



Welcome to your Whispers
of news and events...

18.09.26

Top Weekly Reward Points

Year 7	7TTE	50.4
Year 8	8EED	57.1
Year 9	9NKE	48.4
Year 10	10GWE	50.0
Year 1	11NFR	53.4

Star Students this week

Olivia G Y7

Jacob S Y9

Beyond The Classroom



This week, we caught up with Esme in Year 8, who was happily lost in the world of sketching.

Esme is rarely without her sketchbook, carrying it with her most of the time, so we were delighted to discover that she had just started a brand-new one — and she was very proud to show it off!

This is already the latest in a collection of sketchbooks that Esme has filled with some fantastic drawings. Her work covers a wonderful range of subjects, including animals, roses, fruit, sweets and people, with an impressive eye for detail.

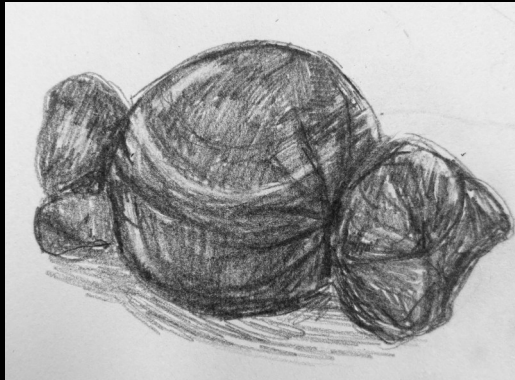
When asked what drives her passion for drawing, Esme explained that she has simply always enjoyed it. When she has some free time, she naturally turns to her sketchbook. Drawing is her comfort place — something she can immerse herself in and really enjoy. It's clear that she gets a great deal from being creative and can happily spend hours bringing the things around her to life on the page.

At the weekend alone, Esme completed around four sketches, including a girl, an owl, a bunny and a sweet. The sweet was inspired simply by spotting a picture of one and deciding it would make an interesting subject — a lovely example of how Esme finds inspiration in the world around her.

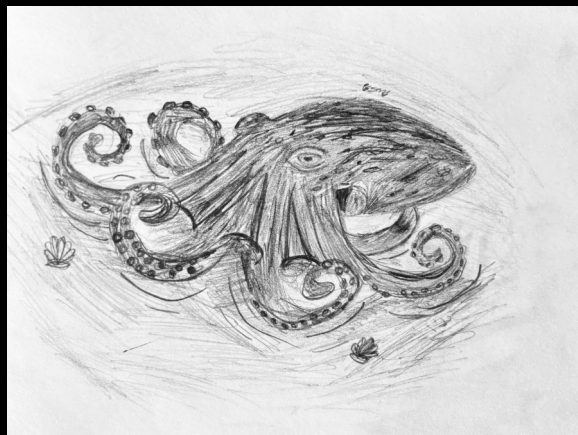
With such enthusiasm, creativity and attention to detail at such a young age, it's exciting to think about where Esme's artistic talents might take her. When asked about the future, she said she could see herself becoming an artist or a dance teacher.

Whatever path she chooses, we are sure her creativity and determination will take her far.

Keep sketching, Esme — we can't wait to see what fills the next sketchbook!



While chatting with Esme, she also revealed she enjoyed crochet, and produced this gorgeous bunny from her bag!





Football Fever Returns!

This week saw the welcome return of many of our after-school clubs, and on Monday the school field was certainly the place to be!

With the sunshine making an appearance between the clouds, the field was alive with football as students from across the year groups took to the pitch. We had Year 9 and 10 girls enjoying their session with Miss Kemp, Year 8 boys with Mr Kingham, Year 10 and 11 boys with Mr Spacey, and Year 9 with Mr Williamson.

It was fantastic to see so many students getting involved, enjoying themselves and showing their enthusiasm for the sport. With pitches spread across the field and footballs flying in every direction, there was certainly plenty of energy on display!







The Sounds of Music!

