

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 25th September 2023



In Hebrews 10:23-25 it says:

“Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for God who promised it is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.”

For us at DCS this shows that being a community is not about the buildings we meet in, but about the love, good deeds and encouragement we share together.

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

It's great to see how our enrichment programme has already started at DCS with our Sixth Form students having opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge with activities outside of their normal school lessons.

Our Bible verse of the week illustrates how important it is to provide encouragement for each other. As staff we are focusing on three key words and phrases this year: how do we provide **hope** and enable our students to **flourish** and experience **life in all its fullness**?

The biblical definition of hope is not just about wishful thinking but is a confident expectation. All of the extra activities featured in this week's newsletter provide that confident hope and give opportunities for our students to flourish. It is a real joy to see them in these environments.

We also really appreciate working in partnership with our parents and carers and really appreciate your help with this. Our gardening club has started this week and we now have one vegetable bed clear of the wilderness it was becoming! If you do have any gardening equipment we can use, please do let us know or if you have any contacts who may be willing to donate items or sponsor us. Likewise, we have a plea this week for wellies to support students with Geography fieldwork. There are not many places who offer this to all students and we're delighted that our Geography department manage to organise these experiences for all year groups.

I hope that you enjoy reading the articles this week and can talk to your child/children about what they do to 'spur one another on' and encourage one another as the Bible verse says.

I hope you all have a lovely week.

Mrs Brown

A Level and GCSE Artist Workshop

On 15 September our A Level and GCSE art students were incredibly fortunate to participate in a workshop with a visiting artist.

Ian Murphy is a contemporary fine artist from Wigan who is best known for his powerful, atmospheric, mixed media oil paintings of architectural places.

He spent a full day with our students and provided a drawing and mixed media workshop with all Year 12 students. Some of our GCSE Year 11 students spent some time with him as well.

Students learnt about his work, techniques and processes used. They produced 5 pieces of work using graphite, fine liner, mixed media, ink, paint and collage.

A big thank you goes to Mrs Gibson for organising this enriching experience.





Cathedral Visit for Sixth Form Musicians

On Tuesday 26th September, Mrs Eaton took the Music Sixth Form students for a visit to Derby Cathedral. Students were shown how the organ works and demonstrated how to use the stops and other functions. Mr Binns (Director of Music at the Cathedral) also showed students the choir room where Derby Cathedral choristers practice.

Mr Binns also explained the history of the Cathedral and explained how the organ was introduced to the Cathedral in 1939. Students were shocked to hear that the organ would cost two million pounds to replace!



Year 10 Kedleston Hall Visit

As part of our ongoing partnership with the National Trust, Mr Adler (History) and Miss Rowley (Careers) took a group of Year 10 students to our closest National Trust property, Kedleston Hall. The group was kindly assisted by Mr Capon and Miss Maddocks.

The students were blown away by the size of the hall and grounds and were amazed to discover that although the property was almost 300 years old, it was built as the ultimate party pad! Despite the hall only being 15 minutes from school, for most of the group, this was the first time they had visited. The house is closed to the general public on Wednesdays but we were very fortunate to be given a behind-the-scenes tour by Katherine who is the head of the hall's conservation team. As a result we were able to see, feel and smell some of the furniture and artefacts that the general public don't usually get to see. We were also able to discover what was hidden behind some of the hall's secret doors and have a private tour of the museum.

Katherine then gave us a fascinating talk on her job and why she loves it so much and the volunteer guides, Tina and Julia, explained why they love volunteering for the National Trust and helping visitors get the most from their visit to Kedleston which certainly inspired many of our students. Since returning to school, we have received a lovely email from Lyndsey at the hall praising our students on their enthusiasm, engagement and behaviour.

We are looking to further enhance our partnership with Kedleston Hall and the National Trust so watch this space for more exciting developments. If you are interested in visiting the hall for yourself more information can be found here: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/peak-district-derbyshire/kedleston-hall>





Wellies for Fieldwork

We are so proud that all students at DCS get a chance to go on Geography fieldwork trips. These experiences not only help to develop skills but also give everyone the opportunity to get outside and enjoy the beautiful outdoors that are so close to Derby.

As we all know, the UK can give us all sorts of weather and we still go out when it's a bit wet underfoot! In order to help our students we'd love to loan students a pair of wellies if they need them.

If you have any spare pairs that people in your household have grown out of then please do consider donating them to us as we'll put them to good use.



Next Steps for Year 11

On Tuesday 19th September, parents and carers visited the school for our second annual Year 11 Information evening. As well as learning about the upcoming GCSE exams, revision techniques and how to support their child with workload and wellbeing, parents also received some information on Post-16 options and next steps.

Soon it will be time for students in Year 11 to start making a decision about what they want to do after their GCSE exams. By law, all young people must stay in some form of education or training until the age of 18. This could include:

- Sixth Form (either here at Derby Cathedral School or at another school)
- College
- Apprenticeships
- Traineeships

Living in Derby, we're lucky to have 11 schools with Sixth Forms within the city, and a large Further Education college with 3 campuses. As well as this, lots of our well-known employers in the area such as Rolls-Royce and Toyota offer excellent apprenticeship opportunities, and there are also specialist training providers such as the Derby County Football & Education Programme and the White Rose beauty colleges.

