

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 26 June 2023



Deuteronomy 31:6 says:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified ..., for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

For us at DCS this shows that there are times when we will need to show courage ... and during those times God has promised to be right there with us.

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

The end of the school year always approaches at a very fast pace and we have certainly packed a great deal in to this week. Both the Year 12 Induction Day and the Year 11 Prom were such great events. Both days have made us feel so proud of our students and even more excited for next year.

All of the items in this week's newsletter highlight how our FAITH values are really helping to shape the character and attitudes of our students. Participating in different activities gives us all time to see our students in a variety of situations outside of the classroom. They always give us reason to feel even more proud of them as we see how they cope with change and interact with different people with such maturity and thoughtfulness.

Next year we will have an increasing focus on FAITH in action. This will see all students continue to develop their own understanding of how they can demonstrate the FAITH values in their everyday lives. We also want them to have a better understanding of where these values come from. As a Church of England school, it's important that they understand the biblical principles these values are based on, no matter what their own personal beliefs.

Our FAITH student ambassador group will be key in supporting this developing agenda and have made a great start by writing our school prayer that will feature in our opening ceremony on Monday. Please do speak to your child/children about these values. They should be able to talk about each of them and know how important they are, not just for developing their own character to be a good citizen, but also to be a great employee in the future. I've already said how proud we are of our students and please know that we are very grateful to you all as parents/carers as it is your support that makes a huge difference too.

I know that we have a slightly different week this week with a further two days of NEU strike action. We thank you for your understanding during this and hope that the government and the union are able to come to an agreement as soon as possible.

I wish you all a great first week of July,

Mrs Brown

Year 11 Prom

Well, the day finally came - our final farewell to our first cohort to complete to Year 11 at Derby Cathedral School. Although many of our Year 11 students will be re-joining us in Sixth Form, it still marks the end of what has been an incredible 5 years. With all the upheavals that have taken place, and with what our Year 11s have been through, it was an honour to see them arriving for their Year 11 Prom so full of excitement and eagerness, as though everything that had gone before was momentarily forgotten for this final celebration.

And what a night it was.... Every student had made an amazing effort and all looked incredible. From the wonderful dresses and the suits, to the array of vehicles they arrived in (I can't say cars, as one student arrived in a tipper truck), everyone who attended really made every member of staff present proud - not to mention the many families who were also there.

The arrival set the scene for the whole evening and the dancing started almost immediately and only took a brief pause when the buffet was announced. Before long, it was everyone back to the dance floor with just one more small pause to allow the staff to do a 'flashmob' dance which seemed to go down well with the students.

The event took place over two floors, with the dancing happening upstairs and seating downstairs for those who wanted to have a break, or to just relax and talk quietly. Some outdoor space also allowed the students to cool off and we were lucky that, despite an earlier downpour, the rain pretty much held off, meaning suits and dresses weren't ruined by what could have been very bad weather.

The night wound up just after 10pm with students singing along to the last song of the evening and leaving Morley Hayes happy and smiling after a fantastic night. I have always been very proud to be the Head of Year for Year 11s and Prom night finished with that feeling reaching new heights. Behaviour, respect and politeness was shown by every student throughout the night and they left Morley Hayes showing exactly what it means to be a student of Derby Cathedral School as our FAITH values were on show throughout the evening. And it didn't go unnoticed as, on more than one occasion, school staff were approached by those from Morley Hayes to tell us how amazing our students were, and how well behaved they had been while still having an amazing time - one of those was the CEO of Morley Hayes who would happily welcome DCS back next year.

So, when the day finally came, our first cohort of Derby Cathedral School students bid farewell leaving everyone present proud to have worked with and known them. Well done Year 11s, it has been a pleasure to know and teach you - you have done Derby Cathedral School proud.

Remember - keep those FAITH values and you will always succeed.

Mr. Capon

Year 12 Induction Day

On Monday 26 July, over 150 applicants all came to DCS for a Year 12 Induction Day. It was great to see so many students and a real mixture of internal and external students. They started the day with a sneak preview of our newly furnished Sixth Form work space and moved to an introduction to the day from Mrs Brown and Mr McIntyre (Head of Sixth Form).

Each student had a personalised programme for the day based on the subjects they wish to study in September. They attended a taster lesson in each of their subjects and had a bit more time in the Sixth Form room, taking part in a few fun activities.

Towards the end of the day, they headed out to the field for some team building, fun games and an ice cream. The Sixth Form tutors spent the day with them and all commented that they were so delighted with the positive, friendly atmosphere of the whole day. We were also really grateful that our new staff for next year came in to deliver sessions and meet the students.

We're now looking forward to seeing them enrol with us on results day: Thursday 24 August.

Carnegie 2023

21st June saw eight of our most prolific student readers, along with a team of three staff members, boarding the school bus in the sunshine to visit Murray Park School for the live screening of the Yoto Carnegie Book Awards, 2023.

