

# This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 9th September 2024



Joshua 1:9 says:

**“Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”**

For us at DCS, this is a reminder that when we face unexpected events, God will not let us face them on our own – he will be with us.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the academic year 2024-25! Our students have made a fantastic start to the year; we’re really impressed with how they have returned, ready to learn. We send an especially warm welcome to our year 7 and 12 students who are starting a new phase and, for most, a new school. They have all been brilliant and have settled very quickly. We know though, that returning to school can feel daunting for some students and the Bible verse of the week reminds us that we are not alone. No matter what your personal beliefs, there is always someone who is there for you and we would encourage anyone who feels a bit wobbly about being back at school to talk to a member of staff in order to get some support.

We know that good habits lead to a calm and settled environment where students can achieve their best, and it’s great to see what a positive start our students have made. We had some visitors in school this week who all commented on the positive, calm atmosphere around school. They spoke to a number of students who all talked about what was special about DCS. Without exception, they all talked about the positive relationships they had with staff and how much they valued the care and support they receive. It was a real joy to hear them talk about how they see our FAITH values in action.

Just a few reminders at the start of the school year. Currently, our student’s uniform, and equipment is really good – there is a list in this newsletter of what is expected so please do take a look if you are not sure. Uniform expectations are also shown on the uniform page of the school website. All students need a reading book everyday which they can get from our LRC. Please do encourage your child with this and maybe ask them to tell you about the story they are reading; this makes a really big difference.

We also have some key dates at the end of this newsletter. All parents evening dates are also on our school website on the calendar page: <https://derbycathedralschool.org.uk/calendar>. Term dates are also there or can be found on the term dates page: <https://derbycathedralschool.org.uk/information/termdates>

If you are new to the school newsletter, you will find that this is sent out each week with some key reminders and notices and information about events in school and the local community. If there are any events/notices that you feel would be useful for all parents, please do email [info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk](mailto:info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk) and we can publish it.

A big thank you to you all for your support with supporting your child/children make such a positive start to the year

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J Brown

## We need your help!

### Tesco grant

Last year we applied for a Tesco charity grant to cover the cost of cooking club ingredients so more students can cook and take food home.

We are very excited that Tesco have set up a box in their Mickleover store to collect blue tokens. If we receive the most blue tokens by the 30<sup>th</sup> September, we will get £1,500 to fund ingredients. If you shop in Tesco, please can you place your blue tokens in our box! This is only at the Mickleover store.

Thank you for your support 😊



### Card games

Our students love playing games at break and lunch. If anyone have any card games that they would be willing to donate to the LRC, we'd be extremely grateful. Uno is a great example, but anything that can be played in 20 or 30 mins would be gratefully received. Please can any donations go straight to main reception. Thank you in advance!

## Equipment Reminder

In order to ensure that each student can start the day ready to learn well it is really important that they have the correct equipment with them.

It's a great support for your child/children to check that they have the following with them every day:

- A school bag
- Their reading book
- Their planner
- A pencil case complete with the following equipment:
  - Pencil
  - Black pens
  - Purple pen
  - Whiteboard pen
  - Ruler
  - Rubber
  - Protractor
  -
- Calculator – this must be a scientific calculator that is available to buy on ParentPay/ClassCharts Reward Shop
- A paper copy of their timetable



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

## NHS Cadets Opportunity


St. John's Ambulance and the NHS have partnered up to offer an exciting free programme called the NHS Cadets.

NHS Cadets' mission is to attract young people to careers in healthcare and develop their skills to the point where they are self-sufficient in health volunteer opportunities.

The programme will assist young people in not only acquiring new skills and knowledge but also gaining hands-on experience in the NHS through a 36-week programme (2 hours per week, not including work experience).


There is currently an Advanced Programme starting soon in Derby aimed at 16-18 year olds.

