

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 18th November 2024



3 John 2 says:

“Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.”

For us at DCS this shows that having good health is an important part of ensuring our lives ‘go well’, so we need to do all we can to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we move through this term, I find myself reflecting on the profound wisdom found in the Bible verse of the week (see above) These words resonate deeply with our vision and values here at DCS, where we understand that nurturing our students' wellbeing goes hand in hand with their academic success.

Good health—physical, mental, and emotional—forms the foundation upon which our young people can build their dreams and aspirations. This holistic approach to education is manifested in the comprehensive support network we have established at DCS. Our dedicated pastoral team provide a huge amount of support. Many of our students also benefit from the school nurse service, our in-house counsellor, and various mentoring schemes, including our valued KICK mentor who provides spiritual guidance. All are available to support your children's wellbeing. The Love4Life programme continues to make a positive impact, while spaces such as our Learning Hub, Strive area, and sensory room provide safe havens where students can find calm and support during challenging moments.

We understand that sometimes support may be needed beyond our school gates, which is why we maintain strong connections with numerous organisations across Derby that specialise in supporting young people and families. Each week, throughout this newsletter, you'll find information about various support initiatives and services available both within school and across our local community – I encourage you to take time to read through these valuable resources.

Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your understanding regarding Tuesday's school closure due to the snow. These decisions are never taken lightly, and while we always strive to communicate updates as swiftly as possible, the rapidly changing weather conditions in the early hours of the morning can make this challenging. Our primary concern will always be the safety of our students and staff, and we appreciate your support in this matter.

A final reminder that on Tuesday, 3 December, we will be hosting an evening session for all parents and carers of Year 10 students. This essential meeting will provide valuable insights into the Key Stage 4 curriculum and what you and your children can expect over the next two years. This is an excellent opportunity to understand the journey ahead and how best to support your child through their GCSE studies.

As we continue through the academic year, we remain committed to supporting our students in developing healthy habits and lifestyle choices that will serve them well beyond their time at DCS. In this newsletter, you'll find further updates on our various initiatives and celebrations of our students' achievements, all underpinned by our commitment to nurturing healthy, happy, confident and successful young people.

I wish you all a good week.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs Brown

Year 9 Knife Crime Workshop



On Friday 22nd November year 9 took part in a knife crime workshop with virtual decisions. This involved using the virtual headsets to follow a story involving a teenage altercation that involves knives. The pupils were asked to make decisions during the story and the story changed depending on the pupils' responses. The facilitators Charley and Ray then asked questions about the story and gave facts about the law and the issues with carrying knives. Year 9 were a credit to DCS and both facilitators were really impressed with everyone who took part.



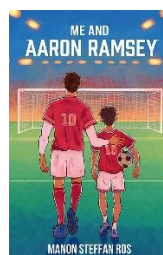
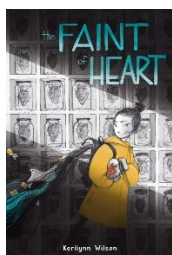
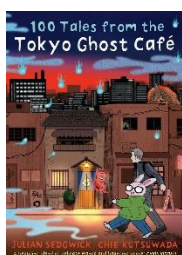
Derbyshire Schools Book Awards Ceremony

Derbyshire Schools Book Awards (DSBA) 2025 Launch Ceremony



On 7th November this group of smiling students and supporting staff were at Derby University for the launch of the Derbyshire Schools Book Awards 2025, an activity chosen to promote reading for pleasure and being part of a community of readers.

2025 will be the 10th anniversary of this local book award which is voted on by the students in participating schools across Derbyshire; the launch ceremony announced the shortlist of six titles addressing diverse topics such as war, relationships and emotions and includes two graphic novels:



Part of the day's activities included a tour of the university's library and sports facilities and a talk by author J.P. Rose, who has written over 14 adult crime novels and two books for children, *The Haunting of Tyrese Walker* and her latest, *Birdie*, set in post-war Yorkshire where people of colour faced daily discrimination and harassment.

Ms Rose was very supportive of one of our students who queued patiently to show her the illustrations for the book she is herself writing. J.P. gave her some tips on the craft and happily signed H's sketchbook. H seems to have come away from this brimming with enthusiasm and fresh determination to begin work!

