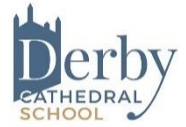


This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 21st July 2025



In our final half term, we are reflecting on a verse from the Book of Proverbs. Thought to have been written by King Solomon, this collection of wise sayings was compiled around 3,000 years ago to guide God's people in practical, everyday living. These ancient principles remain remarkably relevant today, offering enduring wisdom for navigating relationships, character development, and moral decision-making.

Proverbs 11:2 teaches us that **"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."** This principle speaks directly to how we raise our children and model behaviour in both our homes and school community.

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we close this academic year, I find myself returning one final time to the wisdom of the verse above. These words from King Solomon have guided our community throughout this term, reminding us that true growth comes through humble learning and service to others.

As I write my final newsletter as head teacher, I am deeply moved to reflect on what has been a truly extraordinary five-year journey with the DCS community. I feel immensely privileged to have worked alongside such remarkable people in this wonderful city of Derby. Our school has grown and transformed beyond recognition during this time, and I am profoundly proud to have been part of this incredible development.

There is so much to celebrate and be proud of within our community. Working with such a dedicated and talented staff body has been one of my greatest joys, and I have felt tremendously supported by so many of you as families throughout our shared journey. Your partnership in your children's education has made such a difference to everything we have achieved together.

However, my biggest delight has always been our students—they have brightened every day of these five years. They are absolutely fabulous young people, and I know with complete certainty that they will continue to achieve great things and make positive contributions to our world. Their embodiment of our FAITH values, their resilience through challenges, and their joy in learning have been constant sources of inspiration to me.

Schools are naturally places of growth and change, and I know that DCS will continue to flourish and evolve in exciting ways. I am confident that this community will remain a beacon of Christian distinctiveness in our city, upholding the strong FAITH values and principles that support our students to live life in all its fullness. The foundations we have built together—rooted in the kind of humble wisdom that Solomon commends—will continue to serve future generations of DCS students.

Thank you so much for everything you have shared with me over these past five years. The memories, the challenges overcome together, the celebrations, and the countless moments of everyday joy will stay with me always. While I look forward to new adventures ahead, part of my heart will always remain at DCS.

May you all enjoy a wonderful, restful summer, and I wish you all every success for the coming years.

A reminder that the start of the new year is as follows:

Monday 8th September at 8:40am - Y7 and Y11 students only

Monday 8th September at 12:00pm – Y12 students

Tuesday 9th September at 8:40am – all year groups.

Mrs Brown

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)



Have you booked your child a place at one of the FREE holiday clubs for the summer holidays yet? If your child receives benefits-related free school meals, they are entitled to attend this summer. Follow the instructions in your email from **HolidayActivities.com** to book before it's too late! Further details can be found at: www.derby.gov.uk/derbyHAF

Holiday FSM Vouchers



Just a reminder that the expiry date for the **May Half Term FSM vouchers** is **12th August 2025**, so ensure that you redeem your voucher code well before this date. Please choose the supermarket you wish to use your voucher at and then your supermarket voucher will have a much longer expiry date once registered.



Enrichment Days – STEM and Culture

We had a fantastic couple of days at the end of term focusing on two very different, but important enrichment activities.

On Tuesday, the whole school experienced a variety of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) activities. We had a great many external companies and universities provide sessions for all year groups. This important

This is now the third year that we have run this day and it is always a great success. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Spencer and Mrs Bingham who mastermind the day! One of the many highlights is always the owl and birds of prey experience. This year, students also got to touch a snake and other reptiles! They learnt many interesting biological facts about these amazing creatures.

On Wednesday we celebrated the rich diversity of our students with our annual culture day. It is always so impressive to see the many fabulous outfits worn with great pride by so many of our students. This year, we reflected on 'walking on someone else's footsteps' to encourage a 'mirrors' moment of reflection for all students; to consider what life is like for other people. This always helps us gain a good understanding of what it is like to live well with people who may seem different to ourselves. As our vision statement says, we are so proud of the rich diversity of our community and it really does bring a vibrancy to our school.

Please see a few pictures below of some of the many activities that took place.



