



11th September 2026

Welcome Back!

I hope all of our students, parents and carers had an enjoyable and restful summer break. It has been a fantastic start to the new academic year and I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our students and families.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you throughout the year and celebrating the many successes that lie ahead.

A Warm Welcome

A particular welcome goes to our new Year 7 and Year 12 students as they begin their Chellaston Academy journey. It has been wonderful to see how quickly they have settled into school life. I would also like to welcome back all of our returning students. The school has been full of energy, positivity and a readiness to learn.

GCSE & Post-16 Examination Results

Over the summer, we were also delighted to celebrate another set of excellent GCSE and Post-16 examination results. These outcomes are a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our students, staff and families, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.

Our Core Values

Throughout our welcome assemblies, we have reminded students of the importance of our core values of Integrity, Care and Excellence, alongside our expectations around attendance, punctuality, respect and ambition. We have also encouraged students to dream big, have high ambitions for their future, work hard and be kind to one another. These simple messages are at the heart of what we want every young person at Chellaston Academy to embody each day.

Excellent attendance remains one of the biggest factors in a student's success, and we appreciate the support of parents and carers in ensuring students attend every day and arrive on time, ready to learn.

Attendance

At Chellaston Academy, we believe that good attendance supports our school vision of working with Integrity, Care and Excellence. We strive to provide a welcoming, caring environment where every member of our school community is treated with unconditional positive regard. We want every child to feel that school is a place where they are known, valued, safe, connected and able to succeed.

Our approach to attendance is therefore one of partnership and support. We want to work with families to understand any barriers to attendance and help overcome them. At the same time, regular attendance is a legal responsibility and an important part of ensuring that every child receives the education to which they are entitled. The Department for Education's current statutory guidance, Working Together to Improve School Attendance, makes clear that attendance is everyone's responsibility and that schools, families and wider services should work together to improve attendance.

For further information on the Academy's policy and procedure please click here- [Attendance - Chellaston Academy](#)

Mobile Phones

We would like to remind families of our expectations regarding mobile phones. Students should have their phones switched off and stored at the bottom of their bags throughout the school day. This helps us maintain a calm, purposeful learning environment where students can focus fully on their education.



"Arbor" Management Information System

We are also pleased to share that we will soon be moving from Go4Schools to Arbor as our main Management Information System. This transition will improve communication and provide a more streamlined experience for parents, carers and students. Further information will be shared in the coming weeks.



Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Supporting your child's return to secondary school

Going back to school after the summer is more than just returning to the classroom. Young people may be adjusting to new routines, changes in friendships, different teachers and higher expectations. They may also feel pressure to fit in and keep up, especially when group chats and social media make it easy to compare themselves to others. It's common to feel a mix of excitement and worry. These feelings might show up as irritability, tiredness, reluctance to talk or changes in behaviour. Respond with patience, reassurance and support.

A focus on digital wellbeing

During the summer, many children spend more time on their devices. As school routines return, it can be helpful to review expectations and find a healthy balance.

Things to consider:

- Keep phones out of the bedroom, especially during homework time and at night.
- Talk about group chats and social media — help them manage upsetting messages and know when to leave conversations.
- Agree a balance between screen time, schoolwork, social time and other activities.
- Remind them it's okay to ask for help if something online makes them feel worried or uncomfortable.

For further support with safeguarding and or wellbeing please click here- [Safeguarding - Chellaston Academy](#).

5 ways to make the return to school easier

Small changes can make a big difference. Here are some simple ideas to help your child feel more confident as they settle back into school.

1

Rebuild routines

Gradually get back into bedtime and morning routines. A consistent routine helps reduce stress and makes the first few weeks feel more manageable.



2

Keep conversations open

Take time to check in regularly. Try to listen more than you ask questions – casual chats often work best.



3

Focus on effort, not perfection

Praise your child's effort, resilience and positive attitude. Remind them that it's normal for things to feel challenging at first.



4

Support healthy technology use

Use this time to reset expectations around phones, social media and screen time. Agree some boundaries together.



5

Stay curious

If your child seems quieter than usual, gently let them know you're there. Sometimes a calm "How are you feeling?" can open the door.



Nut Free School

As we start a brand new term we'd like to remind parents and students that we are a NUT FREE school. This includes nut based sandwich spreads and chocolate bars.



Year 7 Event

As Year 7 parents may recall from earlier this summer we wrote to you to share that we are extremely excited to offer a Teambuilding, Wellbeing and 'friendship making' opportunity in September. We have organised for the company 'WiseUp' to come and deliver a full day of activities on site on September 25th.

