

## This Week at Derby Cathedral School

w/c 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025



In our final half term, we are reflecting on a verse from the Book of Proverbs. Thought to have been written by King Solomon, this collection of wise sayings was compiled around 3,000 years ago to guide God's people in practical, everyday living. These ancient principles remain remarkably relevant today, offering enduring wisdom for navigating relationships, character development, and moral decision-making.

**Proverbs 11:2** teaches us that **"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."** This principle speaks directly to how we raise our children and model behaviour in both our homes and school community.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We find ourselves in another significant week for examinations, and I'm pleased to report that we're approaching the end with only a few key exams remaining. I want to extend heartfelt congratulations to both our Year 11 and Year 13 students for their sustained efforts throughout this demanding period. We are genuinely proud of how they have conducted themselves with the kind of focused determination that reflects true wisdom rather than mere pride.

However, Solomon's teaching about humility extends beyond academic achievement to encompass responsibility and consideration for others. In this spirit, I must emphasise the critical importance of returning all borrowed school resources. All year 11 and 13 students must return library books, subject textbooks, and revision materials before their departure. Year 11 students studying RE, Computer Science, and English may have subject-specific books to return, whilst all students should check for outstanding library loans. Our financial constraints mean we cannot afford to replace these resources annually—we depend on their return to support next year's Year 10 and 11 students. An email reminder has been sent home, and I must stress that outstanding items may put their prom attendance at risk. Year 13 students are similarly asked to check their library accounts. Your support in encouraging this responsibility would be greatly appreciated.

We are now actively planning end-of-term celebrations, with the Year 11 and 13 leavers' day scheduled for Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on cherished memories from their time with us, ending in a service at the Cathedral where we can offer prayers and reflections for their future endeavours. These moments of gratitude and blessing exemplify the humility that Solomon commends—recognising that our achievements are part of a larger story and expressing thankfulness for the journey we've shared.

During the coming weeks, I'm delighted to welcome Mr Brown, who will assume the headteacher role from September. He will be visiting regularly to familiarise himself with our DCS community and ensure a smooth transition for the new academic year. I warmly invite our entire community to welcome him as he begins to understand the special character of our school—a community that I value immeasurably and know he will quickly embrace.

As we navigate these final weeks, let us remember Solomon's wisdom about the relationship between humility and true understanding. Whether celebrating examination success, preparing for transition, or supporting one another through change, may we approach each moment with the humility that opens our hearts to continued learning and growth.

I wish you all a wonderful week  
Mrs Brown



Happy Refugee Week/Month!

Refugee Week is a time to celebrate the contributions of refugees to art, culture, and society. The week features nationwide educational events and media campaigns aimed at raising awareness and encouraging compassion towards refugees as valued members of our communities.

Over the month of June, pupils will be reading about the experiences of young people who have had to leave their home countries:

- **Year 7** – *Hamid's Journey from Eritrea*
- **Year 8** – *Juliane's Journey from Zimbabwe*
- **Year 9** – *Navid's Journey from Iran*
- **Year 10** – *Rachel's Journey from a country in Eurasia*

We hope that the month's activities will serve as an eye-opener to the difficult reality that many refugees face, but also highlight how refugees enrich societies through their resilience, diverse perspectives, entrepreneurial spirit, and cultural contributions.

## **\*\*New\*\* Telephone Options for DCS**

As of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025, a number of telephone options will be offered to you when calling DCS. We are hoping that by giving callers the opportunity to be transferred directly to the relevant team, rather than holding in a long queue for the Reception staff to transfer you, it will help to ensure your query will be answered and dealt with more efficiently, and will reduce your wait time to speak to the relevant member of staff.

Please note the updated options below:

- To report a Year 7-11 student absence – Option 1
- To report a Sixth Form student absence – Option 2
- Staff absence – Option 3
- Attendance Team – Option 4
- Admission queries relating to years 7-11 – Option 5
- Sixth Form admission queries – Option 6

If none of the above options are applicable, you will be put through to the reception team who will aim to help with your query.

If you unable to reach the team you wish to speak to, please leave a voicemail providing your name, the student's name, a contact telephone number and a short message and you will be called back by a staff member who should be able to help.

Alternatively, you may find it much easier and quicker to email in your query to [info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk](mailto:info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk). This inbox is regularly monitored and your email will be passed to the relevant member of staff for them to respond directly.

## **Word of the Week - Rash**

### **Rash**

**Definition:** Marked by or proceeding from undue haste

**In Spanish:** Precipitado

**Synonyms** (words with a similar meaning): impulsive, hurried, sudden, hasty

**Antonyms** (words with the opposite meaning): deliberate, unhurried, prolonged, calculated

#### **Sentences:**

He made a rash decision to quit his job without another plan.

Don't be rash – think carefully before you speak.

Her rash actions got her into trouble.

It was rash of him to drive so fast in the rain.

## Derbyshire Constabulary Youth Survey – ‘Your Voice Matters’

Derbyshire Constabulary are running their annual youth survey, ‘Your Voice Matters’ and are encouraging young people from ages 11-25 to take part. The survey is anonymous and will help to ensure the voice of young people is heard.



