

# CHELLASTON ACADEMY

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Headteacher: Mr D Leese

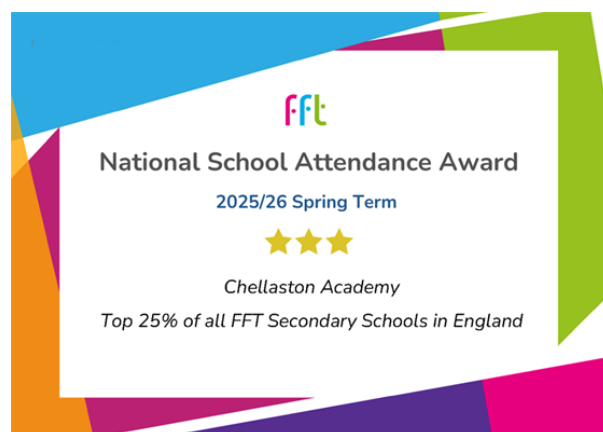
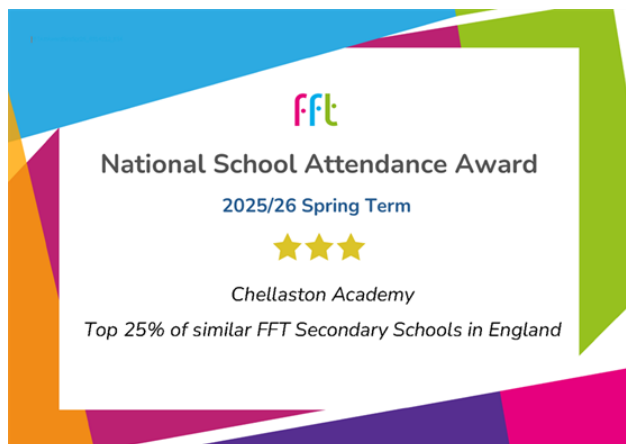


8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

As I come to the end of my fourth week at Chellaston Academy, I can honestly say that the time has flown by. It has been a real privilege to begin getting to know our staff and students, and I have been incredibly impressed by the warm welcome I have received from the whole school community. The coming weeks mark an important period in the academic calendar, as this is when the exam season really begins to get underway, with GCSE and A Level examinations imminent. I would like to encourage all of our students to continue working hard in their final preparations. This is a time to remain focused, maintain positive routines, and seek support where needed. We wish all of our students the very best of luck as they begin their exams and are confident that their efforts will be rewarded.

I am also delighted to share that Chellaston Academy has recently been recognised with a national school attendance award for the spring term, placing us in the top 25% of all schools in England for attendance. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the commitment of our students, families and staff. Regular attendance at school is vitally important, as it directly links to student achievement, progress and overall success. Every day in school matters and building strong habits of attendance supports both academic outcomes and personal development.



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Finally, we would like to reinforce our expectations around mobile phones. Phones should be switched off and kept at the bottom of bags during the school day. This helps to minimise distractions and ensures that our learning environment remains focused and respectful for all. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



### **Changing Lives - Exam 'Stress' Support**

On Wednesday, we organised a drop-in session from our Mental Health Support Team, Changing Lives, for our Year 11 students to sign up to. They held 1-1 meetings with students to offer strategies and tools to manage their wellbeing and nervous system during the exam period.

Young Minds also has some really useful information on how to support your child during exams: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/exam-time/>



### **Are you able to support our Year 10 Enterprise Day on Thursday, 2 July 2026?**

We are looking for volunteers to share their professional experience and help students tackle an exciting challenge during the day. Your expertise could make a real difference—whether it's guiding students in developing a business plan, working with numbers, or motivating a team to succeed. If you're able to offer your time—either for a few hours or the full day—we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch if you're interested in supporting this event

- [Careers@chellaston.derby.sch.uk](mailto:Careers@chellaston.derby.sch.uk)

### **Year 13 Leavers Day**

Today marked the final day at school for our wonderful Year 13 students. As is tradition, the day was filled with a fantastic array of fancy dress costumes, bringing plenty of fun and laughter to the celebrations. Mrs Tivey led a fabulous leavers' assembly, during which Mrs Warren and the form tutors shared heartfelt messages and their very best wishes for this truly remarkable group of students.

It was a lovely opportunity to reflect on their many achievements, contributions, and memories made during their time with us. We are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished and know they have bright futures ahead. We wish all of our Year 13 students every success and happiness as they begin the next exciting chapter of their journeys.



### **Sir David Attenborough's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, the Biology department celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sir David Attenborough. To mark the occasion, we decorated the Biology block with photographs showcasing Sir David throughout the years. During lessons, students explored his remarkable work, discussed the importance of conservation and the natural world, and enjoyed watching some of our favourite moments from his documentaries.

Students were also invited to take part in an endangered animal hunt around the school, where they discovered fascinating facts about endangered species. Some KS3 students have researched an endangered animal of their choice and created a poster to raise awareness about the challenges these animals face. Entries for the trail and the poster can be handed into Mrs Dunn or Mrs Moreman by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May for ICE point prizes!



### **Mean Girls**

On Thursday evening a coach full of students went to Leicester Curve theatre to watch Mean Girls the musical. The show was good fun with a great moral about being kind to others and how 'calling others stupid doesn't make you any smarter!'

Our students were wonderful as always, demonstrating our school values throughout.

Many thanks to Mrs Dow, Mrs Green, Ms Coles and Mrs Kennedy for giving up their evening to chaperone the trip.



**Sports News**  
**TCS Marathon**

Mr Howard and our amazing PE team have been brilliant and sporty as 767 pupils (Year 7, 8 & 9) have completed a 2 mile course as part of the TCS mini marathon in schools 2026 - what an achievement!! Well done all!



**Dates for your diary**

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', written in a cursive style.

Mr. D Leese  
Headteacher