



1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been another wonderful period at Chellaston Academy, with students making the most of a wide range of enriching opportunities beyond the classroom, even as we stand on the cusp of the GCSE and A Level examination season.

Our Year 12 geographers recently took part in a highly valuable fieldwork visit to Birmingham, bringing their learning to life through first-hand experiences that will directly support their final assessments. Alongside this, many students have challenged themselves by taking part in the Maths Challenge, demonstrating problem-solving skills, resilience and a willingness to think deeply and creatively. At the same time, our talented dancers impressed audiences in an outstanding dance show, showcasing not only their skill, but also their confidence, commitment and teamwork. We have also been immensely proud of the many students undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award, demonstrating determination, independence and a real sense of adventure.

Across all of these experiences, the conduct of our students has stood out. They have represented Chellaston Academy superbly, consistently demonstrating our values of Integrity, Care and Excellence in action.

I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to the staff who have given their time, energy and expertise to make these opportunities possible, while continuing to support students so effectively in their learning. Their dedication ensures that our young people benefit from experiences that broaden horizons, build character and create lasting memories.

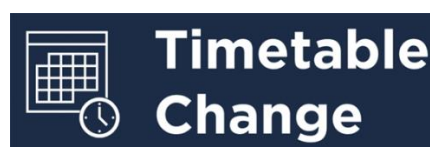
Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and I wish you a very enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.



### **Changes to the Middle of the School Day (start and finish times unaffected)**

Next week, our GCSE exams start on Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> with Sociology and Drama. All Year 11 students have English Literature on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

In order to ensure that the afternoon exams aren't disrupted by unnecessary noise, we are swapping around the middle of the day until late June when the Year 10 and Year 12 mocks finish, dinner will be between 12.20pm and 1pm. This is an hour earlier than usual. Period 4 is 1pm to 2pm and period 5 is as normal (2pm-3pm).



## Bus Timetable Changes - Return to Original Schedule - 11th May

We have received confirmation from Derbyshire School Transport that the school bus services will return to their original published schedule **from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May** as the traffic management for the CADENT roadworks are being removed.

A copy is below for information and on our website

- <https://www.chellaston.derby.sch.uk/parents/school-buses/>

<b>Service 205</b>		<b>Bagnalls – 01283 551964</b>	
Melbourne, Packhorse Road	0750	Returns from Academy at	1510
Melbourne, Market Place	0755		
Derby Road/ Quaker Close	0800		
Chellaston Academy	0815		
<b>Service 206</b>		<b>Harpurs Coaches – 01332 757677</b>	
Ticknall, Ashby Road	0745	Returns from Academy at	1510
Melbourne, Ashby Road	0753		
Melbourne, Market Place	0756		
Stanton by Bridge	0802		
Chellaston Academy	0817		
<b>Service 207</b>		<b>Harpurs Coaches – 01332 757677</b>	
Kings Newton – Packhorse Road	0750	Returns from Academy at	1510
Melbourne, Market Place	0800		
Chellaston Academy	0815		
<b>Service 208</b>		<b>Hawkes – 01332 205400</b>	
Melbourne, Packhorse Road	0750	Returns from Academy at	1510
Melbourne, Market Place	0752		
Sainsburys	0755		
Chellaston Academy	0815		
<b>Service 209</b>		<b>Linburg – 01332 554823</b>	
Melbourne, Cockshut Lane/ Commerce Street	0740	Returns from Academy at	1510
Melbourne, Robinson Hill (via Cockshut late)	0745		
Melbourne, Market Place	0748		
Barrow on Trent	0805		
Chellaston Academy	0815		
<b>Service 242</b>		<b>Hawkes – 01332 205400</b>	
Weston on Trent – Main Street	0800	Returns from Academy at	1510
Aston on Trent – Weston Road	0805		
Aston on Trent – Derby Road	0807		
Chellaston Academy	0820		
<b>Service 243</b>		<b>Hawkes – 01332 205400</b>	
Shardlow, Dog & Duck PH	0746	Returns from Academy at	1510
Aston on Trent – Shardlow Road	0750		
Aston on Trent – Derby Road	0752		
Chellaston Academy	0805		
<b>Service 247</b>		<b>Harpurs – 01332 757677</b>	
Chellaston East Junction (Swardstone Road)	0748	Returns from Academy at	1510
Weston on Trent – The Green	0751		
Aston on Trent	0754	(Standing capacity)	
Chellaston Academy	0810		

## Water Bottles

As the warmer weather approaches we'd like to remind students to bring water bottles to school to stay hydrated but please ensure they are NOT made of glass for health and safety reasons.



