CHELLASTON ACADEMY
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Headteacher: Mr D Leese

23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding half term, I would like to thank our students, staff and families for their continued support.

With the nights drawing in, the weather turning more autumnal and the academy grounds showcasing the colours of the season, it is hard to believe how much we have achieved since September.

The past few weeks have been packed with opportunities and achievements, including our celebrations of Black History Month, European Day of Languages, Hello Yellow, and a successful Macmillan Coffee Morning. We have also welcomed hundreds of families through our two highly successful Open Evenings for Year 6 and prospective Year 12s and supported our Year 11 students through our Raising Standards Evening.

Our Year 7 students have benefited from the fantastic Wise Up team-building programme, while Year 10 students have begun preparing for their future pathways through the launch of Work Experience. Alongside this, students have represented the academy superbly in an incredible number of sporting fixtures and enrichment activities.

One of the standout achievements this half term has been the confirmation that Chellaston Academy ranked 5th out of all Derbyshire schools for GCSE attainment. This is a remarkable accomplishment and reflects the consistently high standards achieved by our students, supported by the expertise and commitment of our staff and the invaluable partnership with families.

We have also been recognised for our strong attendance, receiving awards for being in the top 25% of schools nationally and the top 25% of similar schools.

Looking ahead, next half term begins with an important period for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who will be undertaking their mock examinations. We would encourage these students to make good use of the half-term break by completing revision, consolidating their learning and preparing thoroughly for the weeks ahead.

We will also come together as a school community to mark Remembrance Day, taking time to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who have served and continue to serve our country. As the term progresses, we look forward to the many festive events, performances and community activities that make the run up to Christmas such a special time of year.

These are just a few examples of what another fantastic half term this has been. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming students back after half term for a productive and successful end to the year.

Parent/ Carer Reminder for Dropping off & Picking up Students
We would like to politely remind parents/ carers that they are only permitted to drive on to our school site is between the hours of 8.45-2.15pm. This is due to the health, safeguarding of our students at bus drop offs and pick ups. Any students that are being dropped off or collected outside of these hours need to do so outside of the school gates.



Staying Safe over Half Term
We'd like to remind students how to stay safe over half term with the presentation attached below.



Attendance Praise
As we reach the end of another half term, we would like to thank our parents and carers for their continued support in helping students attend school regularly and arrive ready to learn. There have been many positives to celebrate this half term, with students demonstrating commitment to their learning, making the most of opportunities in lessons and enjoying the routines and relationships that school provides. Every day in school counts, and regular attendance helps students build confidence, make progress and feel part of our Academy community.
On Friday 23rd October we had a small celebration for a number of our young people due to some really positive attendance so far this year. It was so lovely to celebrate students achievements in improving their attendance/ punctuality.





However, we know that attendance can also present challenges for some families. Illness, difficult mornings, transport arrangements and other circumstances can sometimes make getting to school on time more difficult. Our school day does begin at 8.30am, and we strongly encourage students to be on site for 8.25am so they are ready to being learning at 8:30am. The start of a new half term is an ideal opportunity for a fresh start and a renewed focus on making every school day count.

Thank you for your continued support.

Chellaston Academy Alumni

We recently celebrated World Teachers' Day on 5th October 2026, of which we had many nominations What greater way to celebrate this than to share with you a recent article from one of our Alumni students, George Allen, who interviewed and wrote an article about one of his favourite Chellaston Academy teachers Mrs Smith. George has been with the Derby Telegraph/ Reach for around 10 years now, but in the next few weeks he will be leaving and launching his own local news service called The Derby Mercury. What a lovely story. Thank you for sharing George!
https://thederbymercury.substack.com/p/i-met-up-with-my-old-favourite-teacher?r=8s09s2&utm_medium=ios



Year 11 Geography Trip to Birmingham
On Tuesday, fifty nine Year 11 GCSE Geography students visited Birmingham to complete their fieldwork, investigating how the quality of the environment differs between inner city areas and the city centre. Students worked hard to collect primary data in and around Highgate and the Bullring shopping area, for use in their fieldwork examination in the summer.

Despite the rain, all students worked fantastically well and displayed our values of integrity, care and excellence throughout the day. We are so proud of you all!



Science notices
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 2800 hours spent learning and over 350,000 questions answered correctly.

As always, 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. Lachlan the One and Only
2. Estee the Triumph
3. Morgan the Surge
4. Vidhyuth the Builder
5. Caysen the Magician
6. Theo the Juggler

Weekly Leaderboard - Year 8

1. Jude the Legend
2. Amneet the Genius
3. Ryan the Mastermind
4. Lily the Spirit
5. Twenty amazing Yr8 students

Weekly Leaderboard - Year 9

1. Zac the Pulsar
2. Rajinder the Garcha
3. Tristan the Prodigy
4. Mary the Architect

5. Eva, Zachary, Edie, Eliza, Claire, Jacob, Sekinah, and Evie

Weekly Leaderboard - Year 10

1. Charlotte the Harmony
2. Spencer the Composer
3. Evelyn the Captain
4. Henry, Ethan, Thomas, Evan, Rhaya, Jude, Annie and Katie

Weekly Leaderboard - Year 11

1. Yasmin the Genius
2. Esme the Gem
3. Eliza the Professional
4. Charlie the Legend
5. Hanna the Explorer
6. Sahitveer the Navigator

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 students listed above. Again, it's fantastic to see some new names featuring on the leaderboards. Keep it up guys, amazing completion.

PE News

Cross Country Results

We have had a number of Cross Country events over this first half term.

Please see the results below -

25th September - Derby Moor School

There were great results this week!

Results:

James B (9)- 3rd

Jess W (11)- 2nd

Georgie H (10)- 7th

9th October - Woodlands School

This was the third and final week of the cross country individual series, racing at Woodlands this time. The weather was bright and somewhat warm, however there were quite a few hills to navigate at Woodlands.

Results:

Wren E (7)- 3rd

James G (7)- 5th

Greta H (9)- 2nd

Sofia W (9)- 3rd

James B (9)- 3rd

Georgie H (10)- 6th

16th October - West Park School

Cross Country Relays - Just as we arrived at West Park, there was a heavy downpour and grey skies which didn't look too promising for the rest of the afternoon, however it soon dried up and albeit chilly at least it was dry.

Results:

All of our teams placed Top 3 which is incredible!

Year 7/8 girls team - Wren E, Erin B, Lily S and Daisey S placed 3rd overall

Year 7/8 boys team - Fred P, Hugo L, Archie M and James G placed 3rd overall

Year 9/10 girls team - with only a team of 3 on the starting line up, Erin B raced up an age group in the team with Greta H, Sofia W and Isla M placing 1st overall

Year 9/10 boys team- James B, Rory B, Daniel H and Lewis B placed 2nd overall

Well done to everyone who took part in the cross-country events this year- we are super proud of you all!

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,



Mr. D Leese
Headteacher