

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 27th January 2025



In Matthew 25 Jesus tells a story about what it means to be a good steward (someone who carefully looks after what they have been given).

The story ends like this:

“Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

For us at DCS, this is a reminder that we have been given the world to care for as ‘stewards’ – if we do this well we will be rewarded with a healthy planet.

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Our Bible verse this week comes from Matthew 25, where Jesus teaches us about good stewardship through the Parable of the Talents. This teaching resonates deeply with our mission at DCS, reminding us that we all have gifts and responsibilities entrusted to us that we must nurture and develop. Just as the servant in the parable made the most of what they were given, we see this spirit alive in our school community every day. This was particularly evident this week in our Debating Society, whose members have taken their natural talents for articulation and critical thinking and, through dedication and practice, developed them into competition-winning skills.

I am delighted to share the wonderful news of our Debating Society's victory against Derby UTC. The commitment our students have shown throughout this competition has been fantastic, and we are immensely proud of their accomplishment. Special thanks go to Mr Keene for his leadership of the Debate Club and constant support of our students.

As you know, last Friday was an INSET day. These professional development days are crucial for our staff team, allowing us to focus on key priorities that enhance our students' educational experience. Our first session on Friday was dedicated to exploring the concept of spirituality, building upon the themes we've recently introduced to students through Collective Worship. As a Church of England school, we believe it's essential that all staff members feel confident in supporting students' spiritual development. Research consistently shows that engaging with spirituality has significant benefits for mental health and wellbeing.

We've introduced students to the framework of 'windows, mirrors, and doors' to help them explore their spiritual journey. I encourage you to read the article later in this newsletter explaining these concepts and to discuss them with your child at home.

I'd like to extend my thanks to all Year 11 parents who attended our recent parents' evening. Your engagement makes a significant difference to your child's educational journey, especially at such an important time.

Looking ahead, our Year 10 parents' evening is scheduled for Thursday, 13th February. Please note that school will finish at 2:15 pm for all students on this day, and I strongly encourage you to book your appointments.

As we continue through this term, I am reminded daily of the wonderful community we have here at DCS. Together, we are nurturing not just academic excellence, but also the spiritual and personal growth that will serve our students throughout their lives.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Brown

DCS Debating Society Triumph Again!

On Wednesday 29th January the team challenged Derby University Technical College in the latest round of the prestigious Derby Schools Debating competition. Derby UTC did well but the outcome was a comfortable victory to the society who opposed the proposition 'Violent video games should be banned'. Another outstanding performance that should allow us to progress to the knockout stages of the competition.

"Congratulations to all those involved"



GlosGeog Speaker Session for our Y9/10 Geography Students

On 23rd January 2025, our Y9 and Y10 Geographers took part in a climate change lecture with the Gloucestershire branch of the Geographical Association.

The Tuvalu, mentioned in the blog, is our KS3 case study and feedback from the Y9 students was really positive as they progress from the theory to the case study.



Click below to read the blog post report at the GlosGeog session:

<https://create2inspire.co.uk/2025/01/24/encouraging-young-geographers-to-reflect-upon-climate-change/>

Windows, Mirrors and Doors – a way to discuss Spirituality

At DCS, we are discussing the concept of Spirituality with all students. Engaging with this topic is known to be a great support to our mental health and wellbeing. It can help to reduce stress levels and provides a support framework. As a Church of England school, we follow the vision of the Church of England which includes supporting the spiritual development of young people.

To help our students to understand matters of spirituality and to develop their own thoughts we have introduced them to a particular structure: windows, mirrors and doors.

The explanation we have used for each of these is below.

We would love it if you could have a chat with your child about this structure. Maybe together you could think of moments and thoughts you have that would fit into these categories?



Windows are for looking out onto the world and becoming aware of its wonders, both the good (awe-full) and bad (awful).



Mirrors are for:
looking into and reflecting, to see things more clearly,
for thinking and asking important questions learning from our own and each other's thoughts and opinions.



Doors are for looking through in order to make an action in response
This could be:
a change in attitude or behaviour or thinking.
expressed powerfully through music, art, drama or dance
through some form of social action or an act of giving to others.

Guiding Your Child Through GCSE Choices & Exams

Derby Adult Learning Service

Learning Opportunities for Adults

Guiding Your Child Through GCSE Choices

Do you want to help your child make informed GCSE choices? Understand how GCSE options influence further education and career paths and how to support your child in making balanced decisions.



What you can expect to learn:

- How GCSEs impact future education and career pathways.
- Strategies to guide your child in making balanced and informed subject decisions.
- Practical tools and resources to support the decision-making process.
- Techniques to communicate effectively with your child about their choices.

When: Monday 24th February 2025

Time: 11:00am-1:00pm

Where: Online

Apply today, via the options overleaf.



