



26th June 2026

Dear parents/ carers and students,

It has been an exceptionally warm week and I would like to commend both staff and students for how well they have adjusted, adapted and managed in challenging conditions. There has been a strong sense of calm and purpose across the academy, with students continuing to engage positively in their learning and staff ensuring high expectations are maintained. **The resilience shown by our community has been excellent and is something we are very proud of.**

One of the key highlights of the week was the Year 13 Prom held at Pride Park, which was a fantastic event and a fitting celebration of our students' time in the sixth form. They conducted themselves with real maturity and pride, and it was wonderful to see them enjoying this special occasion together. We were also delighted to be awarded Silver in the School Games Mark, recognising the strength of our PE provision and sporting opportunities. A huge well done to the PE team and all involved.
Thank you for your continued support.

Uniform Update

As temperatures are set to fall over the weekend we will **resume to full school uniform** from Monday 29th June.

Thank You & Timetable to Return to Usual Schedule

As we wave our invigilators so long and thank them and for all of their hard work and dedication during the exam season, our timetable will return to its usual schedule from **Tuesday 30th**

June with **lunchtime returning to 1.20pm**. We'd also like to give a special thank you to Mrs Scattergood, our exams officer and Mrs Holdgate, for the seamless running of exams throughout the whole of May and June where more than 1000 students have sat exams in that period!

Water Safety

Given that hot weather encourages children and young people to play around rivers, canals and lakes and in response to the awful news about 40 young people dying in France alone over the last few days and recent tragedies we've faced locally with young Thando from our Academy, we would like to share information with you to try and prevent this.

Please take time to view the link below specifically aimed at teenagers - <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/.../water-safety-for...> Please do take good care in the heat.



Free School Meals will be changing



The Government has announced that the eligibility criteria for **Free School Meals will be changing**. From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit, regardless of household earnings, will be entitled to a free meal. Under these changes, there will be two categories of FSM eligibility:

- **Targeted FSM**
Children from households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of **£7,400 or less**, will be eligible for targeted FSM. In addition to receiving free meals, Y7-Y11 pupils eligible for targeted FSM will attract pupil premium funding for their school.
- **Expanded FSM** (From Sept)
Children from households in receipt of Universal Credit, with annual household earnings **exceeding £7,400** will be entitled to expanded FSM (meals only).

At Chellaston Academy we use an online system that enables you to check your eligibility against the data held by the Department for Education's Eligibility Checking Services (ECS). As student's circumstances may change at any time, once you have entered your details, the system will regularly update, and we will have access to up-to-date information without ever needing to contact you. This includes annual rechecks.

All you are required to do is follow the link below and enter details which include your name, date of birth and National Insurance Number:

www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/link2ict



If you currently receive FSM, it is important that you recheck your eligibility. If an eligibility check is not completed, or if the check indicates that you are no longer eligible, your FSM entitlement will finish at the end of this term.

Sixth Form Transition Day – Monday 29th June

We are looking forward to welcoming Year 11 students to Sixth Form Transition Day on Monday 29th June. An email has been sent out to all students who have confirmed their attendance about the structure of the day.

Students should arrive between 8.30am and 8.45am and make their way directly to C Hall. There is no need to

wear school uniform.

If you have not yet confirmed your attendance, please email sixthformadmin@chellaston.derby.sch.uk as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you and giving you a taste of life in the Sixth Form!

Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze Award

What a weekend with 97 students all on practice training for their bronze award! Our students were fabulous and an absolute credit to the school. They listened when it was needed and followed instructions perfectly.

On the first day they did a full day of training followed by a mass football game "boy against girls" in the field full of tents. When it was time to settle down and relinquish balls, students did a mass British bulldogs game to wear themselves out before bedtime.

On day two it was a very early start at around 4.30am for some individuals as they didn't realise the time and staff had to send them back to bed for a little longer! They were all packed and off site before 9am for a circular walk from camp to put into practice all that they had learnt the day before. It was a little warm but a pleasant day for walking.

The qualifying expedition takes place on 17th-18th July and students and we encourage students to look at their very full bags and consider what they would leave at home next time. A big mention should go to the 10 staff that supported the students over the two days and for pitching/ organising the school tents.

All of our DofE Bronze award students should be very proud of themselves.



Year 13 Prom

On Monday evening, our wonderful Year 13 students celebrated the end of their Sixth Form journey at their Prom, held at Pride Park in Derby. Everyone made a fantastic effort with their outfits, and the evening was filled with laughter, dancing and celebration.

Year 13 have been a truly fabulous year group throughout their time in Sixth Form, and it was a pleasure to mark this special milestone with them. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and wish them every success as they take their next steps.

We look forward to welcoming students back on Results Day on Thursday 13 August. Further information about the arrangements for Results Day will be sent to students and parents nearer the time.



Imperial College London Competition

David M and Jack W are currently in Year 9. They took part in the Faculty of Natural Sciences Science & Innovation UK Competition held at Imperial College London. The competition attracted approximately 300 teams from across the United Kingdom, and they were delighted to progress to the final stage.

The boys were asked to develop a new and innovative scientific solution to help achieve one of the United Nations' Global Goals for Sustainable Development. They created a self-efficient irrigation system as their project.

In the final, they competed against eight other teams and presented their work to a distinguished panel of scientists, including Dr Phillips and Dr Helen Sharman, the first British astronaut. As part of the assessment, they were questioned at a highly advanced academic level on their project, scientific reasoning, and broader scientific understanding. This included discussion of conditions on Earth and beyond Earth, such as the Martian atmosphere and the percentage of oxygen present.

David and Jack represented Chellaston Academy at a national level, which is a significant achievement. The experience enabled them to further develop key skills, including teamwork, problem-solving, and resilience under pressure. They both greatly enjoyed the challenge and the opportunity to engage with leading scientists. I am very pleased to share that they were runners-up, achieving second place overall. Considering the scale of the competition and the exceptionally high standard of the final, this is an outstanding accomplishment - Congratulations boys!





Carnegie Reading trip to City of Derby Academy

On Tuesday, a group of **11 of our keenest readers** visited the City of Derby Academy to watch a livestream of the **winning author** of the **Carnegie Writing medal** being announced. For the last 3 months, these students have busily been reading the **8 shortlisted books** for the Carnegie medal and deciding who they think should win. It was a wonderful day where our students got to **collaborate with the CODA students** and engage in book discussions and presentations. The students that attended were an absolute credit to the school and Mrs Lloyla and Ms Saccone were really proud of the way they conducted themselves. If you are looking for a book to read with your young person, the winner of this year's medal was **Beth O' Brian with the book Wolf Siren**. It is definitely a worthy winner.



Nottingham open ball crew

Amelia Jopp in Year 7 took part in the Nottingham Open Ball Crew last week. We are very proud of you and want to celebrate this great experience be amongst some of the world's top players as they compete on grass ahead of Wimbledon - how exciting!



Sport

Silver Recognition - School Games Award

We are very proud of our brilliant PE department as they have been working towards the School Games Award this year. Mr Howard has just received confirmation that we have met the **Silver recognition** for **2025/2026**. We are working with the School Games Team and Derby County Community Trust on our small development points and in true Chellaston Academy Sporting style the PE team have assured us that it will be **GOLD** next year!! Well done all!!



Dates for your diary

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
17th & 19th July - Duke of Edinburgh Bronze qualifier
15th-17th July - Battlefields trip
22nd July - Rewards Day 3
23rd July - Break up for Summer Holidays

Kind regards,

Mr. D Leese
Headteacher