Pathways into healthcare | [sja.org.uk/nhscadets](https://sja.org.uk/nhscadets)



**Ask us how young people can volunteer in healthcare**

[sja.org.uk](https://sja.org.uk)



**Join NHS Cadets today**

### Who can get involved?

Our Cadets come from a diverse range of backgrounds - there is no 'typical' NHS Cadet. If you identify with one or more of these statements, our programme would be a good match for you.

- I'm from a minority ethnic group
- I consider myself part of the LGBTQI+ community, or I'm questioning
- I'm not in education, employment or training, or I'm at risk of this
- I'm struggling with my progress at school or college
- I live in care, or I've recently left care
- I provide regular care or support for someone
- I receive free school meals
- I have mental health concerns
- I consider myself to have a disability or impairment
- I consider myself neurodivergent, or I have special educational needs
- I am seeking asylum, or I'm a refugee

If you're unsure whether you fit into one of these categories or wish to discuss something else, please don't hesitate to email one of our friendly team at [nhscadets@sja.org.uk](mailto:nhscadets@sja.org.uk)

### How do I get involved?

New programmes are opening all the time and even if we don't currently have one in your area you will be added to the waiting list ready for when we have one close enough to you. Or we may be able to put you on a virtual group so that you can take part from the comfort of home.

To learn more, find your local programme and apply, please visit <https://nhscadets.sja.org.uk/join-today/>.

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### Reach your potential with NHS Cadets and learn the skills you need to support vital healthcare teams across the country.

[NHS Cadets](#) is a Programme created by St John Ambulance in partnership with the NHS. It's designed to provide you with the opportunity to explore roles in healthcare and prepare for volunteering.

The programme consists of two pathways: Foundation (for 14–16-year-olds) and Advanced (for 16–18-year-olds). You'll learn about a range of exciting healthcare topics, develop your leadership and communication skills, and gain insight into volunteering within the NHS.

It is a free programme consisting of 2-hour weekly sessions over 36 weeks. You'll be supported throughout your journey by our NHS Cadets Team.

## Scooter Safety

We have recently been informed of at least five students who have had injuries due to riding an electric scooter. Some of these injuries have been very serious and required ongoing medical attention and significant amount of time off school.

Please be aware that the use of private e-scooters is still illegal. The government information is as follows and can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users>

The [rules for private e-scooters](#) have not changed. It is against the law to use a privately owned e-scooter. If you use an e-scooter illegally:

- you could face a fine
- you could get penalty points on your licence
- the e-scooter could be impounded

This information shows that whilst the government are trialling e-scooters for hire in various cities, these require a driving licence and are not for children.

e-scooters are not allowed to be brought to school as they are illegal. We are also concerned about the number of our students who have received significant injuries from using these.

Please do ensure that your children are not using these for transport at any time.

## 10 Top Tips for Parents & Educators (Using and Reviewing Parental Controls)

In 2023, Ofcom found that over half of UK children aged between 8 and 11 reported having a smartphone, as well as 96% of UK teens. However, a survey from the Children's Commissioner also found that 45% of under-18s have encountered inappropriate content online. That's a high number of children who could benefit from having parental controls on their devices to help safeguard them from such encounters in the future.

Due to the sheer volume of devices and apps available for purchase and download, it can be difficult to know where to start when implementing these safety measures. That's why we've put together this week's free online safety guide, offering you expert advice on how to effectively use and review parental controls on young people's devices.

 [DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE GUIDE](#)

## Dates Ahead

### Term Dates

28<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November – Half Term

23<sup>rd</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Christmas Break

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

4<sup>th</sup> November

### Parents Evenings / Opening Evenings

17<sup>th</sup> September – Y11 Information / Parents Evening 6pm

2<sup>nd</sup> October – Y6 Open Evening 5:30 – 7:30pm

10<sup>th</sup> October – Y11 Open Evening

19<sup>th</sup> November – Y10 Information / Parent Evening

### Other Key Dates

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