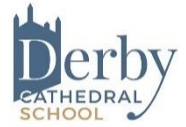


This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 31st March 2025



In Hebrews 10:24-25 it says:

"Let us consider how we can encourage one another to love. Let us help one another to do good works. And let us not give up meeting together.... Instead, let us encourage one another with words of hope."

For us at DCS this is a reminder that meeting together in lessons, form times and breaks gives us the opportunity to encourage each other with kindness, words of hope and 'good works'.

Dear Parents/Carers,

The powerful words from the Bible verse beautifully captures what we strive to create at DCS – a community where our daily gatherings in classrooms, form times, and even break periods become opportunities to lift each other up with kindness and inspire one another toward positive action.

This spirit of encouragement and togetherness has been wonderfully evident throughout our school activities this week. I am immensely proud to share the achievements of our debate club, who delivered an outstanding performance in the city finals. Though they didn't claim the top spot, their accomplishment as a newly formed team reaching the finals in their very first competition year is remarkable. The judges were thoroughly impressed, specifically identifying DCS as "one to watch" for next year's competition. This highlights how meeting together regularly to practice and grow as a team, while encouraging each other through challenges, produces extraordinary results. A big thank you goes to Mr Keens and the Sixth form mentors for their support and encouragement.

The Easter service at Derby Cathedral provided another meaningful opportunity for our community to gather and reflect together, another opportunity to have 'mirrors' moment of reflection as part of our journey into spirituality. Our Year 7, 9, and 12 students represented DCS with their usual excellent behavior, embodying the respectful attention mentioned in our Bible verse. It was particularly moving to hear our Year 7 students singing together in the magnificent cathedral space – their voices showing that after weeks of practice, regular gathering and mutual encouragement can create something beautiful.

Our Year 11 students deserve recognition for completing their Spanish speaking examinations this week. With these assessments constituting 25% of their final grade, this represents a significant milestone accomplished. Their support for one another through this challenging process reflects the encouragement described in Hebrews.

Looking ahead, both Year 11 and Year 13 students face an important term with examinations beginning just two weeks after the Easter break. We encourage them to find a healthy balance during the holiday – maintaining their revision schedules while also taking time to rest and recharge. I'm grateful to our staff who have volunteered their holiday time to provide additional revision and intervention sessions, embodying the "good works" mentioned in our Bible verse. The mutual support between students and teachers during this critical period shows our community at its best.

Please take note of the Easter holiday activities listed in this newsletter, and if you're eligible for HAF activities, ensure you have your access code ready.

May this Easter season bring your families rest, joy, and the chance to encourage one another with words of hope. We look forward to seeing everyone again after the break, refreshed and ready for the term ahead on Tuesday 22nd April.

Wishing you all a happy and sunny Easter holiday,

Mrs Brown

DCS on ITV News - Ramadan



Derby Cathedral School featured on ITV Central News last week. A film crew came into school and interviewed Muslim students about their experience during the month of Ramadan. We have over 100 Muslim students in our school, and prayer rooms were made available for them during their holy month.

Several students were asked about their experiences of fasting and praying in school, and they had some very positive things to say about the ways they have felt supported during this time. Non-Muslim students also voiced support for their Muslim friends, displaying our FAITH values and our school's inclusive nature perfectly.



The students were a credit to the school and did a great job in front of the cameras. [Watch the ITV piece here.](#)

Year 11 & 13 – Year Group Photos

Separate year group photos for years 11 & 13 will take place on the morning of Wednesday 23rd April (second day back).

All year 11 students must have their full uniform including blazer and tie.

We have already sent a link for parents/carers to pre-register in order to have the option to buy. If you have pre-registered you will be emailed the proof image and you can then choose whether to buy this or not.

If you haven't yet pre-registered please check your emails for the link sent by school. If you can't find this then please email info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk for the link to be re-sent.

You must have pre-registered by Tuesday 22nd April.

Derby Schools Debating Society Finals



Our formidable debate team were just pipped to the post by Allestree Woodlands School in the grand final this week. They put in an incredible performance, showing such passion and knowledge of the tricky topic of whether juries are the best way to administer justice.

Hajrah, Agnes, Moira and Haleema were fantastic and well supported by many other students and staff. They received such great feedback from the panel of judges who all felt they each had a strong career path in front of them.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to the other team members along the way, to the Sixth Form mentors and to Mr Keene who has provided such inspiration and support. We are all very proud of you!

Year 11 PROM 2025



Reminder – Book your Prom tickets via Parent Pay, live now.

Don't miss out on the event of the year!



Comic Relief donations



Our donations page is open until 11th April if you would still like to make a contribution to Comic Relief 2025. Any contribution will be gratefully received by following the link below:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=17937>

Period Poverty – a message from Aldi



Breaking the cycle of Period Poverty

At Aldi, we believe that access to period products is a basic right, not a privilege. That's why from March 2025, we'll be providing free pads and tampons in our stores and office toilets. Customers and colleagues will be able to take what they need, when they need it—no questions asked.

