

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 4th September 2023



I have come to give you life and have it to the full

John 10:10

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

Welcome back! It's always really lovely to see our students return after the long break and we extend an especially warm welcome to all of our new students and families. Our new year 7 and 12 students have made a great first impression and we look forward to working with them all over the coming term, year and future years.

During the first few (very warm!) days of school, we spent time with students reminding them of the school routines and expectations as well as updating them on any changes that have happened over the summer. We have had a number of changes to the building over the holidays with a particular focus on creating more areas that can help students with wider, pastoral support. Surrounding the dining room, we now have:

Strive: this is a new area with a few different spaces for students to use and be supported by our SEND team. One of the rooms is used for our new nurture provision lead by Mrs Murray who will provide additional support with English, reading and maths.

Restore: this is a small provision for students who need extra support with their learning. They are supported by Ms Bright and Mr Harris with their academic studies. Paul, our TTF mentor is now with us everyday and will be providing additional mentoring here too.

Learning Hub: This is a small learning space led by Mr Woolley for students who may have a few lessons a week based in here to help support their emotional wellbeing. This is attached to a sensory room, a space where students can have some quiet time to help with emotional regulation.

Safeguarding: Our safeguarding team: Mrs Bracey and Mrs Lucas are now based at the back of the dining room to help make them more accessible to students. Any student is able to see them to talk about issues that may be causing them worry or upset about themselves or anyone they know.

Close to these rooms we also have some smaller spaces for our counsellor to see students.

We have also welcomed Mark, from an organisation called KICK. He will be mentoring students for two days a week and providing chaplaincy support for one day a week. As part of this role, Mark will also be working with students to develop a new FAITH room.

As you can see, we are continuing to expand our support roles in school. This is all in addition to each student having a tutor, pastoral year lead and Head of Year. Our Sixth Form students may also access many of these spaces if needed. They have a tutor and Sixth Form support team next to their own study spaces.

All of the above additional support illustrates our desire to ensure all students can receive the support they need at the time they need. This is part of our vision about enabling our students to lead happy and fulfilled lives. We reminded all students of this through our key Bible verse at the top of this page. It is one that we will keep referring to over the course of the year and challenging students to make the most of all opportunities in school to live their life to the full.

I wish everyone a happy and productive return back to school.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Brown
Headteacher

School Prayer

Last term our student FAITH ambassadors wrote a prayer for our school community. This is now on permanent display in the LRC and cannot be missed!

Here are the words of the prayer and you can see the picture of the display below.

OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

Dear Lord,

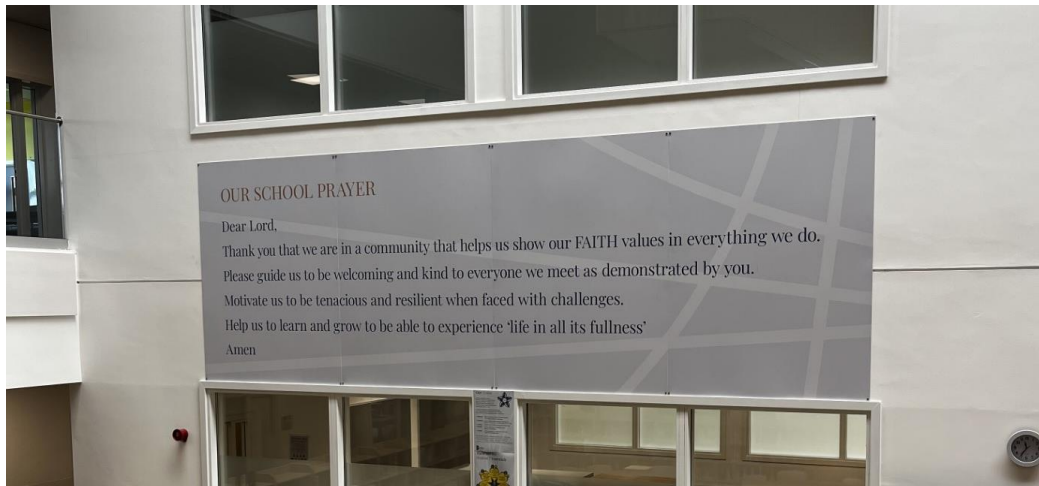
Thank you that we are in a community that helps us show our FAITH values in everything we do.

