



16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head into the penultimate week before half term, there is still plenty happening across the academy and it has been wonderful to see students continuing to make the most of the opportunities on offer.

It has been another busy and productive week in school, and I continue to be incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, kindness and commitment shown by our students every day. As the autumn weather settles in and half term edges closer we thank you for your ongoing support. Working together makes a real difference to the experience and success of our young people. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Nut Free School

Please be reminded that we are a NUT FREE school.



Safeguarding

We have received reports of a member of the public at the front of school and around Lidl behaving suspiciously. Please can you report any unusual or suspicious activity to the school.

Lilypool, Melbourne

A resident from the Lilypool in Melbourne has been in touch with us to advise that a number of students are cutting through the Lilypool which is private land as they meet the bus. Please can students be reminded to be respectful, courteous and use the appropriate pathways to get to and from school.

Year 11 Maths Drop Down Day

This week, our Year 11 students took part in a Maths Drop Down Day to help prepare for their upcoming mock examinations. Our students engaged really well in each venue and we thank our Maths team for supporting them so brilliantly through this important year.



Year 12 Wellbeing Ambassadors

On Friday 16th October we held a training session for fourteen Year 12 students who have applied to become Wellbeing Ambassadors. All students engaged positively and showed maturity when faced with some challenging scenarios. The wellbeing ambassador scheme will commence after October half term and we are excited to see these students in their new leadership role.

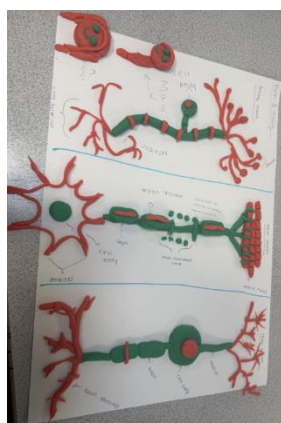
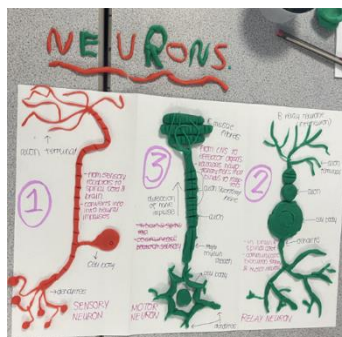
Year 9 Career Conversations Programme

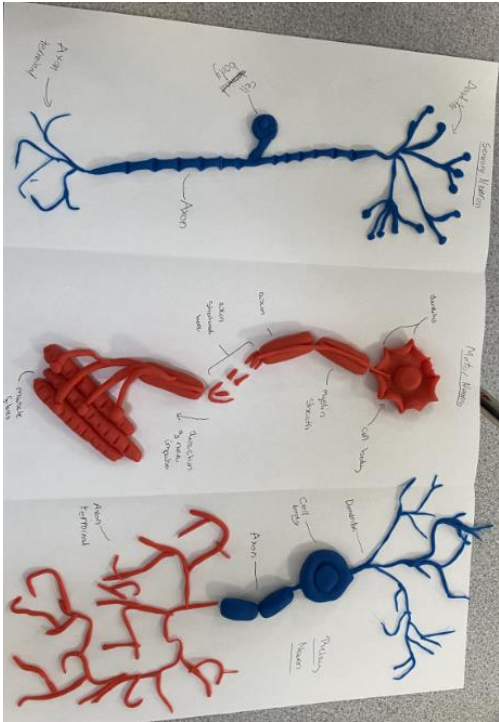
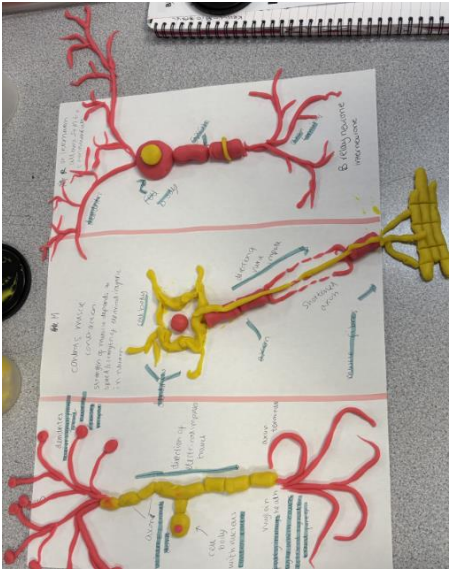
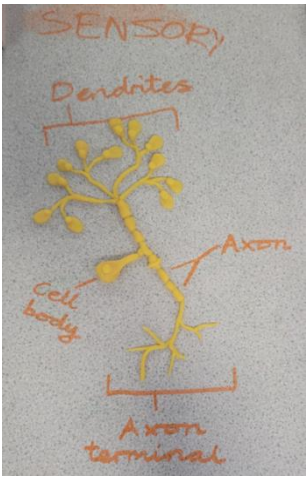
Year 9 students began their Career Conversations programme, encouraging them to think about their future aspirations and the many pathways available to them. We have emailed **ALL** parents inviting them to come into school to share their experiences and career insights to explain that there is often more than one path through your career. We'd love to hear from you if you can help - Please email careers@chellaston.derby.sch.uk.



