

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 20 May 2024



In Matthew Chapter 7, Jesus said this to his followers:

Do not judge, or you too will be judged... Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticise their faults – unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of coming back on you... So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.

For us at DCS this is a reminder to not judge, criticise or pick on others, but to treat people the way we would like to be treated.

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been another busy week in our final week of this half term. Our year 11 students have now reached the halfway point in their exams. We're so proud of how they have conducted themselves so far during the exam period. In total we have administered 44 exams and have another 44 to go! This halfway point is a good opportunity to take time to refresh and recharge for the final set of exams. We have revision session in school on Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 June which focus on the exams that occur as soon as we are back after half term. A separate email with details about these has been sent to all parents/carers of year 11 students.

Our year 10 students have also started their year 10 mocks this week. It's great to see how they are also revising and preparing for their exams. These will set them up for their final year of their GCSEs too. Our year 7s also sat their English assessment too. Again, they conducted themselves really well in their exam conditions which is great practice for the years ahead. Please do also read an article which showcases some great work in English from some of our year 7 students. I'm sure you'll agree that they have done a great job at interpreting some difficult text.

Whilst this time of year has a heavy focus on exams and assessments, we still ensure that our students have many other enrichment opportunities. Please do read the articles below which show some of the wider creative activities that have been happening this week.

We also have a short article from one of our year 11 students. Alfie is doing a sky dive in aid of Age UK. As part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award, Alfie volunteered for this charity and has been inspired to take a bigger step (a dive!) in order to support them even more. We're so proud of his dedication and demonstration of FAITH in action! His actions also link well to the Bible verse of the week as he has shown how he wishes to treat a section of the community who can often be forgotten about. If you are able to sponsor him, please see the article for the link to his fundraising page online.

Finally, we wish all of our students and families a relaxing half term break. Let's hope for some sunny days!

Yours faithfully

Mrs Brown

Theatre Visit – 2:22 A Ghost Story

On 9th May GCSE drama students watched the play *2:22 A Ghost Story* at Nottingham Theatre Royal. The students were intrigued by the set straight away, as the digital clock you could clearly see was quickly going through its 24 hour cycle repeatedly. They worked out that the time 2:22am would be important to the plot – and as these numbers were racing around, one student even managed to get a photo of it on 2.22 (it took more than one attempt due to how fast the numbers scrolled!)

When the play did start, it didn't take long for some screams to erupt from the audience, as the clever use of lighting and sound built tension quickly. The play has just 4 actors, and their performances kept the students raptured with the plot, as did the clever use of staging.

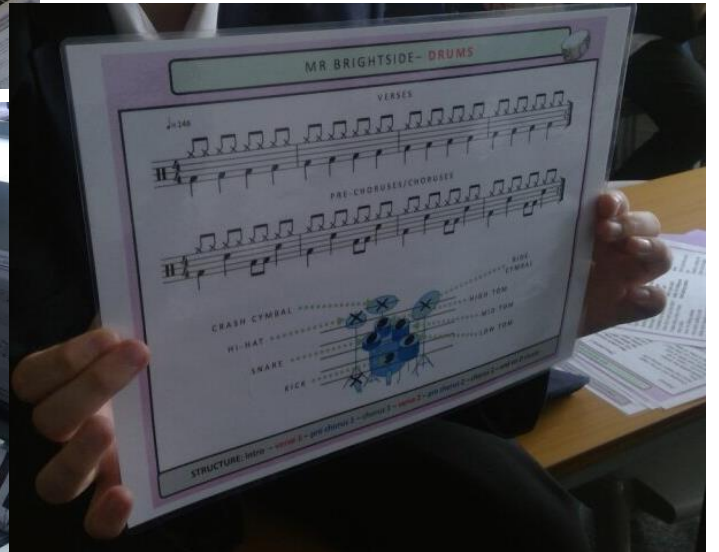
At the interval the students were all buzzing, and all making predictions on how it would end... none of the guesses were successful. And it's fair to say all our jaws were to the floor with what happened (I won't give any plot spoilers!)