Please guide us to be welcoming and kind to everyone we meet as demonstrated by you.

Motivate us to be tenacious and resilient when faced with challenges.

Help us to learn and grow to be able to experience 'life in all its fullness'

Amen



Bike Shed

Following a few unfortunate incidents of bike thefts from the school site last term, we have installed a security protected fence around the bike racks which aims to prevent this from happening again. We have also increased the size of the area to be able to fit more bikes in. It is still really important that all students still lock their bikes within this area. If they forget their lock or have any problems with it, they should inform the site team via reception. The area will be locked after the start of school and opened at the end of school to allow students access to their bikes. If they need to access their bike at any different time (e.g if they have an appointment off site) then they should, again, go to reception and ask for support from the site team.

We've had lots of positive feedback about this area already from students who have been using it well.

Parking

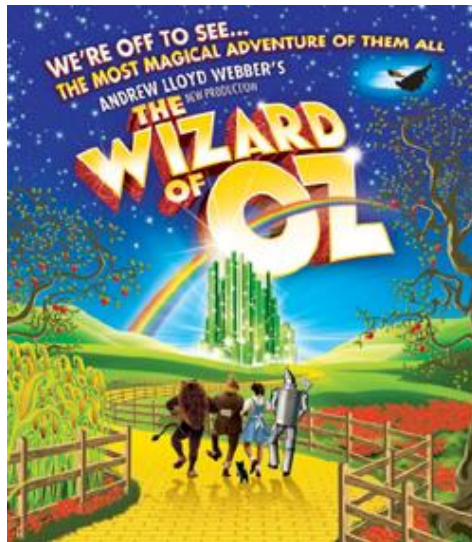
Just a reminder to all parents/carers about how to use the parking area at the front of school. Traffic can get busy at the start and end of the day. It is really important that all parents/carers who are transporting students are considerate to both our school community and our local neighbours.

The front of school is designed for a quick pick up and drop off. Spaces on the road outside school are more difficult as using these can often cause problems for our neighbours who only have this space to park. Please make arrangements to either use the front of school or meet at a safer place further away from school.

We also have a small number of disabled parking bays at the front of school. These are needed by parents/carers who have a blue badge (disabled parking permit). Please only use these spaces if you have one of these badges.

At the start of a new school year and with a new cohort and our new Sixth Form we know it will take a few days for everyone to get used to the timings and spaces for parking. Please also help our community by showing patience and FAITH values to all other drivers and pedestrians.

Wizard of Oz Auditions



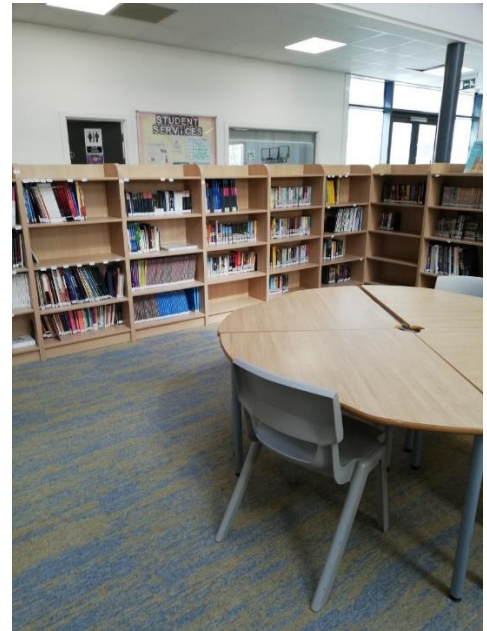
We are starting to prepare for our FIRST WHOLE SCHOOL production which will be The Wizard of Oz!

Provisional performance dates will be 20th – 21st March 2024 and there is a lot to prepare!

Auditions will be held after school on Wednesday 20th September 3.10pm – 4.00pm and Wednesday 27th September 3.10pm – 4.00pm.

Form tutors will be advertising this to students during form time but please encourage your child to come and audition if they have an interest in acting, singing and/or dancing!

Learning Resource Centre (LRC) / Library



Our LRC is currently in the middle of a makeover with some sections being moved around and whipped into shape! There are signposts around the LRC to point students and staff to the right place, plus our librarian Ms Christie is usually on hand to answer any questions and help anyone looking for a new read.

