

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 6 May 2024



In 1 John 1:9 it says:

“If we confess our sins (and say sorry), he (God) is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

For us at DCS this is a reminder that our mistakes do not define who we are. We always have the promise of forgiveness and the opportunity of a fresh start.

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been lovely to finally have some beautiful sunny days to enjoy this week. This first week of exams has gone well; a huge well done to our year 11 for being so calm and focused.

They still have 5 weeks of exams to go and so it's really important that they look after themselves in order to maintain this focus. It takes tenacity and so they will need all of our support, from home and school.

In Collective worship during the week beginning 13 May, we will be speaking to students about mental health as part of mental health awareness week. Whilst we know that this is of great importance to focus on at times of pressure such as GCSE exams, it is also critical for all of us to be aware of.

Just a reminder that there are many online platforms that provide information and support for parents of teenagers too:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/worried-about-your-teenager/>

<https://www.kooth.com/>

The Bible verse of the week highlights our FAITH value of humility. Demonstrating humility by recognising that we are all human and make mistakes can also have a positive impact on our mental health. Saying sorry when we make mistakes and forgiving others when they do the same is key to demonstrating humility and being able to move forwards with positivity. Our focus on this FAITH value and our restorative practice is an example of supporting the mental health of our students on a daily basis.

On Friday a group of Sixth Form students went to Chester Zoo to look at animal behaviours as part of their Psychology course. We look forward to hearing about this adventure in due course but we're so grateful to all staff who are providing so many enrichment activities for our students. Please do read the article below about our Sixth formers who went to Auschwitz recently.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Brown

Sixth Form Visit to Auschwitz

Sixth Form students from Derby Cathedral School take part in The Lessons From Auschwitz Project – written by Freddie Robertson Year 12

Over the past few weeks six Y12 students (including myself) have taken part in the Lessons from Auschwitz programme, run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. The course involved two seminars, independent learning, and a visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau museum and memorial in Poland, intended to rehumanise both victims and perpetrators, and to ensure that the Holocaust, the mass-murder of over 6 million Jews, is never forgotten.

We initially learned about pre-war Jewish life in Europe, particularly in the town of Oswiecim, which would be renamed Auschwitz by Nazi occupiers. The motive for this emphasis was that we could not understand what had been taken from Europe if we did not understand Jewish life and attitudes to Europe before the war. The first seminar attempted to prepare us for our visit, and on Wednesday 27th March, we flew to Krakow, leaving at 7am. We were met with coaches to transport us throughout our visit, initially to the town of Oswiecim, accompanied by HET educators (Including Mr Richardson from DCS), a guide for our visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial and museum, and by Rabbi Hackenbroch who shared with us his own personal reflections, and the contemporary importance of learning about the Holocaust.

The town had a 58% Jewish population before the war, and a mere 0% today. Reading testimony from residents and learning about the mainly harmonious cooperation within the town allowed us to better understand the impact of the Holocaust on Oswiecim and the many towns like it across Europe. Our visit continued to the site of Auschwitz I, originally Polish army barracks which were converted into a forced labour camp by the SS. The blocks remain standing, and many have been adapted into museums and educational rooms to share their stories to students like ourselves, and deliver the vital Lessons from Auschwitz.

One room contained the 'Book of Names', containing the place of birth, death, age, and name of 4.2 million known Jewish victims of the Holocaust – names are being uncovered to this day, and allow us to learn about the individual victims and their lives stolen by the Holocaust. If you would like to view the online database, it can be found here <https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/names>.

We stopped to discuss the commandant, Rudolf Hoess, whose villa was visible from the worst quarters of the camp. We cannot simply pass off the perpetrators of the Holocaust as naturally evil, though their acts were, we must understand what caused them to commit such acts, be that education or propaganda, and seek to prevent such hate from seeping into our societies today. Our visit continued to the death camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau which was initially described to us as 'Planet Auschwitz', which would prove to be immensely accurate.



