

6th February 2026

Welcome,

Weatherwise, this has been a very dismal week, with rain almost every day and the sky the colour of lead. Thankfully, we have been brightened up by the integrity of our students. We've had two students confirmed with offers from Oxford and Cambridge as well as some successful apprenticeship offers. The Year 11 have started revising after school in the DREF. As I'm writing this, I'm sat with over 20 of them on a Friday afternoon. (There have been far more earlier on in the week, just the diehards tonight) It was great to see some positive comments on Spotted Chellaston about our students helping with the local community. We have also started pre-interviewing for our new Head Teacher and have six shortlisted applicants in for interviews next week. Next week, we also have a visit from an author as well as the second half of the Big Ideas Workshop with Year 8. It's always a busy week, whatever the weather!

SEND caseworker visit from Derby College

On Thursday the 29th January, Daniel Millward, a SEND Caseworker from Derby College, came in to school to do some Post-16 Transition work with a number of our Year 11 students.

He came in to offer one-to-one sessions with SEND students who are considering Derby College as their first or second choice option for next year. He was able to help students feel confident and well-prepared for their transition to post-16 education, by allowing them to discuss their preferences, ask questions, and receive tailored information. He was able to make sure that the students were making informed decisions and felt clear about what courses they would like to apply for.

They were also able to discuss other factors including transport options, timetables, expectations, and what to do if they didn't get the required entry grades. Students engaged really well with the sessions and spoke very highly of the support they received. Daniel was extremely complimentary of our students too. Well done Year 11!



DERBY college

Year 11 news

It has been really pleasing to see increasing numbers of Year 11 students using the quiet revision space we have staffed for them. They have the D-Ref available for them every night between 3-5pm (3-4pm on Fridays) which is staffed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. This is a quiet space and the uptake has been very encouraging. It is especially pleasing to see students who have attended an afterschool revision session, coming down to do another hours revision in the D-ref after their session has finished!

Just as reminder that the information on afterschool revision sessions on offer and the information on the upcoming mock exams (W/C 23/02) can be found on the Year 11 Firefly page <https://chellaston.fireflycloud.net/year-11---mrn>



Year 12 Parents' Evening

On Thursday, our Year 12 students and their families attended their first Sixth Form Parents' Evening. The event was very well attended and offered a valuable opportunity for students to receive advice and guidance on how to continue developing throughout their KS5 journey. Year 12 reports were published on Go4Schools on Wednesday, providing further insight into students' progress and achievements. Well done to all our Year 12 students—keep focussed and continue working hard.



Year 13 Leaver's Ball

Further to Sixth Form communications we'd like to remind students that the Year 13 Prom will take place on Monday 22nd June. Tickets are now available on parentpay.



Year 13 Fundraising

Our Year 13 Prom committee are raising funds for their prom in June, students are invited to come along and support!



Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 10th February 2026

Tuesday 10th February 2026 marks Safer Internet Day, an annual event that aims to raise awareness of children's and young people's use of technology. This year's focus is on Artificial Intelligence (AI). As AI continues to develop and become part of everyday life the theme for 2026 is "Smart tech, safe choices: exploring the safe and responsible use of AI." The assemblies this week and next have and will focus on the benefits and negatives of AI. Students will also have the opportunity within PD sessions to explore these themes further.

Online safety is most effective when schools and families work together. Having open and honest conversations with your child about their digital experiences can help reinforce the key messages shared

in school. NSPCC recommended the following;

- 1) Talk about where AI is being used.
- 2) Remind young people not everything is real.
- 3) Discuss misuse of generative AI.
- 4) Remind them to check their sources.
- 5) Signpost to safe sources of health and wellbeing advice.
- 6) Make sure they know where to go for help

For additional guidance, practical tips, and support please have a look at the Safer Internet Day website <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>.

Further support can be found at;

- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/>
- <https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2025/12/cc-what-i-wish-parent-guide-single-pages.pdf>
- <https://chellaston.fireflycloud.net/wellbeing-1/online-safety>

If you have any questions or concerns about keeping your child safe online, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Science revision schedule

At the start of January the Science suggested revision schedule was emailed to parents:

Year 11 Science (Triple and Combined) homework and suggested revision schedule Spring 2026			
Two week window	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Mon 12th Jan - Sun 25th Jan	Paper 2: Homeostasis and response	Paper 2: Rates of reaction and equilibrium	Paper 2: Waves
Mon 26th Jan - Sun 8th Feb	Paper 2: Inheritance, variation and evolution	Paper 2: Organic Chemistry and Chemistry of the atmosphere	Paper 2: Space - Triple only Paper 2: Magnetism and Electromagnetism
Mon 9th Feb - Fri 22nd Feb (half term 13th - 22nd)	Paper 2: Ecology	Paper 2: Chemical analysis and Earths resources	Paper 2: Forces - Resultant Forces and Springs Paper 2: Forces - Motion, Newtons laws and Stopping distances, Momentum (Higher only), Pressure and Moments (Triple only)
Sat 23rd Feb onwards	Practice papers - Paper 2	Practice papers - Paper 2	Practice Papers - Paper 2
		Mocks start	

We are now coming up to the third section, week beginning 9th Feb through half term. Students are advised to move onto the next three topics from Monday 9th February which are Ecology for Biology; Chemical analysis and Earth's resources for Chemistry and Forces and motion for Physics. These topic run for two weeks until the 22nd February, which is the end of half term. In Science we also advise students to practice as many Paper 2's in each subject which can be accessed from the original excel document sent or by following the link below:

<https://revisionscience.com/gcse-revision/science/science-gcse-past-papers/aqa-gcse-science-past-papers>

Please ensure that the papers practiced are Paper 2's not Paper 1's. If in doubt please contact Miss Petrie or students can ask their Science teachers.

Resources are available on Firefly together with the independent learning on Sparx Science and videos on GSCEPod. Remember the Dref is available until 5pm every night for extra revision.

Sparx Science

Completion of Sparx Science is fantastic, well done! So far since we started using Sparx Science students have completed 7192 hours of Home Learning and have answered 787,296 questions correctly. If students are having difficulty accessing Sparx Science please see either Miss Petrie or their Science teacher.

creative writing workshop on Monday, 9th February with award-winning author Simon James Green or a token for a free vending machine book. You have all been amazing with tracking your reading – average reading per participating student was **20 hours over 3 weeks!** Well done for sharing how much you love books and reading.

Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property and will be putting this out near Student Services on Thursday and Friday next week, so if any students are missing items, please could they come and have a look to see if there is anything of theirs to collect.



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

18th March - Year 9 Immunisations