

CHELLASTON ACADEMY

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Proud Headteacher: Mr P Smith

Integrity
Care
Excellence



Dear members of the Chellaston Academy community,

Although this has been the last week of 2023, there has been many things happening that we are incredibly proud of. This includes our Christmas Concert on Tuesday night and our Winter Wonderland which took place yesterday. Both were wonderful events and there are further details of these below.

Rewards Day - Winter Wonderland

Chellaston Academy rose to the challenge when things had to deviate on an exceptionally windy day yesterday. All hands were on deck to relocate from the planned event on the courts to the sports hall, and our staff did us proud. There was food, drinks, photo booths, craft activities, blankety blank, cinema and board games plus more all on offer. We did manage to get as many students as possible on the carousel today when the winds dropped which was the icing on the cake. We are so proud to give our wonderful students a wonderful day. Special thanks goes to our Rewards team who organised the event & activities and all of the staff who pitched in on the day. Singing from the balcony was a real treat and santa was a lovely, familiar "site".







Music concert

Over 100 members of Chellaston Academy took part in a spectacular performance on Tuesday evening to demonstrate the musical talent here at Chellaston Academy. Well done to all that took part and a special thank you to the music department who brought it all together.



Primary Visits

This week Shelton Lock Junior school and Chellaston Junior School joined us to listen to a shorter version of the Christmas Concert. It was lovely to welcome year 6 students into school and for them to see some very talented students perform for them and give them an insight into what they could do as a student at Chellaston. Feedback from both schools has been amazing with some year 6 children telling their teacher "We can't wait to go to Chellaston and join the music groups!"

We hope to continue the work with our feeder schools in the new year.

Carol singing

On Wednesday morning some of our talented young singers went to perform at Bluebell Park Care Home in Chellaston to the resident, and a whole selection of carols and smiles were enjoyed by all. Thank you so much to the staff for inviting us in, we really enjoyed performing and sharing the festive spirit in our community.

Reverse Advent

We are really proud of the students from 10CLW and 11SPR who contributed to our Reverse Advent donation drive. Along with many of our wonderful staff, they collected items for Food4Thought in time for the busy and important Christmas period. These items will be used across the city as part of food parcels and gifts for people who are in need. We are also really pleased to announce that the Melbourne Rugby club have also made a financial contribution to this cause in partnership with the academy from their fantastic Santa sleigh. Well done and thankyou to all who were involved - what a community to be a part of!



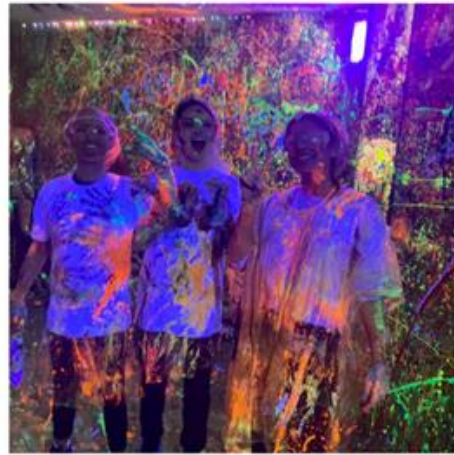


Connect rewards trip

Last Friday we took students to an indoor paintballing venue for an afternoon of fun and laughter. We had so much fun in the Escape room, squirting each other with paint and dancing to the music, playing the drums and keyboard, bursting the paint filled balloons and making our own canvases, all whilst trying to stay cleaner than the next person! We weren't very successful, especially Mrs Grimwood who had to drive the minibus home with paint in her hair and then do bus duty at the end of the day.

A huge thank you to all the girls who attended and behaved impeccably. They were a real credit to school, themselves and their families.

We are all looking forward to the next trip next half term already.



Christmas Staff Changes

At the end of each term, we say goodbye to staff who are leaving and welcome the new staff are joining us. We will start 2024 with more teaching staff than we ended 2023 with, which thankfully goes against the current recruitment and retention crisis in education.