The 400-acre site left lasting impressions on us – row upon row of wooden barrack buildings, a handful intact, but the rest retained only the chimney mechanism (never used), a brick skeleton to illustrate in our minds the scale of the camp. The intact huts are replicas, built to provide us with a glimpse of the conditions its inhabitants would have

endured; it is vital, however, to understand that we shall never be able to truly imagine or understand the conditions that Holocaust victims endured, and any attempt will fail.

The discussion at Birkenau was provoked by the sight of railway tracks, and focused on the idea of culpability. Where does responsibility of this atrocity lie? With Nazi officials? The mass-murder of 6 million Jewish people could not have occurred without widespread support of apathy – surely, then there is an argument to lay the blame at the door of the entire German people? Addressing the railway tracks, we were recounted the story of the signalman: The signalman who directs a train filled with Jewish victims – how responsible is he for their inevitable murder? Should he refuse his post, surely another will complete his task, and so can we consider him guilty? As a group of students, these are some of the difficult questions we have been attempting to comprehend, and formulate answers to, an exercise which often leaves us with more questions.

Our visit reached its penultimate section, looking upon the ruins of the gas chambers and crematoria whilst being educated on its function, and hearing diary entries from members of the 'sonderkommando', prisoners forced to operate the gas chambers, and burn the corpses of their friends, relatives, and fellow human beings. The sonderkommando were soon murdered themselves, as not to accumulate too much knowledge of proceedings. Our visit concluded with a Holocaust memorial service, next to the large stone memorial erected by the Soviet forces upon liberating the camp. Our accompanying Rabbi led the service with several students giving readings of verses and poems, aiding our reflection. We each laid a memorial candle, and considered our concluding thoughts.

Whether it be the name we selected, the horrors we had heard or seen, or simply an attempt to answer some of the unanswerable questions we had pondered, we each descended into deep contemplation. Our visit was concluded, and we boarded our flight from Krakow back to the East Midlands, having been awake for some 20 hours. Following our participation in such a vital project, we are now tasked with our 'Next Steps', intended to bring our learning and experience to as many individuals (particularly young people) as possible, and to help ensure the Holocaust is never forgotten.



Word of the Week

Our 'word of the week' this week is: **Function**

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!

Function means: An activity that is natural to or the purpose of a person or thing OR **Maths:** a relation or expression involving one or more variables.

Etymology: The study of the origin (beginning) of words:

Mid 16th century: from French *function*, from Latin *functio(n-)*, from *fungi* 'perform'

'**Function**' in Spanish – La función

Other similar words are:

Work

Usefulness

Purpose

Serve

Examples of how to use Devote in a sentence are:

- Exportable technology can **function** around the world.
- She didn't understand how humans could feel so much and still **function** when she was overwhelmed.
- Tests reveal normal brain **function**, and there was no indication of any permanent damage.

Staying Mentally Healthy During Exam Time

As we head towards the main exam time, it's worth revising how we can support young people at what can be a very stressful time.

Young Minds have a series of support pages aimed to help with exam stress and anxiety. Their advice is available to help parents and carers and, of course, young people themselves. You can find this helpful advice at the links below:

[Parents](#)

[Young people](#)

These links have also been added to our school website under Information – Exams and Performance.

Holiday Cycling Activities

Please see posters below for Cycle Derby Holiday activity posters for the May half term.

cyclederby
MAY HALF TERM
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
2024



New to two wheels
Markeaton Park **4-8 Years**

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

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

£10

Wednesday 29th May
10am - 11am

Holiday Club **£25**
Markeaton Park **6-12 Years**

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

29th May
10.30am - 1pm

All activities must be booked in advance
To book call 07827 879647 or email cyclederby@derby.gov.uk

www.cyclederby.co.uk 

cyclederby
MAY HALF TERM
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
2024



Trackdays
Day Session at Derby Arena
9-16 Years **£35**

You need:

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

28th May
9am - 2pm

All activities must be booked in advance
To book call 07827 879647 or email cyclederby@derby.gov.uk

www.cyclederby.co.uk 

cyclederby
MAY HALF TERM
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
2024



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. **£20**

50 Minute Sessions available

29th May 1.30pm or 2.30pm
30th & 31st May
10am, 11am, 12noon
1.30pm or 2.30pm

All activities must be booked in advance
To book sessions please email cyclederby@derby.gov.uk or call 07972 268171

www.cyclederby.co.uk 

Network Rail Overnight Works

We have been notified of some overnight works taking place at Derby Railway Station which may cause a noise disturbance to the local area. Please see letter below.

OFFICIAL



79234/824

Railway Neighbour
Derby Cathedral School
Midland House
1 Nelson Street
DERBY
DE1 2SA



Community Relations
East Midlands Control Centre
Bateman Street
Derby
DE23 8JQ

Helpline: 03457 11 41 41

26 April 2024

Ref No: SPC8 127m 66ch – 70ch

Dear Neighbour

ELECTRIFYING THE MIDLAND MAIN LINE

I'm writing to let you know that as part of our continued programme to electrify the Midland Main Line, we are planning to carry out some early preparatory work in your area.

The railway line between London and Sheffield is being electrified. This will bring many benefits including quieter trains, reduced carbon emissions and faster, more reliable services. The current stage of the upgrade is electrification from Kettering to Wigston South. This is due to be completed in 2024/25. We are working with the Department for Transport on confirming detailed plans for future stages of electrification north of Wigston.

As part of this, we are doing early preparatory work in your area. Our team will be carrying out Ground Investigation work at Derby Station overnight, from:

22:00 Monday 13 May – 08:00 Friday 17 May 2024

More detailed plans such as design and delivery timescales are still being finalised. Work on the electrification programme isn't currently planned to start in your area until early 2026.

We will hold local events in advance of any work starting, where we will provide more detailed information about the work, including dates and locations.

I know that working close to your home overnight may cause disruption. Our team will try to minimise the amount of noise they cause as much as possible, and I want to apologise in advance if you are disturbed by the work.

For further information about our work which takes place on the railway please visit www.networkrail.co.uk/livingbytherailway alternatively if you have any additional questions or concerns, please visit www.networkrail.co.uk or telephone our 24-hour National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41.