Year 12 Psychology

In Psychology Mr Kelly & Ms Wilson's Psychology groups have moved into their second topic of the academic year - Biopsychology. This topic deep-dives in to all things related to human biology. In lessons students have been looking at the different types of neurons (Sensory, Motor, Relay) and have to know about these in-depth for the exam. Students were then tasked on building their own neurons within the lesson using play-doh in the hope that actually constructing these in groups enables them to remember the intricacies related to each part.





Year 10 Resistant Materials Competition

Our Year 10 Resistant Materials Group were visited by "Safety Point", a company that has designed a medical workstation last week. They came in to talk about how they came up with the idea that led to a revolutionary system to be used on construction sites.

There was also a competition for a group of four to design a future safety system for the school and the winners will receive an amazon voucher worth £25 each! They took to this with a very high level of maturity and in a short space of time there were five excellent ideas. James Austin, an ex-pupil of Chellaston, and Cat Day were very complimentary of our student's behaviour and Mr Smith was also very proud of them. The listened well and took to the challenge like ducks to water!

James and Cat will be coming back to reveal the winner and award the vouchers.



European Day of Languages

Following on from our European Day of Languages, we are delighted to announce the winners of the cake competition - well done to all our winners, we think you will agree the cakes were incredible!

The cake sale raised an additional £130 for Macmillan, and every student who participated gets 250 ICE points. Well done to all!

Winner!



Special mentions!



Science Revision Sessions

As you will have seen on the newsletter over the last few weeks we are continuing to run Science revision sessions for Year 11 students. Please see below the time and location. The uptake for these sessions has been brilliant, please keep attending, it's great to see so many students dedicated to their learning and upcoming Mock exams.

Biology: Wednesday afterschool take place in B1L

Chemistry: Monday afterschool Foundation Combined and Triple in A16L with Miss Petrie

Chemistry: Tuesday afterschool Triple/Higher Combined in A17L Mrs Caulton and Mr Greig

Physics: Monday afterschool in A14L for all students

Sparx Science

Thank you again to all the students who have completed their Sparx Science for this week.

The completion in Science this week continues to be really strong with nearly 2500 hours spent learning and 315,000 questions answered correctly.

If students are struggling to complete their Sparx Science Miss Petrie runs a Sparx Science club on a Thursday lunchtime in A16L where students can get help and use the Science iPads to complete their tasks. The following leaderboard shows the top students for each year:

Student Leaderboard for last week:

Weekly Leaderboard - Year 7

1. Vidhyuth the Builder
2. Elise the Harmony
3. Ivanna the Illusion

4. Rio the Pulsar
5. Gurditt the Shadow
6. Nicole the Pathfinder

Weekly Leaderboard - Year 8

1. Ryan the Mastermind
2. Valerija the Wonder
3. Jude the Legend
4. Lucas the CEO
5. Miya the Echo
6. Ahmed, Jasper, Chris, Chloe, Gracie, Louis, Ivy, Daisy and Olivia

Weekly Leaderboard - Year 9

1. Zayon the Whiz
2. Zac the Pulsar
3. Hamza the Professor
4. Oscar the Explorer
5. Poppy the Creator
6. Molly the Mastermind

Weekly Leaderboard - Year 10

1. Mya the Orator
2. Lowri the Boss
3. Junming the Jester
4. Grace the Dreamer
5. Ethan the Alchemist
6. Lucinda the Storm

Weekly Leaderboard - Year 11

1. Zayn the CEO
2. Evie the Voyager
3. Eva the Ambassador
4. Izzy the Biologist
5. Flossie the Glory
6. Tayla the Pathfinder

Amazing work as always, well done - 100 ICE points will be awarded to the top 3 students and 50 ICE points awarded to the next three. It's fantastic to see some new names featuring on the leaderboards. Keep it up guys, amazing completion.

BBC Radio Derby - Young Correspondent

Ridley W in Year 8 visited BBC Radio Derby on Wednesday 14 October to record an interview with presenter Becky Measures about Developmental Language Disorder (DLD). She shared how DLD affects her everyday life and why raising awareness matters to her. The interview was aired on Thursday 15 October.

Ridley will also speak at Sunshine Support's free 'Derby Lights Up Purple for DLD' event on Friday 16 October, when Derby Conference Centre will be illuminated purple for DLD Awareness Day. Families are welcome from 6pm, with the light-up at 6:30pm. Free places can be booked at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/derby-lights-up-purple-for-dld-tickets-2002157510009>



Dates for your diary

Please see the link to our new website with details of our calendar for this academic year.

[Chellaston Academy - Chellaston Academy Calendar](#)

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Leese'.

Mr. D Leese
Headteacher