



23rd July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our entire Chellaston Academy community for their hard work, commitment and support throughout the year. Since joining Chellaston Academy, I have genuinely enjoyed my time working alongside our dedicated staff, exceptional students and supportive families. I have been made to feel incredibly welcome and it has been a privilege to become part of such a wonderful school community.

This year has been packed with memorable moments and outstanding achievements. From sporting success and performances, to academic accomplishments, enrichment opportunities and charitable events, there has been so much to celebrate. Most recently, students returned from an incredibly moving visit to the battlefields of Belgium, where they deepened their understanding of history while paying their respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. It was a truly memorable experience and one that will stay with them for years to come. We finished the academic year in style with our annual Rewards Festival, celebrating the fantastic achievements, commitment and positive contributions of our students. It was a wonderful occasion and a fitting way to recognise the hard work and success of so many young people across the academy.

As always at this time of year, we also say goodbye to some valued colleagues who have made an enormous contribution to Chellaston Academy.

We wish Mrs Smithson, our Head of Spanish, a long and happy retirement after 6 years. Mrs Smithson has led the Spanish department brilliantly and has been an outstanding teacher, inspiring generations of students with her passion for languages. We thank her for her dedication and wish her every happiness in the years ahead. We also say farewell to Mr Sandhu, Deputy Head of English, who is relocating after 2 years. Mr Sandhu has made a significant contribution to both the English department and the wider life of the academy, and we wish him every success in his new role.

Finally, Mr Clarke is stepping down from his role as Deputy Headteacher. A true Chellaston legend, Mr Clarke has dedicated many years of outstanding service to the academy and has had a lasting impact on countless students, colleagues and families. Thankfully, this is not goodbye. We are delighted that he will remain part of the Chellaston family from September as he returns to the classroom to teach Chemistry, where future generations of students will continue to benefit from his expertise, passion and good humour.

As another successful year draws to a close, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to making Chellaston Academy such a wonderful place to learn and work. I wish all of our students, staff and families a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year.



Rewards Day - Summer Festival 2026!

No one does Rewards Day like Chellaston Academy does Rewards Day! Well done to all involved and a huge thank you to our brilliant Rewards Team and our invited guests. Over 1000 students had a great time celebrating the end of their academic year with friends, doing everything from the Waltzers, the Big Wheel, having their hair done, singing or performing on the stage, having photos in the photo booth, gentle cuddles with the llamas and the brilliant Foam Party!! We hope they (and all of our fantastic staff) had a wonderful time - you truly deserved it!





Battlefields Trip

Last week we departed for Belgium and France to take ninety Year 10 students on our GCSE History Battlefields trip. This was a brilliant opportunity for the students in which they were able to have enriching cultural experiences as well as develop their GCSE history subject knowledge. During our time away we visited many historical sites relating to WW1 such as taking part in the Menin Gate Last Post ceremony, Newfoundland Memorial Park, Tyne Cot and having the chance to handle WW1 equipment and weaponry as well as many other inspiring visits. The students made us all immensely proud and showed integrity, care and excellence throughout the trip representing Chellaston Academy brilliantly.





Duke of Edinburgh Bronze - July 17th -18th 2026

Last weekend 98 students completed their first bronze on the DofE expedition. All students had to learn to read a map and navigate their way over two days from one way point to another. Prior to this they had a practice run to iron out all the bugs from reading a map correctly, making sure that they had all of the necessary equipment and clothing and food for cooking.

All were in teams and trusting each other to find their way through the beautiful scenery of Cannock Chase. This was a test of team spirit and helping each other out. The weather was warm and the students acted impeccably. All school staff present on the camp were so impressed and proud to see how all the students interacted with each other and the DofE staff. Students not only walked to the destination at Beaudesert but put up tents and cooked their own meals. All the while playing and entertaining themselves as kids do. No mobile phones were seen and it was a privilege to see them as youngsters having a brilliant time and making memories.

Sports Day 2026

We were delighted to celebrate our annual Sports Day on Tuesday 21st July with such brilliant team spirit and camaraderie! The atmosphere was electric, especially for the staff race and we are so proud of the spirit and behaviour of Team Chello. We are delighted to share with you all that with the theme of the world cup in mind, TEAM GERMANY won the event!

