

# CHELLASTON ACADEMY

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13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Welcome,

What a half term we have had here at Chellaston Academy?! Since becoming Interim Head of School from November of last term, I have been blown away by the dedication and commitment our staff and students have shown here. This newsletter is amazing!! It shows the hard work from our staff and students and I could not be any prouder. Have a safe and restful half term, ready to go again on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Dani Eyre  
Interim Head of School – DSL



## Timetable Changes After Half Term

This year, we changed the school day around and we have now done half a year with the new system and we have reviewed its effectiveness.

After half term, we are changing the school day around. This has been mainly due to staff feedback as well as speaking to students. We have also struggled to get the assemblies set up and packed away when they are in the middle of the day. Sometimes, the overall message of the assembly has been lost in the rush to get the venue clear for breaktime food. This will also benefit our site team, who don't need to set out 600 chairs in about 15 minutes and then have to put them away just before 11am. Assemblies can now be set up first thing in the morning or even the night before.

As a consequence, instead of Period 1 - Period 2 - Reg, the lessons are now coded Reg - Period 1 - Period 2.

So from Monday to Thursday.

Reg (Coaching Groups or PSHCE) 8:30-9:00  
Period 1 9:00-10:00  
Period 2 10:00-11:00

Previously, Monday was the odd one out where the periods didn't line up properly. Now, it is Friday. The first lesson of the day is an hour long, but will still be called REG. Period 1 is the second teaching lesson (9:30 to 10:30) and Period 2 is the coaching session which is between 10:30 and 11:00.

As with every half term, there have been some other changes to the timetable due to staff returning and staff leaving. This hasn't been as major as the Christmas term. Students are advised to check their timetables on Go4schools before returning on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mondays haven't changed that much so should be a fairly easy day to return to.

## **Buses**

The buses will continue with the adapted times and routes after half term.

We have been asked to remind students with bus passes that if their pass does not have a photo attached it is not valid. Photos can be attached at student services free of charge.

## **Parent drop offs**

We would like to remind parents that we do not allow vehicular drop offs on site unless a permit has been issued. This is to ensure we keep our turning circle and entrance and exit to school as clear of moving traffic as possible .

Dropping off in a bus layby is also a traffic offence. Please drop off in an area where it is safe to do so and where your child can walk safely onto the site via our designated pedestrian routes.

## **Social media**

Recently, we have observed increased concerns related to student activity on various social media platforms, most notably Tik Tok. While social media can be a positive space it can also present challenges, including exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, impersonation accounts, and the sharing of personal information.

We kindly ask for your partnership in monitoring your child's online presence and activity. Our goal is to ensure a safe and respectful environment for all students - in school, online and within the community.

## **Children's Mental Health Week**

This week we have celebrated within our coaching groups Children's Mental Health Week. The theme this year is 'This is My Place' which is based around belonging and how we can feel a sense of belonging and help others feel like they belong. We encourage families to continue these conversations at home by checking in regularly, listening openly, and reminding children that it's okay to talk about their feelings. Together, we can create a supportive community where every child knows they matter and that help is always available.

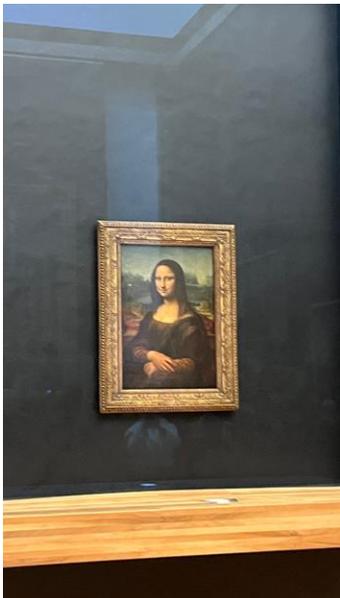


## **Paris Trip**

It was a calm ferry crossing from Dover to France where they all enjoyed a lovely breakfast and time to browse the duty free. Following a coach journey to Paris they successfully checked in ahead of a trip to The Louvre and then a three-course restaurant meal. They travelled on the métro which gave everyone a real feeling of being in Paris.