I'm so glad that this West End smash hit has gone on UK tour, and we were able to take our students to see a production of it – with most of them saying it is the best thing they have ever seen.



Music Lessons at DCS

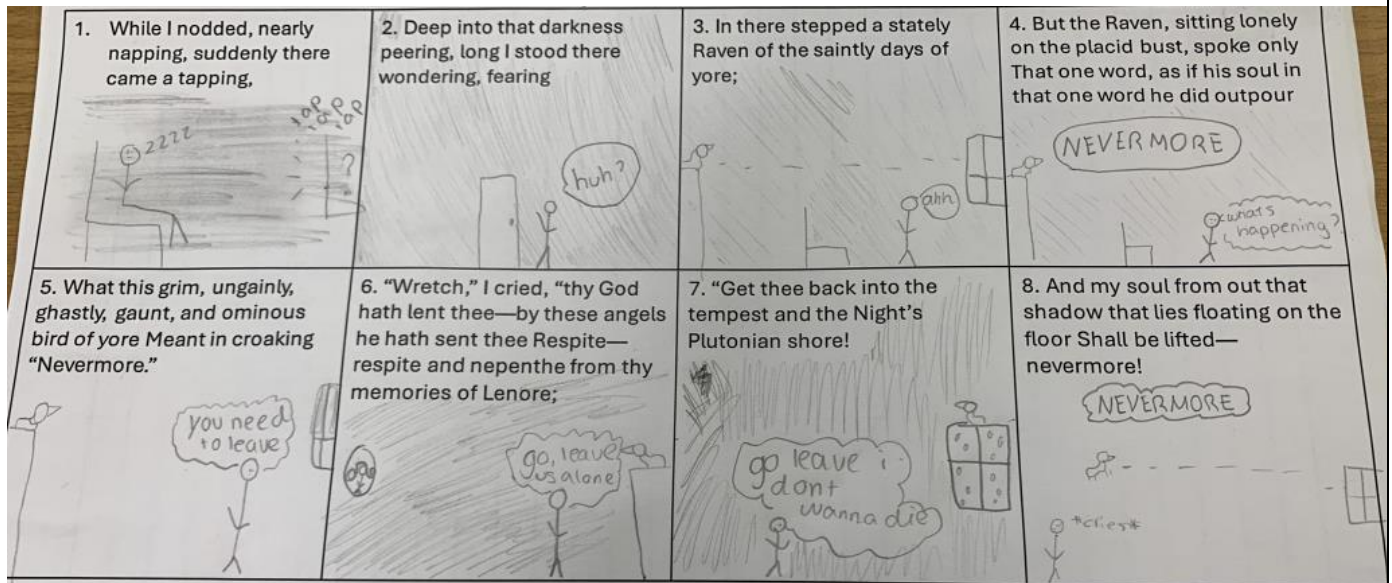
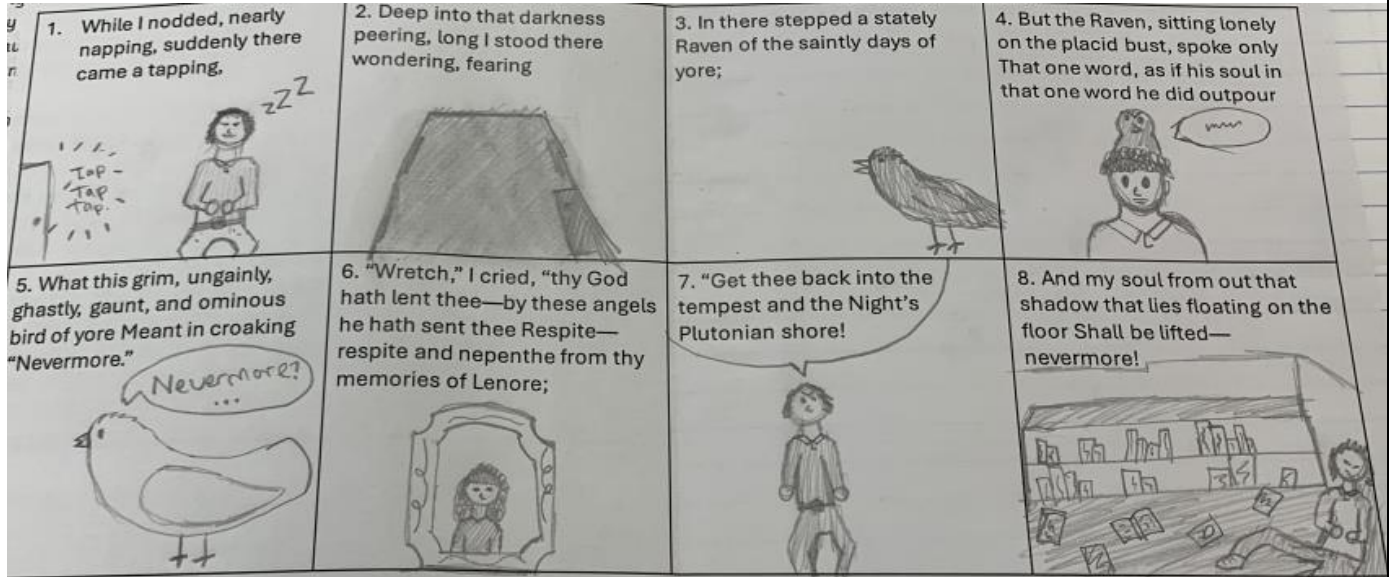
In music lessons, our Year 9 students are learning how to play in a group (ensemble) in a band skills project, performing Mr Brightside by The Killers. They have been learning how to read bass and guitar tab, as well as learning how to play bass, electric guitar and drums. Here are some photos of 9P working on this project:

