

CHELLASTON ACADEMY

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Headteacher: Mr D Leese



18th September 2026

Dear Parent/ Carer, Staff & Students,

It has been another busy and positive week at Chellaston, with lots happening across the Academy. It has been great to see students continuing to settle into the new academic year and demonstrating our values of Integrity, Care and Excellence and we wish you a lovely weekend.

Chellaston Academy Standards

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, particularly around attendance, punctuality and our expectations regarding mobile phones.

Wise Up Team Building Day - Year 7

A final reminder that all year 7s are invited to join our team building day on September 25th. We have over three quarters of the year group ready to challenge themselves and have a lot of fun! Payment deadline is Monday 21st September on Parent pay. On the day itself all pupils should be in non uniform wearing comfortable clothes and be prepared for any weather we may get. The events and activities are outside.

Macmillan coffee morning

Also on September 25th we are proud to be having a staff coffee morning and student cake sale to fundraise for an incredibly important charity. Pupils may wish to bring in a small amount of cash to be able to purchase treats and goodies.



**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Year 6 Open Evening

Next week we will be holding our Open Evening, and we look forward to welcoming prospective students and families into school. Thank you in advance to all the students and staff who will help showcase our fantastic school community.



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Tapestry Learning Partnership - a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England & Wales.
Company number: 04544722. Registered office: Sherwood Rise, Nottingham Road, Nottingham NG7 7AR.

Year 6 parents can book a place here - [Year 6 Open Evening - 2026 - Chellaston Academy](#)

Information for Year 7 Parents and Parents of New Starters

Information on how to log in to Firefly was sent to all Year 7 parents on Thursday 17 September. If your child is a new starter in another year group, this information will be sent to you shortly.

During their ICT lessons, Year 7 pupils will be shown how to access their **school email, Firefly, Teams and OneDrive accounts**. In **English, Mathematics and Science** lessons, pupils will also be shown how to access **Sparx**.

Please note that Sparx does not currently offer a parent login. However, parents will receive email notifications from Sparx regarding their child's homework completion and progress.



Arbor



Information for ALL parents regarding our School Platforms

We are aware that, over the past two weeks, a number of queries have been raised regarding the digital platforms used at Chellaston Academy. We hope the information below helps to clarify the purpose of each platform and our plans moving forward.

1. Arbor

During the 2026-27 academic year, we are transitioning from Go4Schools to Arbor. As you will appreciate, the

implementation of any new system can involve some initial challenges. However, we are working hard to resolve these and ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible.

You will shortly receive information explaining how to access the **Arbor Parent App**. Through the app, you will be able to view your child's timetable, attendance record and behaviour points.

2. Firefly

Firefly is currently our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Pupils use Firefly to access homework tasks and additional curriculum resources, particularly at Key Stages 4 and 5.

From the 2027-28 academic year, homework will be managed through Arbor. As a result, Firefly will no longer be used, helping to reduce the number of platforms that pupils and parents need to access.

3. ParentPay

ParentPay is used for payments relating to school trips, replacement planners and lanyards, as well as topping up student meal accounts.

We are hopeful that, during the next academic year, these services will move to Arbor Payments, further reducing the number of platforms used by the school.

4. Sparx Maths, Sparx Science and Sparx Reader

Sparx Maths and **Sparx Science** are online learning platforms used by pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4 to complete homework. The platforms adapt the questions presented to pupils based on their responses, allowing learning to be tailored to individual levels of knowledge and understanding.

Sparx Reader is designed to develop independent reading habits while assessing reading comprehension as pupils progress through texts.

Parents do not have direct access to Sparx; however, progress emails are sent regularly to provide updates on your child's engagement and performance. Pupils can access Sparx through Microsoft Single Sign-On using their school email address and password.

We appreciate that there are currently a number of platforms in use and understand that this can sometimes feel overwhelming. We very much see 2026-27 as a transition year as we move towards Arbor becoming our central platform. Our aim is for Arbor to become the primary source of information for parents, bringing together key features such as attendance, behaviour, assessment information, club participation and payments in one place. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are committed to resolving any issues quickly and ensuring that our systems are as accessible and user-friendly as possible.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing Assemblies

This week, all students had a safeguarding and wellbeing assembly. The session provided an opportunity to remind students about the importance of keeping themselves and others safe, looking after their wellbeing, and knowing who they can turn to if they have a worry or concern. We reinforced the message that there is always someone they can talk to and that asking for help is an important part of looking after themselves and others. The assembly was a positive opportunity to remind students of the support available to them within our school community.

For anymore information or support, please click on the following links -

[Safeguarding - Chellaston Academy](#),

[Supporting Your Wellbeing and Mental Health — Chellaston Academy](#).



Melbourne Wakes - Bus Diversions

In preparation for the Melbourne Wakes this year, we will need to agree diversions for affected services to Chellaston Academy.

The Wakes will take place from ***Tuesday 6th October until Monday 12th October*** which means a section of Castle Street will not be accessible to traffic. Based on previous diversions, the routes for services will be:

Service 205 (Bagnalls)

Will operate along Packhorse Road and divert via Queensway to Derby Road where it will pick up the normal route.

Service 206 (Harpurs)

Will be unaffected and will operate its normal route.

Service 207 (Harpurs)

Will operate along Station Road and divert onto Packhorse Road and Queensway to Derby Road where it will pick up the normal route.

Service 208 (Hawkes)

Will operate along Packhorse Road and divert via Queensway to Derby Road where it will pick up the normal route.

Service 209 (Linburg)

Will be unaffected and will operate its normal route.

Normal routes will resume from ***Monday afternoon 13th October***.



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

25th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning (see above)

30th September - Year 10 Work Experience Information evening - 6pm

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

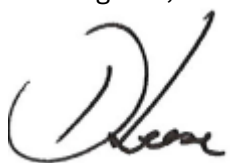
2nd November - Return to school

27th November - Inset Day

10th December - Year 11 Parents evening

18th December - Break up for Christmas break

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Leese', written in a cursive style.

Mr. D Leese
Headteacher