We caught up with the Upper School Band this week — although, in truth, we heard them before we saw them! The sound of Bruno Mars echoing through the corridors drew us towards the Music Room, where a fantastic group of students were busy sharing ideas and putting together a set list for forthcoming events.

Even in these very early stages, it was clear that this is a group with plenty of enthusiasm, creativity and musical ambition. The set list is already shaping up to be a wonderfully eclectic mix, spanning generations from old favourites to more contemporary tracks.

There was a real buzz in the room, with so many students keen to get involved and share their love of music. Despite being the beginning of the new school year, the band already had a remarkably professional feel — and it was quite phenomenal to see so many students coming together with such energy and enthusiasm.

We are very much looking forward to seeing how the Upper School Band develops. With the guidance of marvellous music teacher, Mr Redgrave, we have a feeling there are some very musical moments ahead!

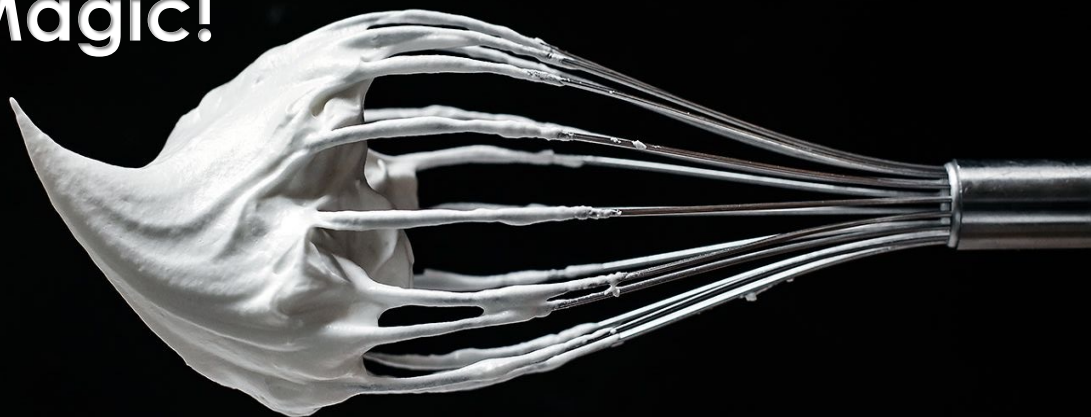




Upper School Band Sharing Music Ideas



Year 11 Hospitality & Catering: Meringue Magic!



Our Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students have been putting their skills to the test this week, creating and presenting a stunning selection of meringues using a range of professional presentation techniques.

The results have been truly incredible! Not only have the students demonstrated excellent technical skills, but their attention to detail and flair for presentation have taken their meringues to another level. Some of these creations wouldn't look out of place on the dessert menu of a Michelin-starred restaurant!

The activity forms an important part of the students' preparation for their practical GCSE examinations next year, giving them valuable experience in creating dishes that are not only delicious, but also visually impressive and professionally presented.

A huge well done and congratulations to all of our Year 11 students — your creativity, precision and hard work have certainly paid off. Mrs Bradbury is extremely impressed with the results and is already looking forward to seeing what you produce next!

We think it's safe to say that these students have really whisked their way to success!







EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Saturday 26 September 2026

Next week we are celebrating!

Look out for language themed activities, challenges, celebrations and fun as we build up to European Day of Languages.

Celebrating languages . Celebrating cultures . Celebrating diversity





Y11 Independent Study Session

We were incredibly proud to welcome over 30 Year 11 students to our after-school independent study session on Wednesday.

It was fantastic to see such a positive turnout, with students making excellent use of the time to focus on their studies. There was a real sense of purpose and collaboration as students supported one another with homework, past exam papers, research, revising key topics and completing study booklets.

It was particularly lovely to see students working independently while also encouraging and helping their peers. Sessions like this provide a valuable opportunity for our Year 11 students to build their confidence, develop effective study habits and make the most of the time available to prepare for their upcoming examinations.