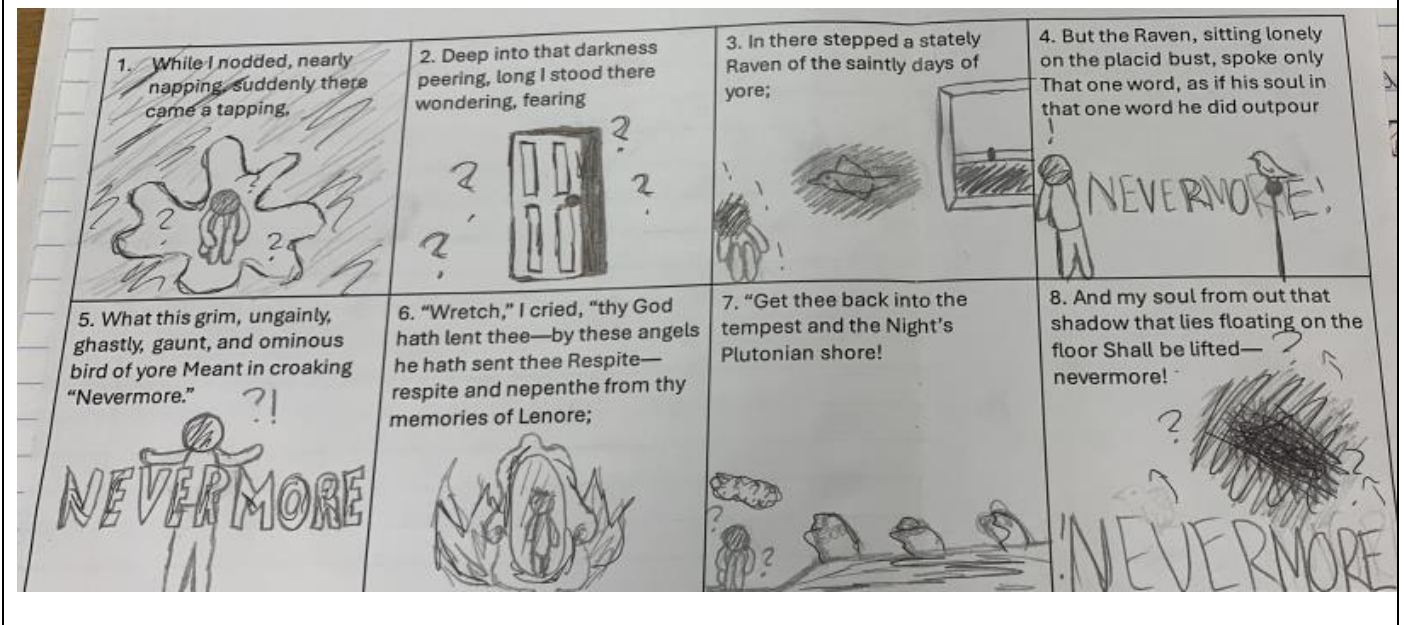
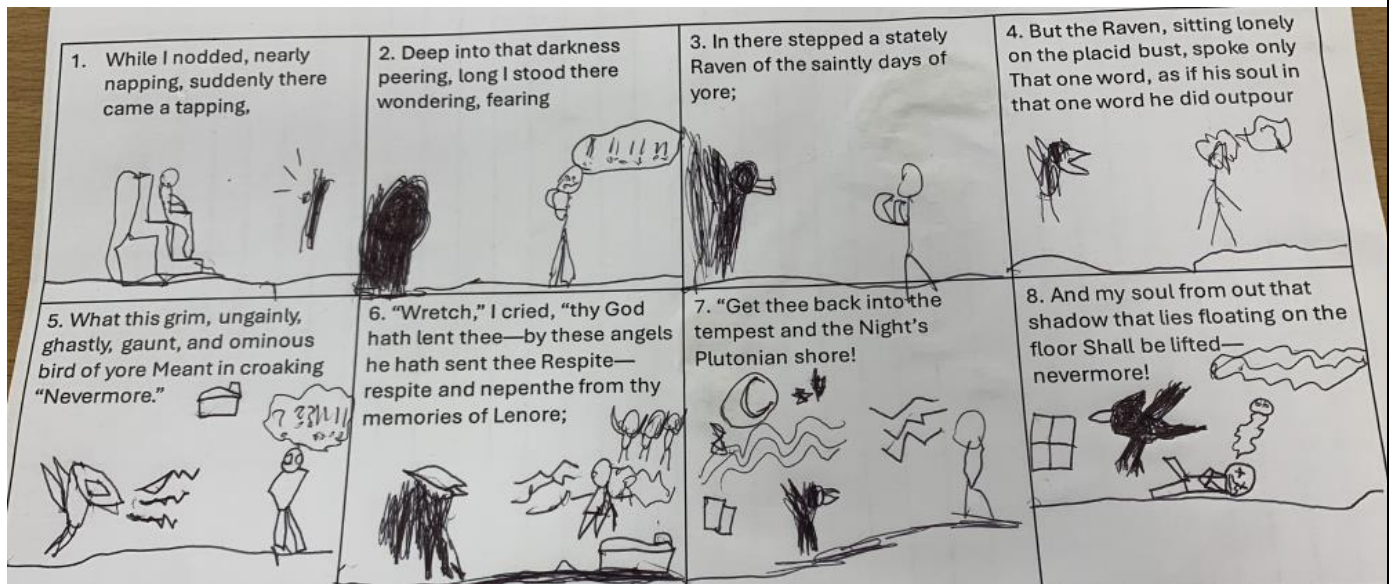
