

# This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 31 October 2022



*Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body. Proverbs 24*

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

It certainly feels like Autumn has arrived after the clocks and weather changes!

In the first week back, our year 11 students settled in really well to their first round of year 11 PPEs. PPEs (Pre-Public examinations) are what used to be known as mock exams. However, since the Covid pandemic these examinations have taken on a very different meaning. Schools now have to conduct these in such a way for the results to be relied on if anything similar happened to stop the final exams. Our first exam cohort have responded well to this and it's great to see how much their independent work ethic is developing.

It was also brilliant to be able to have showcased our first live performance night at Derby Cathedral School since we opened! Please take some time to read all about the murder mystery night, performed so well by our GCSE drama and music students.

In order to help parents/carers get to know various aspects of the school, we will be having a spotlight on different staff teams within the school in the weekly newsletter. We are starting with the 'STRIVE' team (formerly known as the SEND team). We hope that you find this useful.

Yours faithfully  
Mrs Brown  
Headteacher

## Meet The Team!

Meet the STRIVE team.

STRIVE is the new name for our SEND base and the team in the photo (from left to right) are:

Mr Olawale (TA), Miss Ridgard (TA), Ms Oakes (SENDCO), Mr Hammerton (Assistant headteacher), Miss Maddocks (HLTA), Miss Muir (TA) and Ms Allison (TA).

Greetings from the Strive Team!

I would like to introduce the members of the SEND Department. I am Ms Oakes and I joined Derby Cathedral School in 2019. I joined as a History teacher, have been a

Head of Year and have recently started the exciting role of school SENDCo. I am fortunate to have a dedicated team who you can see in the photo above. We are a new team and are passionate about ensuring the needs of



our students are met both in and outside of the classroom. We work closely with Mr Hammerton, our new Assistant Headteacher who brings a wealth of experience of SEND and inclusion with him.

Strive means to make great efforts to achieve or obtain something and the Strive Team is dedicated to ensure we achieve this goal. We want the very best for our students with SEND and are currently completing the Assess, Plan, Do, Review (APDR) process. This means we assess individual student needs and we put a plan in place by consulting with parents in order to support each child's needs. We then carry out the plan and review student progress against the targets that each student is set. This process is entirely bespoke to each individual student and we are working closely with parents in order to support our students with SEND throughout the APDR process.

Each member of the Strive Team is a key worker for a number of students with SEND. This means that parents have a first point of contact to enquire about their child's progress in school. We are all easily contactable by email and always endeavour to respond promptly. A key worker's role is somewhat similar to that of a form tutor; we are there daily for students to come and talk to, we support students in the Strive Base throughout the school day and we keep in contact with parents regularly. We offer support, guidance and help to students daily and we work together to ensure students' needs are being met. We also communicate with all staff to ensure that key information and strategies for each child is widely shared and in order to do this, we have invested in new software that works alongside ClassCharts.

The role of our Teaching Assistants in lessons is to facilitate the learning that takes place in the classroom. This takes many forms such as sitting with students and explaining tasks differently so as to increase understanding, helping to break work down into more manageable chunks and providing scaffolding and support in order to help students succeed.

This year, we have created a brand-new sensory room. This room is an area where students can come and spend time to help regulate their emotions. It is proving to be a real success and is helping students who need a quiet, calm space to enable them to feel ready to continue with their learning. At break and lunch times we are always open to students who may feel that the main dining hall is a bit too busy for them and we have quite a few regular students who spend social times with us on a daily basis. This is a crucial element of what we do as it allows us the time to really get to know our students with SEND.

The students at Derby Cathedral School are at the very heart of all we do and the Strive Team is dedicated to their success.

## **A Murder Mystery at DCS!**

On Thursday 3 November a deadly crime was committed after school hours! The night was a fantastic first live performance for the school and a great opportunity of our GCSE drama and music students to demonstrate their skills and experience a live audience for the first time.

A group of DCS families and staff arrived at the crime scene and were met by a number of 'police officers' who supported the lead detective in setting the scene for the audience. The play was introduced by a great rendition of the Midsomer Murders theme tune, played by our year 10 musicians. The cast did a great job in introducing us to the characters and their possible motives. Just before the interval, the murder took place! After which, the audience were invited to work out who had committed the crime. This was accompanied by their interval refreshments served in evidence bags! Three families demonstrated their superb detective skills and managed to solve the case!

The evening was lots of fun and we were all so impressed with the performances of our students. We're also very grateful to the families who came and supported them.

Look out for our Christmas Showcase in December – we'd love to see you there.



## Sixth Form Open Evening

Our new Sixth Form open evening is due to take place on Thursday 10 November. It will run from 5.30 – 7.30pm and there will be a talk in the main hall from the Headteacher and head of Sixth Form. This will be repeated twice at set times (to be advertised). All our welcome but we especially encourage our year 11 students and their families to come and check out the courses on offer.

Summary information is now available on our school website (<https://www.derbycathedralschool.org.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-admissions>) and more will be added to this over the next few weeks.



## Dates Ahead

### **Sixth form open evening 10 November**

This will take place on Thursday 10 November from 5.30 – 7.30pm. Please see full information above and on the school website.

### **Remembrance Day 11 November**

We always mark Remembrance Day with a collective silence at 11:11am. A recording of the Last Post from one of our year 11 students is played on the tannoy for all to mark the start of the silence. The main Collective Worship for this week is also on the theme of remembrance. Our year 9 students also have a visit from a Holocaust survivor organised by Mr Richardson.

### **Year 7 Cathedral Visit 16 November**

This year our year 7 students are all visiting Derby cathedral to meet the staff there and have an introduction to this amazing building. They will also receive a copy of the New Testament from the organisation: Good News for everyone. This used to be known as Gideons UK.

### **Careers Workshop 23 November**

Year 9 will experience a careers workshop called @Your Choice. This is part of the support and preparation leading up to making their options choices (which will take place in February).

### **Year 9 Parents Evening 29 November**

More details about booking appointments etc. will be sent to parents. School will have an earlier finish of 2.10pm

### **INSET day 2 December**

School will be closed to all students

### **Christmas Concert 15 December**

Save the date!