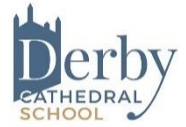


This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 24th March 2025



In Luke Chapter 3:10-11 Jesus gives clear advice to his followers about helping others:

"Then the crowds asked him, 'What, then, should we do?' He replied, 'If you have two shirts, share one with the poor. If you have food, share it with the hungry.'"

For us at DCS this is a reminder that we are called to do the same ... if we have plenty, we should be prepared to help those who have nothing.

Dear Parents/Carers,

The words in our Bible verse cut to the heart of Christian ethics – the call to generosity, compassion, and practical action for those in need.

For us at DCS, this teaching reminds us that our faith isn't merely about belief but about acts of kindness. When we are able to give, we are called to share with those who have nothing. This principle beautifully aligns with our recent initiatives and the remarkable achievements of our students.

I'm delighted to share that we have now become an official food bank collection point, exemplifying the 'doors' aspect of our spirituality framework through concrete social action. We are collecting non-perishable items such as tinned goods, pasta, and rice at reception. All donations will support Derby City Mission, who in turn help provide our free breakfast program available to every student each morning.

The power of using our voices to advocate for those in need was magnificently demonstrated by our Year 7 students at Derby Cathedral during their English speech morning. Having studied the impact of powerful rhetoric, they crafted persuasive speeches on the value of education – showcasing all three aspects of our spirituality framework: windows, mirrors, and doors. The winning speeches, performed before the entire year group, displayed remarkable confidence and a deep understanding of education's life-changing potential, drawing examples from both across the world and personal experiences. We were also honoured to hear from Sam, Derby's City Youth Mayor. The judges were thoroughly impressed by both the quality of our students' work and the exemplary conduct of all of Year 7, who embodied our FAITH values throughout the event.

Congratulations are due to our Year 11 GCSE Drama students who completed their examined performances last week. As we enter the formal examination period, we extend our best wishes to all students with upcoming assessments, particularly those facing Spanish speaking exams next week, which form 25% of their final grade. We know their diligent preparation will serve them well.

We also send our warmest regards to Mrs. Coleman, who began her maternity leave on Friday. We eagerly anticipate meeting her twins in the coming months and hold her and her growing family in our thoughts.

Finally, we wish our debate team the very best of luck as they compete in the finals this week. Their thoughtful and confident presentations continue to make us proud.

Like Jesus's simple but powerful instruction to share what we have, these various activities and achievements demonstrate how, at DCS, we strive to put our values into practical action – using our talents, voices, and resources to benefit others and create a community where everyone can flourish.

We wish you all a wonderful week

Mrs Brown

Derbyshire Schools Book Awards - Finals



On Wednesday 26th March, students from years 8 - 11 went to Derby University to attend the Finals ceremony of the Derbyshire Schools Book Awards, which was celebrating its 10 year anniversary. Hosted for the first time by Derby Book Festival, schools from across Derbyshire enjoyed tours of the university, where we were shown some of the many 'schools' on the main campus, including the School of Science's Fish Room, where marine life is studied for Environmental and Earth Sciences. The tour included a look at the library, which is on an impressive three floors and contains thousands of resources, both printed and digital. Our librarian had library envy!

The day continued with an engaging talk from award-winning author Dan Smith, whose historical fiction novel *The Wall Between Us* was runner-up in last year's DSBA. Dan happily answered many questions from the audience and read a short passage from *The Beast of Harwood Forest*, a spooky jump-scare scene which caused a few shrieks amongst the audience - adults as well as students!

Five of the schools attending gave short presentations about their book of choice and these ranged from talking about the book, to showing a short film of a musical adaptation. Most exciting from our perspective was our students acting out a scene from *Just Like Everyone Else*, a novel exploring family, identity and self-acceptance. One of our actors made a sign to frame the set as "The Biggest and Best Barbecue in the Whole of Sheffield" and our eight students really gave their all to portray the main characters in this pivotal scene. Their commitment, dedication and months of hard work paid off on the day; despite our nerves the scene conveyed the large family dynamic and the uncertainty of the protagonist's emotions. We hope they are as proud of their achievements as we are; it showed immense personal development for them to act in front of a large, full lecture theatre.

Students across Derbyshire had voted for their favourites; votes counted and tallied and the culmination delivered with much fanfare and cheers, with raising-the-roof whoops at the declaration of the overall winner....