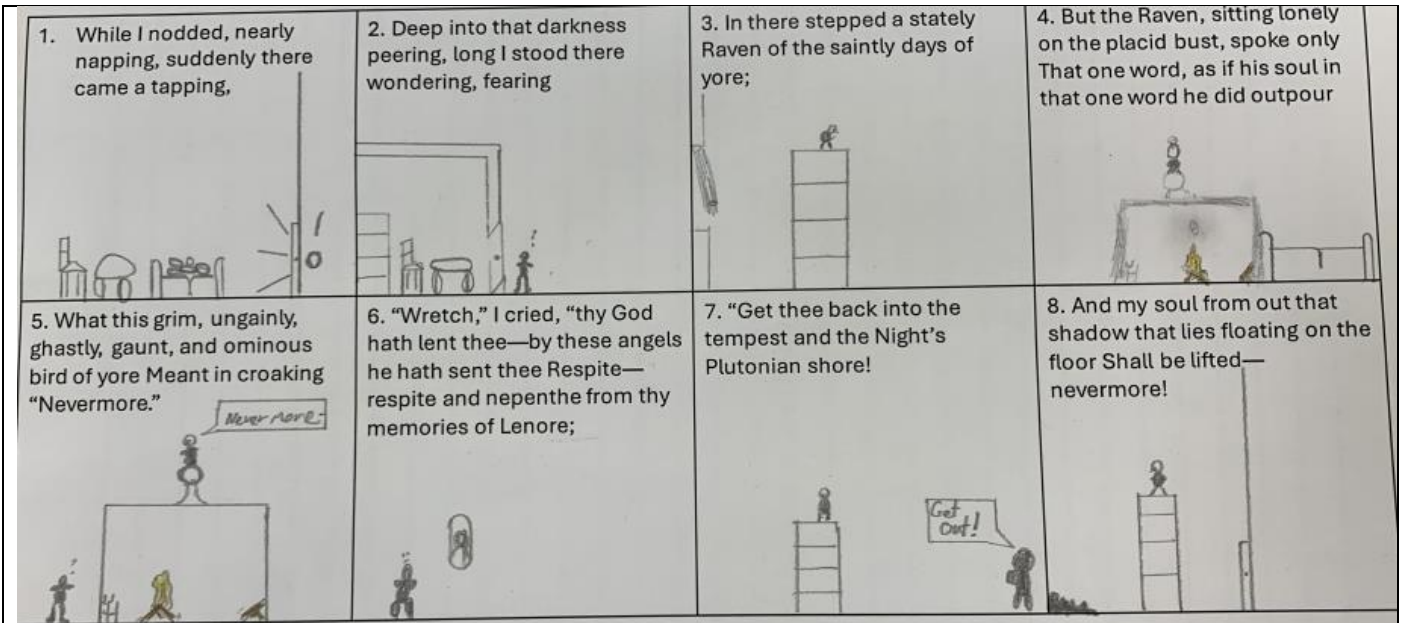


