

18th December 2025

End of Autumn Term 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of what has been another busy term, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some important updates before the academy closes its gates for the Christmas holidays.

Last Day Arrangements

Please be aware that Friday 19th December is a non-uniform day and students will finish at 12pm (not the usual finish time of 1.10pm). All students will be offered lunch on the last day regardless of the earlier finish time.

DPA Values

Determination, Pride and Ambition are fundamental to everything we do at DPA. This term we have seen numerous students rewarded weekly for demonstrating these values throughout the school week. Certificates are presented to students in their reflection time on a Friday, when we celebrate those students who have demonstrated positive attitudes and behaviour to learning, or a positive contribution to the academy. Linked to this, I want to offer my congratulations to the three students who have achieved the most DPA values points this half term. They will be treated to breakfast on Friday morning and will receive a voucher to spend across a range of different shops and restaurants.

Student Reports

You should have received your child's school report. If you would like to discuss anything within the reports, please contact your child's form tutor or alternatively contact the school reception, and they will guide you to the relevant member of staff to answer your query.

Attendance

Overall school attendance remains positive, and we are well above the national average for similar schools around the country. An area of focus continues to be punctuality. Again, we ask for your support in working together to support our pupils getting to school on time. We know the importance of routines and how vital the pastoral support that we can offer to pupils during form time is to them. Unfortunately, some students are missing out on this due to the time they are arriving to school.



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Enrichment

This half-term, pupils have benefited from valuable learning experiences beyond the classroom, helping to build confidence, curiosity and teamwork. Visits to the Royal Armouries in Leeds and the National Memorial Arboretum allowed pupils to deepen their historical understanding and reflect on important themes of heritage and remembrance.

Pupils have also taken part in padel tennis, golf and ice skating in order to develop physical fitness, resilience and cooperation while trying something new. These experiences have been a fantastic way to support both personal development and wellbeing.

Looking ahead to next half-term, we are excited to offer another varied programme of enrichment activities. Planned visits include Alter Rock, the Sealife Centre, The Galleries of Justice and The Football Yard. We look forward to another engaging and rewarding half-term for our pupils as part of our enrichment curriculum.

MP Visit

We were delighted to welcome Baggy Shanker, Labour (Co-op) MP for Derby South, to Derby Pride Academy. Students had the fantastic opportunity to meet him and ask their own questions about life as an MP and his plans for Derby.

Our students impressed Baggy with their thoughtful questions, covering topics such as how he can help young people in Derby, what he enjoys about his job, and how he plans to make schools better. It was a great chance for students to learn more about politics and how decisions are made that affect their community.

The visit was a brilliant experience, and Baggy praised the students for their curiosity and confidence. We are proud of how engaged they were and look forward to more opportunities like this in the future!



Social Media

Please follow Derby Pride Academy on our social media platforms on Facebook and Instagram (@derbypride_academy), where we regularly post updates of our students' work and enrichment activities.

Arbor

As you are aware, Arbor is our main method of communication. Please can we ask all parents/guardians to download the Arbor Parent App to your smart phone and contact reception if you require any support with this platform.

Key Dates

Friday 19 th December	Students break up for Christmas at 12pm
Monday 5 th January	INSET Day (school closed for students)
Tuesday 6 th January	Students return to DPA
Friday 13 th February	Students break up for half term
Monday 23 rd February	Students return to DPA

Please keep an eye on our website and social media accounts for updates and key dates.

A Final Word

Thank you for your continued support throughout what has been a long but successful term. It remains a privilege to lead such a fantastic and caring school. I hope you and your families have a fantastic Christmas break and I wish you all a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing students return on Tuesday 6th January.

Merry Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Mark Hatton
Headteacher