The Faint of Heart, a futuristic graphic novel where people volunteer to have their hearts removed, to take away fear and anxiety. Unfortunately the procedure numbs pleasurable emotions too. Beautifully illustrated, the simple starkness of the text conveys the deadness of lives without emotion and the worthlessness of merely existing and was a well-deserved winner.

We returned to school tired and happy, with one extremely proud Librarian. Thank you so much to everyone who took part!



Derby Schools Debating Society semi-finals result



After an incredibly tense debate against a brilliant Littleover School team, DCS emerged victorious and booked our place in the final on 2nd April against Allestree Woodlands School. We successfully argued monuments to controversial historical figures should be removed. Thank you to Karen Christie for accompanying us and the sixth formers who gave up their time to coach the younger students.

If you see Hajrah, Agnes, Hadassah and Haleema around the school, give them a big pat on the back for yet another incredible performance. We are all very proud of you!

Year 11 PROM 2025



Reminder – Book your Prom tickets via Parent Pay, live now.

Don't miss out on the event of the year!



Comic Relief donations



Our donations page is open until 11th April if you would still like to make a contribution to Comic Relief 2025. Any contribution will be gratefully received by following the link below:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=17937>

Household Support Fund update – FSM holiday food vouchers

We are pleased to inform our Free School Meal parents that the DWP have confirmed an extension to the Household Support Fund (HSF) grant from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. The food voucher codes will continue to be issued as usual over the next 12 months.

For children eligible for means tested FSM (including 6th form students) the vouchers awarded will be:

Holiday period	Voucher value
Easter holidays	£25
May half-term	£12.50
Summer holidays	£75
Oct half-term	£12.50
Xmas holiday	£25
Feb HT	£12.50

For the avoidance of any confusion, we would stress that the Holiday Activity Fund **HAS NOT** replaced the food voucher codes provided during the holidays from the Household Support Fund. The 2 schemes are separately funded. As stated above, we will continue to issue the FSM vouchers by post.

HAF Programme

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

We have now been informed that during this Easter break, Derby City Council will continue to support eligible families through the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF). We have emailed all eligible parents with a detailed letter regarding this from Derby City Council.

From Easter onwards there will be a new booking system in place. The system allows you to discover and book all available HAF clubs.

Look out for an email or text message from HolidayActivities.com with a link to access your voucher. ***Please note that any HAF codes previously issued are no longer valid and will not be accepted by the new system.*** Vouchers will be issued to each eligible child via email or text message on Monday 17 March.

[Here's](#) a helpful guide to assist you with making bookings through the platform. Further information regarding the Holiday Activities and Food Programme can be found [here](#).



Word of the Week - Petulant

Petulant

Definition: Rudeness, irritability

In Spanish: Mal humour

Synonyms (words with a similar meaning): irritability, aggression, anger, irritableness

Antonyms (words with the opposite meaning): tolerance, understanding, patience, forbearance

Sentences:

A slight degree of petulance had crept into his voice.

The old petulance, the bearlike hunching ill-temper of his bachelor days has vanished.

Anger would have been misplaced, petulance completely out of character.

Calderwood was so angered by the petulance he refused to acknowledge his midfielder.

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.

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 😊

What Parents and Educators Need to Know about Bluesky

Bluesky is a microblogging social media platform that gained popularity after separating from Twitter in 2021. Since accounts must be public, this opens the door to potential trolling, cyberbullying and the spread of misinformation.

We've created [this free guide](#), offering parents and educators advice and guidance on the tools available to keep children safe while using the popular social media platform Bluesky.

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 BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'Advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much. It's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>

X @wake_up_weds f /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: 26.03.2025

Cycle Derby – Easter holiday activities

cyclederby
EASTER
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
2025



Holiday Club £26
10.30am - 1pm **6-12 Years**
9th April at Derby Arena
14th April at Markeaton Park

You need:

- Your own bike & helmet
- To be able to ride unaided
- Backpack with snacks & drink

30 minute skills and confidence session followed by a 120 minute ride

New to two wheels
4-8 Years 10am - 11am **£12**
9th April at Derby Arena
14th April at Markeaton Park

Mini cycling club for those new to two wheels! You will need:

- Your own bike, helmet and drink
- To be able to ride unaided



All activities must be booked in advance
To book call 07827 879647 or email cyclederby@derby.gov.uk

www.cyclederby.co.uk

 Derby City Council

cyclederby
EASTER
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
2025



Trackdays
Day Session at Derby Arena **9-16 Years**

You need:

- To be a competent cyclist
- Appropriate clothing
- A packed lunch & drink

8th & 15th April **£36**
10am - 3pm



All activities must be booked in advance
To book call 07827 879647 or email cyclederby@derby.gov.uk

www.cyclederby.co.uk

 Derby City Council

cyclederby
EASTER
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
2025



Learn to Ride
at Markeaton Park

For children getting onto two wheels for the first time or those who have *almost* mastered it. Own bike preferred but not essential. **£21**

50 Minute Sessions available

10am, 11am, 12noon
1.30pm & 2.30pm



April
7th, 9th, 10th,
11th, 14th & 16th

All activities must be booked in advance
To book sessions please email cyclederby@derby.gov.uk or call 07972 268171

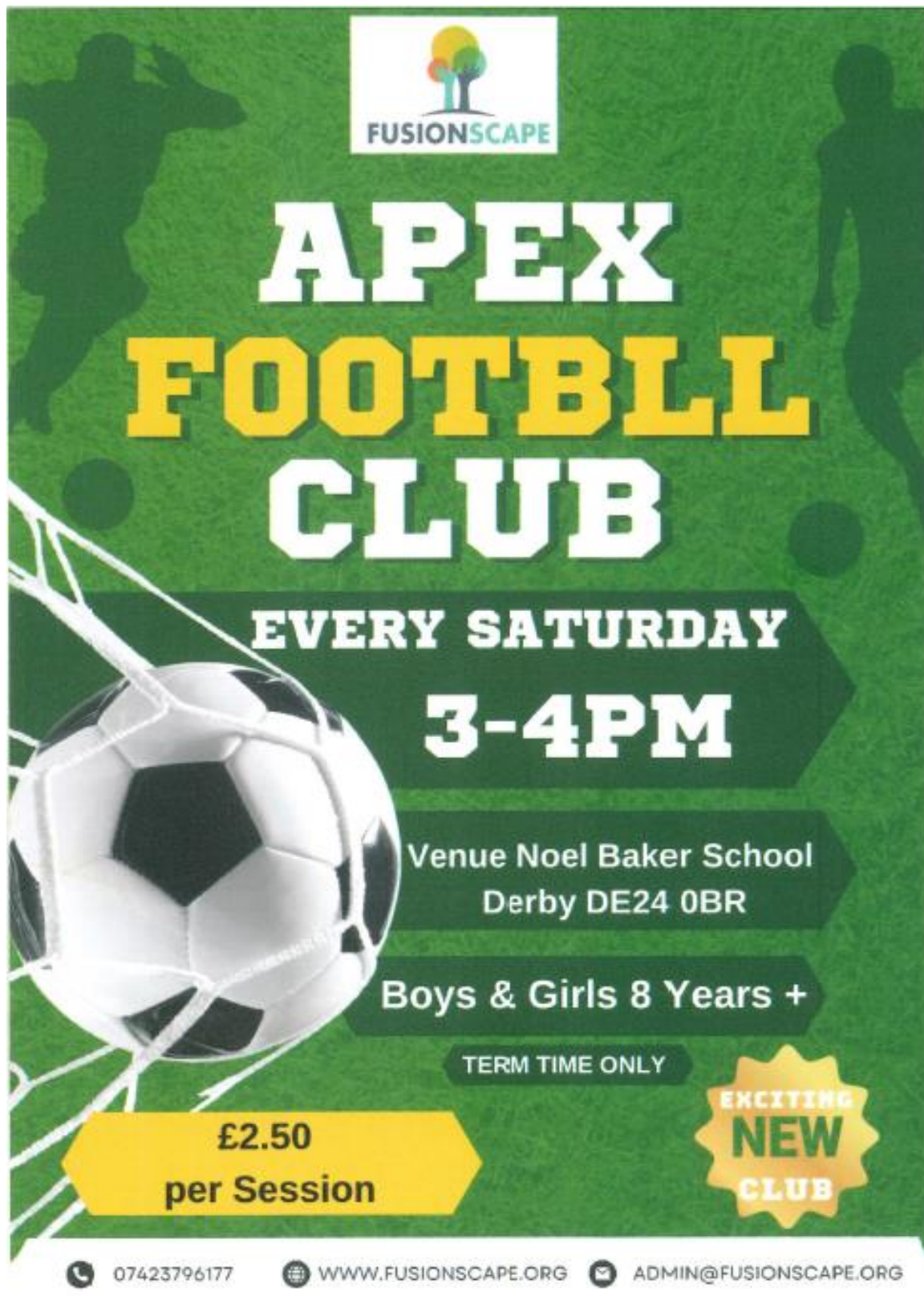
www.cyclederby.co.uk

 Derby City Council

Bridge The Gap - Drop-In Hub

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



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 another 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'. The footer contains contact information: 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

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.

