

CHELLASTON ACADEMY

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Proud Headteacher: Mr P Smith



Dear members of the Chellaston Academy Community,

Where has the term gone? In our last newsletter of 2024, you will see that there have been a plethora of memorable experiences provided for our Chellaston Academy young people. In particular, this week we took 1500 of our students to the cinema for their rewards day. The feedback from every member of staff was centred around how phenomenal everyone was and how they enjoyed the day. Please enjoy our last newsletter of 2024!

As we move into the winter break, we want to thank you for your ongoing support and we wish you a Happy Christmas and New Year.

We look forward to welcoming our young people back to school on **Tuesday 7th January 2025**.

Christmas Rewards Day

On Wednesday 18th December we held our first rewards day of this academic term. We took over 1500 young people to the cinema completely for free as a massive well done for persistently exhibiting our school values of Integrity, Care and Excellence. The day was absolutely brilliant with shuttle buses starting from 9am and the last bus arriving back at 3pm. We also held our achievement assemblies and all students took part in their end of year tutor celebrations.

All students behaviour ratios reset to 100% on 1st January so everyone has the opportunity to qualify for rewards day 2!





Years 7-10 Reports are live

On Thursday afternoon, the first reports for Years 7-10 were published on Go4schools. Year 12 will not receive their reports until after the Y12 mocks in January. Year 13 have already had theirs but will receive an updated one in January. All students will have an extended form time on Tuesday January 7th where they will talk through their report with their form tutor.

Timetable changes

This Christmas, like every end of term, we say goodbye to staff. Some have gone on maternity leave, others have gone onto pastures new, in and out of education. This has mainly affected Maths, English and Science with Ms Spray, Ms Dennett, Mr Dennis, Mr Warden and Mr Ibrahim not returning in January 2025. All subjects and year groups have been affected by changes, but not massively. From Sunday, any changes should be visible on Go4schools. Students have been advised to check their timetables before returning in January. The first day back is a **Tuesday Week A**.

Form Changes:

With the departure of staff, there have been some changes to form groups.

8IBR (Mr Ibrahim) is being replaced by his direct replacement in Maths.

9BTY (Mr Bentley) Mr Bentley is using form time for Y11 Maths intervention. Mr Greig (GRG) is taking over his form.

10DNS (Mr Dennis) is being replaced by Mr Carrington-Roberts (CRT)

10DEN (Ms Dennett) went on maternity last month. She has been replaced by Ms Hulme (HUM)

10 WDN (Mr Warden) is being replaced by Ms Hill (HLL)

2025 Spring Half Term Events

Wednesday January 15th 2025 - Year 9 Parents' Evening

This is an important event for Year 9 as there is the options evening in the same half term. On this

day, there will be an **early closure**. Please note that this is on a Wednesday and not the usual Thursday. We are using Wednesday to avoid the same lessons being affected on a period 5 over the course of the year. The booking process will take place in the first week back. Year 9 parents will be notified in the New Year about the process.

Thursday January 23rd 2025 - Year 13 Parents' Evening

Hot on the heels of Year 9 parents' evening comes the turn of Year 13. This week, they returned from their mock examinations and this evening will focus on their revised predictions. As there are fewer appointments in Sixth Form, this evening does **not** need an early closure.

Thursday 6th February 2025 - Year 9 Options Evening

An action-packed half term with three evening events in a four-week period. This evening will focus on the options process for Year 9 and provide students and parents to talk to all subject areas about the important choices to be made in preparation for Year 10.

Chello Christmas Music Concert

On Monday 16th December we held our **sell out** Christmas Concert. We had over 80 students involved, either as performers or tech crew. Performances included songs from our various choirs, soloists, duets and up-and-coming year 7 rockers 'Rocktricity'!

In addition to the festive performances we had cakes and samosas on sale from Mrs Bola, festive refreshments and candy floss, along with a raffle! Thank you to all the parents and families who were able to come and support the students, as well as the staff who came to support too, including Ms Hayward, Mrs Dow, Mrs Bola and Mr Clarke and 6th former William F! It was a brilliant evening and everyone did an incredible job!