A huge well done to everyone who attended — we were so impressed with your commitment and enthusiasm! We look forward to welcoming you all back for our next session on Wednesday. Keep up the fantastic work, Year 11!





Powering For Derbyshire

This week, we checked in with Kyrie in Year 9, who has been celebrating a fantastic sporting achievement!

Over the weekend, Kyrie proudly represented Derbyshire at the Inter Counties Athletic Championships, competing in the shot put. She produced an excellent performance, finishing 1st in the B string shot put and 2nd overall for Derbyshire — a brilliant result!

Shot put requires a combination of strength, technique, focus and explosive power, and Kyrie's success is a real testament to her determination and commitment to training. She works incredibly hard, following a demanding training regime most evenings in Sheffield to continually develop her skills and performance.

A huge well done to Kyrie — her dedication is clearly paying off, and we are incredibly proud of her achievement!

Mr Ashworth's Brain Teaser

It's the name of a type of fish
That's packed in a can so tight
It sounds like the name of someone
Who makes a piano sound right.

What is it?



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:

Y7 James H

Q: You buy me to eat,
but never eat me.

What am I?

A: Cutlery





Whittington Green School

Year 5 and Year 6



OPEN

EVENING

Tuesday 22nd September 2026 from 4:30pm - 7:00pm

Presentation in the Hall

5.30pm and 6.30pm

Year 5 and Year 6 students and their parents/carers are invited to come along to Whittington Green School to experience our super facilities and resources.

There will be opportunities to talk to our staff and students as they proudly showcase their work.

S41 9LG * 01246 450825 * info@wgs.derbyshire.sch.uk * www.wgs.derbyshire.sch.uk



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**

Y9+10 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

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

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

Y11 English Revision Sessions

AQA Power and Conflict Poetry

Revision timetable – Autumn Term

Thursdays, 3:10pm – 3:55pm



Date	Poem	Teacher leading the session / Room
24th September	Remains	
1st October	War Photographer	
8th October	Bayonet Charge	
15th October	Kamikaze	
22nd October	Poppies	
5th November	Charge of the Light Brigade	
12th November	Exposure	

Session aims:

To cover the content of the poem so you have a basic understanding of the poem and explore key quotes needed for the exam. Ideal for those who were absent for the teaching of a poem.

You must bring your anthology.

Additional revision:

For those who feel secure with the poem, there will be a copy of a different exam question each week so you have an opportunity to practice application of knowledge.

Whilst priority will be given to Y11 students, the sessions will also be open to Y10 if you have missed the teaching of a particular poem.

WHITTINGTON GREEN SCHOOL

Instrument Lessons

AVAILABLE
FOR **ALL**
YEAR
GROUPS!

PLAY IT. LEARN IT. LOVE IT.

PIANO
& KEYBOARD

SINGING

GUITAR

BASS
GUITAR

UKULELE

DRUMS

BRAND NEW!
DJing!