Supporting Your Child Through GCSE Exams

- **Further information and to apply, click here - [Course details - Derby Adult Learning Service](#)**

• Guiding for Child Through GCSE Choices

- **Further information and to apply, click here - [Course details - Derby Adult Learning Service](#)**

Derby Adult Learning Service

Learning Opportunities for Adults

Supporting Your Child Through GCSE Exams

Do you want to help your child prepare effectively for the GCSE exams, and support them in staying organised and motivated?



What You Can Expect to Learn:

- How to create a productive and supportive study environment.
- Stress-management strategies.
- Tips for preparing your child for exam days, including routines and confidence-building.

When: Monday 17th February 2025

Time: 11.00-1.00pm

Where: Online

Apply today, via the options overleaf.



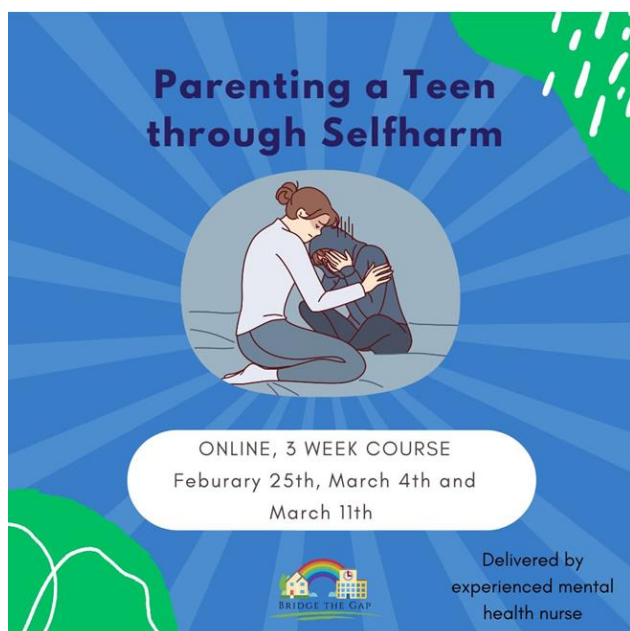
Bridge the Gap – Parenting a Teen through Self-harm



***NEW* Parenting a Teen through Self-harm**

Be the first to know about our new three-week online course with our Specialist Mental Health Nurse Therapist, Nikki Webster.

Dates:
25th February, 4th March & 11th March
8pm
£10 for all three sessions



Nikki has a vast amount of experience and expertise around the topic of self-harm, having worked intensely with teens and adults both within the public and private sector for a number of years.

She will be regularly delivering this online program for parents/carers of teens who are engaging in self-harming behaviours.

The course will provide a space to reflect on parenting styles, learn about CBT informed skills and discover techniques to help guide your teen through this difficult time.

The course also will aim to provide a supportive network for parents/carers at what is a challenging and often very lonely time.

Please note this course is for parents/carers only and not for children.

Each session will be 30 minutes long and held on Microsoft Teams (you will receive a link when you book).

Click the link below for more information and to download a copy of 'A Parent's guide to supporting a child who is self-harming'

<https://jwbridgethegap.com/so/71PGxxaWw?languageTag=en&cid=b21d2a86-4eb0-4bee-9f9e-c9974077b960>



Bridge the Gap – One-to-One Support



One-to-One Support at Bridge the Gap

Are you interested in private one-to-one (1:1) support at Bridge the Gap for yourself or your child?

We currently have spaces for children available in the daytime.

Click the link below for further information:

<https://jwbridgethegap.com/so/2aPFKKpZy?languageTag=en&cid=b21d2a86-4eb0-4bee-9f9e-c9974077b960>

National Saturday Club

NATIONAL SATURDAY CLUB

Society & Change

I'M GOING TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

IT STARTS ON SATURDAY

Free local Saturday Clubs for 13-16 year olds

Find your Club
@natsatclub
saturday-clubs.org.uk

funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

The National Saturday Club is an established UK-wide network, that gives 13—16-year-olds of all abilities the unique opportunity to study subjects they love for FREE, on a Saturday at their local university, college or cultural institution. The Club provides a welcoming space for young people to build their skills, develop their confidence, and discover pathways to further study and future creative careers.

For more information, please click on the link below:

<https://schoolsportal.derby.gov.uk/schools-circular/otherarticles/national-saturday-club/>

Cycle Derby Activities – February Holidays

With only 4 weeks till half term, have a look at ways to keep your children active with Cycle Derby by getting them on their bikes for some fun and games!

Whether they're New to Two wheels and looking to gain more confidence with similar standard riders or wanting a challenge and joining us for a group ride to Elvaston Castle please see the attached posters.

Or if they are over 9 years old and fancy a go on the Indoor velodrome then have a look at our Track Day.

