Welcome to your whispers of news and events...

16.10.26

Top Weekly Reward Points		
Year 7	7JAL	50.2
Year 8	8EED	55.2
Year 9	9CDO	52.0
Year 10	10JYE	46.6
Year 11	11CGA	49.5

Star Students

Bella L Y7

Munashe M Y10

Spreading the Sunshine



On Friday 9th October, students and staff came together to celebrate World Mental Health Day by wearing a splash of yellow! From bright ties and T-shirts to little splashes of yellow in accessories, our school community got involved to show our support and help raise awareness of this important day.

It was lovely to see everyone taking part, adding a little sunshine to our school and reminding us all that mental health matters. Looking after our wellbeing is important, and school is a place where we should all feel supported, included and able to be ourselves. Whether it's taking a moment for ourselves, talking to someone we trust or simply sharing a smile with a friend, small things can make a big difference.

Thank you to everyone who joined in and helped make the day special. Let's keep the positivity going beyond World Mental Health Day by looking after ourselves, supporting one another and making Whittington Green School a place where everyone feels they belong!







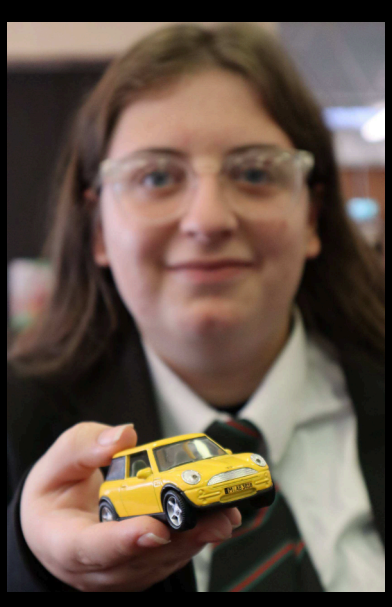










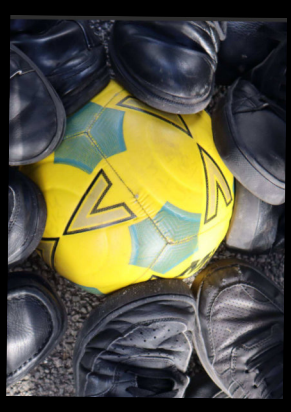














A Journey Beyond the Classroom...



This week, we were delighted to welcome Fitzroy Peter Thomas back to Whittington Green School for a very special trip down memory lane. Fitzroy attended the school between 1971 and 1976, when it was known as Edwin Swale, and his visit gave us a fascinating glimpse into school life 50 years ago.

But Fitzroy's visit was about much more than reminiscing. His journey since leaving school is a wonderful reminder to our current students that your school years are only the beginning of your story, and your starting point does not have to determine where you end up.

Like many young people, Fitzroy left school without a clear idea of exactly what the future held. His examination results were not necessarily what he might have hoped for, but they certainly did not define his potential. Instead, he continued to learn, develop his skills and pursue new opportunities, building a career through hard work, determination and a willingness to keep moving forward.

After leaving Edwin Swale in 1976, Fitzroy attended Chesterfield College to study electronic servicing before progressing to an HNC in electrical engineering. His career took him into the electronics industry, including work in testing and development, and he continued to broaden his knowledge through further studies. His journey reflects an important message for all our students: success is not always a straight line, and there is so much to be gained by making the effort, embracing opportunities and refusing to give up when things do not go exactly to plan.

Of course, Fitzroy also brought with him some wonderful memories of school life in the 1970s!

He recalled how different things were back then, from the more traditional approach to lessons to the school farm, where students helped care for animals and learned about the different stages of farm life. Girls might be taught typing and needlework, while boys took metalwork, and the headteacher and deputy headteacher would address students wearing academic caps and gowns. School discipline was also very different from what we know today.

