

17 – 21 April

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

I hope that you all had a good Easter break. It has been lovely to see our students looking refreshed and ready for the final term of the year.

We were delighted to have such positive feedback from so many of our year 10 students from their work experience placements just prior to Easter. Some of them have been offered further work and return visits as the employer was so impressed. We're really proud of their conduct and how they show their FAITH values to others.

We have noticed that our year 11 students have really stepped up their focus already this half term. Our GCSE drama students started their first lesson back with their performance exam and there are now GCSE exams every week leading up to the written exams starting on Monday 15 May. Please see the article below which gives more details about their exam dates.

We are also currently planning some great activities for the end of the school year. Our new year 7 students will be joining us for their transition days on 4 – 6 July and we are discussing an official opening/blessing celebration for the school on 3 July in conjunction with the Cathedral. The final few days of the school year will be slightly different for all of our students as per the previous years. We are currently looking at a range of curriculum enrichment opportunities. We will provide more information about each of these over the coming months.

Finally we'd like to wish all of our Muslim families a Happy Eid which took place at the end of the week. We hope that you had a lovely time celebrating with your family and friends.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Brown
Headteacher

Book Award Trip – Derby University

This week, Mrs Pritchard and Miss Maddocks took a group of students to the annual book awards. A big thank you to them and well done to our students for their dedication to reading and their brilliant conduct throughout the whole time. Here's a short report from Mrs Pritchard on their experience:

I am delighted to report that a number of our students attended the Derbyshire School Book Award event at Derby University on 19th April. Prior to the event, the students read up to six newly-published novels and met in school to share their enjoyment of the stories and characters within them. On 19th April, the students met with many other young people from across the county to celebrate the novels and their enjoyment of reading for pleasure. At the event, the students met a professional children's author and engaged with some imaginative activities inspired by the books. The students were excellent ambassadors of Derby Cathedral School and asked some excellent questions about how to be a professional writer. It was a joy to celebrate reading with them!

Year 10 Football Final

Huge congratulations to our year 10 boys football team who won the city final 4-1 against Da Vinci. More than just the great score, they also showed tremendous character, fellowship and tenacity by fighting really hard for each other as a team for the full game. Every single one of them played their hearts out with an incredible amount of effort and fantastic football skills. They also conducted themselves really well with integrity in a manner that represented the school and themselves in a really positive light in what was a highly competitive match.

A huge well done to:

Daniel Bradshaw
Josue Castillo Corena
Jahvar Hutchinson-Young
Arinze Nnadiwuagha Onuoha
James Nellist
Davids Karpovs
Jack Laz
Riq Campbell
Francis Atiase
Sanad Al Bawi
Ted Enabulele
Andrew Bockarie
Lewis Comfort
Hugo Dalziel
Dylan Hartley



Year 10 Work Experience Week

Just before the Easter holidays, we saw the success of our second ever Year 10 Work Experience Week. The week aims to give students a first-hand encounter of the world of work, allowing them to demonstrate and develop their skills and learn more about the opportunities available to them in the future.

129 students went out on placements. For those of you who like a statistic - that's an impressive **75%** of the year group! We were supported by **98** wonderful employers and organisations, from primary schools to a dog rescue centre to a crematorium. We would like to extend our thanks to all involved, and also congratulate our students for representing Derby Cathedral School so well. We've had lots of great feedback from employers, students and parents alike.

The remaining **44** students stayed in school and completed a mixture of in-school work experience - such as helping the Site Staff, creating classroom display boards and helping in lessons - as well as careers-related tasks on Unifrog, such as CV writing. At the end of the week, students created a presentation all about 'Me in the Future', and delivered this to the rest of the group.

Overall, we are very impressed with the Aspiration and Tenacity our Year 10s demonstrated during Work Experience Week. We have no doubt that this experience has proved valuable and will prepare them for taking their next steps after year 11.

Well done!

The grid below shows the many different businesses which had students on work experience!



Here's what the students had to say....

"Work Experience helped me develop my communication skills with new people"

"I loved the Work Experience Journal to record what I had done and enjoyed every day, and filling in my self reflection at the end. I found it really helpful and reassuring to have comments from my supervisor too"

"I enjoyed the chance it gave us to be independent"

Here's what the employers had to say...

"The students from Cathedral were an absolute credit to you. They were all so professional throughout their placement, worked excellently with the children and took the lead when reading 1:1 with them. All of my staff commented on how impressive they were; you could barely tell them apart from some of our Derby Uni students!"
– **Becket Primary School**

"The students have shown great respect, demonstrated an incredibly mature attitude and been a pleasure to work with. They have fully immersed themselves in life at Alvaston Infant & Nursery School" – **Alvaston Infant & Nursery School**

"I can honestly say that it has been an absolute pleasure having the student with us this week. He has been punctual, polite, hardworking, willing and he has listened well to everything we have told him" – **Engineering Consultancy Services Ltd**

"The student was professional, always happy to help, would listen, take on board lots of information and worked well under her own initiative when asked to work on set tasks. A good, clear and polite communicator" – **10 Four Media**

Year 11 Exams – Good Luck All!

The whole school community would like to wish all of our year 11 students a huge amount of good luck with their exams.

This week on Monday, the GCSE drama group completed their performance exam in front of the examiner.

The following exams are taking place over the next few weeks:

24 – 28 April: Spanish speaking exams (these are planned for every day and students have their own individual time slot)

3 & 4 May: Art exam for two days

5 May: GCSE PE moderation (practical exam)

The first written exam starts on **Monday 15 May**. The final exam is on 21 June.

Dates Ahead

For all key dates please see the calendar on the school website under the information tab:

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

Holiday & term dates

Thursday 27 April & Tuesday 2 May: Planned strike action days (NEU) – see separate email for details

Tuesday 2 May: Year 11 wellbeing marketplace activity in school

Monday 15 May: Year 11 written exams start

School closes for half term: Friday 26 May

School opens for summer half term 2: Monday 5 June

Year 11 Prom: 28 June

School closes for summer holiday: Friday 21 July (early lunchtime finish)

Parents' Evenings and INSET days:

Tuesday 27 June: Year 8 Parents' Evening – early finish for all students at 2.15pm

Friday 30 June: INSET day – school closed for all students

Year 11 exams start on 15 May (the art exam is earlier than this) and continue into the end of June. 28 June is the 'contingency day' which may be used if exams have to be postponed for extreme reasons such as the Covid pandemic. Individual timetables will be provided to students soon.

The term dates for next academic year are now available on the school website on the 'Term Dates' page.