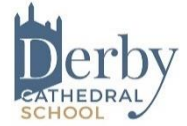


This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 2nd December 2024



In Isaiah 43:19, God says this:

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

For us at DCS this shows joy of discovering new and valuable things and how these can help us in our everyday lives.

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an exciting and productive term we're having! This week's KS4 Careers Event was particularly inspiring. In the spirit of our Bible verse of the week: Isaiah 43:19, which reminds us that God is "doing a new thing," we saw our students exploring exciting pathways for their future. The evening was a wonderful opportunity for students to discover many of the opportunities awaiting them in their post-16 education and beyond. A huge thank you to all parents/carers and students who attended as well as all staff who planned and supported the event. We received many positive comments about the evening and will be making this an annual event.

I'm pleased to remind you of two key upcoming events. Our much-loved Christmas Concert takes place on 12th December - I encourage you to book tickets promptly as they tend to sell quickly. We're also looking forward to our final days of term, which will include some special activities that reflect our school's FAITH values and the true spirit of Christmas.

This week, tutors will be reviewing the information and pictures that students have been uploading onto their 'Padlet' page in support of their FAITH Award. This gives students the opportunity of reflecting on how they demonstrate FAITH values in all aspects of their lives, both in and out of school. Their examples will help them to gain different levels of the FAITH Award which will help them to identify their areas of strength and whether they could have a greater focus on a specific value in order to help shape their character.

Thank you to parents and carers for your patience during our second school photo session. The improved process means we'll soon have updated photographs to share. The term will conclude on Friday, 20th December with an early finish at 12.10pm.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated items for our reverse advent calendars. Our students have been gathering up these donations so that we can think of others in need at this time of year. Staff have also been supporting a different social action project and have created 14 boxes of 'Christmas dinner in a box' which will be donated to local families. We're so proud of how our school community is demonstrating our FAITH value of 'Fellowship' and thinking of others.

I wish you all a good week

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Brown

Science nativity scene

Ordinarily at Christmas our Science Department make a 'Chemistree', but this year they have decided to do something different and have made a science nativity scene.



Craft club enrichment

Our craft club students have made some beautiful willow and tissue lanterns which they all enjoyed making over the last few weeks. They created their own lantern shapes using willow and masking tape then covered it with white tissue paper and pva glue. Some added colourful patterns while others chose to leave their lanterns simple and just added their sparkly fairy lights. All of them look amazing!!

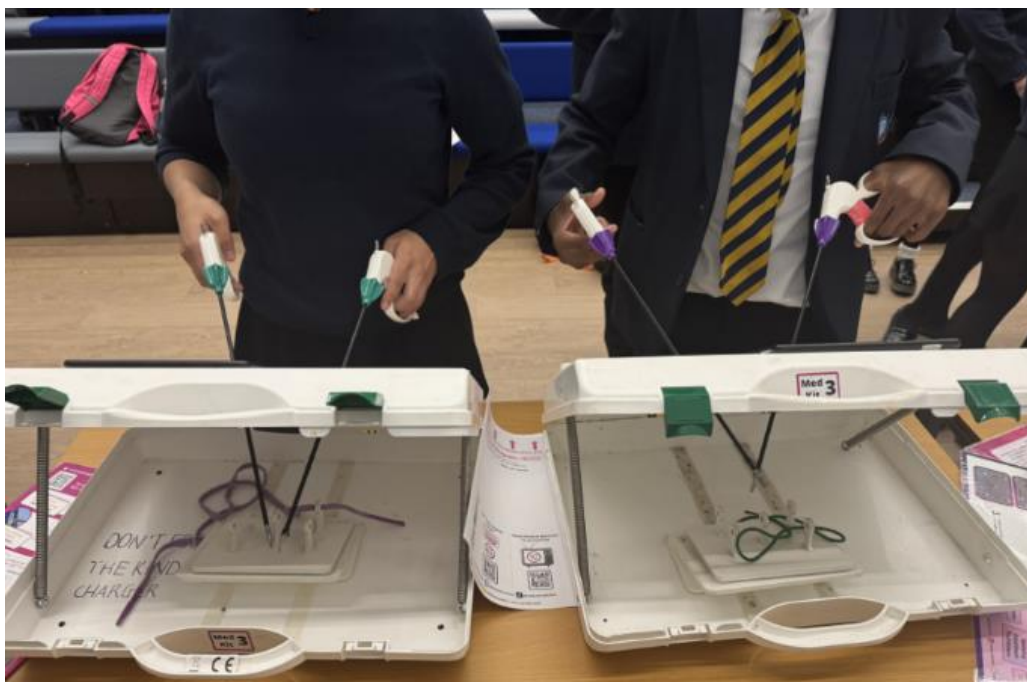
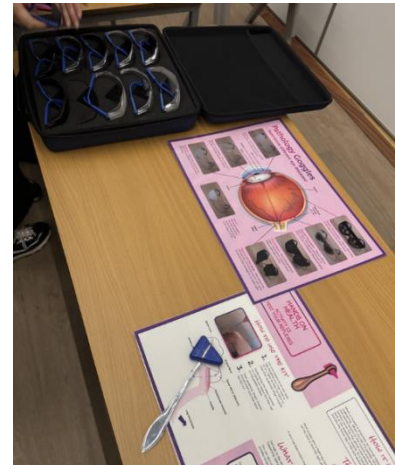
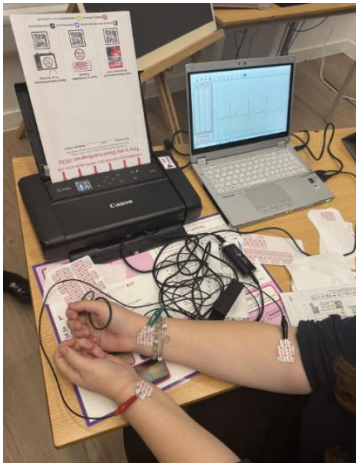


