



Welcome to your Whispers
of news and events...

25.09.26

Top Weekly Reward Points

Year 7	7CRH	52.5
Year 8	8NWA	55.1
Year 9	9SWK	46.8
Year 10	10SPA	45.8
Year 1	11PAS	51.1

Star Students this week

Kacee J Y11

Toby L Y8

Y5 & Y6 Open Evening A Truly Tremendous Turnout!

On what felt like a real summer's evening in late September, we were graced with beautiful weather, which only added to the superb atmosphere as families began arriving to our Open Evening. From the very first steps inside, visitors were immersed in the sights, sounds and, quite literally, the smells of school life! The wonderful aromas drifting from the kitchen were hard to resist, as families were invited to sample some of the delicious food served in school. The samples proved extremely popular, with plenty of enthusiastic tasters discovering that school lunches can be something to look forward to!

There was plenty to see and do across the school, with every department showcasing what makes learning with us such an exciting experience.



Headteacher, Chris Vallance with
our Head Girl and Head Boy

Our Dance Studio was full of energy, with some fantastic performances and opportunities for our visitors to see our dancers in action. Over in Drama, families were encouraged to get involved in interactive activities, giving our younger visitors the chance to experience just how much fun learning can be when you become part of the action.

The Music Department was also buzzing, with instruments to explore and opportunities for budding musicians to have a go themselves. Our staff were on hand to share their enthusiasm, knowledge and expertise, giving families a real insight into the opportunities available to our students.



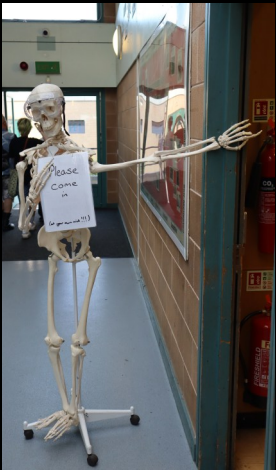
Science, as always, proved to be a major attraction! There was plenty of excitement as visitors explored practical activities, experimented with colours and pH, and even got to play with fire — quite literally! Our scientists were also on hand to demonstrate the fascinating world of physics, chemistry and biology, including opportunities to investigate the microscopic world.

They weren't the only specialist subjects that were showcasing the school. History, Geography, Maths, English, Child Development, Construction, Art and Design Technology all offered engaging, hands-on activities, allowing our visitors to see that learning at our school is about much more than simply sitting in a classroom.



A particular highlight of the evening was the presentation from our Headteacher, Chris Vallance, alongside our Head Boy and Head Girl. They spoke with confidence and warmth, giving our visitors a real sense of what life is like as part of our school community. They certainly captivated the audience and provided a wonderful reminder that our students themselves are at the very heart of everything we do.

Of course, perhaps the most important visitors of the evening were the children themselves. We loved hearing their reactions as they explored the school, tried new things, tasted the food and imagined what their own secondary school journey might look like.

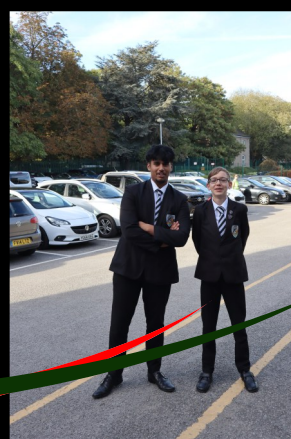
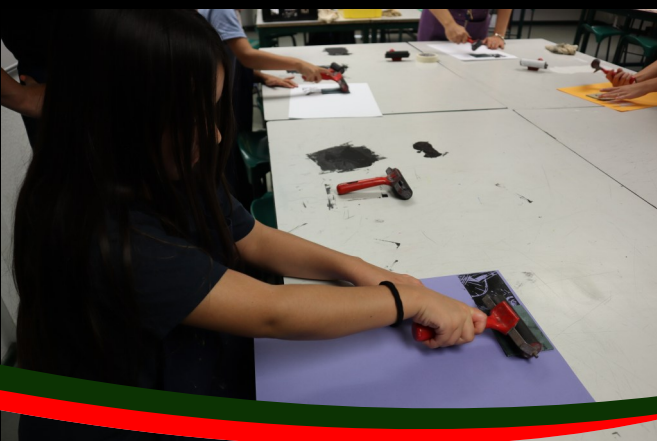


It was fantastic to see so many smiling faces, curious minds and excited families filling our school.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the evening such a success — our staff, students and everyone behind the scenes who worked so hard to showcase our school at its very best.