### **Junior Maths Challenge**

Around 120 students in Year 7 and 8 gathered with a mix of nerves and excitement to take part in the Junior Maths Challenge, each one eager to test their problem-solving skills. The room buzzed with quiet concentration as they worked through a series of challenging questions designed to stretch their logical thinking and numerical ability. Some students moved quickly, confidently tackling each problem, while others paused to carefully consider every step. Despite the difficulty, there was a shared sense of determination and curiosity, as participants pushed themselves to do their best. For many, the experience was not just about getting the right answers, but about enjoying the challenge of mathematics and gaining confidence in their abilities.

### **Kids Online Safety**

The Government have created new resources in association with the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology to support parents and carers understand and get support for online bullying and gaming. Please see the link below:

[Kids Online Safety](#) *With so many apps, games, and websites out there, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But the good news is you're not alone. Find practical information from trusted places to help you feel more confident on the steps you can take to protect your child online.*

### **Relationships, Sex and Health Education this term**

We were so pleased to welcome a number of parents and carers into the Academy over the last two weeks to engage in the RSHE material our staff are delivering this term. We thank you for your time and questions and encourage everyone to open conversations at home around the learning that has taken place. Just a further reminder that our NHS support team will be working with Year 10 during workshops on May 5<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup> as supplementary support and we hope our pupils find these useful.

### **Year 11 Expectations**

The Year 11 exam season gets underway next Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and continues until the last exam on Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup>. We do not have 'study leave' as there are so many sessions being delivered in school in preparation for the exams. Students will therefore be expected to be in school. However, once the last full week of exams starts (W/C 8<sup>th</sup> June) students only need to be in school for their exams. However, it is vital that they are in on time. For morning exams, we advise they arrive as soon as they can after 8am (we will be providing FREE breakfasts and water, so they are fully fueled before they go in) and for afternoon exams 12.30pm at the latest as afternoon exams start at 1pm.

We are also extremely pleased to let you know that our fantastic Prom committee raised £227 from their brilliant bake sale yesterday - Well done to all involved!



### **Rolls-Royce Young Apprenticeship Celebration Event**

On Thursday, Mrs Shillingford had the privilege of attending the Rolls-Royce Young Apprenticeship Celebration event. During the session, students delivered presentations showcasing their programme and final projects. It was a great opportunity to see the progress the students have made, celebrate their achievements, and gain insight into their work over the course of the programme. Well done to Carter and Theo, who have both achieved a Rolls-Royce award in recognition of their skills and will sit their final exams in May alongside their other GCSEs.





**Read for Good**

We're so proud of our students who have raised £482 by completing the sponsored read through "Read for Good" and helped bring the magic of books and stories to children in hospital.



**Shakespeare Talk - Mr Walker**

Yesterday, the fabulous Mr Walker (English teacher) delivered a Shakespeare talk in the library at lunch. This was to celebrate Shakespeare's birthday last week. Twelve of our wonderful students took part and they all agreed the talk was absolutely fascinating. We learnt so much about Shakespeare and Mr Walker's love of Shakespeare too! Mr Walker answered questions such as Did Shakespeare kill Abraham Lincoln? Why is Shakespeare better than fish N chips? It was wonderful to explore the evidence that helped us answer these questions. I think at the end of the talk students all felt that perhaps Shakespeare is more accessible than we believe it to be! We will definitely be inviting Mr Walker back into the library to share more of his literary knowledge with us!



### **Duke of Edinburgh - Silver Practice**

Thank you to the seventeen Year 10 students for a lovely weekend on the Silver practice weekend at Stanton Bowers.