LEARN A NEW SKILL • BUILD CONFIDENCE
HAVE FUN • EXPRESS YOURSELF

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED,
SEE MRS PETTIT
IN MUSIC

FOR MORE DETAILS

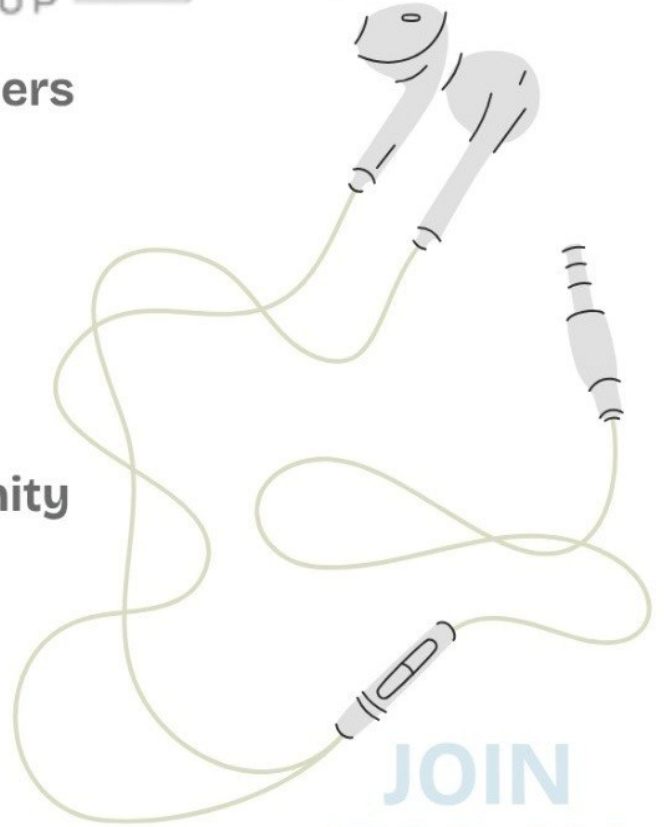


EMPOWER, INSPIRE, TRANSFORM

Every Monday @Duckmanton Miners
Welfare, S44 5ER
4:30PM-6:30PM

Every Tuesday @CDC Cosy Hub,
Burns Close, S41 2SW
4:30pm-6:30pm

Every Wednesday @CDC Community
Hub, Bonsall Court, Newbold, S41
8AW
4:30pm-6:30pm



JOIN
TODAY

YOUTH

Club

Age 8+

Come along and join in our CDC youth club!
We offer a range of activities including crafts, sports,
gaming and more!
We also provide a free meal at each session so what
are you wanting for!



youth@cdchesterfield.com

Polite Reminder: Drop-Off & Pick-up Arrangements

For the health, safety, and welfare of our students, we kindly remind all parents and carers not to use the front entrance and car park area to drop off or pick up children.



WHITTINGTON
GREEN SCHOOL

Aim Higher

YOUR FUTURE *Starts Here*

Explore your options.
Discover your path.
Achieve your potential.



EXPLORE
your options



DISCOVER
your passions



PREPARE
for success



ACHIEVE
your goals



Aim Higher

YOUR FUTURE. YOUR CHOICES.
YOUR SUCCESS.

Careers



Whittington Green School

Barber

Job of the
Week

A Barber is a Men's hairdresser. Barbers cut, trim and style customers' hair, beards and moustaches.

You may be able to start work as a trainee barber in a barbershop and learn on the job. Your employer would expect you to take a part-time course to get qualifications, either at a college or in their own training school if they have one.

Skills and knowledge

You will need:

- Customer service skills
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail
- Active listening skills
- The ability to work well with your hands
- Sensitivity and understanding
- The ability to work well with others
- The ability to work on your own
- Excellent verbal communication skills
- To be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device



As a barber, you might do the following as part of your daily routine:

- Welcome customers and find out what they want
- Give advice to customers on hairstyles and grooming
- Cut and style hair
- Shave, trim and shape beards and moustaches
- Provide scalp, face and neck massages
- Clean and sterilise equipment, like combs, razors and clippers
- Take payments, keep records and make appointments
- Keep up to date with new styles and techniques

Working Hours

- ☐ 37 – 40 hours a week
- ☐ You could work evenings and weekends on a rota
- ☐ You may be self-employed and therefore can set your own working hours.

Qualifications

You will usually need:

2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3, or equivalent, for a level 2 course.

4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, for a level 3 course.

Salary

£15,000 - £25,000 depending on experience.

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

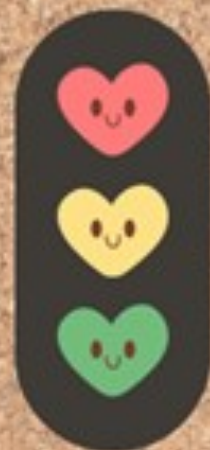


Post-16 Open Evenings

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

Understanding 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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [insert NC courses I have written].



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.09.2026

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