Fitzroy was particularly struck by the changes to the building and its security. He remembered a time when students could walk in and out with far fewer restrictions. As he explored the school, climbed the familiar wooden stairs and looked at some of the original features, he remarked on how much smaller everything seemed. Yet, despite the many changes over five decades, he felt that the school had retained its sense of community.

One of the most heartwarming parts of our conversation was Fitzroy's recollection of his cookery lessons with Mrs Richards. He spoke warmly about her teaching and the impact it had on him. Having grown up in a family where cooking and baking were part of everyday life, he particularly enjoyed these lessons and the way practical skills were demonstrated and developed through practice.

He described a method of learning that is still valued in many fields today: explain, demonstrate, imitate and practise. It is a simple but powerful approach, reminding us that we develop confidence and ability by having a go, learning from others and practising until we improve.

In a lovely gesture, Fitzroy even left us with a cake recipe as a parting gift. We are looking forward to trying it out!

As we listened to Fitzroy's stories, what stood out most was not simply how much the school had changed, but how much a person's life can develop after leaving the classroom. His experiences demonstrate that education does not stop when you leave school. There are always new skills to learn, new paths to explore and opportunities to work towards.

We would like to thank Fitzroy for visiting us, sharing his memories and reminding us that the journey beyond school can be full of possibilities. It was a pleasure to welcome him back after 50 years, and we hope to see him again soon!





Spooktacular Reads!



Our library has had an autumnal makeover, complete with cosy pumpkin cushions and a fangtastic reading corner filled with frightfully good books!

With Halloween just around the corner, why not pop in, get cosy and discover your next great read? You might even find a tale that sends shivers down your spine!



Active Travel Ambassadors Celebrate Achievement...

The Active Travel Ambassador's completed their first year in Derbyshire Council's Active Travel Ambassador Programme last year. They worked alongside Chris from ModeShift Travel who delivered the programme. Last year the students completed a whole school travel survey, gaining data about student and staff travel to and from school. They then used this data to create a campaign to encourage more active travel in school.

The students ran their 'scenic snaps' campaign in school last year which resulted in prizes for our students and improvements in active travel. From the campaign we have now achieved accreditation as a school of a 'good' rating for active travel at Whittington Green School.

Chris from Derbyshire Council and ModeShift presented some of our Active Travel Ambassadors with their certificate this week which is now on display in reception. This contributes to our schools travel plan. We will now be entering into the second year of the programme to continue to develop the school's active travel this academic year and we can't wait to work with our students and community again.

Miss Naylor





"Houston We have a problem!"

Or Whittington Green's guide on how not to launch a rocket

For much of last year STEM club has been investigating rocketry. We started with methanol vapour bottle rockets which were hilariously random in their flight paths. Moving on to more serious rockets involved rolling our own rocket fuselage tubes from news paper and wallpaper paste. These were complimented by 3D printed nose-cones and stabilising fins. The rockets were finally finished off with custom graphics and a laser-cut holder for an ESTES solid fuel rocket motor (more on that later). A select group of students also made their own parachutes to retrieve the rockets from (hopefully!) quite some altitude.

Weather delayed the launches for some time. Despite the sports field being very large the wind had to be extremely light to avoid peppering the neighbourhood with parts of burning rockets. Last Thursday however the weather gods smiled and we prepared to launch. With extinguisher in hand and Dr Albon setting up the launch controls carefully the countdown began whereupon at zero there was a mighty woosh.
This sound is normally accompanied by a rocket streaking to the heavens to (hopefully – that word again!) float back to earth under silken parachutes. We, however, do things differently at WGS. In designing our high tech, laser cut rocket motor holder we neglected to think about direction that said rocket motor wants to push, namely up. The woosh was accompanied this time by the rocket motor blasting its way through the fuselage of the rocket and out of the nose cone which was propelled about 20 feet in the air along with the parachute. The motor then released from its confines, shot vaguely skywards in mad spirals reaching a dizzying 40 feet in altitude before plopping back to earth with a dull pop as its parachute ejection charge fired. So. Not all was failure. The rocket motor did light. The parachute did unfurl. The extinguisher remained unused and, as they say, "Rome wasn't built in a day". Space-ex blew up quite a few before success. NASA took 11 Apollo missions to land on the moon. We will try again.

