

CHELLASTON ACADEMY

Swarkestone Road, Chellaston, Derby, DE73 5UB
Tel: 01332 702 502 Email: contactus@chellaston.derby.sch.uk
Web: www.chellaston.derby.sch.uk



6th March 2026

Welcome,

This week has been fabulous! We have had three trips go out this week, all providing a fantastic experience to the students who have accessed them and had a memorable day. We are so grateful that our staff put so much effort into organising brilliant activities. Thank you!

World Book Day delivered on every level. Our staff looked nothing short of brilliant!! From Villains within Literature, to characters from A Christmas Carol and other texts, the standard of 'dressing up' was amazing. The competitions and activities that students were able to take part in throughout the day was wonderful and so many did! Well done! Please see our photos below.

Learning Mentor's leaving

Today we say a fond farewell and a heartfelt thank you to two of our Learning Mentors who are leaving us. Firstly, we would like to thank Miss Stone, who has been with us for a short time but has made a positive impact during her time here. She is moving on to an exciting new role in the field of nutrition at Loughborough, and we wish her every success as she begins this new chapter in her career.

We also say goodbye to Miss Spray, who has been a valued member of our team for the past three years. As a qualified ELSA teacher, she has provided invaluable emotional support to many of our students and has played an important role in the work of our internal AP - Connect. Her dedication, care and commitment to supporting our young people will be greatly missed by them as well as Mrs Grimwood. She is moving on to a new role as Pastoral Lead for Year 7 at another school, and we wish her all the very best for the future.

Thank you both for everything you have contributed to our school community. You will be greatly missed, and we wish you every success in your new roles.

Online Safety

We know that navigating your child's safety on the internet is one of the biggest worries for parents.

Access to **harmful content**, **contact** from unsafe sources and the opportunity for children to send or receive **inappropriate messages** are amongst the concerns.

We know worrying situations are often reported on the news, too.

Whilst not always practical, the best piece of advice, especially for younger children, is to never leave them unsupervised with access to the internet.

The NSPCC recommends several simple, effective ways parents can help keep children safe online:

- 1. Talk regularly about online life** - Ask your child about the games, apps and websites they use, or any trends or 'crazes' they have seen and encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult if anything worries them.
- 2. Check privacy settings together** - Review the privacy settings on apps and devices to ensure your child's information is not publicly visible. Many apps have settings to limit who can contact them.
- 3. Use parental controls** - You can set up filters and controls through your home broadband, devices and apps. These help manage what your child can access and how long they can spend online.
- 4. Know who they're talking to** - Help children understand the difference between real friends and online contacts and check in on group chats and messaging platforms they use. Ensure you know who they are meeting and where they are; there are apps which help you to monitor this.
- 5. Encourage critical thinking** - Remind children that not everything they see online is true or reliable. Talk about fake news, hoaxes and misinformation and how engaging with these can inflame the issue more.
- 6. Make reporting easy** - Let your child know how they can report or block upsetting content within apps and

reassure them it is never too late to tell someone if something has happened online.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

As a school, we are so grateful for your partnership in helping us to create a calm, supportive and safe environment.

You may have been made aware of a current online trend involving schools. Our school is in no way involved.



Firefly - Parent Access - Important information

Due to some background changes and security updates, all parents are required to set a new password when next logging into Firefly.

Next time you access Firefly, either from the 'Firefly for Parents' app or via the website, please choose the '**Forgotten your password?**' option underneath the login boxes. You will then need to enter the primary email address you have registered with us and follow the instructions that are sent to your mailbox.

Please note, that if you are using the app, you may need to enter our school code. This is just **CHELLASTON**

If you have any issues with this process, please contact itservices@chellaston.derby.sch.uk



Year 11 Final Mock Exams

From the first day of half term, Year 11 have been involved in mock examinations. This is the third set of mock examinations that they have completed in full examination conditions. This is to ensure that when the real ones come in May/ June, students will be confident in the process and are able to focus solely on the exams themselves. With the school day changing at the same time, students have behaved impeccably throughout with the minimum of fuss. As the delivery of new content draws to a close, students were exposed to full papers and did more tests than the previous mocks. We also had some lengthy examinations (2hrs) where it is important to test the stamina of students before the real thing. The huge team of invigilators did a superb job as well as the site team setting up several venues over half term and over the weekend. Staff are now marking all of this work and students will find out their grades before Easter, so they know what they need to address over the Easter break.



