



22nd May 2026

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As we reach the end of this half term, I would like to reflect on what has been a very special start to my time as Headteacher of Chellaston Academy.

It has been a privilege to join such a welcoming and ambitious community. I have been impressed by the positive attitudes of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the strong support from parents and carers. There is a real sense of pride across the school.

This has been a busy and productive half term, and it is hard to keep track of the many fantastic things taking place. From trips and visits, to dance shows, Duke of Edinburgh activities, celebrating the life of David Attenborough and our Year 13s leavers day, there has been so much for our students to take part in and enjoy. It was also wonderful to see over 90% engagement at our Year 8 Parents' Evening on Wednesday, with so many parents working in partnership with us to support their child's success.

I would also like to encourage our Year 11 and Year 13 students to approach the half term with focus and determination. This is a key moment in your journey, and the effort you invest now will make a real difference. At the same time, it is important to strike the right balance and take time to rest and recharge. You have worked incredibly hard, and we are very proud of you. My sincere thanks also go to the staff who are giving up their time over the break to provide additional support.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received. We look forward to welcoming students back on 1st June by 8.25am ready for an 8.30am start. I wish all students, families and staff a restful half term break.

Year 8 Parents' Evening

This took place on Wednesday evening. We had over 90% of parents book onto the evening which was a really strong turnout. It was nice to see so many happy faces, with a lot of conversations about how much students had improved from the year before.

Year 7 Parents' Evening

This is the last parents' evening of the year and will take place on Thursday June 11th between 4pm and 7pm. There are no longer early closures before parents' evenings.

It might seem a long way away, but bookings for this open on the first Thursday back. This will be the first time through for a lot of parents, so please make sure that you have access to Firefly well in advance, details will be sent out closer to the time.



Year 11 Final Teaching Day

We would like to remind parents of Year 11 students that their final day of teaching before study leave is 5th June, there are many learning opportunities to be gained in this final week in between exams.

Student Survey

We have asked all pupils to complete a student survey to provide feedback on all aspects of the school experience. Please encourage your child to complete this honestly and with care so that we can make the school the best that it can be. It has been set as a task on Firefly and also as a QR code in Coaching today.



Mental Health Awareness Week

Last week was national Mental Health Awareness Week around the theme of **'Action: for yourself, for someone else, for all of us'**.

Our school community came together to celebrate wellbeing, kindness, and positive mental health. Recently our whole school completed the 2nd in our series of wellbeing surveys which uses the Warwick-Edinburgh Measure of Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) to ensure we can proactively support and target any students who are feeling low. Students may have received additional check-ins from their coach, PD tutor, Deputy Head of Year, Head of Year or Student Wellbeing Lead....we have a huge pastoral team, because our students' wellbeing and mental health really is a priority for us here.

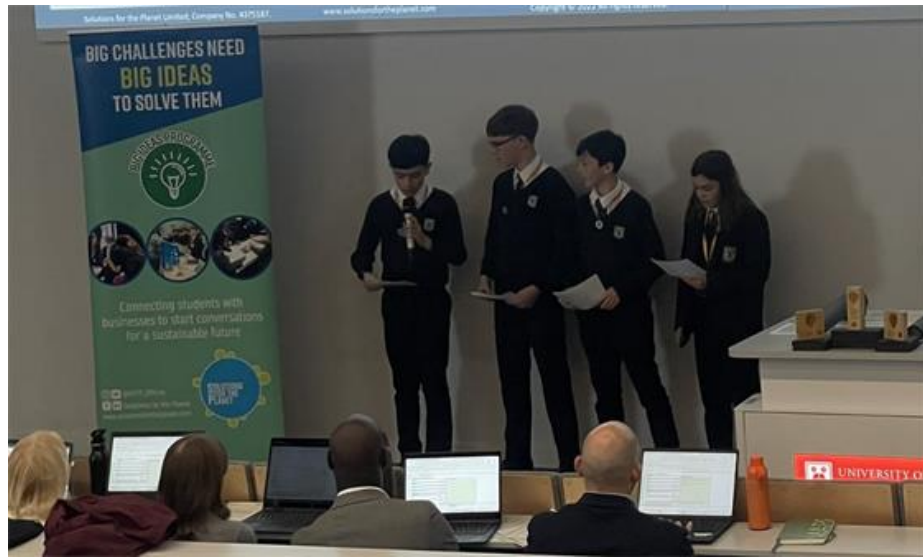
We also themed the songs for our lesson changeovers to focus on messages of positive mental health, asking for help (yes, 'Help!' by the Beatles did feature!) and reminding them how brave and brilliant they are.



Big Ideas Project

Just under 200 teams were entered into the Big Ideas project (11 from Chellaston Academy) to promote their solution for the planet. They were shortlisted to 36 who became Regional Finalists. Three of our 11 teams were selected!

On Tuesday we travelled to Leicester University for the teams to present their Big Idea live to the judges in a lecture theatre. We also got to listen to the other finalists ideas and had a tour of the university. We are so proud of Ellie, Lilah, Darcey, Ethan, Seán, Kaito, Micah, Lilian, Oscar, Joseph, Darren, Johnny and Henil who represented the Academy perfectly.