If you want to get involved with STEM club rocketry, Dr Albon is your host on Thursdays after school in R38.

Mr Gilman





Ignition! Looking promising…



Motor having torn its way through the rocket body collects the parachute as it spins away.



Y10 Building the Future

With an incredible 54 Year 10 students taking part in construction this year, it's wonderful to see such strong interest in developing practical skills and exploring future career opportunities. The group spans our two outdoor workshops, where students are getting hands-on experience and putting their learning into practice.

It was lovely to catch up with the students, see their enthusiasm first-hand and admire some of the fantastic work they are producing. There are some impressive walls taking shape, and the quality of work coming out of the group is a real credit to their hard work, commitment and growing skills.

It's particularly encouraging to see both boys and girls getting involved and developing these valuable, traditional construction skills here at Whittington Green School. Bricklaying and construction remain important skills within our local community, and it's great to see our students embracing the opportunity to learn, build their confidence and discover what they can achieve.

















Getting Active with Shape

This week, we were delighted to host a SHAPE Movement Festival at Whittington Green School, welcoming Year 1 and Year 2 pupils from Mary Swanwick and Barlow Primary Schools for a fun-filled celebration of physical activity.

The festival gave our young visitors the opportunity to get moving, try out different activities, develop their coordination and, most importantly, enjoy being active together in a supportive and encouraging environment.

We were particularly proud of our Year 9 Sports Leaders from Child Development and BTEC Sport, who did a fantastic job supporting the visiting pupils throughout the event. Their enthusiasm, teamwork and willingness to help ensure everyone could get involved were wonderful to see.

'Our leaders are always good but on this occasion, I sat proudly in the Sports Hall and watched our students come to life and display skills and patience that I didn't know they had. At the end of the session one of the Mary Swanwick teachers addressed the whole group and said that she has been here many times but the leaders in this session were the best she had ever seen.'
- Mr Kingham

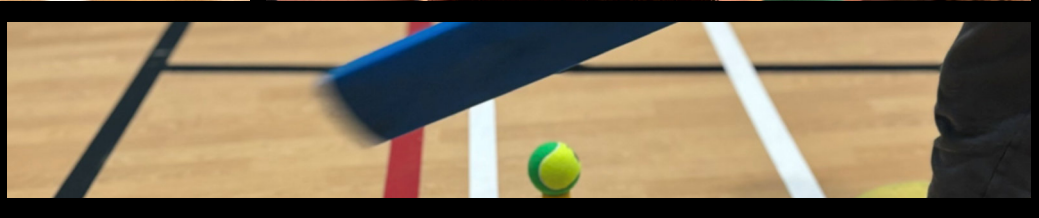
Events like these are a brilliant way to bring our local school communities together, encourage a love of physical activity from an early age and give our own students valuable opportunities to develop their leadership, communication and teamwork skills.

A huge well done to all the pupils who took part, and a special thank you to our Year 9 Sports Leaders and the staff who helped make the event such a success





