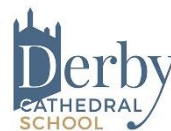


# This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 5 February 2024



In John 13:34-35, Jesus tells his disciples:

**'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'**

For Christians, this not only shows how inspirational Jesus is, but also demonstrates how they can be inspired by the disciples. For us at DCS, let's be inspired to show love, care and respect to others. Let this be what we are known for. Let's work hard to inspire others to do the same.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our week started with an INSET day this week. These days are very busy ones for the staff in school. We use these days to ensure that our staff workforce keep receiving all of the training and support they need to do their job as effectively as possible.

Our themes, for the teaching staff, this year were:

Talking for learning

Year 11 exam preparation

Talking for learning is an important strategy to help our students continue to improve their literacy. Being able to speak clearly and present your thoughts and ideas well to others is a critical life skill.

As part of our continued focus on literacy (reading and speaking), we are planning a few simple initiatives in all classrooms. All staff are developing a literacy focused wall display that highlights some of the key 'command' words for each subject. For example, the word 'describe' is often used in many subjects and all students need to understand how to answer a question that starts with the word 'describe'. Each subject has a set of these words and staff are working on how we display these and weave them into every lesson.

We are also starting a 'word of the week' for all students. This week was 'controversy' – please see the article below which gives the meaning of this word and some tips for how to speak to your children about it at home.

We also have a continued focus with year 11 at this time of the year. Staff have planned various intervention sessions and 'warm ups', which are short activities that we use immediately before each final exam. They are designed to 'warm up' their brains and help them to remember the structure of the exam paper so they know how to manage their time during the exam. We also do a vital equipment check during this time.

Our pastoral team also spent some time on some interactive training related to supporting students who are experiencing mental health problems. They also had a refresher session on how to create and review relevant risk assessments.

We're really grateful to all staff for being the dedicated team that they are and how focused and supportive they are, especially so during this training day.

Just as a reminder, this Tuesday is parents evening for all year 10 students. We look forward to seeing you all in school with your child. This is such an important year for them and their learning and all of their teachers are looking forward to sharing how we can work well together to best support them.

I hope you all have a lovely week.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Brown

## Word of the Week

Our new, whole school, 'word of the week' initiative starts with the word: **controversy**

Please do speak to your child/children about this word. Challenge them to use it in a sentence or explain its meaning to you. The information below will hopefully help!

We can split this into easy-to-say sounds: **con – trov – er - sy**

**Controversy** means: a lot of discussion and argument about something, often involving strong feelings of anger or disapproval.

Other similar words are:

argument  
bickering  
difference  
discussion  
fuss  
quarrel  
squabble  
strife  
wrangling

Examples of how to use controversy in a sentence are:

The decision aroused much **controversy** among the students.

The new film is a subject of **controversy**.

There is **controversy** surrounding the team's decision to trade the star player.

The **controversy** is over whether he should be fired or not.

## Year 12 EPQ trip to Derby University

On Thursday 8th February, Mr Coucill accompanied 17 of our Year 12 students to the University of Derby for an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) work shop. The EPQ is a voluntary independent project that students can choose to take which allows them to research and produce a project of their choosing - either a 5000-word dissertation or an artefact such as a piece of art. Typically a school will have 5 or 6 students that opt to complete this additional project which equates to half an A level!

The group learned about different research methods, how to reference and collate their projects and were also allowed access to the university library. Mr Coucill and the university staff were very impressed with how our students engaged with the sessions, asking insightful questions and worked very hard to make plenty of notes!

## Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6 February was Safer Internet Day. Whilst it is important that we raise awareness in a more high profile way, our young people need supporting and protecting from the risks that the internet poses every day.

The following website gives some really helpful advice for parents and carers about keeping safe on all sorts of devices: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

## Year 11 Intervention – wc 12 February

This week's intervention sessions are:

- **Monday** - PE
- **Tuesday** Science
- **Wednesday** - Maths
- **Thursday** - English

All sessions run from 3:10 until 4:00pm

Mr Emberley also emailed this week some advance warning that we are already planning Easter and May half term intervention sessions in school. These proved to be very helpful last year and are a key support in the run up to exams. Timings for these will be published soon.

Mrs Heald has shared the following resource that is focused on Maths, but also has lots of good advice around revision that applies to all subjects: <https://amsp.org.uk/app/uploads/2024/01/Quickmaths-24-yr11.pdf>

## Derby Book Festival – Writing Competition

Derby Book Festival launches its annual 50-word Flash Fiction Writing competition on Monday 29 January. Check the website for details of this year's theme or sign up to their newsletter to be one of the first to know. There are three age categories: 11 and under, 12 - 17, 18 and over

The winning stories will be printed on Festival bookmarks to be published in the spring and the winner of each category receives a book token for £50.

The closing date is 17 February.

Derby's annual book festival takes place this year from 29 February to 4 March with lots of different events being hosted across the city.