Year 10 Army Careers Talk

Today Mrs Shillingford, our careers lead, organised a visit from the Army to speak with our Year 10 students about careers in the Army. They explained the different roles available, including engineering, medicine, logistics, communications, and combat roles. We also learned about the skills and qualifications needed, the training involved, and the opportunities for travel, teamwork, leadership, and personal development. The visit gave students a better understanding of what life in the Army is like and the career paths that are available after school.





Duke of Edinburgh - Silver Qualifying Expedition

Last weekend we took seventeen Year 10 students to the Peaks for their qualifying weekend.

On Friday the students walked from Tissington to Hulme End. The rain held off and they were all back at camp without any hiccups, and able to enjoy their evening meal before a little football with some of the other 120+ DofE students on the campsite.

Saturday involved a circular walk from the campsite with rather mixed weather, bright, a little cold and with the odd light shower. They thankfully all arrived back to camp before the heavy rain started and it was so lovely to see them enjoying cards under the gazebo sheltering from the rain. When there was finally a break in the weather they cooked dinner and managed to have a firepit with toasted marshmallows. When the rain eventually returned we all settle down for the night.

Sunday was an early start with a walk to the pickup point at Waterhouses. The weather was a little better and they all managed to find somewhere to shelter from the frequent but short showers.

Well done to a fabulous group of students who smashed their award and positively represented the school. To the staff who gave up their weekend, thank you so much your support we couldn't run the weekend without you.







Young Minds Cake Sale

We are very proud of our Year 8s - Elizabeth C, May P & Evie A who arranged a bake sale and raised £148.07 for Young Minds! The hard work, kindness and generosity of our Year 8 students who baked with them for this brilliant charity hasn't gone unnoticed, they will all be rewarded with lots and lots of ICE points!



Sport News

Year 9/10 Dodgeball Championships

On Wednesday 20th May, a girls and boys Year 9/ 10 team went to Kettering for the Dodgeball Championships. The girls team, captained by Gracie, played exceptionally well all day, securing themselves a place in the 1st/ 2nd playoff. The boys team, captained by Harvey, also played exceptionally well all day and were up against a physical challenge and made it through to 3rd/ 4th playoff. Our teams were both made up with Year 7s and 8s which we are so grateful for and they really held their own in the older competition.

The girls placed 2nd overall and the boys placed 4th overall. Mrs Parker and Mr Burton are super proud of them. Thank you to the Year 10s who have played for the last 4 years, it has been a pleasure!

T20 Leeds World Cup

Thank you for those who took the time to register interest for the T20 Leeds World cup at Headingley in June, unfortunately circumstances beyond our control we are unable to run the trip.

Derbyshire Cricket Foundation Opportunity

Mrs Causer is working with Derbyshire Cricket Foundation who have arranged a "Girls Chance to Compete County Final Festival" for Under 13s and Under 15s on 16th June at Ockbrook Cricket Club. If your student would like to sign up please see Mrs Causer or the fixture notice board outside the PE office. See details below.

CRICKET SIGN UP!
GIRLS SOFTBALL CRICKET FESTIVAL
— REPRESENT YOUR SCHOOL —

U13

- Have fun
- Play as a team
- Show respect
- Give 100%
- Wear your school colours with pride!

U15

- Have fun
- Play as a team
- Show respect
- Give 100%
- Wear your school colours with pride!

VENUE
OCKBROOK CRICKET CLUB

DATE
16TH JUNE
(WITHIN SCHOOL DAY)

DETAILS

- Come to school in PE Kit
- Bring lunch
- Bring additional layers (waterproof, jumper, etc.)
- Bring sun cream
- Bring plenty of water

U13

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
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10. _____

U15

1. _____
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9. _____
10. _____

SIGN UP WITH MRS CAUSER!
DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: ASK YOUR PE TEACHER

Cricket Opportunity

The future of cricket?

IT STARTS WITH YOU

YOUR GAME.
YOUR COMMUNITY.
YOUR FUTURE.

Young Cricket Collective

**AGED 14-18?
JOIN TODAY**

www.dcfcricket.com/workforce/young-volunteers

Dates for your diary

22nd May - Break up for half term

1st June - Return to school

2nd June - Year 10 NHS Sexual Health Workshop

4th June - Year 12 Next Steps Evening

5th June - Year 11 Last day of teaching

9th June - Year 12 UCAS trip

10th June - Battlefields Parents trip meeting

11th June - Year 7 Parents evening - information coming soon

15th June - 26th June - Year 10 & 12 Mock exams

18th June - Year 11 Prom

19th & 20th June - Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award practice expedition

22nd June - Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

22nd June - Year 10 Army Careers Talk

22nd June - Year 13 Prom

23rd June - SEND Year 6 to 7 Transition Day

29th June - Year 11 to 12 Transition Day

29th & 30th June - Year 12 Geography Field trip

3rd July - Year 10 Geography Field trip

7-9th July - Year 6-7 Transition Days

10th July - Sports Day

13th-17th July - Year 12 Work Experience

15th-17th July - Battlefields trip

22nd July - Rewards Day 3

23rd July - Break up for Summer Holidays

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Leese', written in a cursive style.

Mr. D Leese
Headteacher