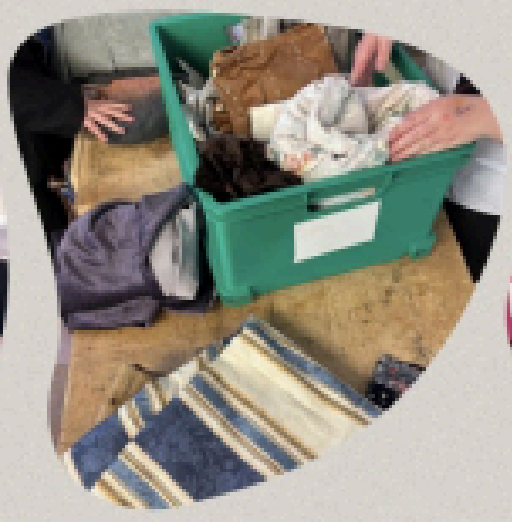


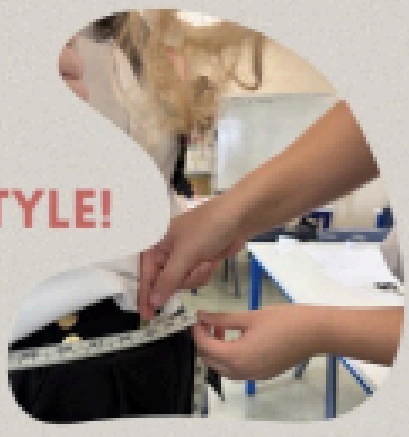


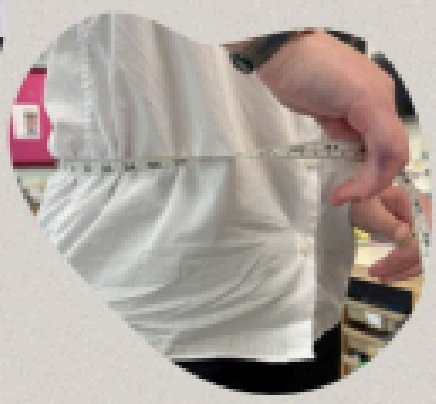
TEXTILES *club*

FROM PATTERNS TO PERSONAL STYLE!









This week, our Textiles Club members have made some great progress and are getting closer to bringing their trousers to life!

Students have now finished assembling their pattern pieces and carefully cut them out, meaning we are finally ready to move away from the paper and towards the fabric!

Before choosing their materials, students measured themselves to work out which pattern size they would need. They then started thinking about what kind of trousers they would like to create and choosing fabrics to match their individual ideas and style.

There was plenty of measuring, comparing and decision-making involved as students also had to make sure there was enough fabric available for all of their pattern pieces. With different fabrics, colours and styles being considered, everyone's trousers are already starting to look very different!

Next, we'll be moving onto the exciting part: cutting into the fabric and beginning construction!

A QUICK REMINDER

The Textiles Club sign-up sheet is now closed

As we are now well into the project and moving into the construction stage, students who signed up but have not yet attended will not be able to join the club going forward.



Cheesy Grins

Mrs Bradley's Year 7 students have been enjoying their first practical food lessons, making delicious cheese on toast! They have been learning the essential routines of the food room, how to prepare food safely, and how to use the grill responsibly. Students have also been developing their teamwork skills by washing up and tidying away together. A fantastic start to their food technology journey!