On day 2 they started with a continental breakfast including the all important croissants and pain au chocolat. The first activity was a boat ride along the river Seine where they took in all the sights including the Musée d'Orsay, the Eiffel Tower and the famous Pont Neuf. This was followed by an iconic visit up the Tour Eiffel. Students climbed all the way to the second floor where photos were taken and then it was back down to shopping at Les Halles. Then onward to the Notre-Dame where the all imposing cathedral was appreciated by everyone. They rounded off the day with traditional Alascien style savoury and sweet pizza - Flammekueche and then back to the hotel for a bit of down time before bed.

The students have been amazing and a real credit to the school. We can't wait to here more about it when they return!







### **Shoebbox appeal - A letter to Year 7**

This letter is sent with grateful thanks from the Rotary Club of Derby on behalf of Teams4U, the shoebbox charity. Your donation enabled us to send more than 3,000 shoebboxes with presents to Moldova. Our partner team in Moldova distributed the shoebboxes to children in and around **Chişinău**. Boxes reached homes, community groups, and rural families facing economic hardship.

*"The joy these gifts bring is indescribable. Thank you to every person who packed a box — you have brought real happiness to our children."*

**Alexandru Sanduleac – Partner in Moldova**

We sincerely hope that you will continue to support us this year and beyond.

Once again our sincere thanks.

John Worthy

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Derby and the Warehouse Team

Pictures below of a volunteer checking the boxes and the volunteers that loaded the truck at the warehouse at Alsthom



Our recipients...



### **Youth Mayor Results**

As you know we all took part in the election for Derby Youth Mayor a couple of week ago and are proud to be part of this process, where Democracy comes to life.

*A message from the organisers: Over 12,000 young people cast their vote across the city, and this would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and support of schools like yours.*

*We are pleased to announce that Oliwia Marcinkiewicz from Leesbrook Academy has been elected as Derby's Youth Mayor, with Anselmo Pedro from St Martin's Special School elected as Deputy Youth Mayor. They will formally begin their roles at Derby City Council's Annual General Meeting in May.*

*Your school's involvement in this democratic process has helped demonstrate that young people in Derby are passionate about having their voices heard and making a difference in their community. The level of participation reflects the outstanding work of schools in encouraging democratic and civic engagement among students.*

Congratulations to the successful candidates, thank you to our own wonderful pupils and let's aim to get someone in the final next year!

### **Philosophy news**

Students in KS3 have been learning about the cultural significance of Chinese New Year in lessons with Mrs Scope this week. They have looked at a range of different customs and traditions, and how entering the year of the Fire Horse is believed to open up opportunities for growth, independence and creative self-expression.



### **Chellaston HT4 Chess Champion**

After a closely contested and hard-fought match we would like to say a huge congratulations to our **HT4 Chello Chess Champion** – Advay M in Year 8.



If you think you've got what it takes to be crowned our HT5 Chello Chess Champion, come along to Chess Club! We meet every Wednesday lunchtime in F4 – ALL are welcome.

### **Legally Blonde at The Curve, Leicester**

On Wednesday evening, a coach full of students travelled to Leicester Curve theatre to watch Legally Blonde the musical. The show was a fantastic tale of how we shouldn't 'judge a book by its cover' and how 'being true to yourself never goes out of style'.

All students showed our ICE values throughout and we were incredibly proud of how they conducted themselves in the theatre. Watching live performances is so exciting and we have another opportunity on ParentPay now for Years 8+ to watch **Mean Girls the musical in May**.

Many thanks to Mrs Dow, Mrs Green, Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Diamond-Jones for giving up their evening to chaperone the trip.





**Author visit - Simon James Green - Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February**



Year 7 and 8 had an exciting start to their week as both year groups were introduced to award-winning author Simon James Green in assembly. Simon shared some comical stories from his school days and discussed the power of comedy in the books he writes. He shared the plot lines of some of the 17 books he has written and signed copies of his books for the library. During period 5, he led a comedy writing workshop with the top 30 students involved in the sponsored read. It was absolutely evident that these students enjoy reading for pleasure as their story ideas were both hilarious and well thought out!

