

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 16th October 2023



In Matthew 5:9, Jesus tells us:

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

For us at DCS this shows the importance of supporting those who are working hard to bring peace at this very difficult time.

Dear Parents/Carers,

After a very wet Friday, we're pleased that the weather didn't stop all of the activities last week. This week's newsletter highlights work in Geography and Careers. The Geography department have been very busy leading two trips for our year 11 and 12 students. Previously we showcased the fieldwork in years 7 – 9 and this week our year 11 students spent a day in the beautiful countryside. Not only is this trip essential for their GCSE studies but it is well known that spending time outdoors enjoying nature is incredibly supportive for people's mental health and wellbeing. The staff spotted some lovely aspects of nature and have included some photos of this as well as of our students. Our year 12 students combined some Geography and Careers work with a trip to Nottingham University for a lecture experience. Not everyone realised that Geography focuses on human geography as well as the natural environment and this lecture featured elements of the human side of the world around us. Again, really important aspects of being a citizen in a changing and developing society. Please do take a read of their experiences.

We had a further university experience for year 11 with a visit from Oxford University. It's great to see so many of our students thinking more about their next steps and future education/career pathways. It's not always easy to think about what you want to do, and so having all of these opportunities gives them some helpful ideas for the future.

This next week is the last one of this half term. This is our longest half term of the year and I hope that our students enjoy this final week and have a good rest over the half term break. Just as a reminder, we finish at the normal time of 3.10pm on Friday 27 October and will return to school on Monday 6 November.

I wish you all a great week

Yours faithfully

Mrs Brown

A busy week for Careers!

It's been a busy week for Careers this week, with visitors from two Universities and a Further Education College in school.

On Monday, Mrs Spencer's Year 12 Computer Science group were visited by Professor Chris Greenhalgh from the University of Nottingham. Chris gave the students an interesting talk about Computer Science as a career and as a research area, and then the students had the opportunity to contribute towards a research project on building a mental health app for young people. The students had some great questions for Chris, including asking about software development jobs and about quantum computing!



Then, on Wednesday, we were visited by Rebecca Smithson from St Edmund Hall, our linked Oxford University college. Rebecca first saw a group of Year 11 students and explored their aspirations for the future (which ranged from pop star to vet!), then went on to discuss university. During the session, the students learnt lots about university and Rebecca helped to dispel some of the myths and misconceptions they had around student finance and studying at Oxford or Cambridge. They also did an activity on A-Level choices, which will come in useful for those hoping to apply to Sixth Form.

Year 12 then joined for Seventh Session. Rebecca was able to teach the students lots of useful information about higher education, including the application process for Oxford. They were asking lots of insightful questions! We're hoping that this will be the start of a long and successful relationship with Oxford for our highest achieving students.

Finally, on Friday, the whole of Year 11 had their Collective Worship assembly delivered by a representative from Nottingham College. They talked through their Post-16 provision, including the range of A-Levels, T-Levels, vocational courses and apprenticeships they offer there.

We hope these activities were inspiring and allowed students to start thinking about their next steps!

Year 11 Geography Field trip

On Monday, Y11 Geography students visited Cotton Dell Nature Reserve to carry out their physical geography fieldwork. They measured the width and depth of the river at various locations, as well as the speed of flow and the size and shape of the rocks, to see how well the river followed geographical theory. Human and physical geography fieldwork form a compulsory part of the course, with 20% of the final GCSE paper based on fieldwork questions.



Year 12 Geography University Lecture

On Wednesday evening a group of Y12 geography, history and politics students attended the Geographical Association lecture on Race and the League of Nations (a pre-cursor to the UN). The lecture was aligned with the Geography A Level curriculum topic of global systems and global governance, and also gave students the opportunity to experience a university style lecture.



Lost Property

We have a significant amount of lost property that has collected up in school since the start of September. We sort through all lost property carefully and any items with a name on them are always returned to students. Everything else is put out onto the canteen tables at the end of the day on a Thursday for students to have a look through Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

Any items not collected by Friday 27th October will be donated to a charity shop over half term, and items with school logos on them such as blazers and PE tops will be added into the school's donated uniform stock available to be loaned to students in need.

Parents are welcome to come in to school on Thursday 26th October between 3:15 – 4:00pm if they wish to try to locate their child's lost item in the lost property.



Morley's Uniform Shop

Just a reminder that Morley's uniform shop has moved to its winter opening hours (see below).

You can still buy uniform online via this link which is also available on our website page:

<https://www.schoolwearsolutions.com/>

You can see full uniform guidance on our website: <https://derbycathedralschool.org.uk/information/uniform-equipment>

Winter Opening Hours 1st October 17th

June

Mon to Wed – Fri – Sat 9:00am – 5.00pm

Thu & Sun Closed

Equipment Reminder

Just a reminder that the following items are essential to have every day in school. Please let us know if you need support with any of these.

- School bag
- Pencil case
 - Black pens
 - Purple pen
 - Pencils
 - Rubber
 - Ruler
 - Pencil sharpener
 - Whiteboard pen
- Reading book (this can be borrowed from the library)
- Calculator

Dates Ahead

Key Dates in the Autumn Term

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)

29 November: Year 7 – 11 Flu Immunisations

1 December: INSET day. School closed for all students

20 December: Christmas Dinner day!

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 (12pm early finish for all students)

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 (early finish for all students, exact time tbc)

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.