Medical Mavericks workshop

Our KS4 and KS5 Social Sciences students recently had the exciting opportunity to attend a *Medical Mavericks* workshop, an interactive session that opened their eyes to the incredible world of healthcare and medicine.

This hands-on experience allowed students to step into the shoes of medical professionals and try out medical technologies. They practiced taking blood on a fake arm, checking their temperature, blood pressure and pulse, recording and printing ECGs, testing their skills with keyhole surgery simulators, using the reflex hammer to check their reflexes and they even got to use an ultrasound machine to look at their growth plates!

The workshop also introduced students to a wide range of careers within the NHS, showcasing pathways they might not have considered before. Who knows? We might have future doctors, midwives, phlebotomists, or radiographers among us!



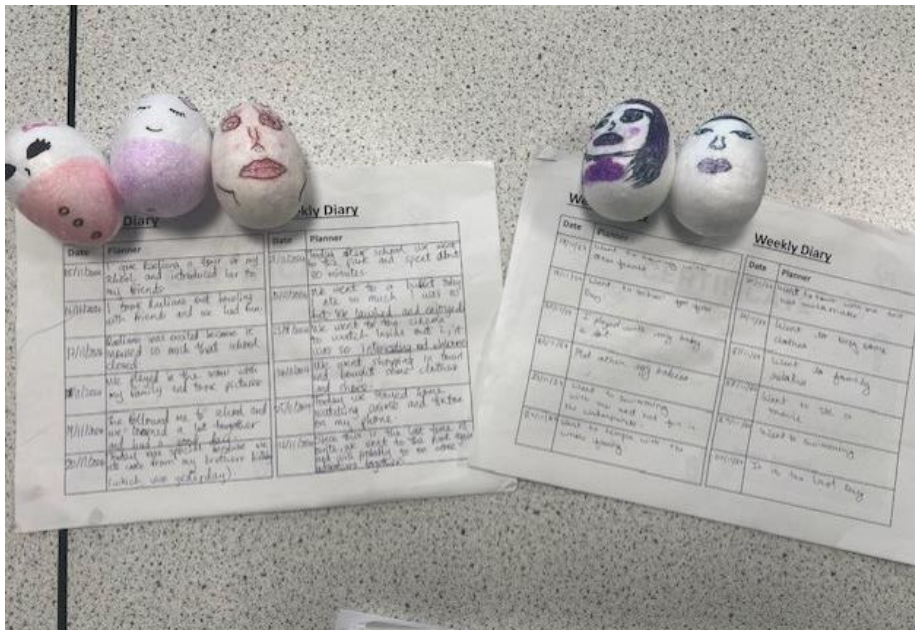
Social Science

Students in year 10 health and social care have been learning about the physical, intellectual, social and emotional development needs of infants.

Over the last two weeks, the class have been tasked with looking after their very own egg baby to explore how attachments are formed.

Students completed a birth certificate for the egg baby and filled in a diary to share the exciting adventures their egg had been on.

We are pleased to report that most eggs returned to the lesson two weeks later, however some did unfortunately go missing along the way!



DCS Christmas Concert 2024

On December 12th our annual Christmas concert will take place, starting at 6.30pm in the main hall. Students from the music and drama department have been preparing music and drama performances, that you absolutely must see!

Tickets are available via parent pay, priced at £4 (£2.80 pupil premium price).

We look forward to welcoming you on the evening of the 12th December!



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.



