

In Matthew Chapter 22, Jesus was asked what he thought was the 'greatest commandment' ...

"Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

For us at DCS this is a reminder that that any advances in technology are only positive and good if they have the ability to help us to love other people better.

Dear Parents/Carers,

In a world increasingly dominated by technology, the timeless wisdom of Jesus's words above give us really helpful guidance. For us at DCS, this teaching demonstrates our approach to education in today's digital age. It reminds us that technological progress is truly valuable only when it enhances our ability to love and serve one another better. As we embrace new tools and innovations in our classrooms, we remain committed to ensuring that technology serves our deeper human purpose – building meaningful connections and showing compassion to those around us.

A big thank you to all Year 8 parents who attended last week's parents' evening. Your engagement with your child's education makes a tremendous difference, and we greatly appreciate your support. To our Year 7 parents, please note that your parents' evening is scheduled for Tuesday, 18th March. This online event will provide a valuable opportunity to speak directly with your child's subject teachers about their progress and development.

I'm delighted to highlight our recent collaboration with Marks & Spencer's optician service, who visited our school this week. All students have received vouchers for eye care services – please refer to the article in this newsletter for more details. Regular eye checks are essential for effective learning, and we encourage all families to take advantage of this opportunity.

Our Year 11 students continue to impress us with their maturity and community spirit. Their Valentine's Day fundraising efforts before half term demonstrated our FAITH value of fellowship perfectly, as they worked together to reduce prom ticket costs and ensure all classmates can participate in this significant milestone celebration. Despite the pressure of their ongoing PPE exams, they've maintained focus and determination – we wish them continued success with their remaining assessments.

This edition of our newsletter also contains important information regarding online safety, particularly an article about WhatsApp. While widely used, this platform can present challenges that aren't always obvious. I urge all parents to read this article carefully to help keep your children safe online. Please remember that the minimum age requirement for WhatsApp is 13 years, meaning that all Year 7 and many Year 8 students should not yet be using this application.

As we navigate the complexities of modern education together, let us keep Christ's commandment at the heart of all we do – using our minds to learn, our hearts to care, and our hands to serve each other.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Brown

Not just any Opticians – Marks and Spencer Opticians!

On Wednesday 26th February 2025, Jonathan and Joshua from Marks and Spencer Opticians Derby, attended DCS with a pop-up shop to chat to students and staff in order to raise awareness of the importance of eyecare and ensuring students feel comfortable and confident to have an eye test. The students engaged brilliantly with our visitors and showed a genuine interest in being further educated about the importance of looking after their eyes.



All students were provided with a voucher to remind them of their entitlement for a free eye test, and 50% off eye tests for up to 2 adults when booked with a child, valid until 30th March 2025. Their pack also contains further information about eyecare and the opportunity to enter two competitions for the chance to win a Percy Pig Hamper or an Art Set.



Y9 Enrichment Day – National Memorial Arboretum

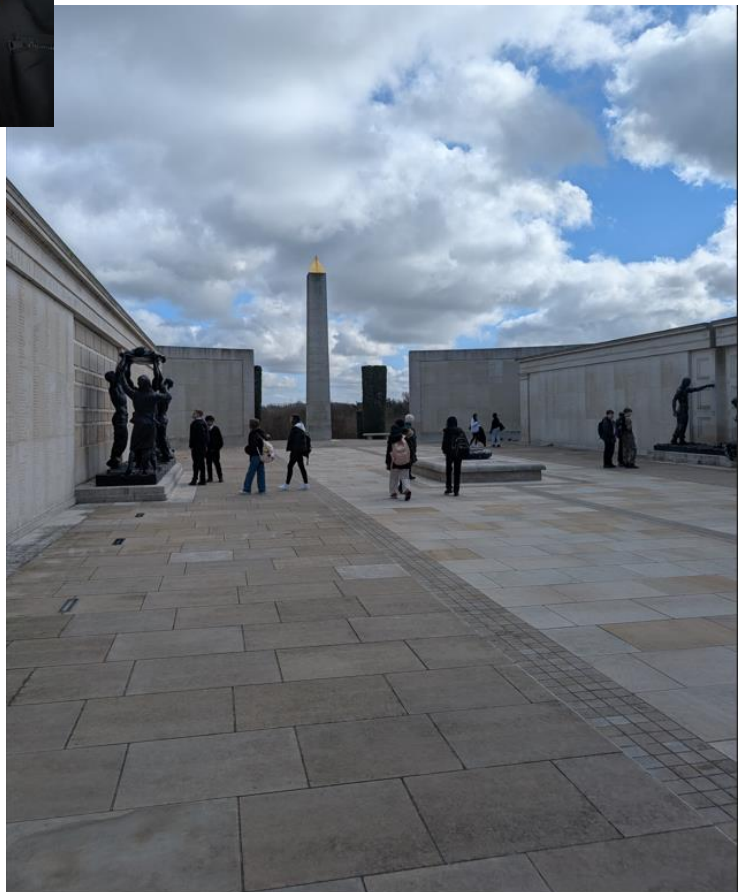
Our Y9 Maths students attended an Enrichment Day at the National Memorial Arboretum on 25th February 2025 during which they were able to put their skills and knowledge to the test in a number of different sessions including:



- Paper Cups workshop: Origami skills are put to the test - who will be most efficient under pressure? Different designs will lead into improved efficiency and process improvement.
- Swedebuild workshop: Creating household furniture out of lego - profits and waste management was pivotal to consider for these tasks.
- Careers in Maths: Maths is used in many careers - students selected careers they found interesting to further investigate and discuss, developing an understanding of how maths is essential for their chosen interests.

They were also given a Tour of the National Memorial Arboretum which contains over 400 memorials to remember the service and sacrifice of those in Armed Forces, Emergency Service and Civilian Service.

This provided a unique learning opportunity for our students to explore their own interpretations of how we remember important events, organisations and individuals.

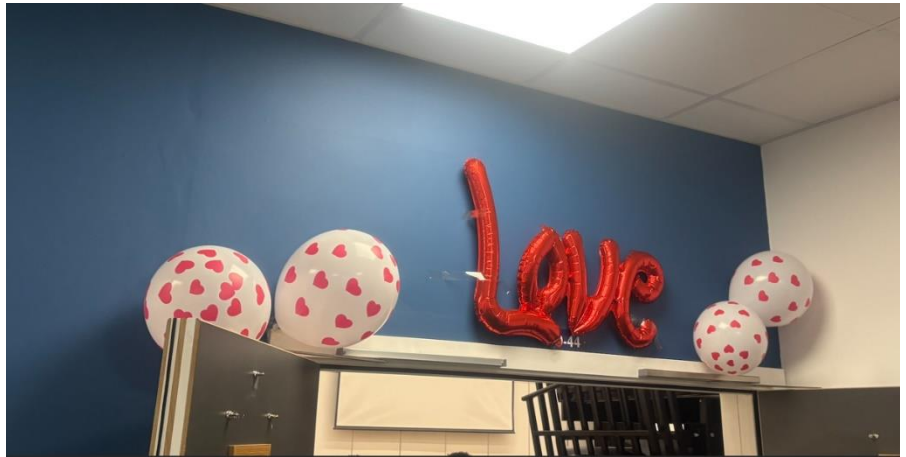


DCS Prom Fundraiser

On Friday 14th February 2025, students took part in a Valentine's Day themed cake sale and the option to treat their valentines with a 'sweet treat' to raise funds for the upcoming Year 11 Prom.

There were some fantastic cakes baked by staff in school and these were enjoyed across all years.

The day was a great success with a total of £351.08 raised.



An Exciting Summer camp Opportunity!

We have been made aware of an exciting opportunity for young people taking place this summer with an organisation called Action for Conservation - [AFC's FREE Summer Camps](#) (click the link to see a short information film) or click this YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlU7Ao2Pw-A>

ABOUT THE SUMMER CAMPS

- Camps are open to young people aged 12-16 living in England and Wales.
- Camps offer young people the opportunity to connect with and explore nature in UK National Parks.
- They will take part in exciting activities like stargazing and bat walks, learn about environmental issues and solutions and make amazing friends.
- Our camps are completely **FREE!**