Derby Cathedral – Lego Festival

Derby Cathedral is hosting a Lego festival from 25 July – 21 August.

This includes a fantastic Lego model of the Cathedral quarter in Derby – see if you can spot the 12 animals hiding in the exhibition. There is also a 'Cosy corner' – a space for creating your own Lego masterpieces along with other creative activities and a play space for much younger children so the whole family can enjoy their time here.

A perfect activity for the summer holidays! Please see the pictures below for more details.



Event Programme


25 July - 21 August
General Opening
Pre-School Zone (under 5's)
Build Stations


Every Day
Brick by Brick Quest


Cosy Corner
Construct at the Cathedral!
Brought to you by Cosy Foundation
It will be open every day during the festival

Thursdays
SEN Quiet Mornings
9:30 - 10:30

Wednesday 30 July 
The Power of Play - Using LEGO bricks to solve real
world problems
17:30 | 19:30

Tuesday 5 & Wednesday 6 August 
Brick Workshops (ages 5+)
Between 10:00 and 16:00

Wednesday 13 August 
CivicLAB™ - How do we build communities?
17:30

 = Booking required

This event is to raise funds for Derby Cathedral
LEGO® is a trademark of the LEGO group which does not sponsor, authorise or endorse this festival



What parents and educators need to know about online slang

Online slang can be a vibrant way for young people to express themselves, but it also changes rapidly and can sometimes carry hidden meanings. This guide helps adults navigate this shifting landscape by breaking down what some of today's most-used slang terms actually mean and why they matter. From 'rizz' to 'sigma', it's a handy starting point for anyone wanting to better understand how young people communicate online.

[The National College has created this free guide](#) offering parents and educators information about online slang and the risks involved – from generational misunderstandings to being used as a veil for harmful content or behaviour. Importantly, it offers advice on encouraging open conversations and critical thinking about language. With slang constantly evolving, this guide encourages adults to stay curious, connected and supportive.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE SLANG

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
Slang moves fast – and for many young people, it's not just how they talk, but how they share their identity and feelings. Learning key terms helps adults connect and show understanding, even if the lingo seems baffling at first.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION
Words like 'rizz' or 'slaps' can be misunderstood by adults, leading to awkward moments or a breakdown in trust. These phrases often carry subtle social meanings among young people.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS
Slang changes quickly. A term like 'bop' might sound innocent one week and be repurposed the next. This makes it easy for adults to fall behind and for children to misstep.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR EXCLUSION
Inside jokes and trending terms like 'simp' or 'NPC' can be used to mock or exclude others. What looks like harmless fun might actually reinforce social divisions or bullying.

PERFORMING FOR THE ALGORITHM
Slang often reflects what's popular on platforms like TikTok. Young users might exaggerate or act out for likes, creating online personas that don't match their real selves.

CONTENT MODERATION WITH CODED SPEECH
To avoid content filters, young people sometimes use slang or emojis to talk about serious topics – for example, saying 'unalive' instead of other death-related terms. This makes harmful content harder to spot.

LONG-TERM DIGITAL FOOTPRINT
A slang-filled post might seem funny now but could resurface years later during job checks or university applications – possibly out of context, but still damaging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP UP, DON'T CATCH UP
Follow youth culture pages or ask your child about new slang. Staying informed shows that you're engaged and open to understanding their world.

FOCUS ON CONNECTION OVER CONTROL
Being someone your child can talk to is more valuable than using strict filters or monitoring apps. Openness builds trust.

ASK, DON'T INTERROGATE
Use open questions to invite conversation. You're not quizzing them – just trying to learn more about their online lives.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL MEDIA LITERACY
Talk about where slang comes from, how it spreads, and how it can impact others. This helps young people use language more thoughtfully.

ONLINE SLANG CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms are common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list and both meaning and prevalence can change swiftly.