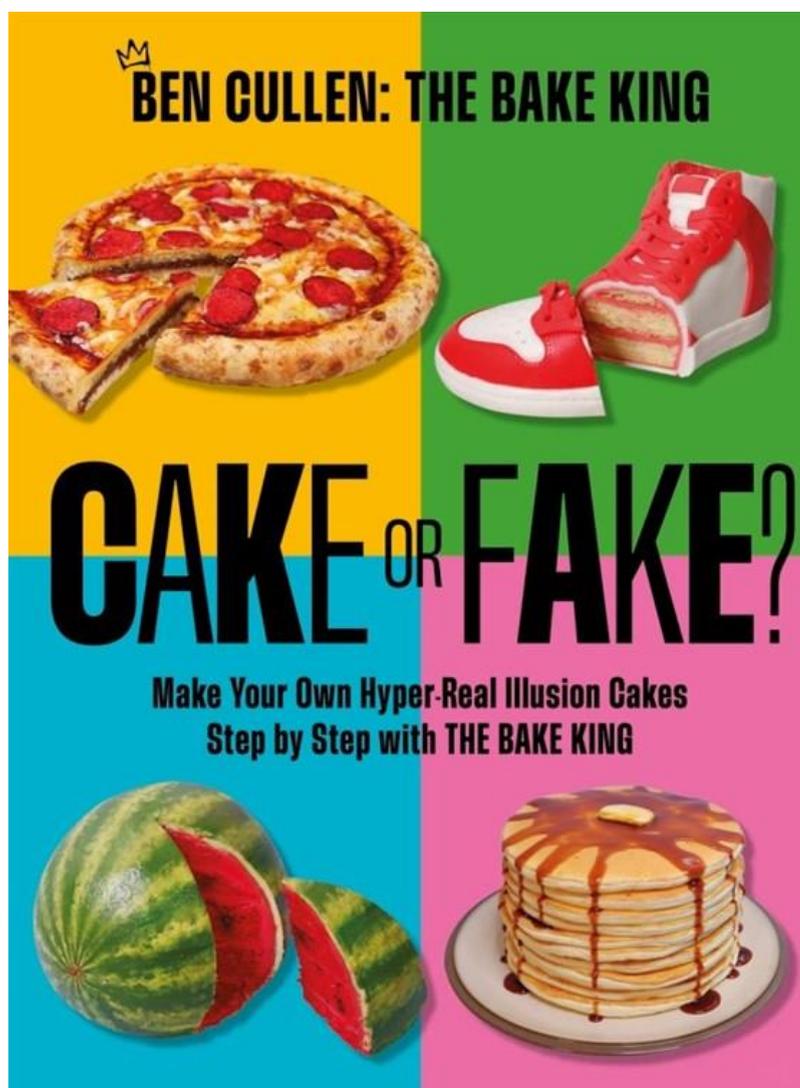




### **World Book Day – Bake sale - Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March**

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we are excited to launch our ***Make a bake but make it look fake*** competition. We would like you to make either a cake or biscuits which can follow our chosen theme or you could simply make a book themed bake.

If you need some inspiration come and look at our baking books in the library.



**We can't wait to see your tasty treats – be as creative as you can be!**

You will need to bring your bakes in on **World Book Day – Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March to the library**. All entries will receive 500 ICE points with the winning entry receiving a massive 1000 ICE points plus a vending machine book. This year the students will be involved in choosing the charity that they would like the proceeds donating to. As soon as the voting is complete we will let you know.

## Year 13 Prom fundraising - Valentine's Bake Sale

Year 13's held a successful Valentine's Bake sale to raise money for their Prom – thank you to staff and students that came along to support, our prefects are totting up the amount raised as we speak!



### Year 7 Rewards for Rewards

Twelve of our fantastic Year 7s with the highest number of ICE points were rewarded with hot chocolate and chocolate treats during period 4 or 5. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these students (and many more) for their demonstration of INTEGRITY, CARE & EXCELLENCE here at Chellaston Academy.



### Sparx Science

It was so lovely to see students attending the weekly Sparx Science club, thank you very much. Yet again we are blown away by the numbers of hours spent on Sparx both the completion of Home Learning and the extra studying students are completing independently. As an update, since we started using Sparx Science students have completed 7781 hours of Home Learning and have answered 855,298 questions correctly.

If students are struggling to complete their Sparx Science Miss Petrie runs a Sparx Science club on a Thursday lunchtime in A16L where students can get help and use the Science iPads to complete their tasks. Please attend to complete your Sparx and collect extra ICE points.

As we are the end of a half term we want to celebrate the top six students in each year.

