



16th January 2026

Welcome,

This week Chellaston Academy has been a hive of activity. Our students have shown dedication and commitment to their learning in all areas, the level of creativity that we have also seen across the academy, particularly in Art, Tech and Music has been nothing short of inspirational. Chellaston Academy students are so talented, we are delighted to see and celebrate their achievements everyday.

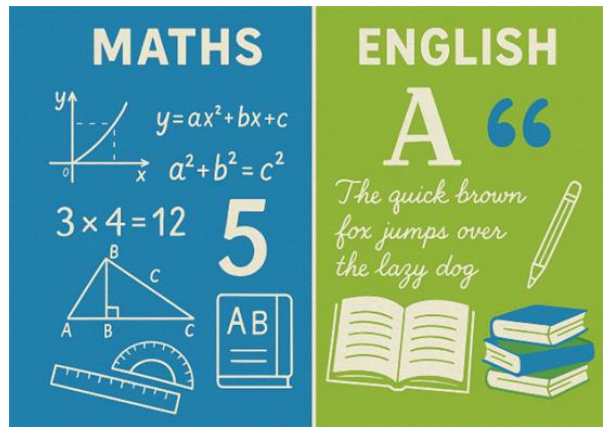
This week a child with a pre-existing medical condition, took poorly during a lesson. Our staff and students showed such care and consideration for this young person, and this was recognised and highly praised by the wonderful emergency services who came to support. The emergency services from all areas frequently visit our school site to support our community and we are always happy to learn from them. We are extremely grateful for their support.

Maths and English Drop Down Days

On Monday 19th January, Year 11 students will be off timetable from 9am to 3pm to spend time with the Maths department; they will be focusing on areas to help boost them for their upcoming mocks after February half term. The Maths team have identified common areas of weakness across the year group using a question level analysis from the mock data and have created a bespoke timetable for students to follow. Students will remain in their Maths classes but will be on a carousel whereby they will receive teaching from different Maths staff throughout the day. Part of the day will involve a Walking Talking Mock where students will be walked through a Mathematics paper to help boost their confidence and ensure they understand how to dissect each question type.

On Monday 26th January, Year 11 students will then be off timetable for a day of English Literature. The focus will be on the whole of Paper 2: An Inspector Calls, World and Live Anthology and Unseen Poetry as this is the paper they are sitting straight after February half term. For two hours, students will be doubled up with their parallel class to complete a knowledge refresher on the new Poetry section, followed by a walking talking mock. For the other three hours, students will be with their class teacher promoting the importance of getting knowledge to stick and then ensuring they can apply this to an essay question.

We are excited about the two days as they will give students a knowledge boost before they sit their next round of mock examinations.



Nottingham Trent University Visit

On Thursday 8th January, Mr Moran, Mr Zettle and Mrs Leahy took a group of Year 10 and 11 boys to Nottingham Trent University as part of an ongoing project based on raising aspirations and building confidence. The boys have been involved with a series of workshops being delivered by Tom Zettle, one of our teachers who is also a Level 7 trained counsellor. We received some funding from the Boys' Impact network whereby we selected students who we believe we can continue to stretch and develop their potential. The sessions involve developing a greater motivation, building on their confidence in their decision-making, self-awareness and the ability to build positive relationships with others. They also work on managing stress, meeting expectations, and feeling more able to take practical steps to handle challenges — especially in the run-up to exams. These outcomes are based on well-established psychological research. The workshops themselves involve both teamwork and guided reflection. Each week, Mr Zettle sets the group a problem to solve. Afterwards, they discuss how they approached the task, what roles they took, and how they felt during the activity. This reflection provides opportunities for experiencing the understanding, acceptance and authentic self-expression required to increase psychological functionality. This, in turn, develops self-understanding and confidence over time and leads to the positive outcomes listed above.

