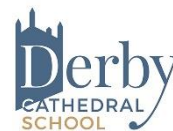


Derby Cathedral School Newsletter

16th – 20th January



*For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man 2
Corinthians 8:21*

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

Well, it certainly has been a busy week last week! As you had communicated on Monday, we had our first Ofsted inspection on Tuesday and Wednesday. As a new school, we had what is known as a 'graded' inspection. This is a full inspection where every area of school life is scrutinised. It was an extremely busy few days for all staff but we welcomed the time to show the inspection team all that we have achieved, and are continuing to work on, as a new school.

We did share a message of thanks with our students on Thursday as their FAITH values shone through. Not just during the two days that the team were in school but we see this aspect of their development continuing to grow.

As with all Ofsted inspections, we have to wait for a maximum of 30 working days for our report to be published. This is because the evidence and decision making by the inspectors has to go through many rigorous checks. As soon as the report is published, we will email it out to all parents/carers and put it on our website. Thank you for all of your contributions to the parent survey and your continued support for our school community.

In the middle of the inspection we also had year 11 parents' evening. This was a lovely event which staff found really beneficial and supportive. A huge thank you to all year 11 parents/carers for your fantastic attendance to this event and support during such a critical year for this year group.

This Tuesday is the year 7 academic parents' evening where parents/carers can speak (online) to the relevant subject teachers.

Please be aware of some key dates up ahead that impact school timings/opening. In particular the early finish this Tuesday (2.15pm), the day of strike action (1 February) and our planned INSET day (6 February). All of these are listed further on in this newsletter.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Brown
Headteacher

Meet the Team

Meet our site team:

(l – r):

Mr Murray (premises officer), Mr Rolph (site manager) and Mr Flatt (premises officer)

Our site team are well known for their very cheerful personalities and dedication to working hard to keep our site safe and in excellent condition.

On a daily basis they do regular health and safety checks and various maintenance jobs to keep the building and outside area up to standard. They are still working with the contractors of our new building to fix the identified 'snags'. These are elements of the building that were identified as not being at the required standard when the building was finished. The

whole team help to open and close the site and are often seen on the gates in the morning and end of the day. They are especially busy in the holidays where they complete bigger pieces of maintenance work such as re-painting areas or moving furniture to create new areas in school. They have also provided some opportunities for a few of our students to do some internal work experience with them.

We are really grateful to have such a happy and dedicated site team who are very much part of the DCS family.



Year 7 Parents Evening - Online

Tuesday 24 January is the remote parents evening for all year 7 parents/carers. As year 7 have already had a face to face parents evening with their tutors, we made the decision to have this evening online. This was in response to the parent survey which told us that some people prefer face to face and some online.

This evening gives parents/carers the opportunity to speak with many of their child's subject teachers. If you are a parent/carer of a year 7 student and haven't yet made an appointment, please contact the office as soon as possible. You will have received an email giving you information about how to book places on the Schoolcloud system.

We were delighted to have such a high attendance to the year 11 parents evening and look forward to the same for year 7.

A reminder that school closes at 2.15pm on Tuesday 24 January for all students.

Please see the dates section at the end of this newsletter for further dates throughout the year.

Ofsted Inspection

As mentioned in the main message, we had a full Ofsted inspection last week. A team of five inspectors visited the school and inspected all areas of school life. This included them speaking with leaders, teachers, other staff, pupils and governors. They visited lessons, walked around school during breaks and lunches, analysed the parent survey results and looked through pupils' work in their books.

As this was our first inspection as a new school it is classed as a graded inspection. Once the report is published we will then have an official Ofsted grade. The report process takes approximately 30 working days and so we anticipate being able to publish our report sometime after half term (end of February/early March).

The report is always shared with parents and has to be published on the school website. It will also be on Ofsted's website.

I would like to thank all members of our community for their support during this process. It is extremely intense for staff in school during this time but we were really pleased to be able to share all that we have achieved during this time of growth as a school and all that we continue to develop.

Strike Action – 1 February

A letter has been sent to all parents/carers about the planned strike action from one of the teaching unions. Please see the email with attached letter from the Trust for full details. The affected dates are:

- Wednesday, 1st February
- Wednesday 1st March
- Wednesday, 15th March
- Thursday, 16th March

As the letter states and similar to all schools, unfortunately, we are currently unaware of the specific number of teachers who may be participating in the strike action. Minimising disruption to all our pupils remains a priority and we will share further information with you as soon as possible. We will be prioritising certain groups of students as shared in the letter. We do advise that you plan for any additional childcare that may be needed on the dates above. We understand that this situation may be difficult, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect.

Careers Update

Latest Apprenticeship Vacancies

Parents of Year 11 students:

Please see below a summary of the latest apprenticeship vacancies in Derby:

- HAYS TRAVEL (Travel Retail Apprenticeship)
<https://careers.haystravel.co.uk/apprenticeships/apply>
- ROLLS-ROYCE (Advanced Engineering Apprenticeship)
<https://careers.rolls-royce.com/united-kingdom/students-and-graduates/apprenticeships-and-school-leavers/>
- BALFOUR BEATTY (Apprentice CAD Technician)
<https://www.derby-college.ac.uk/apprenticeship-vacancies/vacancy/?vref=1000105608>
- BALFOUR BEATTY (Apprentice HGV Technician)
<https://www.derby-college.ac.uk/apprenticeship-vacancies/vacancy/?vref=1000119865>
- ALSTOM (Mechanical Assembly Apprentice)
<https://www.derby-college.ac.uk/apprenticeship-vacancies/vacancy/?vref=1000119865>

Keep an eye on future updates for more apprenticeship vacancies.

Year 10 Work Experience

Parents of Year 10 students:

With 2 months to go until Work Experience Week, please be reminded that the deadline for securing a placement is Friday 4th March.

Students are encouraged to see Miss Rowley if they are particularly struggling to find a placement.

We will be opening our clothes loan shop very soon where students can borrow smart clothing as required for Work Experience.

Year 9 Visit from University of Derby

Parents of Year 9 students:

Next Tuesday (31st January) students in Year 9 will be visited by representatives from the University of Derby. In preparation for the upcoming GCSE options process, the visitors will talk to the students about where their choices could lead in the future with the aim of raising aspirations. Please encourage your child to arrive with a positive mindset and on their best behaviour for our visitors!

Dates Ahead

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

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

School closes for half term: Friday 17 February

School opens for Spring half term 2: Monday 28 February

Parents' Evenings and INSET days:

Monday 6 February: INSET day – school closed for all students

Tuesday 7 February: Year 9 Options Evening

Tuesday 7 March: Year 10 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 26 June: Year 8 Parents' Evening

Friday 30 June: INSET day – school closed for all students