Ms Hill joined us in Easter last year and taught History for the rest of the academic year. She then started in September as a Philosophy/Sociology teacher. She has really helped to ensure that we have specialist teachers in front of our students in several departments. We wish her all the best for 2024. For the rest of the school year, Mrs Walker has kindly agreed to go full-time to ensure that all the Sociology exam classes are covered. Mrs Scope is picking up some of the Philosophy classes.

Ms Roberts has returned from maternity, giving us more hours of Maths teaching.

Ms Johnson returns from her maternity leave in mid-January, picking up Ms Jones' current timetable. Ms Jones is being kept on at the school.

Ms Horvath has been seconded to an exciting role that looks at attendance across the city. She is still at the school for two days a week.

Ms Skinner joins the leadership team as an assistant head teacher, to provide capacity when Ms Horvath isn't in school. She has oversight for Mental Health within in the school.

Ms Leahy also joins the leadership team as an assistant head. She will be part of the Teaching and Learning team, particularly Literacy and Reading. In order to reduce her hours we have appointed Ms Thayer as our new Head of English.

Timetables

Over the past few weeks, we have slowly been taking over refurbished classrooms that have been out of action since June last year. Over Christmas, technology will gain another two specialist classrooms. We will also start major work on the area at the front corner of school which is A2/A3/A4/A5.

Alongside the staff changes mentioned above, this has had a fairly large impact on the school timetable, with most students having either room, staff or lessons being moved around. All students will receive a new timetable on the first morning back.

Reports and review morning

Over the past few days, nearly 1400 reports have been published for Years 7-10 and 12. These are available to view on Go4schools. On the morning of Tuesday January 9th form time will be extended and students will receive a printed copy of their report and will have a short interview with their form tutor about their current progress.

Exams

Yesterday, our Winter Wonderland was moved into the Sports Hall due to the weather. Immediately after finishing, the site team started to move 300 desks and chairs in to prepare for a month of exams in January 2024. Year 12 and 13 mocks start on the first day back, followed by Year 11 Mocks. Throughout this period, there are also real exams taking place in many of our vocational subjects.

Year 9 Parents' Evenings in the first half term

Next half term is a very important one for Year 9 students. We will be looking at careers and the options for process for Year 10. The Year 9 parents' evening is on the 25th January 2024. More details will come out about this, but this is an online parents' evening. On the 8th February 2024, there will be the options evening which will be in school. This will be an opportunity to find out about the range of subjects that we offer, visiting each department.

Murder Mystery production

The Year 10 student production team have been busy at work doing auditions for their student led production of Murder Mystery. They have now finished casting! Rehearsals will begin after the New year and a Firefly page has been created for easy communication. Thank you to all those auditioned - from the production team: Daniel Hall, Samuel Jackson and Alfie Simpson



Safeguarding and Wellbeing

We hope everyone has a happy and safe Christmas, but we understand it can also be a really difficult time of year for many.

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child, please contact social care directly on:

Derby - 01332 641172

Derbyshire - 01629 533190

Mental Health and wellbeing support (for children) can be accessed 24/7 from:

Childline - 08001111

Kooth counselling - <https://www.kooth.com/>

Young Minds - <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

And for adults, services include:

Samaritans - <https://www.samaritans.org/>

Domestic Abuse support - <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>

With signposting to many available services for physical and mental health, and other support avenues collated on:

<https://derbyandderbyshireemotionalhealthandwellbeing.uk/adult>

Emotional Health & Wellbeing

Transforming Health and Wellbeing for Everyone

- www.derbyandderbyshireemotionalhealthandwellbeing.uk

Dates for your diary

8th January - Return to school as normal

January - Mock exams for Years 11, 12 & 13

25th January - Year 9 Parents evening - online

8th February - Options/ Guided choice evening - in school

15th February - Year 13 Parents evening

16th February - Break up for half term

Finally, we hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we already look forward to welcoming our young people back on the 8th January 2024.

Kind regards



Phil Smith

Proud Headteacher

Chellaston Academy

"Inspiring each other to realise our potential through Integrity, Care and Excellence"