

CHELLASTON ACADEMY

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Proud Headteacher: Mr P Smith



Dear members of the Chellaston Academy Community,

As an academy we all started off our week thinking about what we want our legacy to be at Chellaston Academy. There have been some interesting and thoughtful things to come out of these discussions, but our values of Integrity, Care and Excellence have been common in these thoughts. It has also been delightful to see those values in abundance this week. Please enjoy our weekly newsletter.

*We Are The Legacy
We Leave Behind!*

Sue Woodings - Retirement

We'd like to wish one of our invaluable cleaners, Sue Woodings, all the very best in her retirement after 22 years of cleaning our school. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication Sue, you will be missed!



Communication at Chellaston Academy

We would like to thank the vast majority of parents and carers who treat the staff at Chellaston Academy with Integrity, Care and Excellence as we communicate with each other. However, can we please remind parents that our staff will not tolerate being verbally abused on the telephone or in face-to-face meetings. Please see our communication protocols that set out our expectations on this matter attached below.



Drop off & Pick up at Chellaston Academy

We'd like to kindly remind parents/ carers that due to health and safety reasons, students cannot be dropped off on site by car at the beginning **or** end of the school day. The only exception to this would be if you have special permit given by Mrs Holdgate.

**Planetary alignment sees 6 planets visible in the night sky, into the beginning of February**

You'll likely have heard news that a 'planetary alignment' is visible in January 2025 and into February, but are wondering what planets are actually visible, and how special this 'alignment' is. January and February 2025 are good months for observing the planets (except for Mercury), as Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are all visible in the night sky.

Head out around 7pm in January 2025 and you'll be able to see the planetary alignment of Mars, Jupiter, Venus and Saturn, as well as Uranus and Neptune, visible in the sky. At this time, Mars will be in the east, Jupiter in the southeast, Venus and Saturn close together in the southwest. Jupiter is visible above the constellation Orion, so it's easy to spot. Venus looks like a remarkably bright star in the twilight sky and is quite beautiful to see.

You can download a free app to your phone called 'stellarium'. When you open it, you see a star map of the sky in the direction you hold up your phone so you can move it about and see the names of stars and constellations in front of you and use it to identify the planets that are visible to eye currently on a clear night.

Here is a link to a full article on this phenomenon.

<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/news/planetary-alignment-2025>



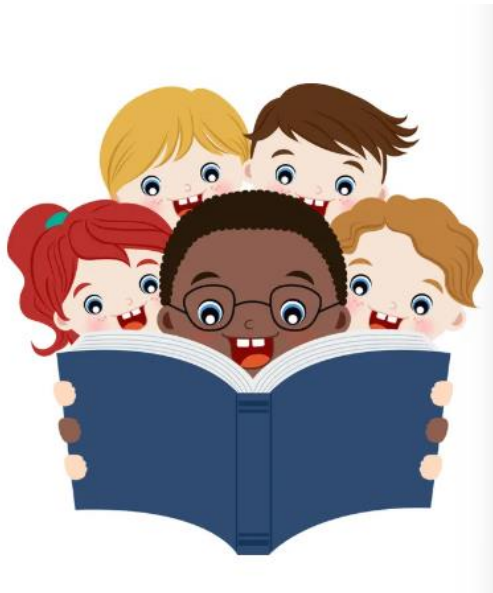
Psychology Students praise

Mr. Kelly would like to praise our Year 13 Psychology students for attending afterschool support on Tuesdays in their droves! He has quite the room full but is very impressed that in the lead up to their crucial A-Level exams they are taking up all the help and guidance that is available. It is really admirable that the attendance to this is an incredible 30-55% of the cohort on average! I don't think he could fit many more of you into his room! Psychology support runs from 3.10 - 4.10pm every Tuesday.



Reader Leader

We are so proud of our paired reading intervention between our KS3 and KS5 students. Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, our Year 12 'Reader Leaders' meet their Year 7 or 8 buddy to complete 30 minutes of reading. The purpose of this intervention is to not only build confidence in our younger students when reading a text but it also helps them to build connections with the older students while developing an enjoyment of reading. It is one of our most magical intervention times as the leaders help to steer and guide their buddies in a private space where they feel safe to practice reading without judgement. The library space becomes a hive of hushed activity and is used exactly as it should be!