Year 13 Complete Final Mock Exams

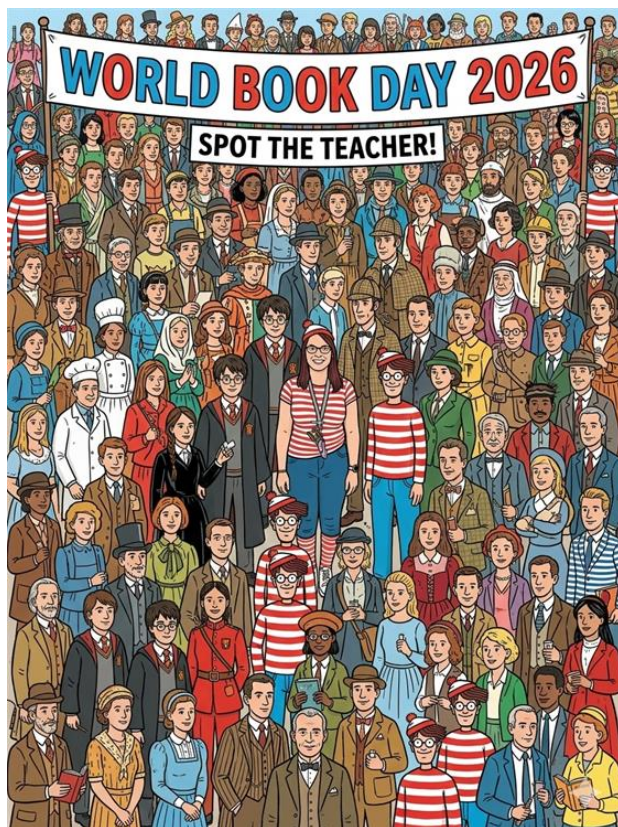
Our Year 13 students have now completed their final set of mock examinations. These mocks are an important step in preparing for the upcoming summer exams, giving students the chance to reflect on their progress and focus their revision.

We are very proud of the hard work and determination shown by the cohort throughout this period. As the summer exams approach, students are encouraged to continue revising effectively, make use of support from teachers, and stay focused on their goals.

We wish all of our Year 13 students the very best as they continue preparing for their Key Stage 5 exams in the summer term.



World Book Day - Thursday, 5th March



Wow! What an amazing day! We have so much to share with you including:

- Coaching groups decorating doors to represent books
- World Book Day bake sale for charity
- Staff dressing up as popular book characters
- Guess the teacher's bookshelf compiled by Ms Jepson and Ms Winters

And many more activities going on around school.

Please **do click on the video link [HERE](#)** to see the tremendous effort made by staff, students and parents to help make World Book Day a success and a big thank you to Mrs Lloyla (our brilliant librarian) for coordinating.

Coaching circles

On Monday this week we were invited by DCCT and the Inclusion Partnership to create part of a film on our coaching circles. Derby City schools are all being offered the chance to receive the training and support that our Academy has had, to embed the model in their own schools, and to see how small group pastoral structures could work for them. Along with other schools already using the model, we were invited to film some of our circle activities and some of our staff and students were interviewed about the impact it had had on the school. This will be shared with Derby City Schools in collaboration with further training from Carr Manor Community School and the Leeds Learning Alliance. Our visitors were bowled over by the atmosphere and excellence of our school community.



Bletchley Park

On Monday 2nd March, the year 10 GCSE Computer Science and KS3 code breaking groups had the exciting opportunity to visit Bletchley park, the historic home of WW2 code breakers. The trip helped to enhance their knowledge of both WW2 history, Computing and the incredible work of heroes like Alan Turing and his team who developed the concept behind the bombe machines which helped to decipher the enigma code.

It was a rare sunny day as we embarked on our trip down to Bletchley park where students had the opportunity to explore the new age of AI exhibition that highlighted the development of AI and its impact on our lives. We visited the mansion which was depicted in the film, "The Imitation Game", as well as the code breaking huts which were used during WW2. During our time at Bletchley Park the students also had the opportunity to go the cinema to watch a short film about the significant impact that the code breakers had on bringing an earlier end to WW2 – saving countless lives.