Voting on the six nominated titles will take place next February, with the final in March. Our students will take part in an after-school reading group, undertaking activities about the books and choosing their favourite to present on at the ceremony – in front of 250 students and staff from schools across Derbyshire. It will be good for them to see both the start and the end of the proceedings and enjoy time focusing on reading.

Well done to all involved – I'll see you in the Library!

Ms Christie, LRC Manager/Librarian

A busy week for team Geography (although David Attenborough has stayed in school - we weren't sure he'd cope with the cold...)



On Wednesday a group of A Level geographers visited Nottingham University to listen to a lecture on the impacts of climate change from Professor Simon Gosling. This was aimed at covering key parts of the A Level Geography curriculum and was a fantastic opportunity for our students to hear from a globally significant academic who influences international climate change policy.

On Thursday Y12 geographers braved sub-zero conditions at Rosliston Forestry Centre to complete a day of

water and carbon fieldwork.

After a morning collecting data in the field, they completed their analysis of the samples in the relative warmth of the classroom, and will evaluate their results back at school.



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.



Parent Wellbeing Session - From £2.50



All I want for Christmas is...

An evening for parents to talk about their wellbeing.



Come and join us for a relaxing and creative session to help you think about what YOU need as we approach Christmas.

- Take part in a creative activity to support your wellbeing
- Enjoy a hot drink and mince pie
- Take home a self-care pack from us
- Chat to the Bridge the Gap team



From £2.50

THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER
6PM - 8PM

Derby Cares Café,
Bridge the Gap
10/11 St Mary's Gate
Derby, DE1 3JR

Book a space at jwbridgethegap.com.



Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Scheme

Did you know that if your child receives benefits related free school meals, they are entitled to a FREE place at a holiday club over the winter holidays? Clubs are available across Derby where your child can make new friends and take part in a wide range of activities including sport, dance, drama, arts and crafts as well as enjoying a meal each day. To book a place you will need your unique Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) code – check with school reception to get your code. Bookings for winter clubs will open on 15 November. Details can be found at www.derby.gov.uk/derbyHAF.

Family Travel Survey

Sustrans is working in partnership with Derby City Council to support pupils and their families in travelling actively to school. This survey will be used to identify future opportunities for projects to enable active travel at Derby schools. Sustrans aim to make it easier for everyone to walk, cycle and wheel for local journeys. The survey collects information about the travel choices and barriers to active travel. Please take a few moments to respond to the survey. We are offering a free Micro Scooter to one response which will be drawn at random.

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/sustrans/parent-travel-survey-derby-city-schools-2024-v5-duplicate>

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.

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 below



Year 11 – Post 16 Options

It is an important time for Year 11 for post 16 applications, with most sixth forms and colleges open for applications. Some apprenticeships are also open for applications. Deadlines are just around the corner so it is important that students get their applications submitted as soon as possible!

For an overview of their post 16 options, including sixth form, college and apprenticeship options, Year 11 should review the post 16 options PowerPoint [here](#). This includes open evening/open event dates and application deadline dates.

Year 11 should submit all applications as soon as possible, but the most urgent application deadlines are below. Please review the PowerPoint for further deadlines. Our Derby Cathedral School Sixth Form deadline is Friday 31st January.

Friesland Sixth Form - Friday 22nd November

Littleover Community School Sixth form - Friday 6th December

Toyota apprenticeships - Tuesday 10th December

Post 16 Options Evening

Good news! On Tuesday 3rd December starting at 5.30pm we are hosting a Post 16 Options Evening here at school! We would love for **all** Year 11 students to attend this. **We are lucky to have secured some fantastic speakers including:**

Rolls Royce

UTC

Toyota

Severn Trent

Derby College

Derby County in the Community - Sports Education pathways

Lees Brook Academy

RAF

Army

Nottingham College

Burton and South Derbyshire College

University of Derby

Please add the date to your diary! More information to come soon. If you have any questions or need support, please speak to Mrs Bingham.

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

3rd December – Y10 Information / Parent Evening – 3:30 – 6:30 pm
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

Wednesday 18th December 2024 – School Christmas Dinner

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