

Newsletter

MARCH 2026

A Moment of Reflection



This half term has been an exceptionally positive one for our community, crowned by the success of our recent SIAMS inspection. I am incredibly proud that the inspectors recognised the strength of our Christian ethos, the care shown by staff, and the character of our students.

Their report reflects who we are each day - compassionate, ambitious, and committed to nurturing every young person. My sincere thanks go to students, families, governors, and staff who all played their part in this achievement.

It has also been a busy but highly productive few weeks in school. Students have thrown themselves into their learning, enrichment, and wider responsibilities with real maturity. From year-group assessments to creative arts showcases, sports fixtures and community events, there has been a real sense of purpose and progress across the school. As we head toward the final stretch of the academic year, I continue to be impressed by the energy and integrity our students bring to their daily lives at Derby Cathedral School.

Looking ahead, we are turning our attention to some important areas that will shape our shared expectations moving forward, particularly around uniform and mobile phones. You have received information about a consultation regarding our mobile phone policy, and I strongly encourage all families to contribute their views. Ensuring clarity, consistency, and a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions remains our priority. Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support and partnership.

Mr A. Brown
Headteacher

Student Council meets with SLT

Recently, our Student Council Year Reps met with Mrs Clay and Miss Palmer-Wilson, to discuss key aspects of school life, including rewards and uniform.

What made this meeting particularly impactful was the strength and breadth of student voice leading into it. Year Reps were able to confidently present the views of their entire year group, given that they had previously met with tutor reps to collate this feedback.

Drawing on this information, students led purposeful discussions around what meaningful rewards could look like at DCS, as well as discussing uniform, with students sharing their perspectives openly and respectfully.



The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for students to engage directly with school leadership, ensuring their voices were heard as well as considered. Feedback from the session has now been shared with SLT and Mr Brown, to help shape next steps and inform future decisions around these two areas.

Students spoke positively about the experience, highlighting how listened to and respected they felt throughout.

The students were a real credit to the school, showing maturity, confidence and thoughtfulness whilst discussing these topics.

This work is a clear reflection of our **FAITH** values in action: *Fellowship* through collaboration, *Aspiration* in striving for improvement, *Integrity* in sharing honest views, *Tenacity* in engaging with important discussions, and *Humility* in listening to others.

At Derby Cathedral School, every voice matters, and our students are helping to shape the future of our community.





FAITH values in Action



Easter Service at Derby Cathedral

On Tuesday 24th March, students from Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12, accompanied by their tutors, walked together to Derby Cathedral for a special Easter service.

The morning was a wonderful opportunity for reflection, community and celebration. We were warmly welcomed by Dean of Derby, Dr Peter Robinson and the Reverend Clare Owen, who led the service alongside members of the Cathedral team and Mr James, Head of Maths at Derby Cathedral School. Students engaged thoughtfully throughout, taking part in a range of readings, prayers and musical contributions that brought the Easter story to life.

A special mention must go to the students who contributed so meaningfully to the service. Thomas (Year 12) led a wonderful singing performance, as well as Hadassah, Will and Kezia (Year 11), whose vocal and instrumental contributions on piano and guitar added a powerful and reflective atmosphere. We were equally proud of Sinachi, Yuri, Reuben, Lucia and Kira (Year 9), who delivered their readings with confidence, clarity and maturity.



It was fantastic to see students from across year groups actively involved, demonstrating their talents as well as their respect for the occasion. The service concluded with final prayers, our school prayer and a blessing, leaving students with a strong sense of togetherness and reflection.

Beyond the service itself, the walk to and from the Cathedral provided a valuable opportunity for students and staff to spend time together, strengthening our sense of fellowship as a school community.

Throughout the visit, students demonstrated our FAITH values in abundance. Their respectful behaviour, thoughtful participation and willingness to engage fully in the experience was a joy to witness. It was a reflective and uplifting morning that captured the spirit of Easter beautifully.



DCS School: KS3 and KS4

Year 7 and Year 8 visit the local Gurdwara

Year 7 and Year 8 students recently visited a local Gurdwara as part of their learning in Religious Studies. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of Sikh beliefs, practices and community values, bringing their classroom learning to life in a meaningful and engaging way.