Why Access to Period Products Matters

Period poverty is a reality for far too many. Research shows that 41% of Brits struggle to afford period products with 30% forced to choose between buying them or other essential items like food or clothing. Without access to these products, some rely on substitutes like toilet paper, kitchen roll or old clothing, leaving them feeling embarrassed, stressed and excluded from everyday activities such as work, school and social events.

By taking this step, we hope to support those who menstruate while encouraging others to join the effort to end period poverty for good.

Household Support Fund update – FSM holiday food vouchers

We are pleased to inform our Free School Meal parents that the DWP have confirmed an extension to the Household Support Fund (HSF) grant from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. The food voucher codes will continue to be issued as usual over the next 12 months.

For children eligible for means tested FSM (including 6th form students) the vouchers awarded will be:

Holiday period	Voucher value
Easter holidays	£25
May half-term	£12.50
Summer holidays	£75
Oct half-term	£12.50
Xmas holiday	£25
Feb HT	£12.50

For the avoidance of any confusion, we would stress that the Holiday Activity Fund **HAS NOT** replaced the food voucher codes provided during the holidays from the Household Support Fund. The 2 schemes are separately funded. As stated above, we will continue to issue the FSM vouchers by post.

HAF Programme

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

We have now been informed that during this Easter break, Derby City Council will continue to support eligible families through the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF). We have emailed all eligible parents with a detailed letter regarding this from Derby City Council.

From Easter onwards there will be a new booking system in place. The system allows you to discover and book all available HAF clubs.

Look out for an email or text message from HolidayActivities.com with a link to access your voucher. **Please note that any HAF codes previously issued are no longer valid and will not be accepted by the new system.** Vouchers will be issued to each eligible child via email or text message on Monday 17 March.

[Here's](#) a helpful guide to assist you with making bookings through the platform. Further information regarding the Holiday Activities and Food Programme can be found [here](#).



Derby City Mission



Community Café and Community Shop (foodbank)

Please consider donating to Derby City Missions
Community Café and Community Shop.

We are grateful for all donations but please no
chilled or frozen goods.

Thank you for your support



Derby City Mission Charity Number 1140235 Previously 702027

01332 460346 - <https://www.derbycitymission.org.uk>



Derby Cathedral School are proud to be supporting Derby City Mission by collecting food donations for those in need in the local community.

We will be accepting donations at Main Reception every weekday from 8 am – 4 pm. Please hand all suitable donations to our Reception Team so they can be placed in the box for collection.

Thank you for your generosity 😊

What Parents and Educators Need to Know about Instagram

Instagram remains a go-to app for teens, with its endless stream of photos, videos, and 'Stories' keeping young users constantly connected. From influencer content to live broadcasts, the platform is packed with evolving features that can feel fun and engaging – but can also raise some serious concerns around screen time, online pressures and exposure to inappropriate content.

We've created <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/instagram-2025> – also available in podcast format – offering parents and educators up-to-date knowledge on the risks and safety tips for this latest version of Instagram

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

@wake_up_weds **/www.thenationalcollege** **@wake.up.wednesday** **@wake.up.weds**

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.04.2025

Cycle Derby – Easter holiday activities

cyclederby
EASTER
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
2025



Holiday Club £26
10.30am - 1pm **6-12 Years**
9th April at Derby Arena
14th April at Markeaton Park

You need:

- Your own bike & helmet
- To be able to ride unaided
- Backpack with snacks & drink

30 minute skills and confidence session followed by a 120 minute ride

New to two wheels
4-8 Years 10am - 11am **£12**
9th April at Derby Arena
14th April at Markeaton Park

Mini cycling club for those new to two wheels! You will need:

- Your own bike, helmet and drink
- To be able to ride unaided



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
EASTER
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
2025



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

You need:

- To be a competent cyclist
- Appropriate clothing
- A packed lunch & drink

8th & 15th April **£36**
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
EASTER
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
2025



Learn to Ride
at Markeaton Park

For children getting onto two wheels for the first time or those who have *almost* mastered it. Own bike preferred but not essential. **£21**

50 Minute Sessions available

10am, 11am, 12noon
1.30pm & 2.30pm

April
7th, 9th, 10th,
11th, 14th & 16th



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

Bridge The Gap - Drop-In Hub

Free walk-in support every Tuesday and Wednesday
9am - 11am



Lost Property

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

As the spring and summer months approach, we see more students visiting us with hay fever symptoms. 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. If your child suffers from hay fever, please ensure they take their medication before school in a morning where possible.

It is also essential that all student have a water bottle to ensure they stay hydrated during the school day. Students can purchase a reusable water bottle from the reward shop if they do not already have one.

