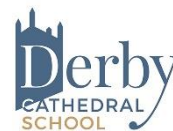


This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 19 June 2023



Psalm 139: 7-10 says:

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence (God)? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; ... if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me."

For us at DCS this means that wherever we choose to travel in the future - across the world or even into space – God has promised to be there to guide us.

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

Our Bible verse of the week is extremely appropriate this week as we said a final goodbye to our year 11 students. It was a very emotional and momentous day as we remembered and celebrated their five years at DCS. Whilst many of them will be returning back to our new Sixth Form in September, this time is still a huge turning point in their lives. The verse reminds us that no matter where we are or what we are doing, God is there to guide us through. Please do take more time to read all about their leavers' day in the article below.

The end of term is rapidly approaching and we are having a focus in the last few weeks on making sure all students are reminded of our basic expectations. These will include uniform, mobile phones and looking after our building. All students will have a collective worship delivered to them so that they all receive the same reminders. Just as a reminder for parents, mobile phones (also smart watches and earpods) are not allowed in school. We know that some parents wish their child to have a phone on the journey to and from school. In order to help with this, our mobile phone rule is that if a phone is seen, heard or used in school, then it will be confiscated. This will be returned to students at the end of the day. However, if students refuse to comply or repeatedly have their phone confiscated, then we will ask parents to collect it from school. Any devices must be kept switched off and in bags and not in blazers or trouser/skirt pockets.

In the next few weeks ahead, we are really looking forward to our year 12 induction day on Monday 26 June and then our official blessing ceremony on 3 July. For the latter, a small group of students from each tutor group will be part of a service at DCS whilst all other students will be completing an activity that helps them reflect on life at DCS and their hopes and dreams for our school community. We are delighted that Bishop Libby and Bishop Malcolm are both able to be part of this service as well as many staff from Derby Cathedral, the Diocesan Board of Education and the Trust.

In this next week ahead, we also have the year 8 parents evening which means an early finish of 2.10pm for all students on Tuesday 27 June. School is also closed for all students on Friday 30 June due to our final INSET day of the year. These dates are all in the key dates section at the end of this newsletter.

I hope you enjoy the last week in June!

Mrs Brown

Year 11 Leavers Day and Cathedral Service

The year 11 leavers day was a really lovely time of reflections and celebration. Students arrived to be greeted by their tutors who spent the day with them. Mr Capon started proceedings with a special collective worship in the main hall. His presentation was filled with memories of their first year, all of the changes they have experienced and lots of lovely messages from staff. We all enjoyed seeing their pictures and video clips from their year 7 days and the cliché 'look how much they've grown' sprang to mind! Mrs Brown also spoke about lighthouses. That might seem very strange, but year 11 adopted the song 'My Lighthouse' by Rend Collective as a bit of an anthem as they used to hear this a great deal in collective worship during the time at Midland House. One example of a link made between lighthouses and year 11 was that lighthouses shine a light into the darkness ahead just as they are taking their skills and character to look out- and shine ahead into an unknown future. They also reflected on some key verses in the song including

*I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea*

After the collective worship, they all headed to the field for a picnic, shirt signing and time to chat to each other and staff. Helped by a lovely sunny spell, the atmosphere was really relaxed and fun. They were also very grateful for the cookies and brownies that Miss Rowley made for them. A few spots of rain didn't put us off from then walking to the Cathedral for a final blessing service. The service was full of emotion as they listened to some bible readings read by pairs of staff and students and some beautiful music from Hannah Fox in year 10 and David Adefuye in year 11. Mr Emberley and The Dean of Derby Cathedral both gave short addresses that reflected on the unique time year 11 have experienced over the past 5 years and how special they are as a year group to be the very first students at DCS.

After the final prayers, the students listened to their favourite song (My Lighthouse again!) and many sang along. They headed out into the sunshine after collecting a gift bag as a treat from DCS to have something to remember us by.

As so many of us said, we are incredibly proud of year 11 and how much they have grown and developed, showing FAITH values in so much of what they do.

We're really looking forward to their prom on 28 June and wish them all the very best for their futures.

The following Bible verse was read during the service and aptly summarises how we feel about their next step in life:

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. "' — Jeremiah 29:11.

