

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 23rd June 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,

This has been an extraordinarily busy and meaningful week that has beautifully illustrated Solomon's principle of wisdom through humility. Our Year 12 induction day welcomed over 150 students from both DCS and schools across the city. The atmosphere was wonderfully welcoming, and we've received such positive feedback from the exit survey. We look forward to seeing them all again on enrolment day, Thursday, 21st August.

We also celebrated both Year 11 and Year 13 leavers' days—occasions that perfectly embodied the balance between celebration and reflection that Solomon's wisdom encourages. These were delightfully fun days that also provided meaningful opportunities to reflect on their remarkable journeys over the past five to seven years at DCS. We reminisced about their early days at Midland House and witnessed the construction of our current building. Our Year 13 students hold the special distinction of being our very first cohort ever, whilst our Year 11s were the last group to experience life at Midland House. I spoke to them about being part of building a school that has grown from strength to strength, creating the vibrant community they belong to.

These were days filled with happy memories and the creation of new ones, culminating in a beautifully fitting leavers' service at Derby Cathedral. This calm, welcoming space provided the perfect setting for readings and performances from both students and staff, enhanced by a thoughtful address from Archdeacon Matthew Trick, who offered wise words about managing change in our lives. His message included a reflection from the Bible involving Solomon which relates well to our verse of the half term.

Towards the end of the week, we celebrated the Year 11 prom—a brilliant event where our students enjoyed wonderful fellowship together. We are immensely proud of both year groups: how they have navigated significant changes throughout their time with us and the remarkable young adults they have become, embodying our FAITH values in everything they do. We send them forward to their next steps carrying our prayers and blessings, confident that the wisdom they have gained through years of learning, growing, and overcoming difficulties with tenacity, will serve them well in whatever lies ahead.

The humility that Solomon commends is evident in how these students have approached their DCS journey—remaining open to learning, willing to be challenged, and grateful for the community that has supported them. Their growth reminds us that true wisdom comes not from thinking we have arrived, but from maintaining the humility to keep learning and growing throughout life's many transitions.

Now we look forward with great anticipation to welcoming our next cohort during Year 7 transition days from Tuesday, 1st to Thursday, 3rd July. These incoming students will benefit from the year groups before them who have shaped the community that now looks forward to welcoming them.

I wish you all a wonderful week
Mrs Brown

Year 10 artist workshop with Jennifer Collier

On Friday 20th June Year 10 Art and Textiles students were invited to work alongside artist Jennifer Collier at her studio in Stafford. The students were introduced to Jennifer's work and were spoken to about her background and how she makes a living as an Artist. Following this students learnt a wide range of textiles techniques using wax trapping, plastic fusing and latex. Students also learnt how to make Sellotape transfers and paper flowers which were all presented in their own handmade sketch book. During the day students were able to view work on display by Jennifer and other local Artists who also share the studio space. The students worked so hard and made some fantastic pieces of work. Jennifer said they were some of the best-behaved students she has delivered the workshop to. Well done Year 10!



A selection of the artist's own work



IMPORTANT UPDATE: Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)



KEEP YOUR
EYES PEELED! 



Did you know that if your child receives benefits-related free school meals, they are entitled to FREE holiday activities over the summer holidays? Holiday clubs are available across Derby where your child can make new friends and take part in a wide range of activities including sport, dance, drama, arts and crafts, as well as enjoying a meal each day. If your child is eligible, you will receive an email from **HolidayActivities.com**. Please keep a look out for the email and familiarise yourself with the logo above. Just follow the instructions in this email to book. Bookings for summer clubs will open at the end of June. 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.



Wickes Community Action Project

From all at Derby Cathedral School, we would like to say a huge thank you to Wickes for their kind donation of a drill and other bits to the Science Department, funded through their Community Action Project.

Pictured is Mrs Smith, Science Technician, who went along to collect the items yesterday, and Linda, the Community Support Worker who handed over the items.



****New** Telephone Options for DCS**

As of Monday 9th June 2025, a number of telephone options will be offered to you when calling DCS. We are hoping that by giving callers the opportunity to be transferred directly to the relevant team, rather than holding in a long queue for the Reception staff to transfer you, it will help to ensure your query will be answered and dealt with more efficiently, and will reduce your wait time to speak to the relevant member of staff.

Please note the updated options below:

- To report a Year 7-11 student absence – Option 1
- To report a Sixth Form student absence – Option 2
- Staff absence – Option 3
- Attendance Team – Option 4
- Admission queries relating to years 7-11 – Option 5
- Sixth Form admission queries – Option 6

If none of the above options are applicable, you will be put through to the reception team who will aim to help with your query.

If you are unable to reach the team you wish to speak to, please leave a voicemail providing your name, the student's name, a contact telephone number and a short message and you will be called back by a staff member who should be able to help.

Alternatively, you may find it much easier and quicker to email in your query to info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk. This inbox is regularly monitored and your email will be passed to the relevant member of staff for them to respond directly.