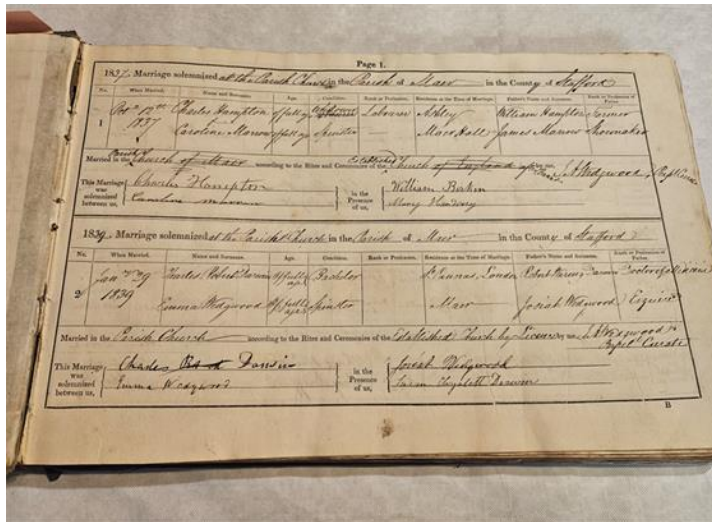
Day One - Focused around route planning for their walks over the course of the weekend, as well as planning their route for their qualifying expedition. The weather was fabulous during the day and into the evening where students played cricket, and made shadow puppets on the farm building. Overnight the temperature dropped and it was very chilly, but the students showed incredible ICE as they woke up (some earlier than others after being awoken by a particularly loud cockerel) ready to start their first day of walking. Some students even witnessed the birth of baby lambs in the field next to our camp.





Day Two - Students walked to Maer Church where they enjoyed stunning views of the village in the sunshine. Thank you to the staff that helped the church with a little gardening ready for their open day whilst we waited for the students. Maer Church is where Charles Darwin and Miss Wedgewood were married and it was full of stunning stained-glass windows. The students were happy to have a walk round as it was cool inside, as well as sampling a little bit of history! Some pupils also enjoyed the hospitality of the church as opposed to embracing all elements of nature with a wild toilet stop!





Day Three - Students woke before the cockerel alarm clock, beginning their day of walking early to ensure they stayed cool. Students put their navigation skills to the test as they walked around their routes, checking in with Entrust and Chellaston staff as they walked. Pupils were exhausted but happy when they arrived back at Stanton Bowers, enjoying some popcorn and muffins before debriefing and travelling home.

Finally, thank you to the staff that accompanied this weekend (and Mrs. Weaver for all of the coordinating and organising she does), we really couldn't run DofE without you.

We're out again Friday 15th May so enjoy we hope they enjoy their bank holiday team.

## Sports

### Chellaston Academy Dance Showcase

This week was our Chellaston Academy Dance showcase and our students were OUTSTANDING! More photos to follow but for now we wanted to congratulate all involved!



### **NFL Regional Competition**

On Thursday 23rd April, Mrs Parker took two teams to Nottingham to compete in regional NFL flag football competition. This is the first year that we have done NFL, so we're super proud of the students for making it to regionals in the first place.

Each team started in the round robin stages with the U15 girls finishing 2nd and the U13 mixed finishing first, then it came down to the semi-finals, both teams losing this game. It all came down to the 3rd and 4th play offs, which both teams played amazingly and finished 3rd overall, an absolutely amazing achievement.

Rory B was selected as the U13 category player of the day and got to pick a jersey- Well done Rory!







### **TCS - Mini Marathon**

This week all Year 7-9 students have taken part in the TCS Mini Marathon. The Mini Marathon is 4 laps of the school field, a total of 2 miles, which students could run, walk or a combination of both. All students did amazingly well, especially considering glorious weather we've had this week!



Isla M (Year 9) completed the mini marathon in 12.13 seconds (photo), pipping Charlie S (7) by 3 seconds.

Well done to all our runners and walkers, we are super proud of you all!

### **All Star WORLD Championship**

From a small place in Derby to a world stage Liv K in Year 8 and Rebecca R in Year 9 have returned after taking part in All Star world in Florida. The team has only been together for 3 years, and have already won 2 bids to perform at this event, this is a cheer and dance competition held yearly in America and host some of world top teams, They have been working hard over the last year to achieve this goal and all dreams came true last week Thursday when they got to compete. It was a tough competition but our girls have achieved **12th in the WORLD**. They were amazing and should be so proud of themselves for this achievement. They were so excited after the event they have already spoken about returning even more fierce and focused. Congratulations to Liv and Rebecca for this amazing achievement, Chellaston Academy are so proud of you!



**Dates for your diary**

4th May - May Bank Holiday - School will be closed

8th May - Year 13 last day

20th May - Year 8 Parents evening - details to follow

22nd May - Break up for half term

1st June - Return to school

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Leese'.

Mr. D Leese  
Headteacher