Applications are now open! Please see the website for more information, including about how to apply:

www.actionforconservation.org/camp

The deadline is **Monday 5th May 2025**

The poster is for 'AFC's FREE Summer Camps'. It features a background image of a young man and a young woman standing in front of a white cliff overlooking the sea. The text 'FREE SUMMER CAMPS' is prominently displayed in large, stylized letters. At the top left, there are social media links for 'actionforconservation.org/camp' and '@action4conserv'. At the top right is the 'ACTION FOR CONSERVATION' logo with the text 'Reg. Charity (No. 1157297)'. At the bottom left, there is a QR code with the text 'Scan for more information'. At the bottom right, there is a section titled 'APPLY NOW IF YOU'RE ...' with three criteria: 'Aged 12-16 & live in England or Wales', 'Excited to explore the outdoors & make new friends', and 'Interested in taking action for nature & having fun'. At the very bottom, it says 'APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5TH MAY 2025!'.

actionforconservation.org/camp
@action4conserv

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION
Reg. Charity (No. 1157297)

FREE SUMMER CAMPS

Scan for more information

APPLY NOW IF YOU'RE ...

- Aged 12-16 & live in England or Wales
- Excited to explore the outdoors & make new friends
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APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5TH MAY 2025!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

According to Ofcom's most recent Media Use and Attitudes Report, roughly 55% of 3-17-year-olds in the UK are using WhatsApp as their primary messaging service ☒ Not only does that make WhatsApp the most popular messaging platform among children and young people in the UK; it also means that of the app's approximately three billion users, over seven million of them are British youngsters – keeping in touch with friends and family, but also being exposed to its various risks ⚠️

As parents and educators, it's our responsibility to stay up-to-date on the safety concerns around this highly popular app, and know how to protect children and young people who are on the platform 🛡️ That's why we've put together this expert-led free guide, breaking down WhatsApp's most prominent risks and advising you on how best to safeguard the app's younger users. A reminder that the age limit is 13 years old for this app.

[👉 DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE GUIDE](#)

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. Formally delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients; not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing to be a teenager's child, requesting a money transfer because of a sponsor 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (stealing the WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user. They won't be messaging. Therefore, if a child has more given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a 'forwarded many times' label and a disclaim error icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2022, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked' area. To access this, users must enter a passcode. However, on their 16th birthday, there is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique passcode for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material in private texts. Knowing that the recipient can't request them later to use as evidence of misconduct, people used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, adding protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's live location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out. For example, however, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unsolicited messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something to trust or whether it would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use live location, encourage them that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a locked chat folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've shared in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send and view Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and often fun – to share content that is seen purely to be shared more widely, even posting on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or spread a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various educational papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and texting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

[@wake_up_weds](#) [www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@wake.up.weds](#)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.02.2024

Bridge the Gap – Parenting a Teen through Self-harm



***NEW* Parenting a Teen through Self-harm**

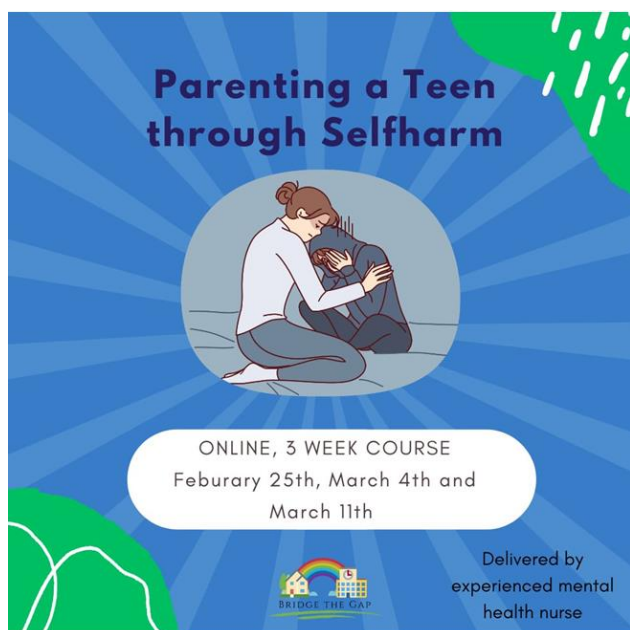
Be the first to know about our new three-week online course with our Specialist Mental Health Nurse Therapist, Nikki Webster.