We understand that parents/carers may wish to view the questions before allowing their child to take part so we are asking schools if they would be willing to share this information with parents/carers in their school newsletters and also promote across their school setting.

Questions include topics such as whether they think we use ‘use of force/stop search etc.’ appropriately, it also asks them to list their top three crime concerns and has an open text box for what topics they think we should cover in schools. The data will be collated so that we can have a better understanding of what matters most to young people and then look to address those problems.

The survey closes on the 27th June and can be completed via this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/fx3PMZKj1H>

Thank you for your support!

For more information contact Julie Berry at [Julie.berry@derbyshire.police.uk](mailto:Julie.berry@derbyshire.police.uk)



### Other Cost of Living support

#### Local Assistance Award Scheme:

Families can apply for support under this scheme for help with discretionary housing payments, utilities/food, goods for the home and Council Tax Hardship payments. Further information can be found here: [Local Assistance Award Scheme - Derby City Council](#)

#### Support with water costs:

Severn Trent runs the Big Difference Scheme aimed at helping people who might struggle with paying their water bills. To find out if you are eligible for this help, please see their website for more information:

<https://www.stwater.co.uk/my-account/help-when-you-need-it>

#### Cost of Living Support

Community Action Derby has a list of help that may be available to you for support with money, food or mental health and wellbeing:

<https://www.communityactionderby.org.uk/crisis-support>

#### Healthy Start Scheme

If you're receiving a qualifying benefit and are pregnant or have children under the age of 4, you could get help to buy food and milk via the NHS Healthy Start Scheme.

You can find more information and how to sign up here: [www.healthystart.nhs.uk](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk)

Eligible families will receive a prepaid Healthy Start card which is topped up every four weeks with the following amounts:

- £4.25 per week from the 10th week of pregnancy
- £8.50 per week for each child from birth to 1 years old
- £4.25 per week for each child aged 1 to 4 years

In addition, the card can be used to collect free Healthy Start vitamins, which support individuals during pregnancy and breastfeeding, as well as vitamin drops for babies and young children. You can find your nearest vitamin collection point here [www.nhs.uk/service-search/other-health-services/healthy-start-vitamins](http://www.nhs.uk/service-search/other-health-services/healthy-start-vitamins)



**If you're pregnant or have children under the age of four, you could get help to buy food and milk.**

Apply online for NHS Healthy Start.

 [www.healthystart.nhs.uk](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk)  
@NHSHealthyStart

 SCAN ME

On behalf of Derby City Council



**Funded by  
UK Government**



## Mental Health – Fostering a sense of belonging

The remarkable growth of generative AI tools like ChatGPT has opened up exciting new opportunities for young learners. Used wisely, AI can be a powerful ally in boosting creativity, learning and problem-solving skills. However, without proper guidance, young people may stumble into challenges including inaccurate information, data security risks, and a growing reliance on AI over their own critical thinking.

From setting clear usage boundaries to teaching digital hygiene and promoting independent thought, [this guide](#) offers parents and educators practical advice on the safe, positive use of AI. With the right understanding and guidance, you can ensure that generative AI becomes a positive influence, rather than a potential pitfall in young people's digital lives.

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 [enliven.college.com](#).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 10 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY**  
Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.
- REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING**  
Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.
- EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unrealistic material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.
- DIGITAL DEPENDENCY**  
Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.
- PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY**  
Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.
- UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES**  
Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or create links. They can tend to underestimate plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

- ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES**  
Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.
- ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION**  
Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.
- PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION**  
Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately, and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.
- ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS**  
Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Brandon O'Reilly, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House School, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brandon guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.

**#WakeUpWednesday**  
The National College

[@wake\\_up\\_weds](#) [/www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@wake.up.weds](#)

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## 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.

