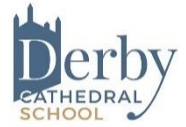


This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 21st April 2025



Our Bible verse of the half term is from the New Testament and was written by Paul, an early follower of Jesus. He had previously persecuted Jews and Christians but then came to be a follower himself and a great encourager of others. This verse is taken from the book of Galatians and is part of a letter he wrote to Christians in Galatia, which is now in modern day Turkey.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we begin this new half term together, it is good to reflect on the wisdom contained in our Bible verse from Galatians 6:9:

These words, written by Paul to the early Christians in what is now modern-day Turkey, still provide wisdom for our school community today. Paul's own life story is a testament to transformation and perseverance. Once a persecutor of Jews and Christians, he underwent a dramatic conversion to become one of Christianity's most influential leaders and a great encourager of others in their faith journey.

In this verse, Paul recognises a fundamental truth about human nature – that we can sometimes grow tired or discouraged when doing what is right, especially when results aren't immediately visible. He urges his readers to maintain their commitment to doing good, promising that persistent effort will eventually yield meaningful rewards. This is a great link to our FAITH value of tenacity.

It's wonderful to welcome everyone back after the Easter break. I was delighted to see our Cathedral choir students deliver a beautiful performance of Bach's 'Passion' on Good Friday. Their talent and dedication is always an inspiration. I would like to extend special thanks to all Year 11 and Year 13 students who attended revision sessions during the holiday period. Your dedication makes a significant difference to your final outcomes, and we are proud of your commitment. With only one week remaining before examinations begin—and our Year 11 students facing their first English exam in just two weeks—this message of tenacity is especially timely. The coming weeks will require exactly the kind of steadfast determination that Paul encourages in his letter.

This week marks the beginning of our collective worship series based on our half-term Bible verse. Students will first learn about the meaning of the verse and its historical context. In subsequent weeks, they will explore how the verse and the relevant FAITH value connects to prayer and how these principles can be applied to our daily lives. These sessions provide valuable 'mirror' moments where students can reflect on what these words mean to them personally, regardless of their individual spiritual beliefs. This half term our focus is on 'tenacity'

For us at DCS, Paul's message resonates deeply with our time in school and the values at DCS. The learning journey requires consistent effort, tenacity in the face of challenges, and faith that dedicated work will lead to growth and achievement.

Finally, I would like to extend our best wishes and blessings to our Year 11 and Year 13 students for the forthcoming examination period. Remember Paul's words when facing challenging moments—do not grow weary in doing good, for in due season, you will reap if you do not give up.

Have a wonderful week,

Mrs Brown

Word of the Week - Pillage

Pillage

Definition: To seize or plunder, especially in war

In Spanish: Saquear/Pillar

Synonyms (words with a similar meaning): plunder, loot , pilfer, ransack

Antonyms (words with the opposite meaning): give, receive, guard, protect

Sentences:

The army continued to pillage towns as they advanced.

Artefacts were lost to pillage during the conflict.

The village suffered pillage after the invasion.

He was arrested for aiding in the pillage of homes.

A Goodbye and Thank You.

This week we said a sad goodbye to Miss Winfield in the English department. She has gone to work in a Special Needs school and we know that her dedication and experience will be of great value to them. We thank her for all that she has done for DCS over the years and wish her all the best in her new role. Her examination groups are being taken by members of the English team to ensure consistency at this vital time and we welcome Mr Aulton who will be taking her other classes and supporting the English department.

Derby City Mission



Community Café and Community Shop (foodbank)

Please consider donating to Derby City Missions

Community Café and Community Shop.

We are grateful for all donations but please no
chilled or frozen goods.

Thank you for your support



Derby City Mission Charity Number 1140235 Previously 702027

01332 460346 - <https://www.derbycitymission.org.uk>





Derby Cathedral School are proud to be supporting Derby City Mission by collecting food donations for those in need in the local community.

We will be accepting donations at Main Reception every weekday from 8 am – 4 pm. Please hand all suitable donations to our Reception Team so they can be placed in the box for collection.

Thank you for your generosity 😊

Family Hubs – what's on in May



Derby City Council's Family Hubs have lots going on in May, [follow this link](#) to discover what's going on in your area for your child's age group.



FamilyHubDerby
Stronger families through support & friendship


Your guide to what's on for families in Derby


May – July 2025



Please scan for further information

Ofsted
Outstanding
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UK Government**

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Community Action

NHS

What Parents and Educators Need to Know about Bluesky

As technology becomes increasingly embedded in young people's lives, it's common for them to form friendships entirely online. These connections can provide companionship and community — but they also bring potential dangers that parents and educators need to be aware of.