Vaping Awareness Week

As has already been communicated to all parents/carers, this week has been an awareness week for all secondary schools in Derby about the very hot topic of vaping. It has been in the media over recent months as nationally, there is a real concern about the number of young people starting to vape.

In Derby, all headteachers felt it was really important to work together on this issue. As such, all secondary schools in Derby have delivered a set of materials to our students that raise the awareness of the risks and realities of vaping.

As parents/carers, you will have all received a letter and a leaflet that gives you some key information too. Please do take the time to read this through and discuss with your child.

It is clear that bright colours and design of disposable vapes are very appealing to young people. However, vaping was only designed to be a support for smokers to quit smoking cigarettes and not for non-smokers to start vaping. The long-term effects of vaping are still unknown but we are aware that they contain nicotine which is highly addictive. Many of them also contain high amounts of metals that are damaging to health.

We all want to make sure that we are doing all we can and protecting our young people.

The following website contains more information and young people in Derby can use Chathealth to discuss any health worries with a medical professional.

<https://ash.org.uk/>

<https://chathealth.nhs.uk/>

VAPING AND E-CIGARETTES
THE FACTS

MOST CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T VAPE OR SMOKE.
Vapes containing nicotine are age-restricted products: it is illegal to sell them to under 18s and for adults to buy them on their behalf.

VAPES ARE NOT HARMLESS. Short-term effects can include coughing, headaches, dizziness, and sore throats. Long-term effects are as yet unknown.

HARMFUL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.
Disposable vapes and the batteries inside them are bad for the environment, with many ending up in landfills.

Those who knowingly sell to under 18s are driven by profit and don't care who they sell to. **DON'T BE DUPED!**

DON'T SMOKE? DON'T START TO VAPE.

Attendance

Last week we shared that we had been awarded an attendance certificate for being in the top 25% of similar schools across the country. Whilst we are delighted with this, improving our attendance is always going to be a high priority for us. It is known, and quite obvious, that students with lower attendance do not achieve the grades they should as they miss too much learning to achieve well.

Our attendance team do regularly communicate with families where attendance is becoming a concern. This communication starts when attendance drops below 95%. The team will always provide help and support to try and improve your child's attendance. You may receive letters, phone calls or a home visit. Home visits are used if we are worried about your child's absence or if they are absent and we haven't received a reason. Home visits are in place as a support and to check that your child is ok. This is a standard part of our process and is the same in all schools.

The team also send out congratulations postcards to those students with excellent attendance and any students who have improved their attendance over a period of time.

The following percentage attendance figures show how much school is missed.

90% is the equivalent of missing half a day every week. This is classed as **persistent absence**

80% is the equivalent of missing a day every week.

Also note that 80% attendance over 5 years = 1 whole year of education lost

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

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

Other Key Dates

Year 12 Induction day: 26 June

Year 11 Prom: 28 June

School Blessing ceremony: 3 July

Year 6 transition days: 4 – 6 July

Enrichment days: 19 – 21 July (different timetable for students)

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

Food Banks and 0-16yr old Clothes Banks

0-16 Clothes Bank – TOGS – Tel Anthea on 07989 117929.

TOGS is situated at 11-12 Friargate (opposite the Smith Partnership Offices) DE1 1BU.

Food Banks – Derby City Mission, 10 Normanton Road, Derby DE1 2GW.

Community Shop (no money needed) and Café on - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am to midday.

Food Bank and Debt advice (no appointment needed):

Tuesday 10 to midday	St Peters Church, DE1 1NN
Wednesday 10am – midday	St. Augustine's Church, Normanton, DE23 8BP
Wednesday 10am – midday	West End Community Centre, Mackworth Road (next to Britannia Mill). DE22 3BL
Thursday 11am - 1pm	St Phillips Church, Taddington Road, Chaddesden, DE21 4JU
Thursday 11:30am – 1:30pm (2 nd and 4 th Thursday of the month only)	Osmaston/ Allenton Children's Centre, 60 Cockayne St N, Allenton, DE24 8XB
Thursday 10am – midday	Bramblebrook Community Centre, Stockbrook St, Derby, DE22 3WH

Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance – Tel 01332 346266 – Emergency Food Assistance

Derby City Life Links - Tel 0800 0322202

Springwater Charity Chellaston – Tel 07832 653255 / 07311 465841