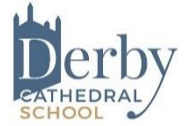


This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 25th November 2024



Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

For us at DCS this is a reminder that whatever our hopes and dreams are, God wants to help us to do well and not be harmed.

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of term, I want to draw your attention to our Bible verse from Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

This verse resonates with our ongoing efforts to support students in making informed decisions about their future. Our upcoming KS4 careers event for Years 10 and 11 is a practical step in this direction. The careers fair will bring together our Sixth Form, local colleges, and businesses offering apprenticeships, providing students with valuable insights into potential career paths. We are really looking forward to seeing all year 10 and 11 students along with yourselves – please do see the relevant emails for specific details for each year group.

I would like to thank Mrs Bingham, our Careers Lead, the Year 10 team, and the staff involved in organizing this event. The fair offers students an opportunity to explore their options and make considered choices about their next steps.

As we enter December, we are preparing for end-of-term activities. The school Christmas tree will be installed soon, and we are finalising arrangements for a visit to Derby Cathedral for Years 8, 10, and 13 students. Further details will be communicated in due course.

I must also address an important safety and compliance issue. Electric scooters are now illegal and are strictly prohibited on our school site and in public spaces. Any electric scooters brought to school will be confiscated, securely stored, and the police will be notified. Please do see the police notice within this newsletter for more details as parents are now also liable for prosecution.

We continue to work towards supporting our students in their educational journey, helping them to navigate their current studies and future opportunities.

I wish you all a good first week in December.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Brown

Fundraising Contributions to DCS

Ms Boyle, one of our Teaching Assistants, was involved in some fundraising during October this year with contributions made to DCS as a result. We wish to say a huge thank you to Borrowwash Victoria AFC and Golden Pheasant FC for their generosity.

Fundraising Contributions

The Grass-roots of Generosity



With the cost of living on the rise and unexpected physical growth spurts of children, it can be quite a challenge for families to provide an extensive kit that enables their child to fully participate in a varied range of sports and enrichment activities.

The teams at Borrowwash Vics AFC hosted an England Veterans charity football match during October which raised more than £500 towards purchasing football boots and shin pads for the school. They were also able to make additional donations of sportswear, balls and other items.

Thank you Borrowwash Victoria AFC for your kind and much valued contributions!



Golden Pheasant FC raised enough money to enable the school to purchase sixty-five Casio scientific calculators and loan these out to students in Year 10 and Year 11 currently studying for GCSEs.

This will enable these students increased participation in their learning by using a calculator which has a range of functions that meet GCSE standards. This will assist them in their maths and science lessons, in completing their homework and with exam preparation.

Thank you Golden Pheasant FC for your fantastic fundraising!



'A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed' - Proverbs 11:25

E-scooters

Did you know?

- ▶ It is illegal to use an e-scooter in public areas.
- ▶ An e-scooter can only legally be used on private land with the owner's permission.
- ▶ Parents may also be liable for prosecution as well.

As of Friday 1 November, officers who engage anyone using an e-scooter in a public place will seize the e-scooter, before sending it to be disposed after 14 days.

Previously, those caught offending were warned for a first offence of riding an e-scooter on a public road, pavement or cycle path. Going forwards there is no longer any requirement in Derbyshire to warn the rider.



Christmas Fayre

Abbey Christmas Fayre is taking place at Bramblebrook Community Centre, Stockbrook Street, Derby this coming Saturday, 7th December. Please come along and show your support for some of our Year 12 students who will be volunteering throughout the afternoon.

ABBEY CHRISTMAS FAYRE!

Food, fun, stalls and
activities for all ages
- yule love it!

1PM - 3PM

**SATURDAY
7TH
DECEMBER**

**FREE
ENTRY**



**Bramblebrook
Community Centre**

Parent Wellbeing Session - From £2.50



All I want for Christmas is...

An evening for parents to talk about their wellbeing.



Come and join us for a relaxing and creative session to help you think about what YOU need as we approach Christmas.

- Take part in a creative activity to support your wellbeing
- Enjoy a hot drink and mince pie
- Take home a self-care pack from us
- Chat to the Bridge the Gap team

From £2.50

THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER

6PM - 8PM

Derby Cares Café,
Bridge the Gap
10/11 St Mary's Gate
Derby, DE1 3JR

Book a space at jwbridgethegap.com.



Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Scheme

Did you know that if your child receives benefits related free school meals, they are entitled to a FREE place at a holiday club over the winter holidays? 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. To book a place you will need your unique Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) code – check with school reception to get your code. Bookings for winter clubs will open on 15 November. Details can be found at www.derby.gov.uk/derbyHAF.

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.

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.

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 below



Year 10 Information Evening

All Y10 Parents and Students are invited to attend our information evening taking place on **Tuesday 3rd December 2024**. We have two available times to attend, 4:30 pm or 5:30 pm during which there will be some short talks taking place in the hall followed by a meeting with your child's form tutor.