Superb English Work

We have had some excellent English work from students in 7Me.

The students were tasked with creating a story board to demonstrate their understanding of the plot of Edgar Allen Poe's 'The Raven.' As part of this, they considered place and how the setting of the room symbolises the speaker's mental decline in the poem. Some of the images capturing these meanings are superb!





Student Fundraising

One of our Year 11 students Alfie Sarson has been volunteering with Age UK for around 3 years, initially for Duke of Edinburgh, and has realised that the charity does very important work and has enjoyed his time there.

In July, Alfie will be skydiving to raise money and awareness for the charity and its important work.

Please see the link below and donate if you can!

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/skydive-for-ageuk>

Equipment Reminder

In order to ensure that each student can start the day ready to learn well it is really important that they have the correct equipment with them.

It's a great support for your child/children to check that they have the following with them every day:

- A school bag
- Their reading book
- Their planner
- A pencil case complete with the following equipment:
 - Pencil
 - Black pens
 - Purple pen
 - Whiteboard pen
 - Ruler
 - Rubber
 - Protractor
- Calculator – this must be a scientific calculator that is available to buy on ParentPay/ClassCharts Reward Shop
- A paper copy of their timetable

Scooter Safety

We have recently been informed of at least five students who have had injuries due to riding an electric scooter. Some of these injuries have been very serious and required ongoing medical attention and significant amount of time off school.

Please be aware that the use of private e-scooters is still illegal. The government information is as follows and can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users>

The [rules for private e-scooters](#) have not changed. It is against the law to use a privately owned e-scooter. If you use an e-scooter illegally:

- you could face a fine
- you could get penalty points on your licence
- the e-scooter could be impounded

This information shows that whilst the government are trialling e-scooters for hire in various cities, these require a driving licence and are not for children.

e-scooters are not allowed to be brought to school as they are illegal. We are also concerned about the number of our students who have received significant injuries from using these.

Please do ensure that your children are not using these for transport at any time.

NHS Cadets Opportunity


St. John's Ambulance and the NHS have partnered up to offer an exciting free programme called the NHS Cadets.

