
24th July – Last day of term

INSET Days – School closed to all students

Friday 31st January 2025
Monday 30th June 2025

Parents Evenings / Opening Evenings

22nd January 2025 – Y9 Options Evening
28th January 2025 – Y11 Parents Evening 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15pm
13th February 2025 – Y10 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm
27th February 2025 – Y8 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm
18th March 2025 – Y7 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm
12th June 2025 – Y9 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm

Other Key Dates

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