As your child is now in their final phase of compulsory school education, this is a vital opportunity to explain this critical year for your child. We will share with you the outline of the year ahead and the ways in which we will be working together to achieve the best possible results for your child. There will also be specific information about:

- Next steps – 6th form, apprenticeships, employment and university
- Revision techniques and resources

If you haven't already signed up to attend, please contact us at info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk and state your preferred session time.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Year 11 – Post 16 Options

It is an important time for Year 11 for post 16 applications, with most sixth forms and colleges open for applications. Some apprenticeships are also open for applications. Deadlines are just around the corner so it is important that students get their applications submitted as soon as possible!

For an overview of their post 16 options, including sixth form, college and apprenticeship options, Year 11 should review the post 16 options PowerPoint [here](#). This includes open evening/open event dates and application deadline dates.

Year 11 should submit all applications as soon as possible, but the most urgent application deadlines are below. Please review the PowerPoint for further deadlines. Our Derby Cathedral School Sixth Form deadline is Friday 31st January.

Littleover Community School Sixth form - Friday 6th December
Toyota apprenticeships - Tuesday 10th December

Post 16 Options Evening

Good news! On Tuesday 3rd December starting at 5.30pm we are hosting a Post 16 Options Evening here at school! We would love for **all** Year 11 students to attend this. **We are lucky to have secured some fantastic speakers including:**

Rolls Royce, UTC, Toyota, Severn Trent, Derby College, Derby County in the Community - Sports Education pathways, Lees Brook Academy, RAF, Army, Nottingham College, Burton and South Derbyshire College , University of Derby

Please add the date to your diary! More information to come soon. If you have any questions or need support, please speak to Mrs Bingham.

Year 12 – Outreach and Wider Engagement Opportunities

This is a really important time for Year 12 with lots of applications still open for outreach and wider engagement opportunities. It is fantastic to see so many Year 12 students engaging with these so far and getting their applications in. These opportunities really do have **the power to change your future!**

For the most up to date list of opportunities, please [click here](#) or scan the QR code below.

These are all opportunities that you must apply for in Year 12 - most of the deadlines are before Christmas. In Year 13, you will not be able to apply, so you must be proactive!

If you need any support or have any questions, please speak to Mrs Bingham.

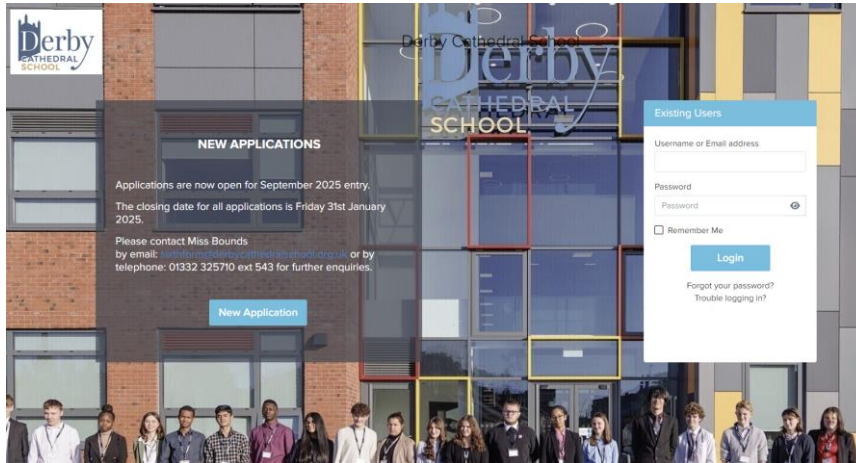


Sixth Form Applications

Applications can be made directly on our website: <https://derbycathedralschool.org.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-admissions>

If you click the 'Application' link it takes you to the page below.

Our current students are already in the system and just need to enter their school email and password in the 'Existing Users' box to start their application.



If you weren't able to make it, or you want to investigate a few more courses, don't forget to look at our prospectus and subject videos on our website. They can all be found on the Sixth Form Admissions page (see link above).

The deadline for applications is **Friday 31st January.**

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

23rd December 2024 – 3rd January 2025 – Christmas Break
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 – School closed to all students

Friday 31st January 2025
Monday 30th June 2025

Parents Evenings / Opening Evenings

3rd December – Y10 Information / Parent Evening – 3:30 – 6:30 pm
22nd January 2025 – Y9 Options Evening
28th January 2025 – Y11 Parents Evening 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15pm
13th February 2025 – Y10 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm
27th February 2025 – Y8 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm
18th March 2025 – Y7 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm
12th June 2025 – Y9 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm

Other Key Dates

Wednesday 18th December 2024 – School Christmas Dinner

Term and key dates can also be found on our calendar and terms dates sections on the school website.