It's important that students make a well-informed decision that is right for them, so we have a few things planned in school over the new few months that will help with this decision-making process.

We're excited to announce that on Thursday 9th November, we will be hosting opportunity for students to hear from some outside providers in school. Students will also have a series of PSHE lessons all around exploring and applying for Post-16 options.

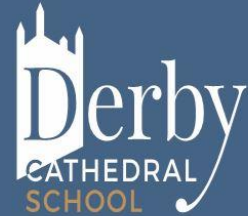
In addition to this, the latest list of Open Days in our area has been communicated to Year 11 parents via email. Students can book 1-1 careers appointments with Miss Rowley if they are needing support getting started with their Post-16 decisions.

Our Sixth Form open evening is on Thursday 12 October at 5.30pm.

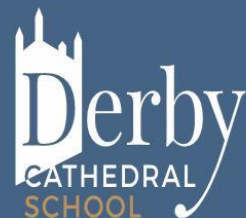
Open Evenings

We have two open evenings planned for this half term: year 6 and Sixth Form. The year 6 open evening is for any parents who are thinking of sending their child to DCS for year 7 in September 2024. Our Sixth Form open evening is designed for any year 11 students looking at their options for September 2024. If you have children in these year groups, we would love to see you there!

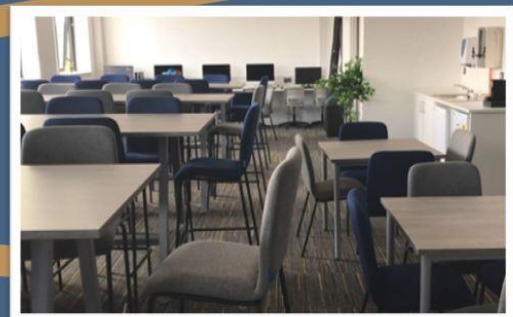
Please also pass on these details to anyone you know who may be interested.



Year 6 Open Evening Wed 4th October 5:30 – 7:30pm



Sixth Form Open Evening Thu 12th October 5:30 – 7:30pm



REACH Next Generation Summit for Girls 11 – 15

All the details are shown on the invitation at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/reachng> and all girls between the ages of 11 – 15 are welcome to attend this wonderful event.

The Summit is FREE to attend and lunch and afternoon snacks will be provided and it will be a day of discussions to help girls think about their futures in the ever changing world we all now live in.

They will be discussing ambition, self confidence, social media, money management, mental health and many more topics from a range of successful women from all backgrounds and sectors. It will be an empowering and energising day and one that changes lives for the better.

More information and videos from previous summits are at www.reachnextgeneration.com where the girls can register.



THE REACH NEXT GENERATION SUMMIT

FOR 11-15 YEAR OLD GIRLS

ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH 2023
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EXPERIAN AT THEIR
FANTASTIC OFFICES IN NOTTINGHAM

The Summit is open to all girls who are 11- 15 years old, and it will be very much a workshop and discussion format to help girls think about their futures in the ever-changing world that we all now live in.

We will be discussing ambition, self confidence, social media, money management, health and nutrition and career choices and lots more with successful women from all these different sectors and from all backgrounds. It will be an amazing, empowering and energising day.

It's free to attend and lunch is provided.

Our anticipated programme will be.

9am	Arrival at Experian Offices
9.45am	Morning sessions
12.30pm	Lunch (will be provided) and make some new friends
1.30pm	Afternoon sessions
3.30pm	Ice cream break (will be provided) and make more new friends
5.00pm	Final sessions followed by a live music performance
5.30pm	Summit ends

You can reserve your seat at www.reachnextgeneration.com or please email NextGen@wearereach.net for more details.

Thank you to all our sponsors and partners.



Dates Ahead

Key Dates in the Autumn Term

3 October: Year 12 Senior Maths Challenge
4 October: Year 6 Open Evening
9 October: School photographs for all students
11 October: Year 12 Open Evening
Wc 23 October: Year 9 Holocaust survivor visit
24 October: Year 7 Meet The Tutor Evening

9 November: Year 11 Parents' Evening (early finish of 2.10pm for all students)
28 November: Year 12 Parents' Evening (early finish of 2.10pm for all students)

1 December: INSET day. School closed for all students

Term Dates

Friday 27 October: break up for Autumn half term
Monday 6 November: return to school
Friday 22 December: break up for Christmas holiday

Monday 8 January: return to school
Friday 16 February: break up for Spring half term
Monday 26 February: return to school
Thursday 28 March: Break up for Easter holiday

Monday 15 April: return to school
Friday 24 May: break up for Summer half term
Monday 3 June : return to school
Tuesday 23 July: break up for Summer holiday

INSET Days – school closed to all students

Friday 1st December
Monday 5th February
Friday 28th June

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