From online grooming and privacy breaches to exposure to upsetting content, meeting people on the internet isn't without risk. [This guide](#) explains the possible hazards of online friendships and gives parents and educators essential advice on helping children build safe, positive relationships online.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com. Trigger Warning: This guide contains mention of suicide, which may be distressing for some readers.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ONLINE GROOMING THREATS**
Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.
- EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.
- PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS**
Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.
- COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY**
Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.
- PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS**
Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Snatch' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.
- LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS**
Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 25-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 15, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW ✓

Advice for Parents & Educators

- TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS**
Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning. Use pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.
- ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS**
Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.
- KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN**
Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.
- USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert
Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

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'Story Chefs'

Maison Foo & the Creative Sanctuary group presents...

'Beautiful, heart warming and joyous.'

'Food and Stories really do connect us all, Thank you Story Chefs.'

STORY CHEFS

Theatre, Food and around the world fun for all the family.

Tickets £5 OR Family Deal: 4 tickets for £15
SCAN QR TO BOOK OR call box office: 01332 593939

Story Chefs
 Saturday 3rd May
 4.30 pm
 Normanton Library

Story Chefs
 Sunday 18th May
 4.30 pm
 Bramblebrook Community Centre

Join the 'Story Chefs' for a magical around the world adventure! Delicious stories brought to life, with a sprinkle of mischief and magic and a good serving of puppets, music and theatre fun. Followed by food tasters from around the world, served with love at the pop-up Story Chef Kitchen by Maison Foo's Creative Sanctuary group.

Yum!

Suitable for ages 6 to 106!

PRINT DESIGN BY RODBOROUGH FRAMING STUDIO



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Bridge The Gap - Drop-In Hub

Free walk-in support every Tuesday and Wednesday
9am - 11am



Lost Property

During last term we had an excessive amount of lost property handed in, which is subsequently put out on display three times per week in the school canteen and can be collected after school or before Period 1 on each occasion. To enable us to return lost property back to students, please ensure all items are labelled with student names.

Moving forwards, any lost property items that are put out for two consecutive weeks and not collected will either be disposed of or sent for recycling as we do not have the space to continuously store these items long term.

Medical Illness within School

As the spring and summer months approach, we see more students visiting us with hay fever symptoms. 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. If your child suffers from hay fever, please ensure they take their medication before school in a morning where possible.

It is also essential that all student have a water bottle to ensure they stay hydrated during the school day. Students can purchase a reusable water bottle from the reward shop if they do not already have one.

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.

Breakfast Club – FREE breakfast for all Students



Our Breakfast Club is open Monday to Friday from 8:20 – 8:35 am

During the above times, all students are entitled to have breakfast items totally free of charge from the Dining Hall. Items available are:

- Toast
- A variety of cereals (subject to availability)
- Porridge

To request Gluten free toast or to discuss any other special dietary requirements, students should liaise directly with the catering staff who will aim to source the necessary items however, advance notice should be given.

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO DRINKS OR OTHER FOOD ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DURING BREAKFAST CLUB

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



Period Poverty – a message from Aldi



Breaking the cycle of Period Poverty

At Aldi, we believe that access to period products is a basic right, not a privilege. That's why from March 2025, we'll be providing free pads and tampons in our stores and office toilets. Customers and colleagues will be able to take what they need, when they need it—no questions asked.

Why Access to Period Products Matters

Period poverty is a reality for far too many. Research shows that 41% of Brits struggle to afford period products with 30% forced to choose between buying them or other essential items like food or clothing. Without access to these products, some rely on

substitutes like toilet paper, kitchen roll or old clothing, leaving them feeling embarrassed, stressed and excluded from everyday activities such as work, school and social events.

By taking this step, we hope to support those who menstruate while encouraging others to join the effort to end period poverty for good.

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 2024-25

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 2024-2025 – School closed to all students

Monday 30th June 2025

Parents Evenings / Opening Evenings 2024-25

Thursday 12th June 2025 – Y9 Parents Evening, 3 pm – 6 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm

Please Note:

For any students sitting exams on the above dates, they will be required to stay in school until the exam has ended.

****NEW**** - School Term Dates and INSET days 2025-26

Please click on the link below to view the Term Date calendar and INSET days for 2025-26:

[DCS Term Dates 2025-26 with INSET.pdf](#)

INSET Days 2025-26 – School closed to all students

Thursday 4 Sept 2025

Friday 5 Sept 2025

Friday 5 Dec 2025

Monday 2 Feb 2026

Friday 26 June 2026

Other Key Dates

- Wednesday 23rd April 2025 – Year 11 & Year 13 Group Photographs
- Thursday 26th June 2025 – Y11 Prom 2025

Term and key dates can also be found on our calendar on the school website:

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