NHS Cadets' mission is to attract young people to careers in healthcare and develop their skills to the point where they are self-sufficient in health volunteer opportunities.

The programme will assist young people in not only acquiring new skills and knowledge but also gaining hands-on experience in the NHS through a 36-week programme (2 hours per week, not including work experience).


There is currently an Advanced Programme starting soon in Derby aimed at 16-18 year olds.

Pathways into healthcare | sja.org.uk/nhscadets



Ask us how young people can volunteer in healthcare

sja.org.uk



Join NHS Cadets today

Who can get involved?

Our Cadets come from a diverse range of backgrounds - there is no 'typical' NHS Cadet. If you identify with one or more of these statements, our programme would be a good match for you.

- I'm from a minority ethnic group
- I consider myself part of the LGBTQI+ community, or I'm questioning
- I'm not in education, employment or training, or I'm at risk of this
- I'm struggling with my progress at school or college
- I live in care, or I've recently left care
- I provide regular care or support for someone
- I receive free school meals
- I have mental health concerns
- I consider myself to have a disability or impairment
- I consider myself neurodivergent, or I have special educational needs
- I am seeking asylum, or I'm a refugee

If you're unsure whether you fit into one of these categories or wish to discuss something else, please don't hesitate to email one of our friendly team at nhscadets@sja.org.uk

How do I get involved?

New programmes are opening all the time and even if we don't currently have one in your area you will be added to the waiting list ready for when we have one close enough to you. Or we may be able to put you on a virtual group so that you can take part from the comfort of home.

To learn more, find your local programme and apply, please visit <https://nhscadets.sja.org.uk/join-today/>.

Issue Number 4 April 2023

Reach your potential with NHS Cadets and learn the skills you need to support vital healthcare teams across the country.

[NHS Cadets](#) is a Programme created by St John Ambulance in partnership with the NHS. It's designed to provide you with the opportunity to explore roles in healthcare and prepare for volunteering.

The programme consists of two pathways: Foundation (for 14–16-year-olds) and Advanced (for 16–18-year-olds). You'll learn about a range of exciting healthcare topics, develop your leadership and communication skills, and gain insight into volunteering within the NHS.

It is a free programme consisting of 2-hour weekly sessions over 36 weeks. You'll be supported throughout your journey by our NHS Cadets Team.

Word of the Week

Our 'word of the week' this week is: **Grant**

Please do speak to your child/children about this word. Challenge them to use it in a sentence or explain its meaning to you. The information below will hopefully help!

Grant means: Agree to give or allow (something requested) to OR Agree or admit to (someone) that (something) is true OR A sum of money given by a government or other organization for a particular purpose.

Etymology: The study of the origin (beginning) of words:

Middle English: from Old French *granter* 'consent to support', variant of *creanter* 'to guarantee', based on Latin *credere* 'entrust'.

'**Grant**' in Spanish – Conceder/Asentir/Una beca

Other similar words are:

Reward
Award
Concession
Contribution

Examples of how to use **Grant** in a sentence are:

- He hasn't made much progress, I'll **grant** you that.
- A **grant** of probate.
- She doesn't **grant** interviews.
- They will **grant** you asylum.

Staying Mentally Healthy During Exam Time

As we continue through the main exam time for year 11 and many other year groups are soon to take their end of term assessments, it's worth revising how we can support young people at what can be a very stressful time.

Young Minds have a series of support pages aimed to help with exam stress and anxiety. Their advice is available to help parents and carers and, of course, young people themselves. You can find this helpful advice at the links below:

[Parents](#)

[Young people](#)

These links have also been added to our school website under Information – Exams and Performance.

Free Wellbeing Event with Derby Adult Learning Service



Derby Adult Learning Service
Learning Opportunities for Adults

FREE WELLBEING EVENT

31 Thursday 6th June 2024
10am - 12pm
Better Together Café
Derby City Council House,
Corporation Street, DE1 2FS



Everyone is welcome to join and receive practical support and advice from organisations based in Derby.