The Carnegies (as they are fondly known) is the UK's longest running book awards – its recipients include such worthies as Sir Terry Pratchett (my personal hero), C.S. Lewis and Elizabeth Acevedo – which recognises outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration in books for children and young people. The medals themselves are awarded by a panel of children's librarians but the Shadders' Choice awards are voted for by the young people who have read the books (as a school we focused on the Medal for Writing, rather than the Medal for Illustration).

Representatives from five local schools gathered in Murray Park's library for a morning of activities centred around the awards, with a focus on meeting other schools. I was so proud of our students who represented our school so well with their friendliness towards others, their ability to stay on task and their overall impeccable conduct in an unfamiliar environment.

Murray Park looked after us all well, providing snacks and lunch and a teacher leading the day who was filled with enthusiasm for reading. This modelling behaviour, sharing the love of reading and the worlds that it opens up, is of vital significance to all young people and something we rigorously promote every day at DCS.

The winners? The Medal for Writing went to Manon Steffan Ros for *The Blue Book of Nebo*, an author who also writes in the Welsh language and has a passion for sharing her cultural experiences to a wider audience. The Medal for Illustration went to Jeet Zdung for the beautiful graphic novel *Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear*, the first time a book in translation has won this award. Shadders' Choice medals went to Ruta Sepetys for *I Must Betray You* (Writing) and Joe Todd-Stanton for *The Comet*, neither of which had been voted for by our students, but we graciously accepted the winners' achievements. Our cohort were mixed in their perceptions of which novels were best – suffice to say each entry was outstanding and we encourage everyone in school to read at least one of them in the coming weeks and in the new term. Why not ask your young person to bring one home and talk to you about it?

Ms Christie, LRC Manager and Librarian



Vaping Awareness Week

We were delighted that our vaping awareness week has featured in the Derby Telegraph, on BBC Radio Derby and on BBC East Midlands Today on television. This aired on Monday 3rd July and you can watch it on BBC IPlayer (5 minutes 40 seconds in).

The media have been really impressed with the collaborative approach that Derby City secondary schools have taken. All 21 schools have worked together to promote information to students across the whole city as we feel very passionate that our students are protected from this unknown risk.

Eight of our year 8 students took part in the filming for the BBC news programme with reporter Rachel Royce and her cameraman. Rachel spent time explaining how the process of recording worked and that she would have to edit the 1.5 hours of filming down into just two minutes.

All eight students were absolutely superb throughout the filming and displayed real thought and maturity. Our visitors were really impressed.

A big well done to all!

FAITH Award trip to Oxygen

On Thursday afternoon, Mr Saunders took a group of students to Oxygen Trampoline Park for a reward trip. They were all chosen for their constant demonstration of FAITH values across the whole year. They had a great time and we're really proud of how they have understood our FAITH values and know how to show them in their everyday activities.



Geography Field Work Trips

Year 7 students have been studying the microclimate of the school site while Year 8 investigate contrasting places in Derby City Centre.

All Key Stage 3 students will be receiving GA Fieldwork certificates by the end of term!

Great job geographers!



Nursing Home Visit

On June 27th, a small group of students performed at Kingsway View Nursing Home. Students performed a mixture of vocal and instrumental pieces from Amazing Grace (performed by Hannah Fox and Hannah Rowcroft) to Eleanor Rigby (performed by Thomas Hygate and Will Baines).

After the performance, we were shown round the home by the activities co-ordinator.

Students and staff were very impressed with the facilities which ranged from a spa, bar and cinema!



Dates Ahead

For all key dates please see the calendar on the school website under the information tab:

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

Holiday & term dates

School closes for summer holiday: Friday 21 July (early lunchtime finish)

Other Key Dates

School Blessing ceremony: 3 July

Year 6 transition days: 4 – 6 July

NEU Strike Action Days: 5 and 7 July (see separate email for details)

Enrichment days: 19 – 21 July (different timetable for students)

The term dates for next academic year are now available on the school website on the 'Term Dates' page.

Food Banks and 0-16yr old Clothes Banks

0-16 Clothes Bank – TOGS – Tel Anthea on 07989 117929.

TOGS is situated at 11-12 Friargate (opposite the Smith Partnership Offices) DE1 1BU.

Food Banks – Derby City Mission, 10 Normanton Road, Derby DE1 2GW.

Community Shop (no money needed) and Café on - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am to midday.

Food Bank and Debt advice (no appointment needed):

Tuesday 10 to midday	St Peters Church, DE1 1NN
Wednesday 10am – midday	St. Augustine's Church, Normanton, DE23 8BP
Wednesday 10am – midday	West End Community Centre, Mackworth Road (next to Britannia Mill). DE22 3BL
Thursday 11am - 1pm	St Phillips Church, Taddington Road, Chaddesden, DE21 4JU
Thursday 11:30am – 1:30pm (2 nd and 4 th Thursday of the month only)	Osmaston/ Allenton Children's Centre, 60 Cockayne St N, Allenton, DE24 8XB
Thursday 10am – midday	Bramblebrook Community Centre, Stockbrook St, Derby, DE22 3WH

Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance – Tel 01332 346266 – Emergency Food Assistance

Derby City Life Links - Tel 0800 0322202

Springwater Charity Chellaston – Tel 07832 653255 / 07311 465841