To put their skills into practice, they undertook code breaking activities to see if they have what it takes to be the code breakers of the future! We finished the trip with a visit to the shop to pick up spy glasses and code breaking boxes to further enhance students' code breaking skills.

An amazing day had by all with students showing integrity, care and excellence whilst representing Chellaston Academy. Special thanks to Mr Cox, Mrs Roberts, Mr Wheat and Mr Otokola for making this learning experience possible for our students. - also thanks to Jacob S for the additional photo!





Derby Museum of Making - Engineering Trip

On Tuesday 3rd March we took 26 year 10 CNAT Engineering Manufacture students to Derby Museum of Making to take part in the Science of Innovation workshops ran by Rolls Royce. The students learnt about the different areas Rolls Royce work within, current innovations they are working on and the opportunities they offer for careers development.

The students took part in a series of workshops based on real-life, experiment based, techniques used in non-destructive testing (NDT), the materials labs, machining, and submarines at Rolls-Royce. They also had the opportunity to speak to current Rolls Royce apprentices about what their roles involve, what skills would be required to work within engineering, what opportunities they have available to them and any advice they had for applying for apprenticeships within engineering.

The students seized the opportunity to learn about Rolls Royce and the engineering industry in general and really appreciated the opportunity to speak to people who work within engineering. Lots of them are now very interested in careers at Rolls Royce and Engineering!





Psychology - Attachment ProjEGGt - Year 12

Mr. Kelly has launched for the second year running the 'Attachment ProjEGGt' to our Year 12 students as they are starting the topic of attachment in Psychology. He wants to try and bring the learning to life, by asking all of the students to look after their own egg and raise it as if it was their own child. Each student has their own egg that they can name and personalise, with an accompanying project booklet to complete alongside the learning in lessons. As they explore each of the theories of childhood attachment, they can apply this with some real world context in the hope that they develop an attachment to their own egg 'children.' He has asked that the students take their egg everywhere with them, unless they can find a suitable babysitter! The students Coaches, PD teachers and subject staff have been briefed and asked to check up on how they are finding their parenthood journey! Mr. Kelly has also offered the opportunity for our Year 13 students to 're-adopt' their egg children in order to flood our school with the attachment eggs! Mrs. Eyre (Head of School) has been quoted as saying 'The eggs are back!' and that she 'Loves to see it!'

Congratulations, you are now the proud parent of your very own child! This may have come as a surprise to you, or you may have been expecting the delivery. Your task now is to personalise your egg/baby and care for them over the next two to four weeks, completing the activities in the booklet as you cover each topic in your Psychology lessons.

You must take your baby **everywhere** with you, unless you have managed to arrange suitable childcare (**Parent or friends ONLY**). Consider the impact of leaving your baby for too long though, remember what the research says about this! Good luck and happy parenting!

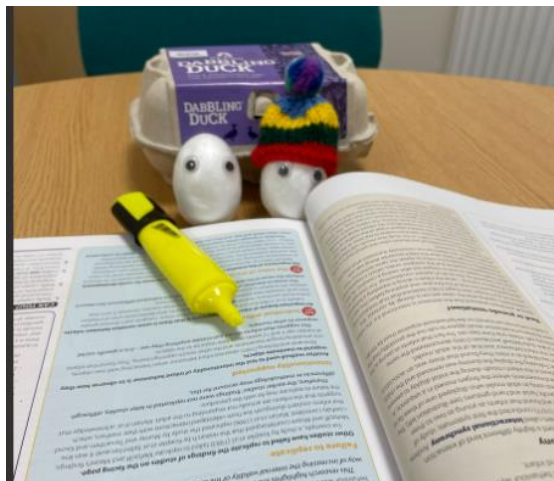
BIRTH CERTIFICATE

This Certifies that _____
 _____ was born on _____ the _____ day of
 _____ 2026

Witnessed by _____



Insert photo here



Year 11 Science Mocks

We want to congratulate students on the completion of their Science Mocks this week, we have seen so much effort being put in revision to fully prepare for these exam and are very excited to get them marked so students can review their performance as soon as possible to set them up with future revision as we prepare for the real GCSEs in the Summer.

I am currently planning the suggested revision schedule to take students up until their GCSEs and will be sharing that as soon as its completed. As with the previous schedule, it is designed to give students a topic per subject to revise over a two week period to allow full topic coverage which is a tricky task with such a large course.