Their website is being constantly updated: <https://www.derbybookfestival.co.uk/> and you can sign up to receive their newsletter <https://www.derbybookfestival.co.uk/newsletter-subscription>

## Family Hub Programme: Jan – Mar 2024

Just a reminder that all information about the family hubs in Derby can be found here:

<https://www.derby.gov.uk/community-and-living/family-hub-childcare/family-hub/about-family-hub/family-hub-parents/#page-4>

The 'What's On' Guide can be found here:

<https://www.derby.gov.uk/media/derbycitycouncil/contentassets/documents/communityandliving/familyhubparents/family-hub-whats-on-jan-to-mar-2024.pdf>

The activities and support for 5 – 19 year-olds starts on page 14.

Have a look through as there are some wonderful activities and places to go for all kinds of support all year round!

Here are some examples of the free activities on offer:

### What's on for: 5 – 19 year olds

#### Premier Education | Age 11+



Activities such as fencing, handball, lacrosse, tchoukball as well as character building skills. Booking required, please contact James [jjennison@premier-education.com](mailto:jjennison@premier-education.com) or 07980276488.

#### Engineered Learning | 11 – 16s



Active Hands: Supporting Nature – Engineered Learning empowers you to achieve through engineering. Make friends whilst creating items in wood that support wildlife in our authentic workshop. Booking required please contact Carol Phillips [carol@engineeredlearning.co.uk](mailto:carol@engineeredlearning.co.uk).

#### School holiday delivery:

Monday 1 April 2024

Tuesday 2 April 2024

Wednesday 3 April 2024

Wednesday 10 April 2024

Thursday 11 April 2024

Friday 12 April 2024

Derwent Workshop, Unit 8, Racecourse Industrial Estate, Mansfield Road, Derby DE21 4SX.

#### Tackle it! | For boys age 12-14



Tackle It is Derby County Community Trust's wellbeing programme (early-intervention) for young males aged 12-14 who are struggling with their mental wellbeing. The sessions aim to give participants a 'safe space' to chat, socialise and take part in fun activities. The aim is to keep a relaxed atmosphere where people can meet others who may be experiencing similar challenges. Tackle It is part of our wider Winning Minds project, supporting youth mental health and social action. Contact Morgan Stanley for more information - [Morgan.stanley@dcct.co.uk](mailto:Morgan.stanley@dcct.co.uk) or 07494 517324 or Matt Deacon [matt.deacon@dcct.co.uk](mailto:matt.deacon@dcct.co.uk). No booking required, just turn up!

**Mondays** 6-7:30pm Osmaston Allenton

**Tuesdays** 6-7:30pm Derwent

#### Community One | 12-16s



GROWTH Programme – Sport, music, arts, social affairs, health, and wellbeing activities every week. No need to book – just turn up! Contact [info@communityone.org.uk](mailto:info@communityone.org.uk) or 01332 891444.

**Mondays** 5-7pm Rosehill

**Tuesdays** 5-7pm Arboretum Park

## GREAT Girls Hub | For girls age 12-17



The GREAT Hubs aims to support young females with their wellbeing. Sessions are based on the GREAT values of Gratitude, Resilience, Empathy, Authenticity, Teamwork. A GREAT session is one hour each week focusing on wellbeing for mind and body through lots of fun activities. Most importantly these sessions offer a place to come along and talk openly to other females in a community that is supportive, positive and compassionate to each other. **Contact Claire Clark for more information - [Claire.clark@dctt.co.uk](mailto:Claire.clark@dctt.co.uk) or 07783 283981.**

<b>Mondays</b>	4:45-6pm	Osmaston Allenton
<b>Tuesdays</b>	4:45-5:45pm	Derwent

## Sporting Communities | 13 – 16's



Get involved in activities such as art, virtual reality (VR), sports, health, fitness, cooking and more. Sessions will be tailored around individual needs to support emotional health and well-being either one-to-one or in groups. For more information on how to get involved in the programme, **contact [info@supportingcommunitiescio.co.uk](mailto:info@supportingcommunitiescio.co.uk) or call 07841026335.**

## Baby People | Music sessions | For 13-19 year olds

Music studio sessions covering MCing, singing and music production. No experience needed, come and learn some studio skills and improve your craft. Open for free to all young people aged between 13 and 19 years. **No booking needed, just turn up.**

<b>Tuesdays</b>	5-7pm	Sinfin
<b>Wednesdays</b>	5-7pm	Rosehill
<b>Thursdays</b>	5-7pm	Derwent
<b>Fridays</b>	4:30-6:30pm	Osmaston Allenton

## Youth Matters | 14+



Get focused and fit with Youth Matters Boxing programme including pad work and circuit training. Supported and encouraged throughout the session by a Mentor as well as the Coach. **Booking required please contact Danny [danny.youthmattersnewmills@gmail.com](mailto:danny.youthmattersnewmills@gmail.com).**

<b>Thursdays</b>	4pm	Derwent
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## Dates Ahead

### Term Dates

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 (early finish for all students, exact time tbc)

**INSET Days** – School closed to all students

Friday 28th June

### Parents Evenings

Tuesday 13 February: Year 10 Parents' evening (school ends at 2.15pm for all students)

Thursday 7 March: Year 9 Parents' evening (school ends at 2.15pm for all students)

Tuesday 30 April: Year 7 Parents' evening (school ends at 2.15pm for all students)

Tuesday 25 June: Year 8 Parents' evening (school ends at 2.15pm for all students)

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