- Receive home energy advice from Derby City Council
- Gain employability and CV support with the Derby Employment Hub
- Meet Social Prescribers and find out how they can help you
- Give back to your community, make new friends and help our NHS with the Good Neighbours team
- Seek support from the NeuroHub for your child or young person
- Chat with PCSOs about matters regarding your local neighbourhood
- Find classes to support your health, wellbeing or upskill with the Derby Adult Learning Service
- And more!

A BSL interpreter will be available

Register your interest here: <https://bit.ly/4bvL8S9>

Holiday Cycling Activities

Please see posters below for Cycle Derby Holiday activity posters for the May half term.

cyclederby
MAY HALF TERM
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
2024



New to two wheels
Markeaton Park **4-8 Years**

Mini cycling club for those new to two wheels! You will need:

- Your own bike, helmet and drink
- To be able to ride unaided

£10

Wednesday 29th May
10am - 11am

Holiday Club **£25**
Markeaton Park **6-12 Years**

You need:

- Your own bike & helmet
- To be able to ride unaided
- Backpack with snacks & drink

30 minute skills and confidence session followed by a 120 minute ride

29th May
10.30am - 1pm

All activities must be booked in advance
To book call 07827 879647 or email cyclederby@derby.gov.uk

www.cyclederby.co.uk 

cyclederby
MAY HALF TERM
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
2024



Trackdays
Day Session at Derby Arena
9-16 Years **£35**

You need:

- To be a competent cyclist
- Appropriate clothing
- A packed lunch & drink

28th May
9am - 2pm

All activities must be booked in advance
To book call 07827 879647 or email cyclederby@derby.gov.uk

www.cyclederby.co.uk 

cyclederby
MAY HALF TERM
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
2024



Learn to Ride
at Markeaton Park

For children getting onto two wheels for the first time or those who have *almost* mastered it. Own bike preferred but not essential. **£20**

50 Minute Sessions available

29th May 1.30pm or 2.30pm
30th & 31st May
10am, 11am, 12noon
1.30pm or 2.30pm

All activities must be booked in advance
To book sessions please email cyclederby@derby.gov.uk or call 07972 268171

www.cyclederby.co.uk 

National Saturday Club

NSC (National Saturday Club) is a free group that runs every Saturday for students ages 13 – 16.

<https://saturday-club.org/subject/society-change/>

Their theme this year is 'Society & Change.' The group is a powerful and positive experience for students and offers some wonderful activities, including a trip to London and workshops with notable artists.

“From climate change and conflict to new technologies and taking action, at the Society & Change Saturday Club you will explore the forces that are shaping the world today and discover how young people have a voice to influence the future. Club members will find out about different cultures and life in other countries, including what it is like to be a young person in other parts of the world, and will also be introduced to a range of jobs and careers from foreign policy and diplomacy to journalistic reporting and international charity work.”

Have a look at the poster and Derby group schedule below, and use the link above to sign up if you are interested!



National Saturday Club Derby Schedule - Society & Change

Week #1 (02/03/24): Introduction at the University of Derby (UoD) Kedleston Road Derby, DE22 1GB

Week #2 & #3 (09/03/24 & 16/03/24): Derby Theatre

Week #4 (23/03/24): Derwent Family Hub

Week #5 (20/04/24): Becket Family Hub

**Week #6 to Week #9 (27/04/24 to 18/05/24): University of Derby (UoD) Kedleston Road Derby, DE22 1GB
Including week 7 (04/05/24) Masterclass with breakdancing Derby legend Kid Karam!**

Week #10 (25/05/24): ArtCore

Week #11 & Week #12 (08/06/24 & 15/06/24): Baby People

Week #13 to Week #15 (22/06/24 to 06/07/24): University of Derby (UoD) Kedleston Road Derby, DE22 1GB

Week #15 (03/07/24): Pop-up exhibition at the UoD, Kedleston Road, DE22 1GB

Week #16 (Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July): SummerHouse Exhibition with trip to London

T: 07769 301 863

E: derbysatclub@derby.ac.uk

Dates Ahead

Term Dates

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 28th June

Parents Evenings

Tuesday 25 June: Year 8 Parents' evening (school ends at 2.15pm for all students)

Other Key Dates

Wednesday 8 May: GCSE written exams start

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