

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 27th November 2023



In Colossians 3 verse 12 it says:

“ ... as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

For us at DCS, this is not only a reminder that we are ‘dearly loved’ by God but also a challenge to share love with others through acts of compassion and kindness. One way we can do this is through the reverse advent calendar collections.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We’ve certainly seen the weather turn more wintery this week and we can’t quite believe that we’re now in December!

A big thank you to all the parents/carers of our Sixth Form students who came to their first parents’ evening this week. It’s always great to see everyone and we know that these face-to-face meetings are extremely helpful in building relationships with school which are a great support for our students. We continue to be really pleased with how well our Sixth Form have started this phase of their education. Not only are they growing academically but personally as well. Their FAITH values are evident in so many ways and exemplified by the many ‘endeavours’ that they are involved in. Last week I introduced you to the idea of this compulsory programme; this week the Sixth Form team have provided a bit more information so please do take time to read the article in this newsletter.

As we all start to move towards Christmas, it is often a time where many people, no matter what their beliefs, think of others in need. In line with our Christian foundations, we also look to support those who may need a little support during this time of year. For the past few years we have created a ‘reverse advent calendar’, based on the principle of giving rather than receiving. Our Bible verse of the week also highlights how this act demonstrates those fantastic character traits that are also reflected in our FAITH values of fellowship and humility. We have received many donations already but please remember to donate if you are able to. Our article below gives a reminder of the types of items need by the food bank. We have decided to support Derby City Mission as they serve people in Derby city and have supported some initiatives for us at Derby Cathedral School too.

We have a few key events in the last week of this term including a visit to the Cathedral for years 8 and 10, our achievement celebrations and not forgetting Christmas dinner day. We also finish school at 12pm on Friday 22 December. We still have three weeks to go of term though and it’s really important that we stay focused on learning. Some of our year 11 students have actual GCSE exams in the first week back in January and some of our year 12’s have course exams in early January too. We are really proud of how much our students are wanting to achieve academically and it’s important that the whole school community supports them in this. Thank you for your part in this too, we really appreciate it.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Brown

Reverse Advent Calendar

In line with our FAITH values we like to be involved in a social action project at key times of the year. Food items are currently being collected by the school council for the reverse advent calendar campaign. This involves giving rather than receiving and all donated items are going to Derby City Mission Food Bank to help create food parcels in time for Christmas. Deadline for bringing food in is December 8th. Thanks so much in advance for any help you can give.



All donations are obviously welcome but this is the list of things they really need

Tins of meat e.g. stewing steak, meat in sauces

- **Tins of cooked meat e.g. ham, corned beef**
- **Tins of fish e.g. tuna, sardines**
- **Tins of vegetables e.g. sweetcorn, carrots, peas, potatoes, kidney beans/pulses**
- **Tinned tomatoes**
- **Tins of dessert e.g. fruit, steamed puddings/ creamed rice**
- **Packet flavoured noodles e.g. super noodles**
- **Sauces e.g. Tomato/brown/mayo**
- **Rice (500g)**
- **Tea bags (bags of 40)**
- **Coffee (small jars)**
- **Cuppa Soups**
- **Jams/Honey/Peanut butter/Chocolate spread**
- **Biscuits/crackers/crisp breads**
- **Cereals e.g. Wheat biscuits, cornflakes, oats**
- **Toilet Rolls**
- **Washing up Liquid**
- **Bath/shower gel**
- **Shampoo**
- **Deodorant**
- **Toothpaste/toothbrushes**
- **Wash Tablets (for Laundry)**
- **Size 3/4 nappies**

Sixth Form Endeavour Programme

Our Year 12 students have been working hard taking part in their extra-curricular Endeavours. These range from study session support in specific subjects, helping with SEND support, helping with school events, becoming a science laboratory assistant, Primary School Ambassadors, to assisting with the Derby Cathedral link. These Endeavours have been created to help Year 12 students gain further skills in a multitude of areas, giving them the confidence to achieve their fullest potential in their post-18 options.

All of our students have been representing Derby Cathedral Sixth Form with pride and have used these Endeavours to further their personal skills ready for their bright futures ahead. A few comments from some staff who have received some of the invaluable help from Year 12 students:

“We had our Year 12 parents’ evening on 28th November and 9 of our students stayed behind after school to successfully assist parents with their journey through parents evening. They were polite, friendly and confident when dealing with queries. Well done Year 12!”

“A dedicated group of Sixth Form students have displayed inspirational Fellowship and Aspiration by taking on the role of becoming Year 7 Buddy Mentors through the Endeavour programme. The enthusiasm from both Sixth Form mentors and their Year 7 buddies has been wonderful to see.

The mentors have not only shown great Fellowship and Aspiration by signing up to these roles, but have also taken personal initiative to schedule regular meetings during social times with their Year 7 buddies. The support they provide creates a positive environment where the transition to secondary school is made smoother for Year 7 students who may be particularly struggling with anxiety and worries.

In addition to fostering friendships, the mentors have been equipped with essential knowledge on how to handle safeguarding concerns. This not only ensures the well-being of themselves as well as their buddies but also provides the mentors with valuable insights into the responsibilities associated with working with young people. This experience offers a glimpse into potential careers in education, care, or any field involving working with young people.”

“Some Year 12 students are taking on the role of Teaching Assistant for certain Y7 SEND students who need a little extra help. They are attending lessons once / twice a week and are helping younger SEND students with their learning. This has gone down very well so far!

Some Year 12 students are also acting as Mentors to our Y7 SEND students as well. The idea is that our younger students have someone to turn to who has been through 5 years of DCS and who can help point them in the right direction when needed.”

Year 12 History Cinema Trip

Last Monday a group of Year 12 History students went on a visit to the QUAD Cinema in Derby to watch the latest blockbuster film, Napoleon. One of the A Level History topics is all about the French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon so students were keen to see how historically accurate this interpretation would be. This is what the students thought:

"5 stars - one of the best films I have ever seen. A true masterpiece which helped me develop a greater sense of what it would have been like to live in revolutionary France." - Joseph

"Disappointingly inaccurate especially the portrayal of the Battle of Waterloo but this spectacular historical drama is still highly entertaining." Freddie

"Educational and enjoyable. If only all school trips could be as good as this." Grace.



Dates Ahead

Key Dates in the Autumn Term

20 December: Christmas Dinner day!

Term Dates

Thursday 21 December: Christmas music concert

Friday 22 December: break up for Christmas holiday (12pm early finish for all students)

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 (early finish for all students, exact time tbc)

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.