Whilst at the University, the boys were given a talk on who might go to university and what routes are available. It was both exciting and reassuring to hear that this pathway can be open to individuals from all walks of life and is not simply for a select few. They were then given a tour of the campus by a third-year student which took in one of the libraries, an engineering workshop, a mock courtroom, one of the refectories, a computer suite and much more! The boys ended the day with a Q and A session on what university life is like and what kind of courses are available.

The staff running the day were so positive about our boys; we received the following when we got back to school from the campus manager: 'I must compliment you on your boys great attitude and behaviour!'



Derby City Youth Mayor

On Tuesday 27th January we will proudly be taking part in the elections for Derby Youth Mayor. Though our candidates weren't successful in reaching the final four - they were fantastic applications and some were shortlisted to the penultimate stage.

We will be watching videos from the four candidates and then pupils will get the opportunity to vote in a voting booth and using a ballot box, just like in the real elections on polling day.

We'll let you know the results and share more from the process next week!

Student voice

We are proud to be sharing the results of our student survey and student council meetings with pupils next week and to let them know the areas to celebrate and where we can improve as a school community.

We are really proud that:

- 97% of pupils enjoy school!
- Only 1% of respondents disagreed that Chellaston encourages pupils to show Integrity, Care and Excellence in all they do.
- 93% of respondents believe they have an adult they can talk to in school.
- 98% agree or strongly agree that we encourage pupils to respect people from other backgrounds.
- Only 6% of pupils think we don't encourage you to care about your physical health.
- Only 4% of pupils think that we don't encourage you to take care of your emotional and mental health.
- 98% of respondents feel like their teachers listen to them.

Things we need to improve on:

- *18% of students said they only feel safe sometimes at our Academy.*

When asked why... the main answer was other pupils.

We are therefore asking pupils to be really mindful with their language, physical contact and how they deal with friendship fallouts so that everyone feels respected.

We also will be passing on all catering and site issue problems to the relevant teams, looking at our PD and Coaching models and reviewing how we can facilitate a culture day across the whole school.



National Year of Reading 2026



Chellaston Academy plan to **Go All In** with reading during The National Year of Reading 2026. This week, we launched a Readathon. This is a sponsored read through Read for Good where 80% of the money raised goes to providing books to children in hospitals and **20% comes back into school to spend on new books!**

Chellaston Academy Readathon January 2026

Pupils	Minutes	End date
86	2,875	5 Feb 26

We are encouraging students to try something new especially for those who have lost their love for reading!

So far 86 of our students have chosen to track their reading for the next 3 weeks and raise money for the Readathon. There are many rewards up for grabs. The **top 5 readers in each year group get to participate in a writing workshop with an author and this is in addition to receiving 500 ICE points.**

All students tracking their reading for the next 3 weeks will receive 50 ICE points.

Well done to the following 15 students who have managed to track their reads this week.

Year 7 - Charlie H, Evelyn H, Jasleen S, Millie W, Elena Z, Maisie O, Manraj R

Year 8- Thomas H, Amaani N, Amaaya N

Year 9 Sophie G, Jacob S, Sophie T

Year 10 – Isla S

If you need help logging on to the tracker, click on the following link or QR code.

<https://trackmyread.org/school/chellaston-academy-490954>



Sparx Science

Parent emails have now been successfully set up, sorry for the delay it was a problem at the Sparx end which has now been resolved. These are weekly and give an update to parents about how students doing completing Sparx Science. It is lovely to have so much support from parents in helping students complete this homework, thank you.