During the visit, students explored key features of the Gurdwara, including the prayer hall and the Langar, where they learned about the importance of equality, selfless service and community within Sikhism. They listened respectfully, asked thoughtful questions and reflected on how these values connect to their own lives.



Students represented the school brilliantly throughout the visit, demonstrating excellent behaviour and embodying our FAITH values, particularly Fellowship and Humility.



FAITH in Focus:

Collective Worship this Month

This half term, our focus has been Tenacity, guided by the words from James 1:12:



"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."



Through collective worship and tutor time, students have explored real-life examples of tenacity, including the story of Chris Gardner, alongside discussions around overcoming setbacks, managing self-doubt, and maintaining motivation. These themes were reinforced through wider school discussions, helping students to see how resilience is demonstrated in all areas of life.

Beyond Collective Worship, the theme of tenacity has been evident across the school community. Students have shown determination in their learning, particularly as many continue to prepare for assessments and examinations, demonstrating a commitment to improving and pushing themselves further. We have also seen students showing resilience through participation in enrichment activities, extracurricular opportunities, and in their day-to-day approach to challenges in school life.

Staff have continued to support and encourage students to develop a growth mindset, recognising that progress takes time and that setbacks are a natural part of learning. As a school, we are proud of the way our students continue to embody the value of tenacity, showing that success is built through effort, patience, and perseverance.

Kedleston Hall Trip - Photography

As part of their externally set assignment, our Year 11 Photography students visited Kedleston Hall to capture images inspired by the themes of Nature and Reflections. Students explored the stunning grounds, church and surrounding outbuildings, taking full advantage of the beautiful setting to produce a range of thoughtful and creative photographs. They were fortunate to enjoy glorious weather, which further enhanced the experience and the quality of their work.



The standard of photography was excellent, with students capturing imaginative and technically strong images that will now inform their design ideas. Throughout the visit, students demonstrated outstanding FAITH values, showing respect to members of the public and representing the school with maturity and pride.

Year 9 Options Evening - A Roaring Success!

DCS School: KS3 & KS4

Our Year 9 Options Evening was a fantastic success, with a brilliant turnout from students and their parents and carers. The school was full of energy as departments showcased the wide range of GCSE courses on offer, giving families a real insight into what studying each subject involves. It was an exciting opportunity for students to explore their interests, ask questions, and begin thinking about their future pathways.

Staff were on hand throughout the evening to discuss course content, expectations, and the many opportunities each subject can lead to beyond GCSE, helping students feel confident and informed as they make these important decisions. A massive thanks to our wonderful Sixth Form students too, who were on hand to assist both staff and students in various ways across the evening!



A Theatrical Treat for GCSE Drama students!

On Thursday 12th March, Y10 and 11 GCSE drama students went to Derby Theatre to watch a performance of Noughts and Crosses. This play is the set text that students study for GCSE drama, and as the Y11s have their written exam on this in just 8 weeks, the timing couldn't be more perfect!

Adapted into a play from the original novel by Malorie Blackman, Noughts and Crosses features a Romeo and Juliet style relationship in a world where racism has been inverted from our real-life history, and the Crosses are black and superior, whilst the Noughts are white and inferior. This modern play doesn't shy away from dealing with hard-hitting themes of racism, injustice and political tension.

The production was executed superbly, with the clever staging, lighting and sound, all working with the actors to seamlessly take us through the story.

The Y10s are excited to have seen the text they will get to explore in their GCSE drama lessons, and the Y11s are armed with ideas about bringing the play to life, which they write about in their final exam at the start of May. Good luck Y11!



Red Nose Bake Sale - What a Result!

Our Red Nose Day bake sale was a fantastic success, with each year group hosting their own cake, sweet and biscuit stall throughout the week.

Students showed great enthusiasm in both organising and supporting the event, creating a lively atmosphere at break times.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, we raised an impressive **£309.40 for Comic Relief**, supporting vital causes and making a real difference.





DCS Sixth Form



Dalcour Maclaren Discuss The Future with Year 12

In March, we were delighted to welcome three representatives from Dalcour Maclaren to Derby Cathedral School to speak with our Year 12 students.

The session provided a fascinating insight into careers within the infrastructure and environmental consultancy sector, highlighting how projects such as transport, energy, and renewable developments are planned and delivered across the UK.