You can find out more about the company here: [Onsite Team Building for Schools | Enrichment & Transition | WiseUp UK](#)

We take Personal Development and enrichment really seriously at Chellaston and know that great outcomes come from happy and connected students. Due to the costs associated with residential opportunities and in order to provide an offer to **all** students, the company come onsite to deliver an enriching experience at school itself.

The cost per pupil is £18 and we'd like as many pupils involved as possible - hopefully the whole year group! We are sorry to have to charge for this opportunity but also hope that you can see our rationale means that this costs families less than a traditional trip or residential. We also understand the costs around a summer holiday and would like to request that if your child would like to take part then **the money should be paid by September 21st. This should be paid on Parent Pay.**

Homework

As we begin a new academic year at Chellaston Academy, we are reviewing our approach to homework across the school to ensure it effectively consolidates and extends pupils' learning. During this review period, the following homework timetable will be in place.

Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4	Key Stage 5
Weekly: • Sparx Reader - 30 minutes • Sparx Maths – 30 minutes • Sparx Science – 30 minutes Week A: • History • MFL • Art • Music • Computing Week B: • Geography • Technology • Drama • Philosophy • English	Weekly: • Sparx Maths – 45 minutes • Sparx Science – 45 minutes • English – 45 minutes Week A: • Block 1 • Philosophy Week B: • Block 2 • Block 3	<i>Key Stage 5 students are expected to undertake approximately 10 hours of study per subject each week, including both timetabled study periods and independent work outside lessons.</i>

Homework assignments will continue to be set on Firefly. To encourage homework completion, pupils will continue to receive **10 ICE points** for every piece of homework completed on time.

Where homework is not submitted by the deadline, and there are no extenuating circumstances, pupils will be given a one-day extension and **5 ICE points will be deducted**. If the homework remains incomplete after the extension period, a further **10 ICE points will be deducted**, and pupils may be issued with a departmental detention to enable them to complete the missing work.

SEND Contact Details

If you have any queries regarding SEND students the best way to contact them is send@chellaston.derby.sch.uk

Sparx Science

After the fabulous Science results in the Summer we are continuing to use the Sparx Science to compliment our KS3 and KS4 curriculum as a platform for home learning. For new parents and students, Sparx Science is an innovative home learning platform designed to support students in mastering key science concepts through engaging, interactive practice. Tailored to the UK curriculum, Sparx offers personalised learning pathways that adapt to each child's progress, helping them build confidence and deepen their understanding across biology, chemistry, physics with additional focus on scientific skills using in the classroom during practical investigations. Sparx uses clear explanations, targeted questions, and real-time feedback, it empowers parents to stay involved in their child's education while making science enjoyable and accessible from home. It's a smart way to reinforce classroom learning and encourage independent study in a structured, supportive environment.

Students will be set a task on Firefly to login to Sparx Science in the next few days with Home learning tasks **starting on Wednesday 16th September**. The home learning tasks will continue to be set on a weekly basis starting on a Wednesday with the deadline being 8pm Tuesday.

Parents/guardians will be sent weekly emails from Sparx to inform them how students are doing with the completion of tasks. Teachers will then be using these tasks within lessons to address any areas of development so it is really important that students complete the tasks set.

We will issue certificates this year for completion and there will also be rewards given to the students who are top of the leader boards.

We also want to congratulate the Year 10 students who completed their Sparx Science Summer tasks. I have a number of Amazon vouchers that will be randomly awarded to those students who completed the tasks set. Well done!



Letter of Commendation for Year 9 student

We are incredibly proud of all of our students here at Chellaston Academy and it is always lovely to receive commendation from members of the public. We were especially delighted to receive the letter below to commend Robin S in Year 9 for his engagement with a Mr Amitage from the Royal Mail when he visited the Staffordshire Regiment Museum over the summer holidays. Well done Robin, we were so proud to receive this.



Year 6 Open Evening - Save the Date



5pm presentation:

<https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/t-oevyzzg>

6pm presentation:

<https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/t-qmzpyxv>

There are 300 slots available for each presentation and in theory people can book a maximum of 3 each.

FSM - Checking your eligibility



Please be aware to qualify for **Free School Meals (FSM)** this academic year, you **must** check your eligibility using our online checker via this link.

[Online FSM Application](#)

Unfortunately, if an eligibility check is not complete, or if the check indicates that you are no longer eligible, you will no longer be able to claim a FSM.

Dates for your diary

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

25th September - Year 7 Team Building Event

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

14th October - Flu vaccine - Years 7-9

16th October - Flu vaccine - Years 10-11

26th October - Break up for half term

2nd November - Return to school

27th November - Inset Day

10th December - Year 11 Parents evening

18th December - Break up for Christmas break

Kind regards,

Mr. D Leese
Headteacher