Mr Ashworth's Brain Teaser



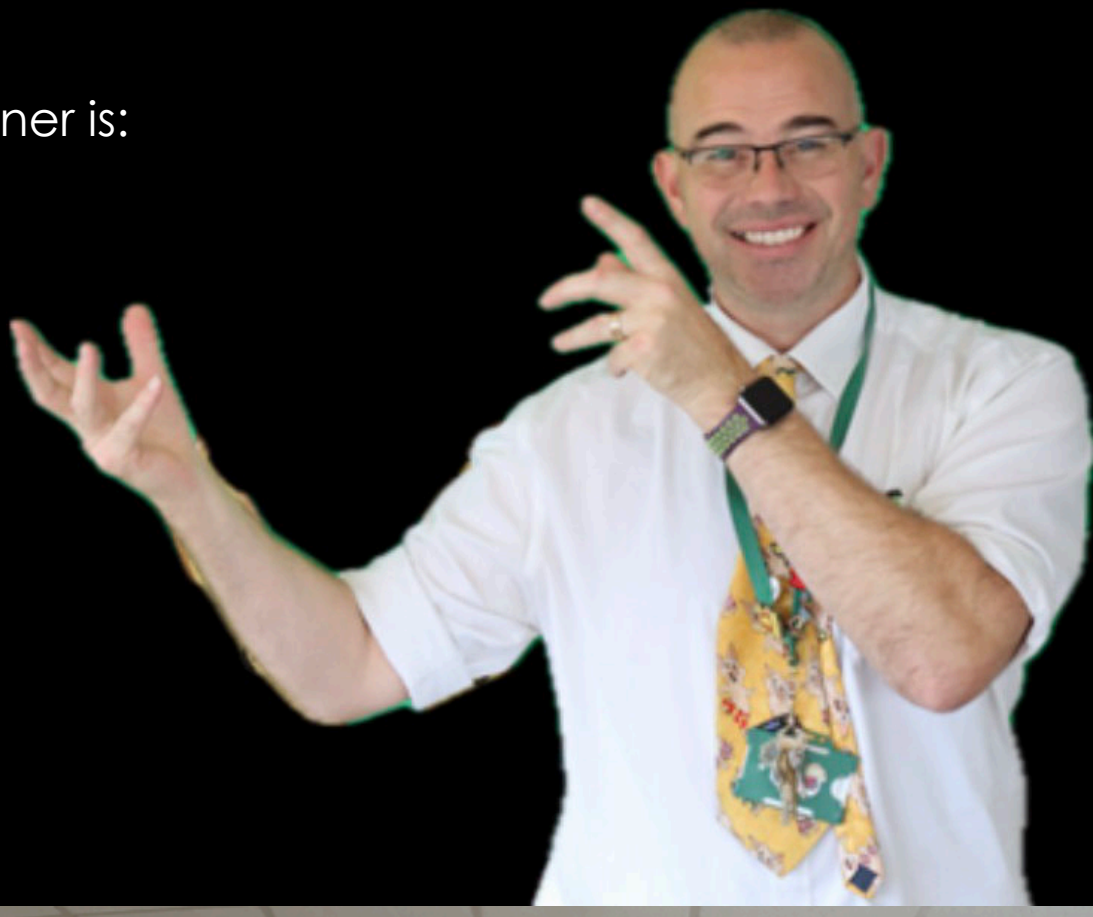
What begins with an "e" and only contains one letter?

Brain Teaser author this week is Kaylen L in Y11

Do you think you know the answer to this week's brain teaser?
Be the first to find Mr Ashworth in Room 16 with your solution for the chance to win a small prize (and, of course, eternal bragging rights).

Congratulations!
The last week's winner is:

Grace C Y10



Q: I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm old.

What am I?

A: A Candle

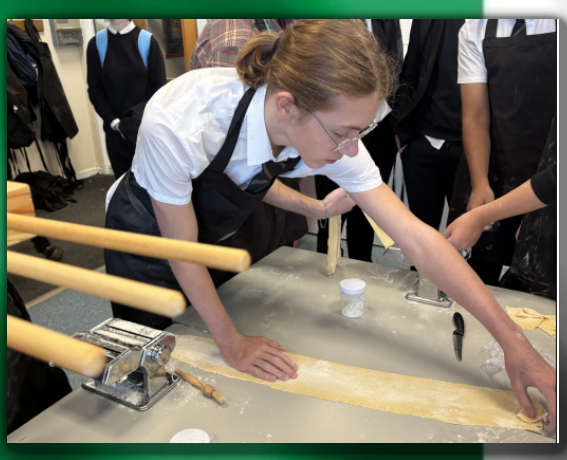


Mamma Mia, That's Some Pasta!

Our Year 11 students Hospitality and Catering students went a little *pasta-tively* wild this week, making their very own fresh pasta from scratch!