Students gained a clear understanding of the wide range of roles available, from environmental planning to land and property management, and how these link to subjects studied at sixth form.

Our students engaged thoughtfully throughout, asking insightful questions and reflecting on how their current studies could lead to future opportunities. It was a valuable experience that helped broaden horizons and encourage students to think ambitiously about their next steps.



Year 12 Social Science Visit Chester Zoo!

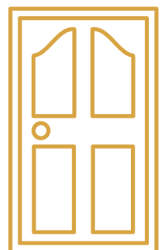
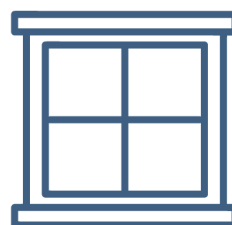
Year 12 Social Science students recently visited Chester Zoo as part of their course, exploring themes linked to human behaviour, conservation and society.

The visit provided students with the opportunity to observe how environments are designed to support wellbeing, as well as consider the role of organisations in education, ethics and global responsibility.

It was a valuable experience that encouraged students to make connections between their learning and real-world contexts.



This experience reflects our **Windows, Mirrors, Doors** approach to our academic curriculum as well as our enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities. Through this visit, students were given a 'window' into wider global and environmental issues, a 'mirror' to reflect on their own values and responsibilities, and a 'door' to consider future pathways and the impact that they can have beyond the classroom.



World Book Day at DCS

Thursday 5th March



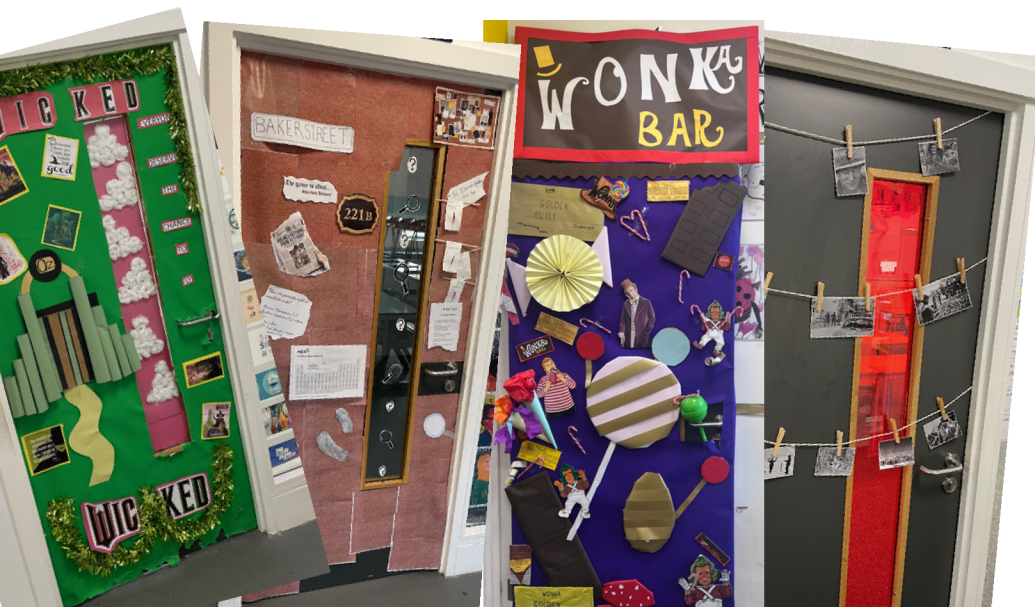
We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day across the school this year, with a range of activities designed to promote a love of reading and bring our school community together.

Staff and sixth form students joined in the celebrations by dressing up as their favourite book characters, sharing their favourite books with students and helping to spark conversations about reading across the school. Many classrooms also took part in a book-themed door decorating competition, with creative displays appearing throughout the corridors.

In the Learning Resource Centre, students were encouraged to explore different genres through a Book Bingo challenge, which linked to the staff costumes and favourite book recommendations displayed around the school.



Students also had the opportunity to take part in some exciting live events. Year 7 enjoyed a live football-themed reading quiz, combining their enthusiasm for sport with reading challenges and teamwork.