Yours faithfully,

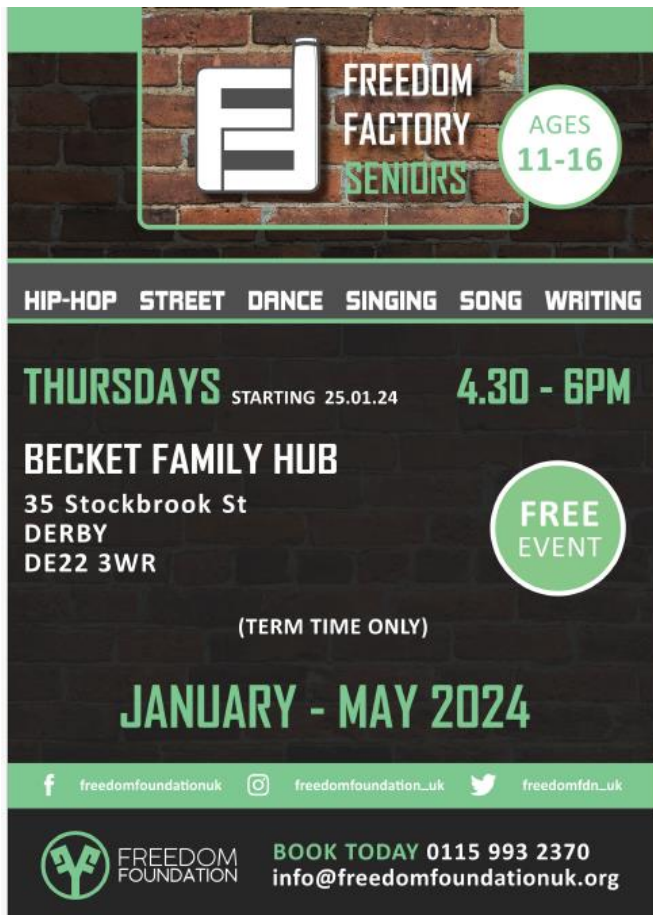
Ann Shorthouse

Ann Shorthouse
Community Relations Manager, East Midlands Route – Network Rail

Performing Arts Workshops

Freedom Foundation is a local workshop run by the Becket Family Hub that works to improve the mental well-being and resilience of young people using Performing Arts.

They run a series of free workshops every Thursday at the Becket Family Hub and have invited Derby Cathedral School students to attend. These workshops are beneficial for any student who is interested in the performing arts, looking for more experience in the arts industry, struggling with mental wellbeing, looking for new opportunities, interested in music/song writing and wanting to have fun! They are limited to only 20 places from Derby Cathedral School so do get in touch with them if it is something your child may be interested in!



FREEDOM FACTORY SENIORS AGES 11-16

HIP-HOP STREET DANCE SINGING SONG WRITING

THURSDAYS STARTING 25.01.24 **4.30 - 6PM**

BECKET FAMILY HUB
35 Stockbrook St
DERBY
DE22 3WR

FREE EVENT

(TERM TIME ONLY)

JANUARY - MAY 2024

f freedomfoundationuk | freedomfoundation_uk | freedomfdn_uk

FREEDOM FOUNDATION **BOOK TODAY 0115 993 2370**
info@freedomfoundationuk.org



FREEDOM FACTORY SENIORS



FREE EVENT

BOOK HERE

Derby City Council | FREEDOM FOUNDATION | Family Hub Derby | Community Action

f freedomfoundationuk | freedomfoundation_uk | freedomfdn_uk

FREEDOM FOUNDATION **BOOK TODAY 0115 993 2370**
info@freedomfoundationuk.org

National Saturday Club

NSC (National Saturday Club) is a free group that runs every Saturday for students ages 13 – 16.

<https://saturday-club.org/subject/society-change/>

Their theme this year is 'Society & Change.' The group is a powerful and positive experience for students and offers some wonderful activities, including a trip to London and workshops with notable artists.

“From climate change and conflict to new technologies and taking action, at the Society & Change Saturday Club you will explore the forces that are shaping the world today and discover how young people have a voice to influence the future. Club members will find out about different cultures and life in other countries, including what it is like to be a young person in other parts of the world, and will also be introduced to a range of jobs and careers from foreign policy and diplomacy to journalistic reporting and international charity work.”

Have a look at the poster and Derby group schedule below, and use the link above to sign up if you are interested!



National Saturday Club Derby Schedule - Society & Change

Week #1 (02/03/24): Introduction at the University of Derby (UoD) Kedlestone Road Derby, DE22 1GB

Week #2 & #3 (09/03/24 & 16/03/24): Derby Theatre

Week #4 (23/03/24): Derwent Family Hub

Week #5 (20/04/24): Becket Family Hub

Week #6 to Week #9 (27/04/24 to 18/05/24): University of Derby (UoD) Kedlestone Road Derby, DE22 1GB
Including week 7 (04/05/24) Masterclass with breakdancing Derby legend Kid Karam!

Week #10 (25/05/24): ArtCore

Week #11 & Week #12 (08/06/24 & 15/06/24): Baby People

Week #13 to Week #15 (22/06/24 to 06/07/24): University of Derby (UoD) Kedlestone Road Derby, DE22 1GB

Week #15 (03/07/24): Pop-up exhibition at the UoD, Kedlestone Road, DE22 1GB

Week #16 (Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July): SummerHouse Exhibition with trip to London

T: 07769 301 863

E: derbysatclub@derby.ac.uk

Dates Ahead

Term Dates

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

Other Key Dates

Wednesday 8 May: GCSE written exams start

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