December's Reading Theme

The theme for our tutor group reading in December is 'Christmas around the world'. Students will be discovering the different traditions in various countries and how they are different or similar to those in the UK.

Do ask your child/children about what they have been reading about. Maybe ask what countries they learnt about and what different traditions they can remember.

At DCS we have continued with the UK tradition of decorating a tree. We have a huge real tree in the LRC this year which has been beautifully decorated by the site team – a big thank you for their efforts.



Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Scheme

Did you know that if your child receives benefits related free school meals, they are entitled to a FREE place at a holiday club over the winter holidays? Clubs are available across Derby where your child can make new friends and take part in a wide range of activities including sport, dance, drama, arts and crafts as well as enjoying a meal each day. To book a place you will need your unique Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) code – check with school reception to get your code. Bookings for winter clubs will open on 15 November. Details can be found at www.derby.gov.uk/derbyHAF.

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 below



Year 11 – Post 16 Options

It is an important time for Year 11 for post 16 applications, with most sixth forms and colleges open for applications. Some apprenticeships are also open for applications. Deadlines are just around the corner so it is important that students get their applications submitted as soon as possible!

For an overview of their post 16 options, including sixth form, college and apprenticeship options, Year 11 should review the post 16 options PowerPoint [here](#). This includes open evening/open event dates and application deadline dates.

Year 11 should submit all applications as soon as possible, but the most urgent application deadlines are below. Please review the PowerPoint for further deadlines. Our Derby Cathedral School Sixth Form deadline is Friday 31st January.

Toyota apprenticeships - Tuesday 10th December

Please add the date to your diary! More information to come soon. If you have any questions or need support, please speak to Mrs Bingham.

Year 12 – Outreach and Wider Engagement Opportunities

This is a really important time for Year 12 with lots of applications still open for outreach and wider engagement opportunities. It is fantastic to see so many Year 12 students engaging with these so far and getting their applications in. These opportunities really do have **the power to change your future!**

For the most up to date list of opportunities, please [click here](#) or scan the QR code below.

These are all opportunities that you must apply for in Year 12 - most of the deadlines are before Christmas. In Year 13, you will not be able to apply, so you must be proactive!

If you need any support or have any questions, please speak to Mrs Bingham.

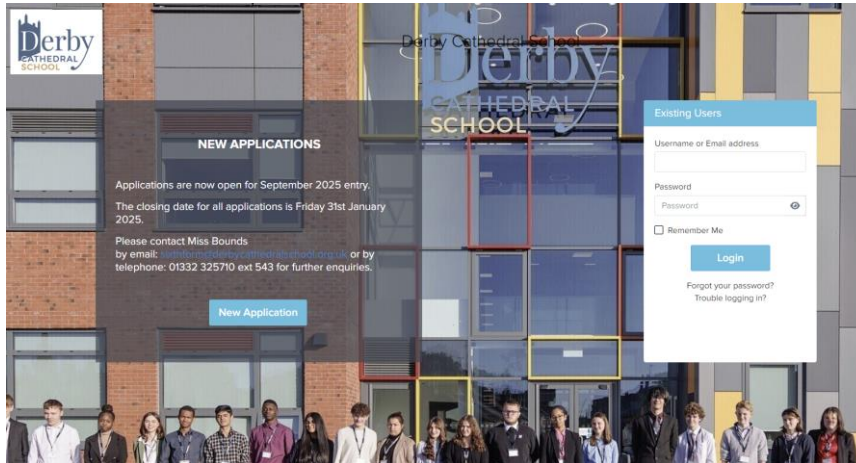


Sixth Form Applications

Applications can be made directly on our website: <https://derbycathedralschool.org.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-admissions>

If you click the 'Application' link it takes you to the page below.

Our current students are already in the system and just need to enter their school email and password in the 'Existing Users' box to start their application.



If you weren't able to make it, or you want to investigate a few more courses, don't forget to look at our prospectus and subject videos on our website. They can all be found on the Sixth Form Admissions page (see link above).

The deadline for applications is **Friday 31st January**.

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

23rd December 2024 – 3rd January 2025 – Christmas Break
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 – School closed to all students

Friday 31st January 2025
Monday 30th June 2025

Parents Evenings / Opening Evenings

22nd January 2025 – Y9 Options Evening
28th January 2025 – Y11 Parents Evening 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15pm
13th February 2025 – Y10 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm
27th February 2025 – Y8 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm
18th March 2025 – Y7 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm
12th June 2025 – Y9 Parents Evening – 3:00 – 6:00 pm – early finish for all students at 2:15 pm

Other Key Dates

Wednesday 18th December 2024 – School Christmas Dinner

Term and key dates can also be found on our calendar and terms dates sections on the school website.