To book on, please email Tracey at cyclederby@derby.gov.uk with your child's name, age and phone number along with which club you'd like to attend.

cyclederby
FEBRUARY HALF TERM ACTIVITIES 2025

New to two wheels
Derby Arena **4-8 Years**

Mini cycling club for those new to two wheels! You will need:
 • Your own bike, helmet and drink
 • To be able to ride unaided

£10

10am - 11am
Skills, games and confidence building.

SESSION DATE
Tuesday
18th February
2025

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

cyclederby
FEBRUARY HALF TERM ACTIVITIES 2025

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

£35

You need:
 • To be a competent cyclist
 • Appropriate clothing
 • A packed lunch & drink

Friday
21st February
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
FEBRUARY HALF TERM ACTIVITIES 2025

Holiday Club **£25**
at Derby Arena

You need:
 • Your own bike & helmet
 • To be able to ride unaided
 • Backpack with snacks & drink



6-12 Years

Tuesday 18th February
10.30am - 1pm

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



APEX FOOTBALL CLUB

**EVERY SATURDAY
3-4PM**

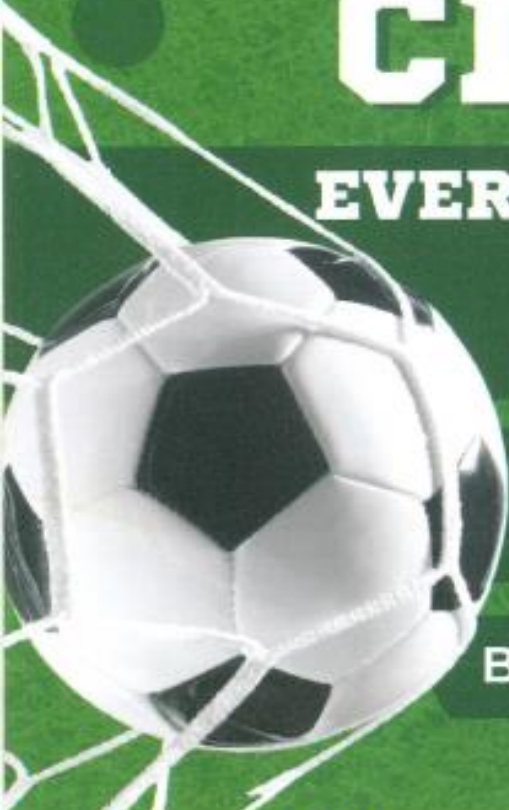
Venue Noel Baker School
Derby DE24 0BR

Boys & Girls 8 Years +

TERM TIME ONLY

**£2.50
per Session**

**EXCITING
NEW
CLUB**



📞 07423796177

🌐 WWW.FUSIONSCAPE.ORG

✉️ ADMIN@FUSIONSCAPE.ORG

Fusionscape – Basketball Training



GOLDEN PHOENIX BASKETBALL TRIALS



PERIOD TIME ONLY

**BASKETBALL
TRAINING**

**EXCITING
NEW
CLUB**

BOYS & GIRLS 08 YEARS+

FEE:- £3.50 PER SESSION



13:00-15:00 EVERY SATURDAY

**Noel Baker School
Derby DE24 0BR**



07423796177



WWW.FUSIONSCAPE.ORG



ADMIN@FUSIONSCAPE.ORG



Reach Community Grocers



REACH
COMMUNITY
GROCERS

• **NEWLY OPENED!** •

OPEN 10:00AM - 4:00PM MONDAY - FRIDAY

You are invited to visit our newly opened community grocers.

Reach Community Grocers,
Riverside Court, Derby,
DE24 8HY

www.reachcommunitygrocers.org
hello@reachcommunitygrocers.org
01332 332044 (option 4)



REACH
COMMUNITY
GROCERS

Are you struggling with the cost of living crisis and finding it difficult to put food on your table? If so, the community grocers is for you.

You can become a member for £5 per year. This will allow you to make up to three visits per week. For a contribution of only £6 each time, you can choose a range of good wholesome food valued up to £25.

Our friendly volunteers will be here to help you with your shop and any further information.



Reach
Community
Grocers,
Riverside Court,
Derby,
DE24 8HY.

Bring this flyer along for an extra free shelf item when you join as a member.

© 2024 Reach Trust (Formerly East Midlands Christian Fellowship)
Registered Charity No. 1090526

Reach Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 3071667.

The Reach Centre, Riverside Court Pride Park | Derby | DE24 8HY

E-scooters

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.



Lost Property

During last term we had an excessive amount of lost property handed in, which is subsequently put out on display 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

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.

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.

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

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 2024-2025 – School closed to all students

Monday 30th June 2025

INSET Days 2025-2026 – 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

Parents Evenings / Opening Evenings

Thursday 13th February 2025 – Y10 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm

Thursday 27th February 2025 – Y8 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm

Tuesday 18th March 2025 – Y7 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm

Thursday 12th June 2025 – Y9 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 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.

Other Key Dates

Term and key dates can also be found on our calendar on the school website:

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