

# This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 28 November 2022



*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3: 12*



Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

November always feels like a long month but it also feels like December has suddenly appeared! It is starting to feel more Christmassy now that the site-team have put up a beautiful tree in the LRC.

A big thank you to all year 9 parents who attended the online parents evening this week. The year 9 options evening is planned for Tuesday 7 February which will be face to face in school.

The items in this week's newsletter highlight our work on improving parental engagement and the information that comes out to you. Please find the dates of all parents' evenings at the end as well as on the calendar on our school website. Dates of key activities will be added to the website calendar as the year progresses so please do have a look from time-to-time.

We are currently finalising our plans for the last few days of this term to ensure that we get a good balance between a focused end to the term but opportunity to celebrate this important event in the Christian calendar as well as all of our students' fantastic achievements. We are now able to plan for all of our students to experience a service at the Cathedral too. We now have too many students to fit in the Cathedral in one go so we are spreading out these experiences across the school year. Our year 7 students have already recently visited. At Christmas, we will be taking years 8 and 10 for a Christmas service and our year 9s will visit at Easter. Our year 11s will have a special leavers' service later on in the year.

If you would like to see what is on at the Cathedral over the Christmas season and go to a service yourself, then please have a look at their website: <https://derbycathedral.org/events/special-services/> They have special carol services as well as a family nativity.

The Tree of Light is now installed in the cathedral and any member of the public can go for some time of peace and reflection and leave a message on the tree. See <https://derbycathedral.org/tree-of-light/> for more details.

I hope that you all have a great week.

Yours faithfully  
Mrs Brown  
Headteacher

## Parental Engagement Group Meeting

On Monday this week we held our first parent group meeting. The aim of this group is to:

- Help parents feel more involved
- Improve parental understanding of key aspects of school life
- Involve parents in key areas of the school development.

A small group of parents spent time with Mrs Brown giving feedback on some key topics in school and offering initial suggestions as to how we can best work together. It was a really positive and helpful start to this important work.

We all recognised that it has been difficult over the past few years to be able to increase our parental engagement with all of the Covid restrictions. Now that these have gone, we are looking at ways to meet the aims above.

If you are interested in joining in with this, please let us know using the [info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk](mailto:info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk) email address and having parent engagement in the title of the email.

One point that was made in the meeting was parents having a better idea of key dates over the course of the year, especially parents evening. These are highlighted on the calendar section of our website and are now included in the key dates section of this weekly newsletter. We will continue to add key activities so please do keep a look out.

I would like to say a big thank you to the parents who came to the meeting too; their support is really appreciated. Please do watch this space for ways that you can be involved or attend special events on key topics of school life.

## Meet The Team!



Meet Miss Smith, our Medical Officer.

Miss Smith's main role is to support the health and well-being of all students. She is a qualified school first aider and supports with general first aid before passing any higher level cases to a qualified medic. As part of her role she coordinated school NHS programmes such as vaccinations and the recent year 9 health questionnaire. Last month she also launched the new school nurse drop-in service. Derby city have now provided us with a fortnightly drop-in service. Any students can pop to see a school nurse during their lunch time. As with all of these NHS services, we do not organise the activities but just host them to help our students access these important services. As the coordinator, Miss Smith will be able to pass on many of your queries about the activities but may not be able to answer them directly.

Miss Smith also supports our students who have ongoing medical conditions as well as help to manage any conditions, injuries or medication that is needed over a shorter period of time.

She is also passionate about working in a proactive and preventative way and so provides students from time to time with information about how to keep themselves healthy and safe. Students are also able to talk to Miss Smith about anything that might be worrying them with their health and she can signpost them to the right place to get the help they need.

If you have a question for Miss Smith or want to get in touch about your child's health you can use her new email address: [medical@derbycathedralschool.org.uk](mailto:medical@derbycathedralschool.org.uk)

## INSET day – 2 December

You may wonder what happens on an INSET day. These days were first introduced in 1988 by the government minister Kenneth Baker, as part of a series of changes in education, including the introduction of the National Curriculum. All schools are now expected to hold 5 INSET days per school year. INSET stands for **In Service Education and Training** and are used to ensure that staff have the time to undergo necessary training and work on key initiatives and activities that are really important for school development.

Our INSET day on Friday had a focus on reading and developing enrichment in the curriculum.

Reading is such an important aspect of a child's education as it support their learning in all subjects and is a vital skill for life. The training staff received focused on sharing the reading ages of our students and learning ways to provide further support for reading in lessons.

Teaching staff also looked at planning different enrichment activities for each year group in their subject areas. A group of staff also took part in health and safety training for running school trips. Our key pastoral staff also participated in a full days course in de-escalation techniques.

They are always very busy days but ones that give staff the time to undergo this important training to best help and support our students.

## Dates Ahead

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

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

### **Christmas Concert 15 December**

Save the date!

**Monday 19 December:** Cathedral service for years 8 and 10

**Wednesday 21 December:** Christmas Dinner Day (only hot food available)

**Wednesday 21 December:** Christmas Jumper Day

**Last day of term:** School will close at 12pm on Thursday 22 December

**School re-opens:** Monday 9 January

### **Parents' Evenings and INSET days:**

Tuesday 17 January: Year 11 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 24 January: Year 7 Parents' Evening

Monday 6 February: INSET day – school closed for all students

Tuesday 7 February: Year 9 Options Evening

Tuesday 7 March: Year 10 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 26 June: Year 8 Parents' Evening

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