Dates:

25th February, 4th March & 11th March

8pm

£10 for all three sessions



Nikki has a vast amount of experience and expertise around the topic of self harm, having worked intensely with teens and adults both within the public and private sector for a number of years.

She will be regularly delivering this online program for parents/carers of teens who are engaging in self-harming behaviours.

The course will provide a space to reflect on parenting styles, learn about CBT informed skills and discover techniques to help guide your teen through this difficult time.

The course also will aim to provide a supportive network for parents/carers at what is a challenging and often very lonely time.

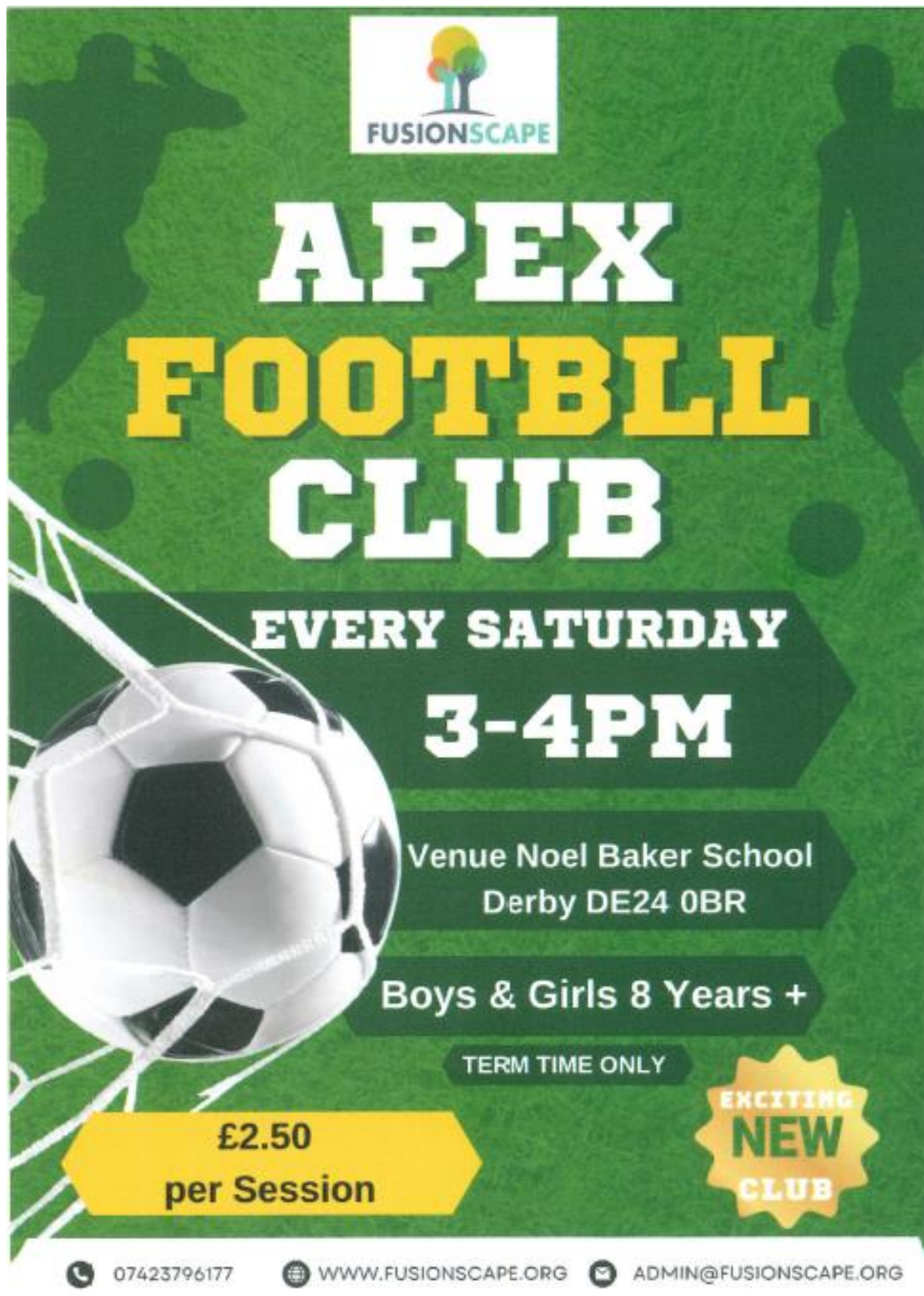
Please note this course is for parents/carers only and not for children.