Across the academy since we started using Sparx Science students have completed 5218 hours of work and have answered 564125 questions correctly, this is fantastic, well done. The following leaderboards showing the top students across the whole school

Student Leaderboard launch day until Thursday 15th January:

Academy Leaderboard

1. Ryan the Mastermind – 300,000 XP
2. Lucas the CEO – 210,756 XP
3. Nikhil the Champion – 46,800 XP
4. Jude the Legend - 43,680 XP
5. Hanaa the VIP – 35,297 XP
6. May the Pheonix - 35,402 XP

Student Leaderboard Monday 12th Jan until present:

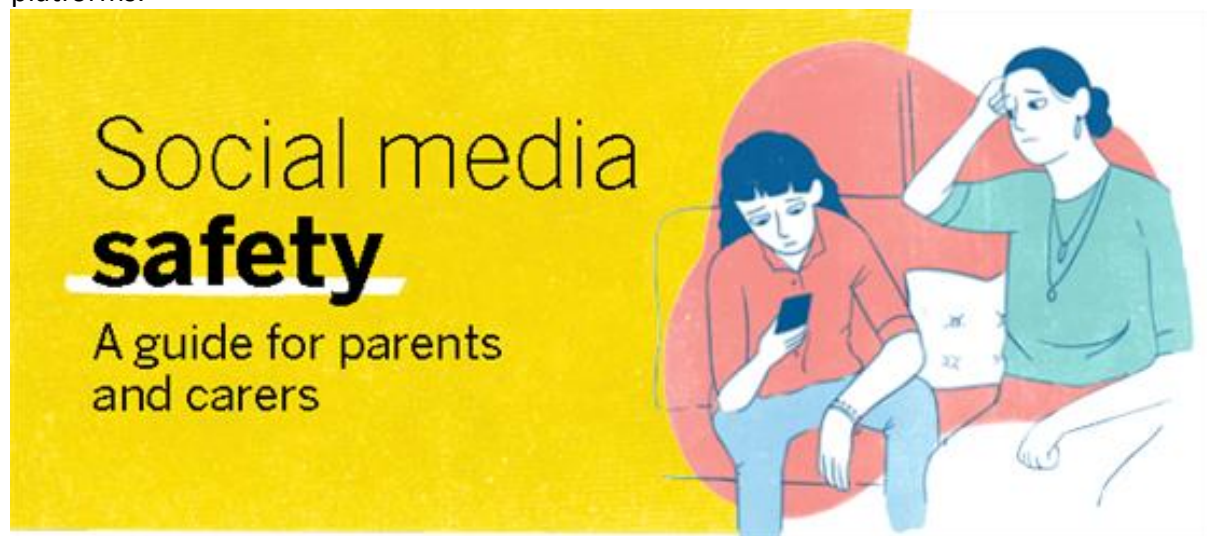
Weekly Leaderboard

1. Hanna the VIP — 6,770 XP
1. Jude the Legend — 4,670 XP
2. Arwyn the Conquer — 3,327 XP
3. Advay the Adventurer— 2,770 XP
4. Hugo the Specter — 2,523 XP
5. Kiran the All-Star - 1,880

Amazing work, well done. 500 ICE points will be awarded to the top 3 students and 250 ICE points awarded to the next 3. Keep it up guys, amazing completion.

Online Safety guidance

Please find below a link to a social media guide for parents and carers from the Children's Society. This can help with the setting up of privacy controls on these media platforms.



Art - Presentation Pride Award

Mrs Shipley would like to celebrate Charlie in Year 8 for his brilliant artwork. It has been lovely to see his creativity and thoughtful use of materials in the graffiti project. Bold, colourful and great finishing touches - Well done Charlie!



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

**'Talking Together about Relationships and Sex Education' Tuesday 20 January 2026
10am- 11.15am via Microsoft Team**


This is a FREE event for parents of children and young people with SEND, provided by Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice. Claire Lightley, a specialist in Relationships and Sex Education, will cover a range of topics including

- 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

See the poster for more details. Booking can be made using the link below,

[Talking Together About Relationships & Sex Education Tickets, Tue, Jan 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](https://derbyshireparentforums.co.uk/tickets/talking-together-about-relationships-sex-education-tickets-tue-jan-20-2026-at-10-00-am)

Talking Together About Relationships & Sex Education
For Parents of Children and Young People with SEND


DERBYSHIRE
PARENT CARER
VOICE

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**

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