Derby City Youth Mayor Elections

Today, many of our students took part in experiencing the important British Value of Democracy. The Derby City Youth Mayor elections took place today at Chellaston. Pupils have watched the four candidates on video this week in form time and took to the polling station today. They placed votes in a real ballot box and we will share the results with you as soon as

we have them. No Chellaston students made the finals this year but we'd love more entries next year and to get a Chellaston student leading young people across the City.

Derby's Youth Mayor



Year 11 DREF Study Space

From Monday 3rd February, our Year 11s have access to use the DREF as a private study space.

We have run this provision for the last few years and students find it beneficial for a number of reasons:

- The space is open from 3.15pm to 5pm every night after school so students can continue in the mindset of being in a space to study
- We ask for silent work so that the space provides an opportunity away from the hustle and bustle to be able to concentrate
- We provide laptops should the students need to continue with coursework, research or homework
- There is a member of staff on duty every night so that students can be supported.

We ask that students come prepared with work to do as it will not be provided for them - it is not a revision session in the form of a structured subject being lead by a member of staff; it is for the students to continue building their independence so that they are as ready as they can be for the GCSEs and for their next steps. Please encourage your child to attend.



Year 11 Mock Interviews

The Year 11 Mock Interviews held yesterday provided students with a valuable opportunity to practice their interview skills in a realistic setting. Organised with the support of volunteers from the business community, the event aimed to prepare students for future college, job or apprenticeship interviews.

Each student participated in a one-on-one interview, receiving personalised feedback on their interview. The volunteers, representing a range of industries and professions, shared their expertise and insights, enhancing the relevance of the experience.

The event was highly beneficial in building students' confidence, sharpening their interpersonal skills, and offering a glimpse into real-world expectations, contributing to their readiness for their next steps.





Guinness World Record - Poetry Lesson

Back in October, 7BTT had the opportunity to take part in a very special poetry lesson. They formed part of a Guinness World Record attempt for taking part in the world's largest poetry lesson. Led by the poet Laura Mucha, the students helped to compose a poem about counting. We have now had it confirmed from Guinness that the lesson **BROKE THE RECORD** with over 40,000 students taking part (unofficial figures suggest over 125,000 students were involved!) Congratulations to 7BTT on becoming Guinness World Record Breakers!



Safeguarding - Parent Webinar for Online Safety

Nottingham Prevent team have organised the following webinars for parent and carers on Online safety. Please sign up via the Eventbrite links below. There is a maximum number of participants for each, so please be aware that places will be allocated on a first-come first-serve basis.

"Our Parents Virtual Training on Understanding Online Trends workshop, designed to empower parents with the knowledge and tools needed to protect their children in the digital age.

The sessions aim to provide parents with a comprehensive understanding of the online trends their children may encounter, the popular apps they use, the associated risks, and effective strategies to safeguard them. The workshop will cover several key topics to help parents address the challenges of online safety, including:

- How Algorithms Work and Create Echo Chambers
- How Groomers and Radicalisers Exploit the Internet
- Case Studies of Grooming and Radicalisation Online
- Using Parental Settings to Reduce Risks
- Encouraging Responsible Online Discourse

Tuesday 4th February 2025

- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1118807616699?aff=oddtcreator> 6.30-8pm

Friday 7th February 2025

- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1118821046869?aff=oddtcreator> 1-2:30pm



Parent/Carer Coffee Morning

We would like to invite you into the Academy on Thursday 13th February 9-10am for this half terms parent/carers coffee morning. The focus of which will be how to help and support your child with **exam stress, pressure and anxiety**. We will be joined by our Mental Health Support Team Changing Lives. If you are interested, please sign up by completing the teams link : [HERE](#).



Sports

Year 8 Indoor Athletics

On Tuesday 28th January ten students went to compete in indoor athletics at Noel Baker School.

Both teams competed really well in ALL events, both teams coming 1st in the 4 x 1 relay.

A huge thank you to Poppy T (Year 7) for stepping up a year group!



Dates for your diary

6th February - Year 9 Options evening 5-7pm

13th February - Parent/ Carer Coffee Morning - 9-10am

14th February - Break up for half term

24th February - Return to school

27th February - Year 12 Parents' evening - NO early closure

Kind regards

Phil Smith

Proud Headteacher

Chellaston Academy

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