

20 – 24 March

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Philippians 4:8

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

It was very nice to get back to a week without any significant weather events this week and to feel like spring is on its way!

Our Muslim students and staff started fasting this week for Ramadan; this is a holy month for Muslims where they fast from sunrise to sunset every day. This year it is likely to finish on Friday 21 April. It is also a time where Muslims will help people in need and donate more than usual. We wish all of you Ramadan Mubarak!

At DCS this week, we have enjoyed some sporting success and enjoyed some more creative opportunities thanks to the English department. As part of our continuing work on careers, year 10 experienced a visit from an author: Martin Griffin. He not only introduced them to a possible career in writing but also provided some inspiration and support to develop our students’ own creative writing skills.

We’re also delighted to see such a large proportion of year 10 students with a work experience placement next week. We wish them all the best and know that they will do themselves and the school proud.

Year 11 now only have 4 school weeks until their exams start. These are critical weeks for them as they really focus on their revision timetables. The normal amount of revision at this stage is 2 hours per night during the week and extra time at the weekend. We are really grateful to the staff who are delivering intervention support sessions in the Easter holiday – parents and students will be receiving the details of these targeted sessions next week.

Finally, a reminder that we break for Easter on Friday 31 March and school will finish at 2.05pm on this day.

I hope that you all have a great week.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Brown
Headteacher

Sporting Success

Our lovely year 8 girls played in the city netball tournament on Tuesday 21st March and played really well.

On Tuesday 21st March the year 8 girls netball team competed in the Derby City netball tournament at Woodlands School. Ten schools competed in the tournament altogether.

The girls played 6 games and won 4, finishing above Chellaston, Landau, Murray Park and Leesbrook to take gold place and finish winners in the plate. They were also acknowledged for being lovely, well-behaved students and had many compliments from the staff from other schools.



Well done girls we are super proud of your achievements

- Casey Hancock
- Zuzanna Maj
- Lucy Rowcroft
- Helen Hasan
- Emilia fox
- Paige cook
- Sienna Hague
- Layla Mason
- Hajrah Siddiqi



Year 10 Football Team

The students listed represented the Year 10 football team this week in a semi-final away to The City of Derby Academy (CoDA). Not only did they completely out-play their opponents and earn a place in the final via a 4-0 victory but they showed a fantastic team attitude throughout and conducted themselves with integrity, representing themselves and the school exactly as we would expect them to.

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

Big Walk and Wheel

All students have been taking part in a national initiative to get active on their journeys to and from school. The Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.

All participating schools are entered into daily prize draws for rewards if over 15% of the school walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle on each day of the challenge. We have been entered into the prize draw every day, with an average of 50.2% of students being active each day on their way to school!

Each day for two weeks, students log how they travel to school and we get a point for everyone who walks, wheels or scoots to school for all or part of their journey.

On Friday, at the half way point of the challenge, DCS were 9th in the UK out of all of the participating secondary schools and 4th in the Midlands Region! This is fantastic and shows that a large proportion of our students are getting important exercise and fresh air as well as supporting to keep the air clean in Derby. This is more of a challenge for a school like ours where students have to travel from all parts of the city.

Please continue to encourage your children to travel actively to school, the challenge continues on throughout this week, so we will have more chances of winning prizes for the school and for individual students! You can read more about this challenge at <https://bigwalkandwheel.org.uk/>



Overall Positions for Secondary schools

Position	School	Location	Daily Average Score
1	Kempston Academy	Kempston, Bedford Map	83.91%
2	Marriotts School	Stevenage Map	68.72%
3	Priory Community School	Queensway, Weston-super-mare Map	66.64%
4	Madani Boys School	Leicester Map	64.70%
5	Ysgol Tir Morfa2	Rhyl Map	59.30%
6	Ysgol Pendalar	Gwynedd, Gogledd Cymru Map	58.45%
7	The Boulevard Academy	Hull Map	54.04%
8	Killicomaine Junior High School	Portadown Map	52.63%
9	Derby Cathedral School	Great Northern Road, Derby Map	50.20%
10	Samuel Ryder Academy	Drakes Drive, St Albans Map	49.78%

Regional Positions for Secondary schools in England Midlands

In the event of a tie, the schools at the top of the leaderboard will be declared joint winners.