COMMON SLANG:	POTENTIALLY CONCERNING SLANG
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sigma – Independent, self-reliant (often male) mindset; proud outsider status. Often celebrated in motivational memes.Skibidi – Nonsense word from the viral 'Skibidi Toilet' meme; expresses chaos or fun. Usually harmless but pervasive.Chat – The collective audience or group of viewers (e.g. on a livestream). Used when addressing followers directly.Lock in – To focus, commit or get serious (e.g. before gaming or sports). Positive encouragement to concentrate.Cooking – Doing something exceptionally well or gaining momentum. Opposite of 'cooked'.Rizz – Charisma or flirting ability (short for charisma). Can praise social confidence.Aura or aura farming – One's perceived 'energy' or 'vibe'; 'farming' means manufacturing clout.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bop – An adult content creator (e.g. OnlyFans). Indicates exposure to 18+ material.Gyat or gyatt – Sexualised exclamation about someone's backside. Objectifies appearance.Tralalero tralala / bombardino crocodile / tung tung tung sahur – Spammy references to AI-generated creatures with 'Italian-sounding' names. Can clog chats, derail discussion, and harass others.Glazing – Overpraising or obsessively defending a streamer or celebrity.Crash out – To lose control, give up or have a meltdown; sometimes hints at self-harm.Cooked – Ruined, exhausted or in serious trouble; sometimes mental health-related.Unalive – Euphemism for death or suicide; used to avoid content filters.NPC – Used to suggest someone is lacking independent thoughts or is repetitive and predictable.

Meet Our Expert
Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.

WakeUpWednesday
The National College

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Derby City Council – Cost of Living Support

Other Cost of Living support

Local Assistance Award Scheme:

Families can apply for support under this scheme for help with discretionary housing payments, utilities/food, goods for the home and Council Tax Hardship payments. Further information can be found here: [Local Assistance Award Scheme - Derby City Council](#)

Support with water costs:

Severn Trent runs the Big Difference Scheme aimed at helping people who might struggle with paying their water bills. To find out if you are eligible for this help, please see their website for more information:

<https://www.stwater.co.uk/my-account/help-when-you-need-it>

Cost of Living Support

Community Action Derby has a list of help that may be available to you for support with money, food or mental health and wellbeing:

<https://www.communityactionderby.org.uk/crisis-support>

Healthy Start Scheme

If you're receiving a qualifying benefit and are pregnant or have children under the age of 4, you could get help to buy food and milk via the NHS Healthy Start Scheme. You can find more information and how to sign up here: www.healthystart.nhs.uk

Eligible families will receive a prepaid Healthy Start card which is topped up every four weeks with the following amounts:

- o £4.25 per week from the 10th week of pregnancy
- o £8.50 per week for each child from birth to 1 years old
- o £4.25 per week for each child aged 1 to 4 years

In addition, the card can be used to collect free Healthy Start vitamins, which support individuals during pregnancy and breastfeeding, as well as vitamin drops for babies and young children. You can find your nearest vitamin collection point here www.nhs.uk/service-search/other-health-services/healthy-start-vitamins



If you're pregnant or have children under the age of four, you could get help to buy food and milk.

Apply online for NHS Healthy Start.

 www.healthystart.nhs.uk
@NHSHealthyStart

 SCAN ME

On behalf of Derby City Council



**Funded by
UK Government**

Festival of Sport at Derby Arena 4th - 8th August

Take a look at this fantastic FREE activity for 8-14 year-olds which is happening during the school holidays.

Festival of **SPORT** at Derby Arena

4th-8th
AUGUST
2025
8.30AM-3.15PM
FREE

Five days of inclusive sporting activities for
children aged 8-14 at Derby Arena:



Sports



Healtly Food



Virtual Reality



Inclusion





TO BOOK:
Scan the code or email
info@derbyshireis.co.uk

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Derby City Council

DERBYSHIRE
INSTITUTE OF SPORT

Derby
Promise



DERBY ARENA, ROYAL WAY, PRIDE PARK, DERBY DE24 8JB

Dates Ahead

School Holidays 2024-25

24th July – Last day of term – 12 pm finish for all students

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

The new school year starts as follows:

Monday 8th September at 8:40am - Y7 and Y11 students only

Monday 8th September at 12:00pm – Y12 students only

Tuesday 9th September at 8:40am – all year groups

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

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

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