It can be quite overwhelming to be faced with nearly 5,000 books when you've been asked to choose just one for form or reading time, so we encourage students to come and ask for help.

Our 'Quick Reads' section is ideal if something short and snappy is required and can be less off-putting than a large novel. The subject matter is wide-ranging, from romance to horror, non-fiction, action, adventure and humour.

We also have put in a new 'Upper School' study section, stocked with Revision Guides, Study Guides and Class Texts for Years 11 and 12. A desk has been designated for Quiet Study, although silence can never be guaranteed in this vibrant space in the centre of the school!

There are two PCs for homework and research use **ONLY** plus we will soon be getting laptops for LRC lessons and Star Reader quizzes. We also have a number of Chess sets and Uno cards for use at breaks and lunches which are very popular with a lot of our students.

Please could we ask you to remind your young people that food should not be eaten in the LRC and only water can be drunk, and to please remind students to use the several bins provided and look after and respect the space and the hard work that goes into it.

Mobile phones are **not** allowed to be out, in the LRC as well as the rest of the main school. Anyone with a phone out runs the risk of being confiscated until the end of the day.

The LRC is a friendly, welcoming space for all students, with something to offer even the most reluctant readers. Send them to Ms Christie and she will find something suited to everyone's interest!

Home – School Communication

With the addition of our new Sixth Form opening this September, we are thrilled to have over 1100 students as part of the Derby Cathedral School community.

As we continue to grow, it is essential to maintain clear communication channels between parents and our dedicated staff.

It can get very busy at Reception and on the phone lines throughout the day so we appreciate your respect and understanding, and ask that unless you have an immediate safeguarding concern regarding a child, you e-mail us on info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk as a first point of call and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Most staff have full teaching timetables, and if they are not teaching, they are engaged in working directly with students or participating in important safeguarding meetings, which are critical to ensuring the well-being of all our students.

To facilitate efficient communication and maintain the high standards of education and safeguarding in school, we kindly request your cooperation in the following matters:

1. **Appointment Scheduling:** Please be aware that same day appointments with staff members are generally not available unless made in advance. This is to ensure that our teachers and support staff can effectively manage their timetables and continue to provide a high level of support to our students in school.
2. **Response Time:** When contacting school staff, we ask that you allow up to 48 hours for a response, except in cases of urgent safeguarding matters. Your patience in this is greatly appreciated, as it allows our staff to prioritize their responsibilities effectively.
3. **Contacting Teachers or Pastoral Year Leads / Heads of Year:** The best way to get in touch with a teacher or your child's Pastoral Year Lead or Head of Year is to send an e-mail to info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk and put in the subject of the e-mail "FAO (Name of person you want to speak with)". Our Reception team will ensure that your message is promptly forwarded to the correct person.

If you have any urgent concerns or safeguarding matters, please do not hesitate to contact us immediately and we will respond appropriately.

Thank you for your understanding and support and we look forward to a successful school year with your continued partnership.

Lost Property

We are changing how our lost property system is managed. Lost property will no longer be put out onto the canteen tables every day. Instead, if students have lost something in school within the week, they should first come to Student Services during break or lunch to see if it has been handed in.

All lost property will then be put out onto the canteen tables once a week **after school on a Thursday**. Students are welcome to have a look through this after form time and parents looking for something specific are welcome to come in from 3.15 – 4.00pm on a Thursday to have a look as well.

All lost property will be donated to charity shops at the end of every half term!

Dates Ahead

Key Dates in the Autumn Term

w/c 18 September: Year 7 baseline assessments

19 September: Year 11 Information evening (times tbc – this will be emailed to all year 11 parents/carers)

3 October: Year 12 Senior Maths Challenge

4 October: Year 6 Open Evening

9 October: School photographs for all students

11 October: Year 12 Open Evening

Wc 23 October: Year 9 Holocaust survivor visit

24 October: Year 7 Meet The Tutor Evening

9 November: Year 11 Parents' Evening (early finish of 2.10pm for all students)

28 November: Year 12 Parents' Evening (early finish of 2.10pm for all students)

1 December: INSET day. School closed for all students

Term Dates

Friday 27 October: break up for Autumn half term

Monday 6 November: return to school

Friday 22 December: break up for Christmas holiday

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

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.