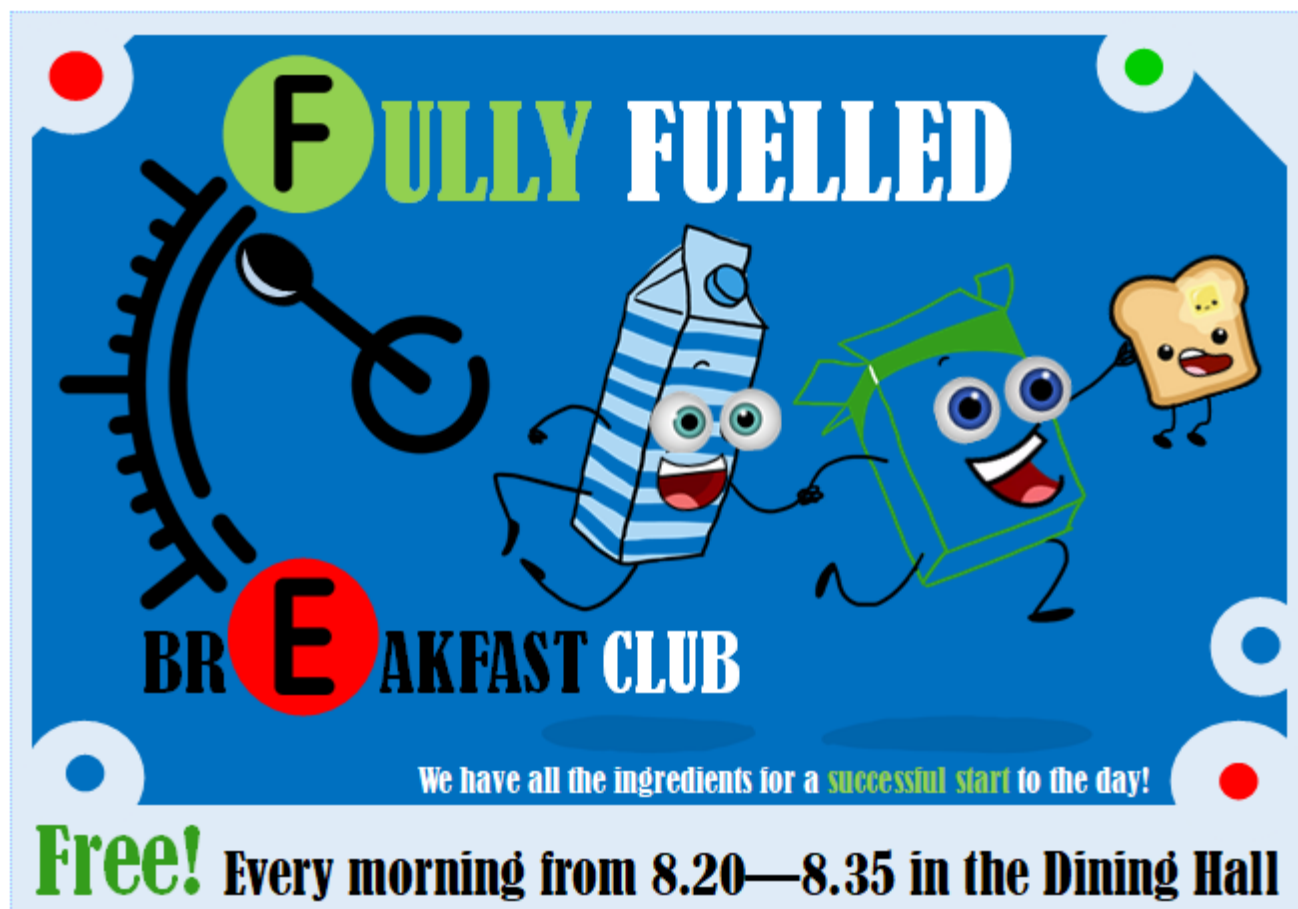
Contact/Meeting Requests

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



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

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 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/>