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:

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

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>



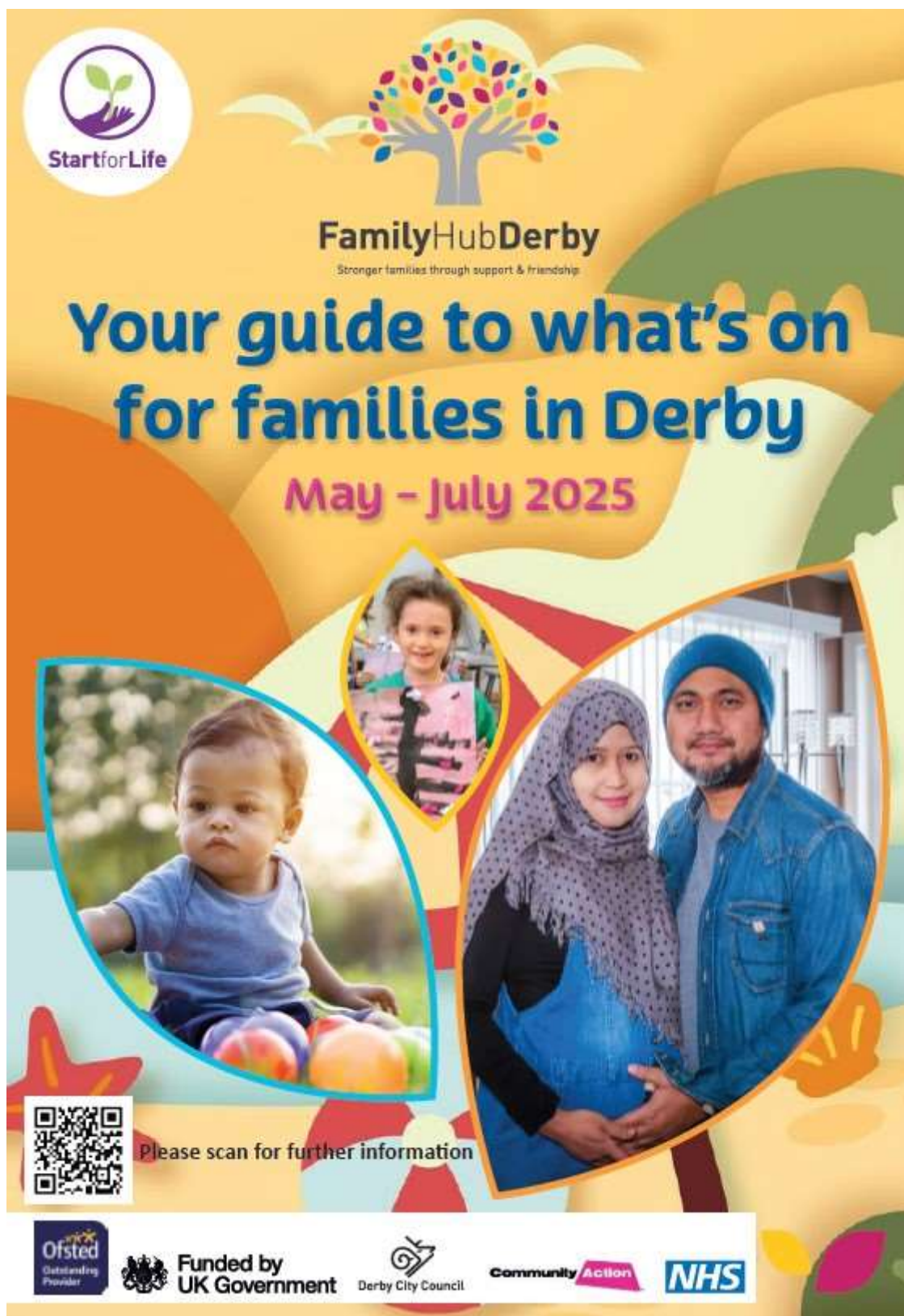
Derby Cathedral School are proud to be supporting Derby City Mission by collecting food donations for those in need in the local community.

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 during May to July 2025

Derby City Council's Family Hubs have lots going on from May to July 2025. To discover what's happening in your area for your child's age group please visit <https://www.derby.gov.uk/community-and-living/family-hub-childcare/family-hub/> or scan the QR code below.



The poster features a vibrant, abstract background with warm colors like orange, yellow, and green. At the top left is the 'StartforLife' logo, which includes a stylized green plant growing from a purple hand. To its right is a colorful tree with many small, multi-colored leaves. Below the tree, the text 'FamilyHubDerby' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with the tagline 'Stronger families through support & friendship' underneath. The main title, 'Your guide to what's on for families in Derby', is prominently displayed in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, the dates 'May - July 2025' are written in a pink, rounded font. The central part of the poster is filled with three circular photographs: a young girl holding a pink book, a baby sitting on colorful balls, and a pregnant woman in a grey hijab being supported by a man in a blue beanie and jacket. In the bottom left corner, there is a QR code with the text 'Please scan for further information' next to it. The footer contains several logos: 'Ofsted Outstanding Provider', the Royal Coat of Arms, 'Funded by UK Government', the Derby City Council logo, 'Community Action', and the 'NHS' logo.

StartforLife

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
Provider

**Funded by
UK Government**

Derby City Council

Community Action

NHS

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.

Speeding – Please keep our children safe

We have received reports of vehicles speeding around or nearby the school site. Can we please remind parents, staff, sixth formers and anyone else who brings a car to school to drive carefully and be considerate of pedestrians. The beginning and end of the school day are especially busy times, and keeping children safe is our priority.

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

24th July – Last day of term – early finish

****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

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

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