

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

Just a short message from me in this final week of the Spring term. Whilst this is the shortest term in the year, we have packed a great deal into it. This last week has continued in this theme with all of our year 10 students on their work experience and our year 7 and 9 students visiting the Cathedral for an Easter service.

Our year 11 students are now only four school weeks away from their first sitting GCSE exams. We are looking forward to seeing many of them at the additional revision sessions over the Easter holidays and also wish them a good rest as they gear up to their exam period.

The Easter break is an important time in the Christian calendar where Christians remember the vast love that God has for everyone. This is highlighted in our verse for the week (see above). I hope that all of our students and families enjoy the break and have a time where you can all experience the love that God and others have for you.

Thank you all for your help and support over this term. We are always very appreciative of the support that you give to your children and the school and we wish you all a lovely Easter break

Yours faithfully
Mrs Brown
Headteacher

Meet The Team

Meet our Heads of Year:

Mr Capon (Yr 11), Miss Nicholson (Yr 10), Mrs Wood (Yr 7), Mrs Lynch (Yr 8), Mr Thompson (Yr 10)

The Heads of Year have been busy this week (even more so than usual!) as they have planned and delivered an Easter celebration Collective worship to their year groups. This has been an important time to celebrate many of the fantastic achievements that our students have made over the term.

The Heads of Year have been delighted to recognise all of the positive elements of attendance, subject superstars, students who have been working hard to improve, those who demonstrate FAITH characteristics and of course earn positive points.

The Heads of Year oversee all aspects of behaviour for their year group and work with each linked pastoral year lead to build positive relationships with our students and many parents. They see each year group every week in our mail hall collective worship and lead the team of tutors in delivering our morning and afternoon tutor programme. Tutors are the main first point of contact for parents/carers but some situations may be picked up and dealt with by the pastoral year leads and heads of Year. They are all extremely passionate about working hard to ensure all students are happy and settled in school in order to maximise their learning.



Cathedral Visit

On Wednesday, our year 7 and 9 students walked to the Cathedral for an Easter service. This time of year is extremely important for Christians who remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Whilst this might seem like a very strange event, Christians believe that Jesus's death was the way to restore humankind's broken relationship with God.

This is represented in a key verse of the Bible:

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life' John 3:16

Our students heard readings from their peers about key events in the Easter story showing the events that happened before, during and after Jesus's death on the cross. Our students also performed some beautiful musical pieces and listened to a short talk from The Very Reverend Peter Robinson who is the Dean of Derby Cathedral.

We are always grateful to the Cathedral staff for enabling our students to experience this impressive building and to learn more about the values and foundations of the school's Christian values.

No matter what the personal beliefs of our students, it is always a helpful time to reflect on this season and to consider what sacrifices others have made for us and those we make for others.

We're also very proud of our students who performed the readings and musical pieces. This always demonstrates our FAITH values of fellowship and aspiration.

Well done to all performers: Isabella, Jacques, Jose, Kacey, Aly, Emilia, Kezia and Hadassah



Spanish Phrase of the Week

Here at DCS, the teachers love to encourage our students to practise their Spanish speaking skills wherever possible, and we have many aspiring linguists in all year groups. Over the course of several parent's evenings, the MFL (modern foreign language) teachers have noticed many comments from parents and carers such as, "I wish I had paid attention in my languages lessons" or "I listen to my child practising and I don't understand a word of it!".

So, we are now inviting you to join our 'One phrase a week' challenge. Each Friday, we will post a new Spanish phrase on the blog section of our website and challenge parents, carers and students to learn the phrase.

Get involved and give it a go!

Buena suerte!

School Blog

We have been sharing lots of great stories recently on our website school blog.

Please have a look at it regularly and see what our students have been up to!

Over time we will be sharing more and more things on there, including featured blog posts written by students, the Spanish phrase of the week as mentioned above, and posts capturing student work and achievements, as well as events in school.

The blog can be found by scrolling down on our website homepage just past the News section.

On 'News' we will be sharing any important information for parents/carers to be aware of, and the 'Blog' below it will feature fun things to share!

Come and have a look!

Museum of Making

Year 10 Artist workshop

On Friday 24th March, GCSE Art students were invited by The Museum of Making to work alongside London based Artist Denzel Currie. Students started off the day with a tour around the museum where they got to explore artefacts and learn about the history of Derby's silk mill. After lunch, we met local Artist Abigail Wastie and learnt about her artwork and how she makes a living as an artist selling her work and delivering workshops from her home.

Students then got to listen to a talk by Denzel Currie where he introduced the students to his artwork of rug tufting and customised bags, his background and how he makes a living as an Artist. Students were able to watch a demonstration using hand tools and an electric tufting gun (This was very exciting!). Following this students were able to produce their own piece of work using the hand tools and were gifted all the equipment and materials to take home after the workshop to continue with their design. Students were also given the opportunity to work closely with the artist and have a go on the tufting gun to create a larger piece of work.

The artist and museum staff all commented on how polite and how well our students conducted themselves throughout the day. They also couldn't believe how talented our students were!! I was so proud to represent Derby Cathedral School with such an amazing group of students.



Keeping Safe in the Holidays

Safeguarding concerns

If you have any concerns related to safeguarding then please do contact either social services or the police. If you feel that a child is in immediate danger then call 999.

Derby City Children's Social Care First Contact Team: 9am to 5pm 01332 641172 or out of hours 01332 956606

You can also report non-urgent concerns online

https://myaccount.derby.gov.uk/en/service/report_concerns_about_a_child

If you believe that a child is at immediate risk and in need of protection then you should **call the police on 999 or if less urgent 101**.

Alternatively if you want advice from the police and the child is not in immediate need of protection, you can call them on 0845 123 33 33

You can also keep the safeguarding team informed of any concerns or issues. However, please note that they are not in work so should not be used to report safeguarding concerns to over the holidays. Please feel welcome to email just to keep them informed of any situations but be aware that they may not respond until school begins again on 17 April. safeguarding@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

The following helplines give support and advice on a number of issues including personal safety, mental health and well-being.

Childline: 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC – 0800 028 3550 www.nspcc.org.uk

Samaritans – 116 123

Shout – www.giveusashout.org Text Shout to 85258 This is a text helpline for anyone feeling anxious, worried or stressed and needing to talk to someone about it.

Kooth – www.kooth.com This is an online counselling service for young people

Relate counselling – 0808 178 9363 (free helpline for couples, children and those affected by Autistic Spectrum Condition. Available: Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am – 1.00pm. The helpline gives people the opportunity to speak directly to an experienced Relate trained counsellor, without having to make an appointment. For further information contact 01332 349177 or 07741193484 or email info@relatederby.org.uk www.relatederby.org.uk

Online Safety Parent Support www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/11-13s/

ChatHealth – For students aged 11-19 needing advice around emotional health, contact ChatHealth on 07507327104

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 Easter: Friday 31 March: **Please note the earlier finish of 2.05pm**

School opens for summer term: Monday 17 April

School closes for half term: Friday 26 May

School opens for summer half term 2: Monday 5 June

Year 11 Prom: 28 June

School closes for summer holiday: Friday 21 July

Parents' Evenings and INSET days:

Tuesday 27 June: Year 8 Parents' Evening – early finish for all students at 2.15pm

Friday 30 June: INSET day – school closed for all students

Year 11 exams start on 15 May (the art exam is earlier than this) and continue into the end of June. 28 June is the 'contingency day' which may be used if exams have to be postponed for extreme reasons such as the Covid pandemic. Individual timetables will be provided to students soon.

The term dates for next academic year will soon be available on the school website.