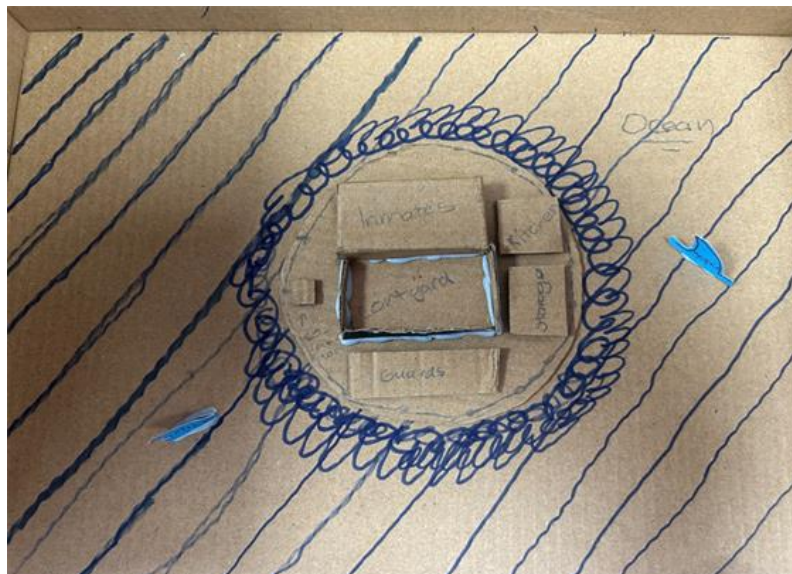
Merry Christmas from the Music Department!





Year 11 Sociology

Over the past few weeks, our Year 11 Sociologists have studied the effectiveness and the purpose of sentencing in the UK today. In our most recent lessons, students were tasked with designing their own prison systems. Students have used inspiration from case studies we have looked at including Alcatraz, El Salvador and Bastoy prison in Norway. They have done a fantastic job - well done!





Festive Christmas House competition

The senior leadership team set the challenge of students designing and making a house made out of any material they chose and the results were incredible!

Over 70 Students made their houses, photographed the results and sent them in. The entries were then fairly judged by a huge variety of members of staff in AMP1.

ALL students received 1000 ICE points for taking part and the main winners (Betsy P, Lauren E, Charlie E, Mia P and Rueben L) won an Amazon voucher each and a pizza afternoon with members of the senior leadership team in the new year! Our main winner, **Mia P**, won the grand prize of **£50** in Amazon vouchers - Well done Mia and ALL who took part!!





The attachment **below** contains some important support if you require it over the Christmas period and signposts to where you can go for external support.

At The National College, our #WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

- ### 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Limiting screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.
- ### 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.
- ### 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.
- ### 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognize dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.
- ### 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection rates. Emphasize hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.
- ### 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.
- ### 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and tinsel can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, topping Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.
- ### 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.
- ### 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.
- ### 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents. Impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modeling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.





The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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Christmas Book Cafe

Many of our students chose to spend their well deserved ICE points on a whole lesson snuggled up with good book, a hot chocolate and cakes aplenty in our cosy library. Very well deserved and a great way to spend your ICE points.





Deck the Doors!

Form rooms & individual staff rooms joined in with Deck the Doors (our annual competition to decorate their doors for a chocolate prize!) it's been so lovely to see the corridors decorated brightly for the Christmas season - well done to all who took part!







Family Learning Sessions - FREE for Parents

Chellaston Academy have made positive links with the Derby Adult Learning Service (Family Learning) and they have emailed us with some posters to share with you (see attachment below).

Derby Adult Learning Service

Learning Opportunities for Adults

Presentation Pride Award

This week's Presentation Pride Award is awarded to Alex W in Year 7, well done Alex, your second award for your brilliant artwork this term!



Dates for your diary

6th January 2025 - Inset day

7th January 2025 - All students to return to school

15th January 2025 - Year 9 Parents' evening - EARLY CLOSURE

23rd January 2025 - Year 13 Parents' evening - NO early closure

6th February 2025 - Year 9 Options evening

14th February 2025 - Break up for half term

Kind regards

Phil Smith

Proud Headteacher

Chellaston Academy

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