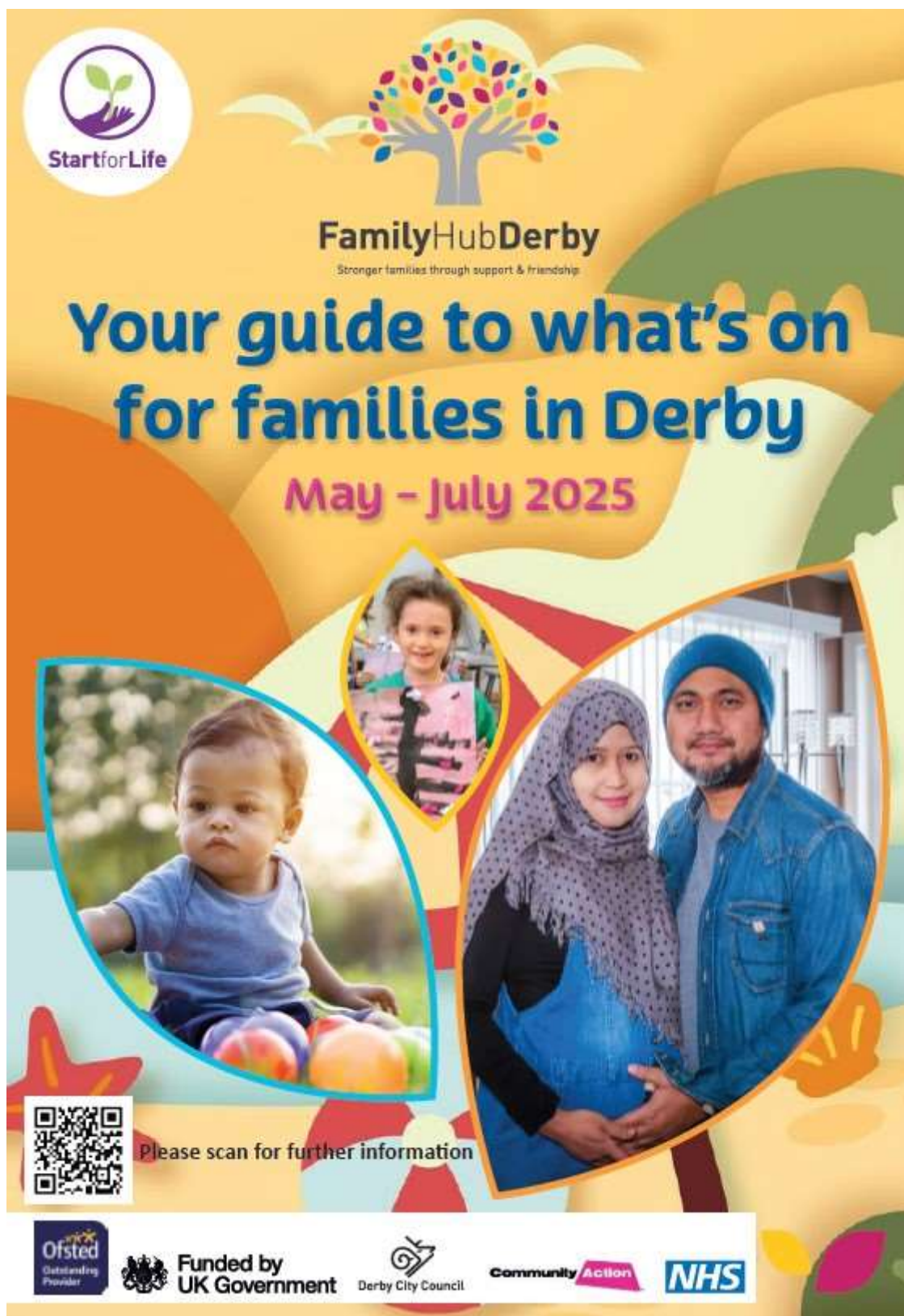
We will be accepting donations at Main Reception every weekday from 8 am – 4 pm. Please hand all suitable donations to our Reception Team so they can be placed in the box for collection.

Thank you for your generosity 😊



## Family Hubs – what's on during May to July 2025

Derby City Council's Family Hubs have lots going on from May to July 2025. To discover what's happening in your area for your child's age group please visit <https://www.derby.gov.uk/community-and-living/family-hub-childcare/family-hub/> or scan the QR code below.



The poster features a vibrant, abstract background with warm colors like orange, yellow, and green. At the top left is the 'StartforLife' logo, which includes a stylized green plant growing from a purple hand. To its right is a colorful tree with many small, multi-colored leaves. Below these is the 'FamilyHubDerby' logo, with the tagline 'Stronger families through support & friendship' underneath. The main title 'Your guide to what's on for families in Derby' is written in large, bold, blue letters, with 'May - July 2025' in pink below it. The central part of the poster is a collage of three photos: a young girl holding a pink book, a baby sitting on colorful balls, and a pregnant woman in a grey hijab and blue top being supported by a man in a blue beanie and denim jacket. At the bottom left is a QR code with the text 'Please scan for further information' next to it. The footer contains several logos: 'Ofsted Outstanding Provider', the Royal Coat of Arms, 'Funded by UK Government', the Derby City Council logo, 'Community Action', and the 'NHS' logo.

**StartforLife**

**FamilyHubDerby**  
Stronger families through support & friendship

**Your guide to what's on  
for families in Derby**  
May - July 2025

Please scan for further information

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider

**Funded by  
UK Government**

**Derby City Council**

**Community Action**

**NHS**



## Bridge The Gap - Drop-In Hub

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



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Speeding – Please keep our children safe

We have received reports of vehicles speeding around or nearby the school site. Can we please remind parents, staff, sixth formers and anyone else who brings a car to school to drive carefully and be considerate of pedestrians. The beginning and end of the school day are especially busy times, and keeping children safe is our priority.

## 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



## 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.

## 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

24<sup>th</sup> July – Last day of term – early finish

### INSET Days 2024-2025 – School closed to all students

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### Parents Evenings / Opening Evenings 2024-25

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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

- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – Y11 Prom 2025

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

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