Each session will be 30 minutes long and held on Microsoft Teams (you will receive a link when you book).

Click the link below for more information and to download a copy of 'A Parent's guide to supporting a child who is self-harming'

<https://jwbridgethegap.com/so/71PGxxaWw?languageTag=en&cid=b21d2a86-4eb0-4bee-9f9e-c9974077b960>



A promotional poster for the Apex Football Club. The background is a vibrant green with silhouettes of football players in action. At the top center is the Fusionscape logo, which features a stylized tree with a yellow sun-like canopy and the word 'FUSIONSCAPE' in blue capital letters. The main title 'APEX FOOTBALL CLUB' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'APEX' in white, 'FOOTBALL' in yellow, and 'CLUB' in white. Below the title, the text 'EVERY SATURDAY' and '3-4PM' is written in white on a dark green arrow-shaped background. To the left of this text is a detailed image of a black and white soccer ball hitting a goal net. Further down, the venue 'Venue Noel Baker School Derby DE24 0BR' is listed in white on a dark green arrow. Below that, 'Boys & Girls 8 Years +' is written in white on a dark green arrow. A yellow arrow at the bottom left states '£2.50 per Session'. On the bottom right, a yellow starburst contains the text 'EXCITING NEW CLUB'. At the very bottom, contact information is provided: a phone icon followed by '07423796177', a globe icon followed by 'WWW.FUSIONSCAPE.ORG', and an email icon followed by 'ADMIN@FUSIONSCAPE.ORG'.

07423796177



WWW.FUSIONSCAPE.ORG



ADMIN@FUSIONSCAPE.ORG



GOLDEN PHOENIX BASKETBALL TRIALS



TERM TIME ONLY

BASKETBALL TRAINING

BOYS & GIRLS 08 YEARS+

EXCITING
NEW
CLUB

FEE:- £3.50 PER SESSION



13:00-15:00 EVERY SATURDAY

Noel Baker School
Derby DE24 0BR



07423796177



WWW.FUSIONSCAPE.ORG



ADMIN@FUSIONSCAPE.ORG



Reach Community Grocers



REACH
COMMUNITY
GROCERS

• **NEWLY OPENED!** •

OPEN 10:00AM - 4:00PM MONDAY - FRIDAY

You are invited to visit our newly opened community grocers.

Reach Community Grocers,
Riverside Court, Derby,
DE24 8HY

www.reachcommunitygrocers.org
hello@reachcommunitygrocers.org
01332 332044 (option 4)



REACH
COMMUNITY
GROCERS

Are you struggling with the cost of living crisis and finding it difficult to put food on your table? If so, the community grocers is for you.

You can become a member for £5 per year. This will allow you to make up to three visits per week. For a contribution of only £6 each time, you can choose a range of good wholesome food valued up to £25.

Our friendly volunteers will be here to help you with your shop and any further information.



Reach
Community
Grocers,
Riverside Court,
Derby,
DE24 8HY.



**Bring this flyer along for an
extra free shelf item when
you join as a member.**

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Registered Charity No. 1090556

Reach Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 367667.

The Reach Centre, Riverside Court Pride Park | Derby | DE24 8HY

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

During the winter months, we see an increased number of students presenting at Medical with coughs/colds and stomach bugs; however, please be aware that we are unable to treat minor illnesses such as nausea, stomach cramps and headaches, usually related to winter viruses. Students are encouraged to be resilient and self-manage where appropriate. We encourage students to stay hydrated and eat a warm meal at break or lunch.

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.

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 purchase 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



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

17th February 2025 – 21st February 2025 – February Half Term

7th April 2025 – 21st April 2025 – Easter Break (inc Good Friday and Spring Bank Holiday)

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 27th February 2025 – Y8 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm

Tuesday 18th March 2025 – Y7 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm

Thursday 12th June 2025 – Y9 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 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**

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

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