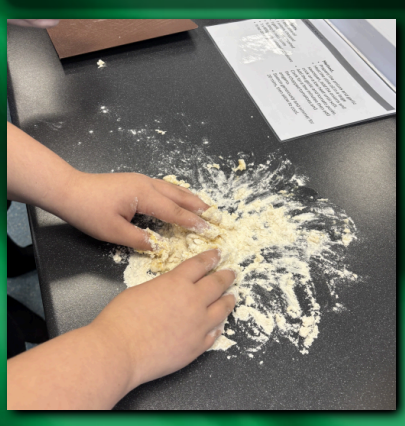
Using a pasta machine to roll out their dough and cut it into lovely strips of spaghetti, they then hung their creations up to dry. It was *la dolce vita* in action, with plenty of laughter, enthusiasm and some seriously impressive pasta-making skills!

Everyone had a *pasta-tively fantastic* time, and watching the whole process was *spaghett-tacular*! Who knew we had so many budding Italian chefs in Year 11?











Are you raising the child of a relative or friend?

Then Kinship Chesterfield is here for you!

Our local peer support groups provide a warm, friendly space to connect with some of the other 900+ kinship carers in Chesterfield, Bolsover and North-East Derbyshire.

For more information:

- Scan the QR code
- Find us on facebook Kinship Chesterfield
- Contact us at kinship.chesterfield@gmail.com

or simply join us for a coffee at one of our meetings.

Our **Chesterfield** group meets on the last Thursday of each month at

the HUB, SMH Group Stadium,
Sheffield Road, Chesterfield, S41 8NZ

Morning Session: 11.00am – 1.00pm
Evening Session: 6.30pm – 8.00pm

Our **Bolsover** group meets on the first Thursday of each month at

Bolsover Assembly Rooms,
Hill Top, Bolsover, S44 6NG

Morning Session: 11.00am – 1.00pm

Kinship Chesterfield



Kinship Chesterfield families, Summer 2026

In partnership with

Kinship

For family or friends who step up to raise a child.

Kindly supported by

Randal

Foundation

COMMUNITY FUND

Harvest Collection



This Harvest, we are delighted to be supporting **Chesterfield Food Bank** with a school-wide collection.

The Food Bank provides essential food and toiletries to local people and families experiencing financial hardship, and our donations can make a real difference as we head into the autumn and winter months.

We would love for our families to get involved by donating items from the **"most needed" list** shown on the Harvest poster below.

📍 **Where:** School Reception
🗓️ **When:** Monday 12th October - Wednesday 21st October

A large collection table has been set up in Reception, so simply bring your donations along and pop them on the table.

Every tin, packet and jar counts — thank you for helping us support our local community this Harvest. 💛

Chesterfield
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Harvest appeal



Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 300 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food

Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

- Tinned meat/fish
- Tinned veg/fruit
- Cooking sauces
- Coffee
- Milk (UHT or powdered)
- Cereals
- Fruit juice (long-life)
- Tinned pudding
- Jam
- Instant mashed potato

Chesterfield Foodbank
chesterfield.foodbank.org.uk

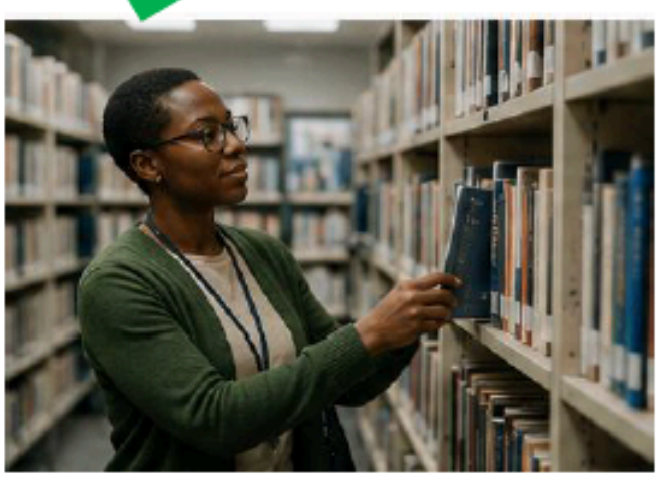
Registered Charity in England & Wales (1174426)

Dream Reach Achieve

Whittington Green School

Librarian

Job of the Week



Learning resource manager, library officer

Librarians work in public and commercial libraries, managing access to books, digital resources, archives and computers.