England Midlands ▾

Small Primary schools

Large Primary schools

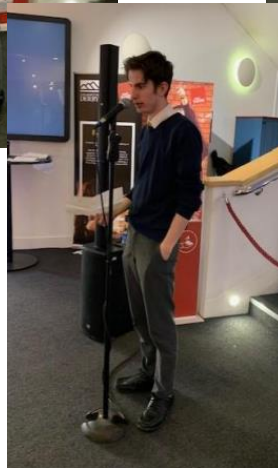
Secondary schools

Regional Position	School	Location	Daily Score	National Position
1	Kempston Academy	Kempston, Bedford Map	83.91%	1
2	Marriotts School	Stevenage Map	68.72%	2
3	Madani Boys School	Leicester Map	64.70%	4
4	Derby Cathedral School Home	Great Northern Road, Derby Map	50.20%	9
5	Samuel Ryder Academy	Drakes Drive, St Albans Map	49.78%	10
6	St Edmunds Catholic Academy	Compton, Wolverhampton Map	42.81%	13

Poetry Live

On Tuesday 14th March, Miss Youens and Mr Saunders took a small group of students to Derby Theatre for a poetry experience. DCS was the only school represented and six students participated. Each stood up in front of the microphone and read out a poem they'd written, talking through what inspired them to write it. Some of them enjoyed it so much they got up to do it again - some sharing poems they'd written previously that were very personal to them, with some just freestyling in the moment! It was quite an empowering and emotional experience for them that they will always remember.

All the other participants and staff involved there were keen to meet the students and praise them. They really did make us proud and showcased how awesome they are.



Meet the Author

On Tuesday 21st March the English department was lucky enough to have author Martin Griffin visit the school and spend time with some of our year 10 students. Martin led some workshops early in the day, focusing on skills our pupils could use to improve their own creative writing. All involved worked very hard and Martin was very impressed with the quality of work and commitment shown.

Later in the day, Martin led an assembly with an emphasis on careers in the creative industry, and how to become a writer (hopefully inspiring some of our pupils in terms of possible careers open to them).

Martin finished the day by conducting one more workshop based on what he viewed as the essential skills for not only getting great exam marks, but for finding inspiration around us when creating our own stories.

We look forward to seeing Martin again. Maybe those who are feeling particularly enthused might want to check out Martin's new book 'The Second Stanger' out soon!



Fish Heroes

We were delighted to be one of the 250 schools in the UK that received Alaska pink salmon, courtesy of the Food Teachers' Centre and Alaska Seafood UK – 10,000 salmon fillets were sent to schools! Our school was one of the lucky schools!

This is part of the Fish Heroes project, which encourages young people to learn about, cook and taste fish. Pupils also learned about the health benefits of fish in the diet (did you know that we are all recommended to eat 2 portions per week?), as well as aspects of sustainability. Children in the UK eat just 84g on fish/fish products a week, of which only 21g is oily fish – way below recommendations.

Pupils cooked marinated salmon, flatbreads and tomato salad, learning new food skills which they will be able to use in the future.

It has been an amazing experience – from the delivery, cooking and tasting of Alaska pink salmon. Pupils have really enjoyed their time and have learned many important life skills.

If you want to find out more, go to:

<https://foodteacherscentre.co.uk/fish-heroes/>

<https://www.alaskaseafood.org>



Dates Ahead

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

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

Year 10 work experience week: 27 – 31 March

Holiday & term dates

School closes for Easter: Friday 31 March: **Please note the earlier finish of 2.05pm**

School opens for summer term: Monday 17 April

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

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.