The following leaderboards showing the top students in each year group

### Student Leaderboard this term:

#### Year 7

##### Leaderboard

1. Ryan the Mastermind
2. Lucas the CEO
3. Jude the Legend
4. Nikhil the Champion
5. Hanaa the VIP
6. Yuzuki the Infinity

#### Year 8

##### Leaderboard

1. Olivia the One and only
2. Ajit the Original
3. May the Phoenix
4. Advay the Jaguar

5. Rajinder the Genius
6. Gurtirath the Champion

### **Year 9**

#### **Leaderboard**

1. Emily the Galaxy
2. Zhi Xin the VIP
3. David the Scientist
4. Daisy the Scholar
5. Oli the Champion
6. Kaito the Phoenix

### **Year 10**

#### **Leaderboard**

1. Eliza the Artisan
2. Anahita the Star
3. Jj the One and only
4. Sahiba the One and only
5. Tom the Daredevil
6. Jonah the Echo

### **Year 11**

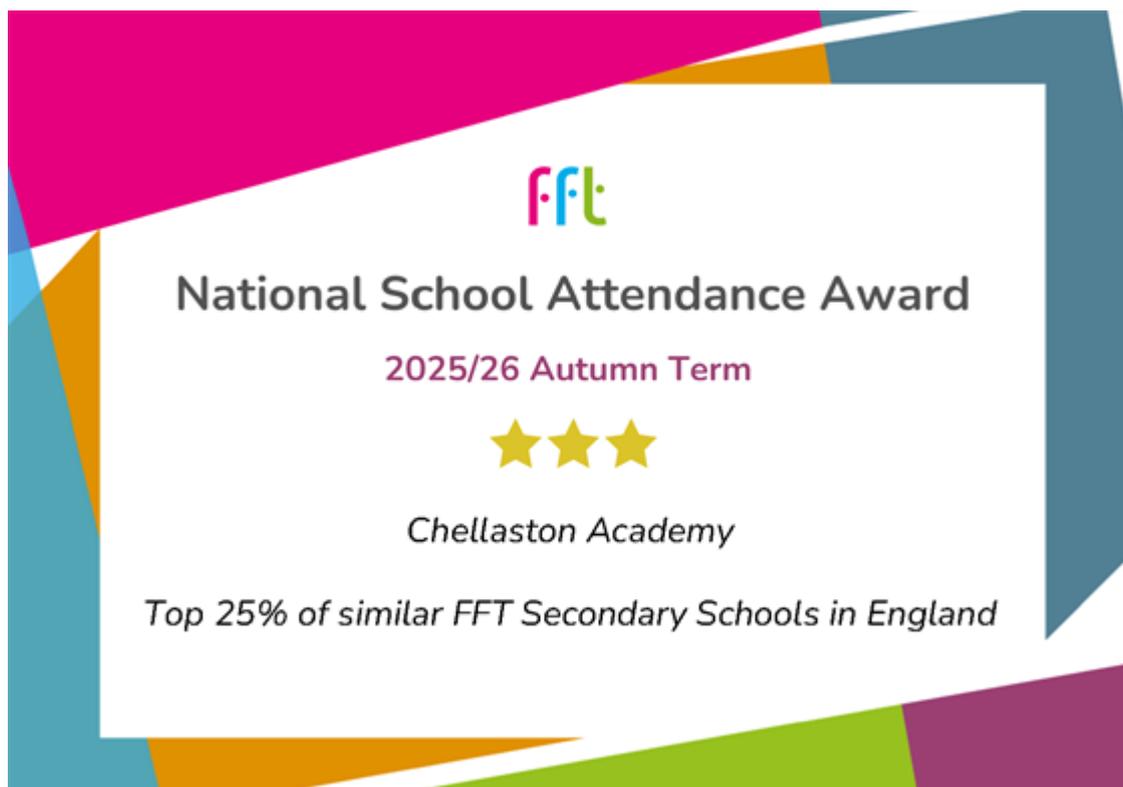
#### **Leaderboard**

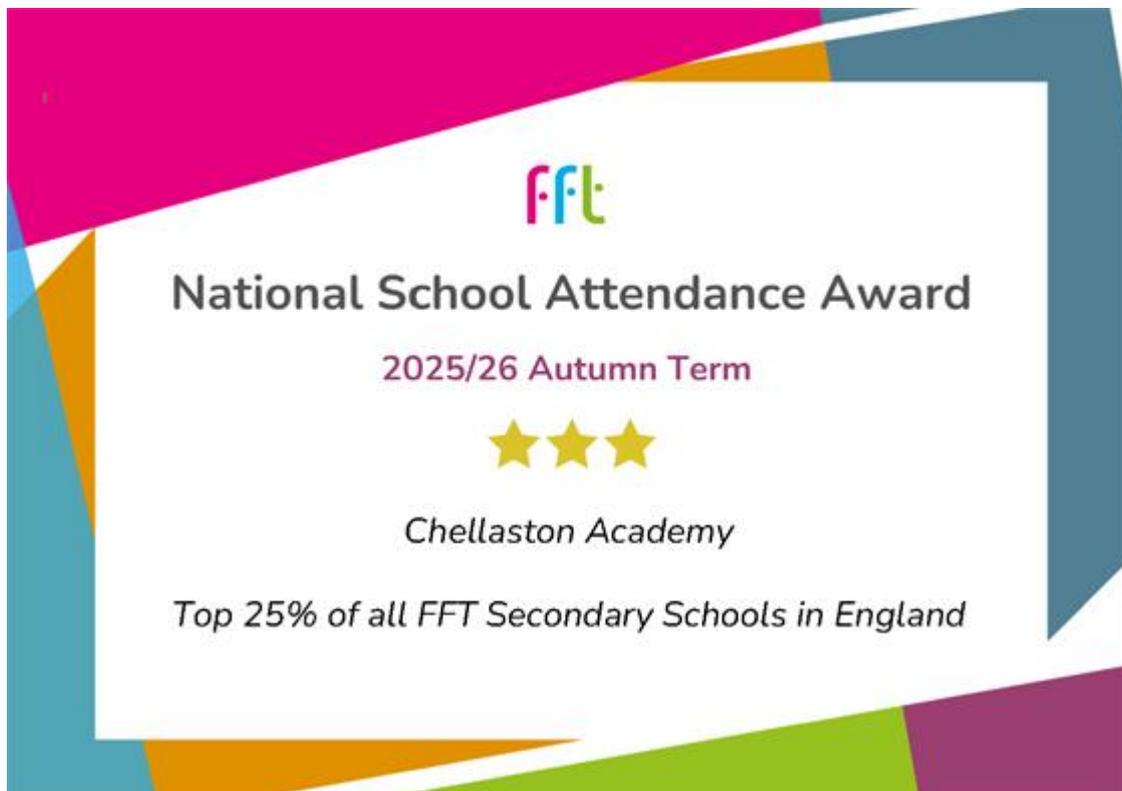
1. Harry the Biologist
2. Charlotte the Comet
3. Tharinsa the Star
4. Jude the Ace
5. Hugo the Magnificent
6. Amelia the Architect

Amazing work as always, 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.

### **Attendance Awards**

We are very proud to share with you our attendance awards for Autumn 2025/ 2026 Awards.





### **Lost Property**

With it being the last day of term we'd like to share with you our latest lost property collection. This will be held in the lockers outside of student services after half term.