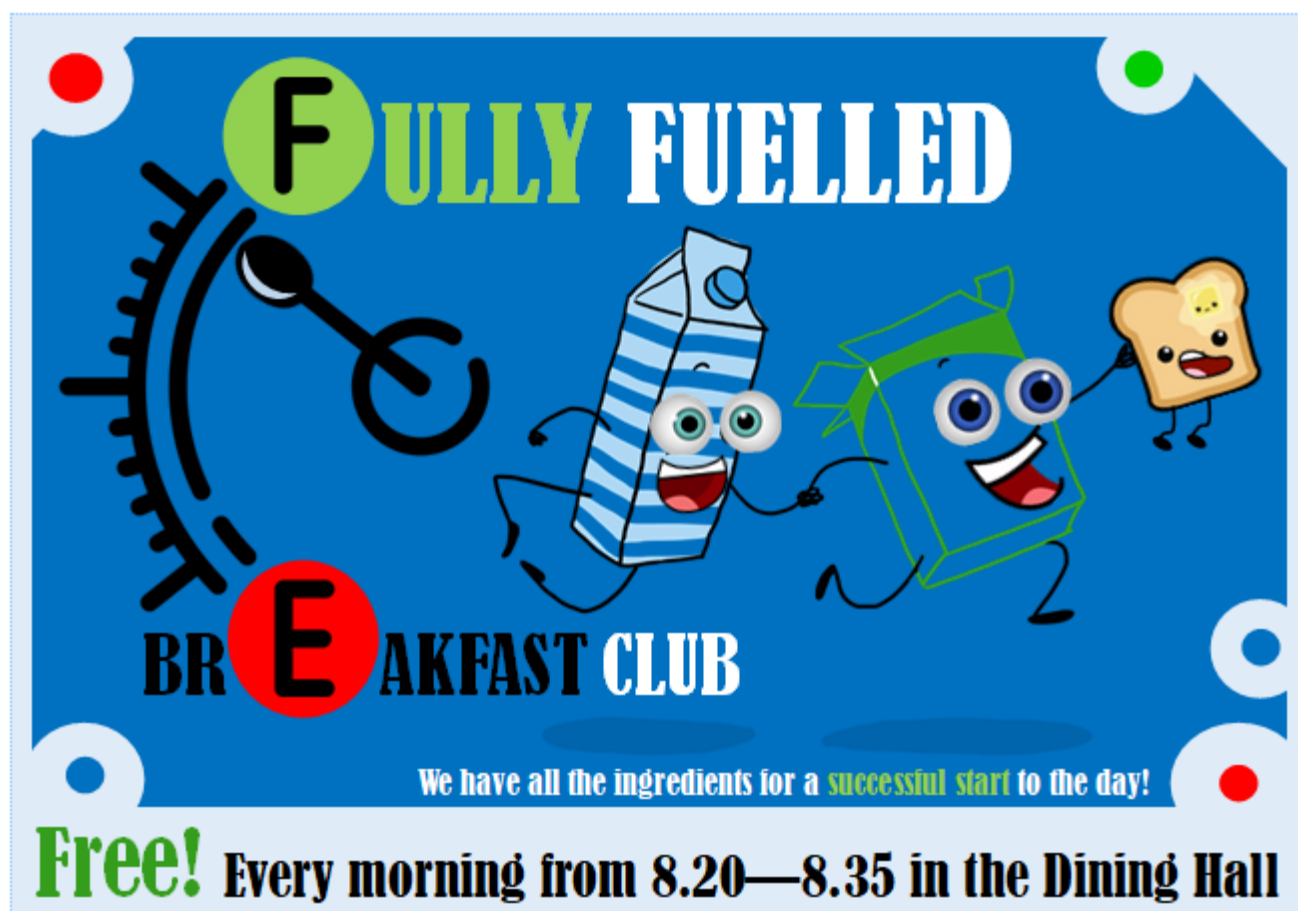
Contact/Meeting Requests

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.

Breakfast Club – FREE breakfast for all Students



Our Breakfast Club is open Monday to Friday from 8:20 – 8:35 am

During the above times, all students are entitled to have breakfast items totally free of charge from the Dining Hall. Items available are:

- Toast
- A variety of cereals (subject to availability)
- Porridge

To request Gluten free toast or to discuss any other special dietary requirements, students should liaise directly with the catering staff who will aim to source the necessary items however, advance notice should be given.

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO DRINKS OR OTHER FOOD ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DURING BREAKFAST CLUB

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 2024-25

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

Parents Evenings / Opening Evenings 2024-25

Thursday 12th June 2025 – Y9 Parents Evening, 3 pm – 6 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.

****NEW** - School Term Dates and INSET days 2025-26**

Please click on the link below to view the Term Date calendar and INSET days for 2025-26:

[DCS Term Dates 2025-26 with INSET.pdf](#)

INSET Days 2025-26 – 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

Other Key Dates

- Wednesday 23rd April 2025 – Year 11 & Year 13 Group Photographs
- Thursday 26th June 2025 – Y11 Prom 2025

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

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