Congratulations to Jack W and David M

Jack and David in Year 9 have reached the National Final of the Science & Innovation Competition hosted by Imperial College London, after competing against more than 300 teams from across the UK. They will be travelling to London in April to represent the school. The purpose of the competition is to motivate young people to engage with science, to encourage them to work together as part of a team and to engage them in a fun activity that is motivated by their curiosity and drive.

Jack and David were asked to develop a new and innovative scientific solution to help achieve one of the [United Nation's Global Goals for Sustainable Development](#). To enter, teams were asked to create a 5-minute film that:

- Briefly outlines the goal they have selected
- Describes their innovative solution
- Explains the science behind their idea
- Illustrates how their idea would address the goal.

Their entry has been judged by the team at Imperial College London and have been selected as and have been invited to participate in the finals at Imperial College.

As a school, we are so proud and are absolutely blown away by their passion, hard work and dedication. It is such a fantastic achievement for these students to have been selected as finalists. The competition is going to be incredibly tough in the final so we wish Jack and David luck, our fingers are crossed for future success.

Sparx Science

Thank you to all the students who are engaging in Sparx, we have seen students confidence in Science increase dramatically. So far since we started using Sparx Science students have completed 8843 hours of Home Learning and have answered 975,371 questions correctly (We are so close to hitting a million correct questions answered). 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. Thank you to those students who attended yesterday. Please attend to complete your Sparx and collect extra ICE points. The following leaderboard shows the top students across the whole school –

Student Leaderboard Sunday 1st March until present:

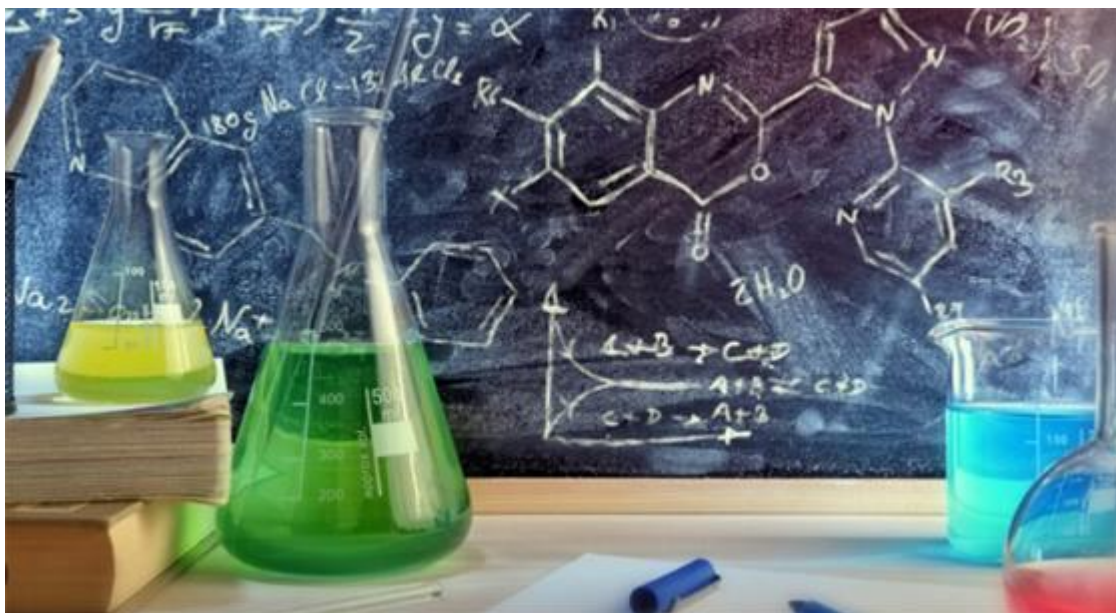
Weekly Leaderboard

1. Lucas the CEO
2. Ajit the Original
3. Ryan the Mastermind
4. Thomas the Magnificent

5. Krishna the Charismatic
6. Denisa the Rockstar

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.

I also want to recognise Frankie the Athlete and Mina the performer for their efforts completing their Sparx Science, extra ICE points are coming their way too.



Dates for your diary

12th March - Year 12 - Work Experience Parents' information evening

18th March - Year 9 Immunisations

26th March - Rewards Day 2

27th March - Break up for Easter

13th April - Return to school

Kind regards,

Dani Eyre

Interim Head of School