

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 21 November 2022



*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
2 Corinthians 13:14*

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

A big thank you to everyone for their support with the different arrangements on Monday for the World Cup match. It took a great deal of organising but the events ran very smoothly and the students responded really well.

A growing school such as ours sees a lot of change throughout each year and we are no different. You may notice that we often have staff recruitment adverts out at various times. This is mainly due to our growth and expansion of the staff team. This week we have recruited an additional maths teacher and we are looking forward to an extra two new staff starting in January a Second in Maths and a computing teacher. These are both very difficult subjects to recruit teachers for and we are so fortunate to have both of them joining the team shortly. Further adverts will start to appear over the next couple of months as we recruit staff needed for our Sixth Form.

We also have a new attendance manager at DCS. Mrs Stephen started with us this week and we warmly welcome her to the team. Attendance to school is such a critical issue and has been more difficult for everyone since the Covid pandemic. Mrs Stephen and her team will be in touch with anyone whose attendance falls below 95%. This is part of our normal policy. The team want to work constructively with students and parents to help with any barriers that might stop students attending school and can provide help and support.

In the week ahead I'm really looking forward to meeting with the parent group who have volunteered to form a group interested in helping provide parental feedback on key aspects and developments in school.

As stated in the key dates section. School will close at an earlier time of 2.10pm on 29 November due to Year 9 Parents' Evening and school is closed to all students on Friday 2 December as it is our INSET day.

I hope that you all have a great week.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Brown
Headteacher

World Cup

Our students had a great time on Monday as they watched the match or participated in other activities. They were able to discuss issues related to the World Cup being held in Qatar with their tutor beforehand too.

Staff were impressed with how students managed this time and enjoyed being involved in something a little bit different. All of the England supporters enjoyed the score too!

All tutor groups are supporting a different country each so we will see who ends up with the winning team.

We really appreciated the supportive messages from parents as well.
Thank you



Meet The Team!

Meet our Attendance team:

Photo (l-r) Mrs Stephen, Mr Beardsmore

Meet our new attendance team who have started with us recently.

Mrs Stephen and Mr Beardsmore both have an extremely busy start to each day as they check the attendance of all students and send any messages to parents/carers where we are not aware of a reason for absence. They also monitor the percentage attendance of every student and will communicate home where attendance levels drop below particular percentages.

They are guided by our attendance policy which has been updated and will soon be on our school website.

Since Covid, school attendance has taken a bit of a dip across the whole country. However, we know that it is absolutely vital for students to be in school everyday and not lose any more learning time. Both Mrs Stephen and Mr Beardsmore are available to speak to if you have any concerns about your child's attendance and are very happy to work with families to help provide any support that may be needed.



Your child's curriculum

Thank you for all the positive feedback in our recent parental survey - this is a really important means of us ensuring that we are able to listen to the feedback from parents and work together to move our school forward.

One of the areas that parents and carers asked for a little clarification is around the curriculum plans that their child/children are following. We agree that it is really important for you to be able to see what your children will be learning over the school year so that you can have informed conversations about school and the wonderful work they are producing.

At the start of each year we create a Year 7, 8 and 9 curriculum map that we post on the school website, this helps parents to see - in one place - everything covered that year by their child. These documents can be found on the Curriculum - Curriculum Intent page of the website, or by clicking on this link: <https://www.derbycathedralschool.org.uk/curriculum/curriculum>

This page also contains useful information on the number of lessons students have of each subject in each year.

For students in Years 10 and 11 this information is a little more complex as not all students study the same subjects - for this reason, the long term plans for each subject are stored on the subject pages. These can be found under the Curriculum - Subject Pages tab on the school website, an example of the English one can be seen on the following link: <https://www.derbycathedralschool.org.uk/curriculum/subject-pages/english>

If you have any questions about the curriculum, you can contact your child's subject teacher (if it relates to one subject) or Mr Coucill; our Deputy Headteacher who leads on the curriculum.

FESTIVE MENU

We are now delighted to be able to share our festive menu with you. On Thursday 21st December, the catering team will be providing a normal break time service with a limited number of prepacked sandwiches available for students to purchase. However, at lunch service there will be no prepacked sandwiches available for students to purchase as the team will be serving the hot festive menu only. If your child does not want to purchase the festive menu, please may we suggest that they bring a packed lunch on this day.



Dates Ahead

Christmas Concert 15 December

Save the date!

Last day of term: School will close at 12pm on Thursday 22 December