Please see finer details of results in the attachment below - GO CHELLO!





Emotional Health Support Services - Over the Summer break

Emotional Health Support Services

For young people

Derbyshire Mental Health support line

24/7

Struggling to cope?
Talk to us - any time.
Call **0800 028 0077**

You can also reach us by dialling **111** and selecting option 2.

NHS
Derbyshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Childline

childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

A free, private and confidential service where you can talk about anything. Calls are free and don't show up on phone bills. Available online or call **0800 1111 - 24/7**.

Chat Health

If you are aged 11-19 and want advice or have any worries text **07507327104**

Monday - Friday 9-4.30

You can text outside these hours, you will be texted back the next day

ChatHealth

Papyrus

PAPYRUS

If you are having thoughts of suicide or are concerned for a young person who might be you can contact HOPELINE247 for confidential support and practical advice.

Call: **0800 068 4141**

Text: **88247** Open 24/7

Shout

However you're feeling right now, you don't have to face it alone. We're here to support you with your mental health.

Text 'SHOUT' to **85258**

shout
85258
here for you 24/7

YOUNG MINDS

fighting for young people's mental health

www.youngminds.org.uk

kooth

Kooth is an online mental wellbeing community for young people

For ages: **11-18**

Kooth.com

NHS
Derbyshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Science over the holidays

Year 10 students

Year 10 students have now reviewed their mock exam papers in each of the three sciences and have been asked to take these home together with the completed exam wrappers to work on their areas of development over the holidays. The activities that can be completed are:

- Revisiting topics and content highlighted as areas for improvement using our comprehensive lesson on the Science Firefly area or using revision guides.
- Reviewing and correcting errors made in mock examinations.
- Completing regular homework and independent learning on Sparx Science.
- Completing additional practice questions and examination-style tasks which can be found on websites such as www.physicsandmathstutor.co.uk and www.revisionscience.com
- Developing effective revision habits and routines in preparation for Year 11.
- Seeking support and clarification from teachers once they return to school in September

In addition to these pointers, the Science Department will be starting afterschool revision sessions in the Autumn term which we would hope that students will attend in preparation for the mock exams in November and March and the official GCSE exams in the Summer.

I am going to be setting Sparx Science homework to be completed over the holiday targeting the areas of development that have been highlighted during the Mock process. I do understand that students need to have a break over the Summer holidays but if they could dedicate a hour a week per science subject it would really help their progress in the build up to their GCSE's. As an incentive all Year 10 students who complete their Sparx Science over the Summer holidays will be entered into a prize draw for a number of Amazon vouchers. The top completions will also receive ICE points to go towards the rewards days next year.

Unfortunately, we do have a number of students who are predicted a GCSE grade that is significantly below their target grade. In these cases, separate individualised letters have been sent out to parents earlier this week. To encourage these students further to complete the Summer work I will be entering them into a separate prize draw for Amazon vouchers and as the group is smaller there will be a greater chance of winning.

Happy Sparx'ing!

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.

Gothia World Cup - Chiara P - Year 10

Chiara P in Year 10 attended the Gothia World Cup in Gothenburg in Sweden last week. She had a brilliant time representing Schulz coaching U15s and has joined thousands of young players from 77 different countries. In the girls under 15 category alone, 129 teams were playing from 14 countries. The Schulz Coaching Girls U15s finished second in their group, securing qualification for the prestigious Play-off A competition. The team continued their excellent turn in the knockout stages progressing to the lady 16 before eventually losing to Ronninge Salem Football 2.

Chiara has worked incredibly hard to get selected for the team after rigorous trials - Well done Chiara, we're very proud of this fantastic achievement and brilliant opportunity.





Holiday Clubs in Derbyshire

Details are in the attachment below.



Dates for your diary

23rd July - Break up for Summer Holidays at 11.30am, buses have been arranged

2026-2027 Academic term

4th September - Inset day

7th September - Inset day

8th September - Year 7 & Year 12 ONLY

9th September - ALL TO RETURN TO SCHOOL

24th September - SAVE THE DATE - Year 6 Open Evening (for students starting Year 7 in September 2027) details to follow

7th October - SAVE THE DATE - Sixth Form Open Evening (for students starting Year 12 in September 2027) details to follow

Kind regards,

Mr. D Leese
Headteacher