Skills and knowledge
You'll need:

- customer service skills
- the ability to work well with others
- administration skills
- to be flexible and open to change
- knowledge of English language
- the ability to use your initiative
- the ability to design activities to promote use of library resources
- excellent verbal communication skills
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages confidently

Salary - £25,000 - £40,000

Find out more about this job. Scan the QR code for the MYPATH video.

You can get into this job through:

University - You can do a degree or postgraduate qualification, accredited by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

Subjects include:

- library and information management
- information science
- library studies

You may need some practical experience to do a postgraduate course.

Entry requirements - You'll usually need:

- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree
- a degree in any subject for a postgraduate course

Work - You could start as a library assistant or data officer with an information service. With experience, you could apply for Certification through the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals and study for further qualifications while you work.

Work - You could start as an office assistant or trainee reporter on a local or regional newspaper, or junior feature writer for a magazine.

You'll need a minimum of five GCSE grades 9 to 4 including English, or equivalent qualifications. Many recruits have A levels or a degree.

Day-to-day tasks -As a librarian, you could:

- catalogue print and digital resources, like books, images and journals
- deal with counter, phone and email enquiries
- plan/host events and activities for library users
- manage staff, budgets and training
- support researchers and students with access to archives and document collections
- stock take and make sure resources are stored safely and correctly
- select which publications/subscriptions to buy

Post-16 Open Evenings

Post-16 provider		Date
	Netherthorpe School	6th October 2026
	Outwood Newbold	13th October 2026
	Tupton Hall School	14th October 5.30pm onwards
Eckington School	Eckington school	21st October 5.15pm-8pm
	Dronfield Henry Fanshaw	11th November 5pm – 8pm
	St Mary's Catholic high school	12th November 2026
	Brookfield Community School	6th October 2026
	Chesterfield College	Sixth form open evening 4th November 4pm – 6pm Showcase open evening (range of courses and apprenticeships) 11th November 4pm – 7pm 17th March 4pm – 7pm 23rd June 4pm-7pm

T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

Amazing Apprenticeships

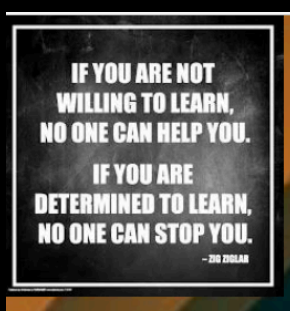
Parent & Carer Webinar

Understanding T Levels

20th October 2026
6:30-7:15pm

REGISTER NOW

amapps.uk/t-level-parent-carer-webinar



Y11 Intervention

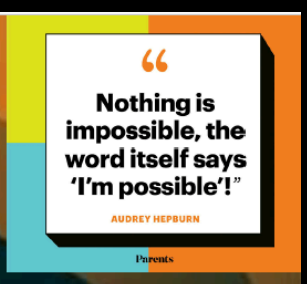
There is lots of support available for you this year after-school. Here a guide to what's on…

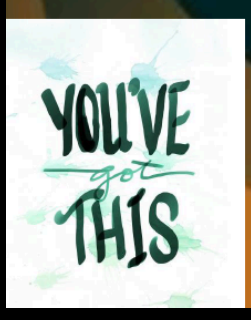
Mondays
Geography (starting after October HT) (Rm52)
History (Rm51)
Religious Studies (Week A only) (Rm49)

Wednesdays
Y11 General GCSE Revision and Homework Club (Rm21/21a)
Design and Technology (Rm36)
Spanish (Rm33)

Thursdays
Travel and Tourism (Rm24)
Art (Rm28)
English – Power and Conflict Poetry (Rm21)

Look out in the future for…
Dance – commencing after Christmas on a Monday/Wednesday or Friday depending on your group







After School Clubs

Have you explored our after school clubs?

