

12th January 2026

Welcome back everyone!

We are delighted to wish you all a Happy New Year and welcome all our wonderful students back last Tuesday.

We would also like to thank everyone for the overwhelming support we received when making the difficult decision to close the site on Friday morning due to the adverse weather conditions. This is not a decision we take lightly.

Operationally, in addition to almost 1900 students, we have more than 200 staff on site each day, some of which travel a considerable distance or use public transport to get to work.

Our site team were on site at 5am on Friday morning to assess the site itself and the surrounding roads and footpaths which students and staff would use to get into school. With the help of our site team and dedicated admin staff we were able to communicate in good time to parents, carers, staff, bus companies and the catering team that the academy would be closed.

We are also pleased to report that, with the help of the site team, parents and members of our amazing exams team that the external BTEC exam scheduled for Friday afternoon was able to go ahead. This was after an assessment of the conditions at the front of the site and on the surrounding roads at midday.

We are excited to see what this term holds for the Chellaston Community. The beginning of a term is a great opportunity to get in, get started, work hard and create memories.

209 Bus service - Important information

We have had confirmation today that the 209 service, now operated by Linburg, has been asked to pick up at all the stops in Melbourne that were previously served.

Please see the timetable below:

Service 209		Linburg 01332 554823	
Melbourne Cockshutt Lane/Commerce St	0740	Returns from Academy at	1510
Melbourne Robinson Hill (via Cockshut Lane)	0745		
Melbourne Market Place	0748		
Sainsbury's	0750		
Barrow upon Trent	0805		
Swarkestone	0810		
Chellaston Academy	0815		

Whilst the bus companies do try to stick as closely as possible to the scheduled times, this is not always possible due to the road conditions and varying levels of traffic.

Year 11 Mock exams starting after half term

In Science, we have prepared a suggested revision schedule to help prepare students for their Science Mocks taking place straight after half term. The students will be sitting a Paper 2 exam in each of the three Sciences. I have sent more detailed information regarding content and timings with the suggested revision schedule.

This has been sent to both parents/ carers and students via email and set as a task for the students on Firefly. The revision schedule runs from Monday 12th January and contains all topics that will be assessed during the Mock exams.

If students have any questions regarding these exams or the content they must ask their Science teacher.

Sparx Science

Thank you to the parents who have made me aware that the parent emails were not being sent. I have now chased this and it has been sorted. All parents will now receive a weekly email (possibly on a Sunday) giving details on completion rates in Sparxs Science. This is really useful as it details dates due, percentage completions, topics being covered and how well students have completed the different topics. It also shows the areas where students are struggling which then further helps Science teachers focus their teaching in the classroom and can drive further independent work at home either through the independent tasks on Sparx or using revision guides, BBC bitesize etc. If you find you are still not receiving the emails please let me know.

The following leaderboards showing the top students across the whole school

Student Leaderboard launch day until present:

Academy Leaderboard

1. Ryan the Mastermind – 276,800 XP
2. Lucas the CEO – 207,616 XP
3. Nikhil the Champion – 45,860 XP
4. Jude the Legend - 34,940 XP
5. May the Phoenix – 33,907 XP
6. Hanaa the Illusion – 27,017 XP

Student Leaderboard for last week:

Weekly Leaderboard

1. Ryan the Mastermind — 7,800 XP
2. Thomas the Justice — 2,640 XP
3. Olly the Boss — 1,810 XP
4. Ella the Justice— 1,410 XP
5. Layla the Captain— 940 XP
6. Jayden the Champion — 940 XP

Amazing work, well done. As always 500 ICE points will be awarded to the top 3 students and 100 ICE points awarded to the next 3. Keep it up guys, amazing completion.

Starting Thursday 15th January, Miss Petrie will be running a **Sparx Science club at lunch** in **A16L** where students who are struggling to complete their Sparx or

those who just want some extra help can come for help.

Again, I want to congratulate all students who have been working with this new system.

Shoutoutuk Organisation

Yesterday our Year 8s were fortunate enough to receive a workshop from the *shoutoutuk* organisation about media literacy, critical thinking, misinformation versus disinformation and the dangers that can be around us in the online world. The workshop also explored extremist ideologies and how they gain traction within children's social media and discussed the importance of thinking about WHY a video might be manipulating the way you think. Our pupils demonstrated absolute integrity, model behaviour, great engagement and real care for each other and our visitor. We are so proud of you and hope that this has helped you think more critically about the 'information' in front of you.



Our workshop facilitator said:

Today I visited Chellaston Academy and delivered an assembly to all of the Year 8s. I was really impressed at how respectfully they listened and how many young people gave insightful answers to what are quiet heavy topics and questions. The school was a pleasure to visit and I wish you all the best of luck going forward.

For anyone wanting to learn more about the topics I described or about Shout Out UK they can visit: <https://www.shoutoutuk.org/>. Anyone wishing to refer a young person who may be engaging with negative content, you can visit here for more information: <https://actearly.uk/>

Relationship & Sex Education for Parents with Children & Young People with SEND needs

Talking Together About Relationships & Sex Education

For Parents of Children and Young People with SEND

We know that conversations about relationships, growing up, and sexual development can feel daunting — especially when your child has additional needs. You don't have to navigate it alone.



Join us for a friendly, informative workshop led by Claire Lightley, a specialist in Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). Claire previously worked with FPA (the national sexual health charity) and now runs Bodysense Education, supporting families and professionals across the UK.

- Tuesday 20th January 2026
- 10:00am – 11:15am
- Online via Microsoft Teams

What we'll cover:

- Understanding puberty and body changes
- Supporting your child with periods
- Using clear, safe language around body parts and sex
- Self-stimulation: what's typical, and how to respond
- Helping your child understand public and private behaviours
- What to expect as your child gets older
- Time for group questions plus the option to ask private questions

To book your place please visit
<https://derbyshireparentforums.co.uk/>



Dates for your diary

2026

14th January - Year 9 Parents evening - 4-7pm
22nd January - Year 13 Parents evening - 4-7pm
5th February - Year 12 Parents evening - 4-7pm
13th February - Break up for half term
23rd February - Return to school
23rd February to 6th March - Year 11 mocks (amended)
26th February - Year 9 Options evening - 5-7pm
2nd March to 4th March - Year 13 mocks