Meanwhile, Year 11 attended a special session with a visiting poet, who shared the personal experiences that inspired one of her poems and spoke about how writers use real-life events to shape their work.

It was wonderful to see so many students and staff getting involved and celebrating reading together. Events like these play an important role in helping us continue to promote a culture of reading and encourage students to engage with books in new and enjoyable ways.

Connecting with Parents & Carers



We continue to develop our Connecting with Parents and Carers initiative, with a focus on strengthening communication and ensuring that parents and carers feel informed and involved in school life.

This half term, we have built on feedback gathered through our recent parent consultation and MS Forms survey regarding proposed changes to the structure of the school day. This included a strong level of engagement from families, with valuable feedback shared around different aspects of the proposal, particularly lunchtime arrangements.

This feedback has helped to shape our understanding of parent and carer perspectives and will continue to inform how we communicate and implement next steps moving forward. We are committed to ensuring that key information is clear, accessible, and responsive to the needs of our school community.

We will share details of the next parent and carer meeting after the Easter break and warmly encourage anyone interested to attend if you can - we'd love to see you. The more input we have, the more effective the group will be.

If you would like to be added to the group, or if you can't make it, but would like to share some feedback, please email Mrs Hay – j.hay@derbycathedralschool.org.uk.

Social Media: Follow Us!



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School



@Derby_Cathedral_School

COMING
UP:

Summer Term

Monday 13th April 2026 to Friday 22nd May 2026

Monday 1st June 2026 to Thursday 23rd July 2026

Bank Holiday - Monday 4th May 2026

INSET Day - Friday 26th June 2026

Notices and Reminders



The LRC has an abundance of exciting new books for students to borrow, from the classics and modern tales to SEND and dyslexia-friendly reads. There are also many resources to help those students who are about to undertake exams, and may need a little more support with revision!

See Ms Shale in the LRC for more information!



Revision Podcast – Listen, Learn, Revise

Ms McGuinness and Year 11 students have launched a new revision podcast to support GCSE English. Each short episode focuses on key moments from texts and poems, including important extracts being read aloud and explained to help bring revision to life.



Scan the QR code or use the Vocaroo link to listen anytime — perfect for revising on the go, reinforcing key knowledge, or hearing the texts read clearly and confidently.

Safeguarding

Spring is officially here, and whilst it's lovely to wake up with the sun shining, it can be a challenging time for some people in both their personal and school life. It's important to look after yourself and be mindful of your wellbeing, both online and offline. If you're spending time online, remember to keep personal information private and think carefully before sharing images or messages. If you're meeting friends, let someone know where you're going and stay with people you trust.

Staying in regular routines can feel overwhelming. Try to look after your physical and mental health by getting enough sleep, taking breaks from screens, eating regularly and giving yourself time to relax and rest. Small steps make a difference.

If you're feeling worried, anxious or overwhelmed, remember that you are not alone and support is available. You can speak to a trusted adult such as a parent, teacher or school counsellor. If you need someone to talk to, you can contact **Childline** at any time on **0800 1111** or visit **childline.org.uk** – the service is free, confidential and available 24/7. You can also text **SHOUT to 85258** for confidential support by text.

Your life is valuable, and asking for help is a sign of strength. If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts and speak to someone you trust.



DCS Safeguarding

Use the QR Codes to direct you to helpful information about Safeguarding and Mental Health support on our school website.



DCS Mental Health

24/7 & Late Night Helplines For young people

YoungMinds
Are you a young person in crisis?
Text the YoungMinds Crisis Messenger for free 24/7 support if you are experiencing a mental health crisis.
text YM to 85258
YOUNGMINDS

The Mix
Do you need help now?
Crisis messenger text service provides free, 24/7 crisis support
text THEMIX to 85258
THE MIX

Papyrus
If you are having thoughts of suicide or are concerned for a young person who might be you can contact HOPELINEUK for confidential support and advice.
Call 0800 068 4141
9am – midnight every day of the year

Samaritans
Whatever you're going through, you can call anytime from any phone for FREE.
Call 116 123
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YOUTH INSPIRED

CALM
A helpline for people in the UK who are down or have hit a wall for any reason, who need to talk or find information and support.
Call 0800 58 58 58
5pm – midnight every day of the year