We have a fantastic array of activities that cater to every interest and passion.

Whether you're keen on sports, arts and crafts, technology, gardening or anything in between, there's something here for everyone.

Beyond the fun activities, our clubs provide an incredible opportunity to forge new friendships and develop valuable skills. Whether you're honing your teamwork on the sports field or unleashing your creativity in the art room, there's no shortage of opportunities to grow and learn together.

Our convenient after school bus ensures that you can join in on the excitement without any worries about transportation – it departs promptly at 4.00pm.

Come and be a part of the adventure!

After School Clubs

Monday

***Beauty & the Beast Rehearsals**

Girls football
Miss Kemp

Y8 Boys Football
Mr Kingham

Y10+11 Boys Football
Mr Spacey

Y9 Boys Football
Mr Williamson

Neurodiversity Club
House
Miss Wells– Cole &
Miss McDermott

Manga Monday
Library
Mrs Bingham

Upper School Band

Room 27

Mr Redgrave

Writing Club
Room 20

Miss Turner

Project Club
Rm 45

Tuesday

Tech Theatre Club
Dance Studio

Mr Bathurst

Y7+8 Girls Football
Mr Stones

Chess Club
Library
Mr Reid

Wednesday

***Beauty & the Beast Rehearsals**

Y7+8 Netball
Tennis Courts
Miss Kemp

Y9, 10 & 11 Netball
Tennis Courts
Mrs Dewberry

Y7 Boys Football
Mr Townsend

DofE Drop in Room 16

Mr Ashworth & Dr Albon

KS4 Independent Study
Room 21A

Mr Spacey

Book Club
Library
Mrs Bingham

Lower School Band

Room 27

Mr Redgrave

Y11 D&T Int
Rm 35
Mr Wakefield

Project Club
Rm 45

Thursday

***Beauty & the Beast Rehearsals**

Gardening Club
Rm 43
Mrs Pates

Art Club
Room 28
Miss Scothorn

Textiles Club
Room 36
Miss Donkin

Starts 17/9
(Limited places)

STEM Club
Room 38
Dr Albon

Starts 23/9

Y11 English Rev
Power & Conflict
Room 12

Mrs Gallacher

* Please see Performing Arts notice board for details

Undertsanding our attendance

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Any questions, email attendance@wgs.derbyshire.sch.uk



95%+

Well done!

Attendance that is 95% and above is our target for all our students. The student is attending school regularly and is on track with their learning. No immediate action needed.

Improvement needed

This level of attendance can begin to impact academic progress. Our attendance officer may monitor attendance more closely, discuss reasons for absence with the student and family, and provide support if needed.

90-94%

below 90%

Cause for concern

The Department of Education classes anyone below 90% attendance as a persistent absentee. When this is the case, we will reach out to you to see how we can support you and your child and addressing any concerns you or they may have.

Derbyshire Family Health Service

UI	L351
Version	1
Approved	23/4/25
Review by	23/4/27

NHS Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust

Public health nurse contact details

Whether your child or young person is in school or home educated, we can support with...

- Continence
- Sleep
- Healthy lifestyles
- Puberty
- Anxiety
- Mental health
- Relationships
- And much more

For parents/carers of 5-19 year olds in Derbyshire text us on 07312 263744

Available Monday to Friday 9am-4:30pm (except bank holidays)

We can also support young people aged 11-19 with all of the above as well as sexual health, drugs and alcohol support.

Young people aged 11-19 years in Derbyshire can text us on 07507 330025

Available Monday to Friday 9am-4:30pm (except bank holidays)

derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk

DerbysFamilyHealth