### **Sports news**

#### **Rugby**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February:

Ten Year 7 girls went to Lees Brook to take part in a T1 Megafest, the aim was to get girls into rugby within our city. The girls took part in 4 different activities and there will be some T1 games for these students after half term. As always, these girls were an honour to take out to represent Chellaston Academy - Anyone wanting to join girls rugby, training is on Wednesday nights 3-4pm.

#### **NFL Flag Football**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February:

We took three teams to Anthony Gell to take part in the first round of NFL flag football.

The first game for all teams was a learning curve; however, we quickly settled into the games. The U15 girls, finished first in their competition so have secured a place at regionals. The u13's mixed team drew their final game also securing a place at regionals. Finally, the U15 boys, finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, so we are waiting to hear whether top two teams go through to finals- fingers crossed! Overall a successful day out and the students were as always represented Chellaston amazingly and continued to show ICE throughout the whole afternoon.

### **Dates for your diary**

13th February - Break up for half term

23rd February - Return to school

23rd February to 6th March - Year 11 mocks

26th February - Year 9 Options evening - 5-7pm

2nd March to 4th March - Year 13 mocks  
5th March - World Book Day – Bake sale  
12th March - Work Experience Parents' information evening  
18th March - Year 9 Immunisations

Kind regards,  
Dani Eyre  
Interim Head of School