And to all the families who joined us: thank you for spending your evening with us. We hope you enjoyed your visit as much as we enjoyed welcoming you.

We look forward to seeing many of those familiar faces again in the future and, hopefully, welcoming our next generation of students into the Whittington Green family!





Missed Our Open Evening?

Additional School Tours at Whittington Green School

If you couldn't make our Open Evening or would like a second look around, we will be offering additional opportunities for guided tours.

Tour dates will be announced soon!

Keep an eye on our social media and school website for dates and booking information.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Fresh Air & Footsteps

Whole School Sponsored Walk

The whole school came together for our annual sponsored walk, raising vital funds to support our fitness suite and help us purchase some much-needed new equipment. With 700 students taking part, it was quite a sight to see the school setting off together!

Led out by our Year 11 students, the walk saw each year group make its way from school in Old Whittington towards Poolsbrook Country Park, following the canal path and enjoying the open air along the way. And what a wonderful atmosphere there was.



Yes, it was a sponsored walk, but it was so much more than that. It was an opportunity to step outside the classroom, enjoy some fresh air, spend time amongst nature and, perhaps most importantly, simply talk.

Students walked alongside people they might not normally spend time with, friendships were formed and strengthened, and the camaraderie between year groups was fantastic to see. Staff and students chatted together, shared a few laughs and enjoyed the chance to see a different side of one another.

The route itself gave us plenty to enjoy, too. There was an abundance of Flora and Fauna to discover, set against a backdrop of beautiful and everchanging scenery.

Reaching Poolsbrook Country Park provided a welcome opportunity to relax, refuel and enjoy a well-earned rest.

It was quite spectacular to see hundreds of our students spread out across the park, enjoying themselves, relaxing, chatting, laughing and generally making the most of the opportunity to be together outside school. They were absolutely wonderful — and a real credit to the school.





Of course, there was still the small matter of getting back!

The return journey was always going to be the awkward bit after all those miles, but somehow our students seemed to have discovered a second wind. Despite the distance already covered, there was still plenty of energy, conversation and laughter as everyone made their way back to school.

And, as if the weather had been specially arranged for us, we managed to complete the entire walk before the rain arrived. There had been the threat of drizzle, but thankfully the clouds waited patiently until we were safely back at school before giving us a very gentle reminder that autumn is on its way!





Meet The Headteacher

An opportunity for current parents and carers to meet Chris Vallance

Wednesday 30 September 2026

Choose a time to join us: 5:15 – 5:45 pm or 6:30 – 7:00 pm

There will be a short presentation, followed by an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

'I very much look forward to meeting as many parents and carers as possible and beginning a positive partnership as we work together for the benefit of the fantastic young people of our school.'

Headteacher, Chris Vallance

We hope to see you there!



Green Fingers GARDENING CLUB

Every Thursday
After School
in Room 43
with Mrs. Pates

♡ Gardening for the Soul ♡

*Come along, potter, chat,
have a cuppa and make
new friends.*

We have had a fantastic donation
of new gardening equipment this year,
so we are raring to go and ready to
transform the quad into a welcoming,
friendly space.

Come and join in the
Green Fingers Gardening Club
every Thursday after school,
weather permitting.



Pushing the Limits:

40 Miles of Determination

Mr Stones showed exactly what resilience looks like last weekend...

'This past weekend, I took my passion for running further and attempted my first ultra-marathon. This consisted of timed 4 mile loops that started at 11am on Saturday, the first time you didn't make the start line by the next hour starting, you were out. EG – Start at 11, you must be back before 12 or you're done!

The race itself was in the Wyre Forest in Birmingham and was a very hilly course with over 200 metres of elevation gain per lap. I eventually tapped out after 10 loops reaching a total of 40 miles in total, finishing in darkness. This included over 2000m of elevation over the 67km. Had I prepared and brought more food, a few more laps could have been possible, but my Tangfastics had ran out and so had my legs! A great (albeit strange!) way to spend a weekend!

Mr Stones



Workbench Wonders

With Mr Wakefield

A celebration of
iconic design...

The LEGO Brick

The LEGO brick proves that the simplest ideas are often the best. With just one small piece, children can build anything they can imagine, from castles and racing cars to entire fantasy worlds.



Unlike many toys that tell you what to make, LEGO gives you the freedom to create your own ideas, solve problems and think like a designer. More than 60 years after it was first introduced, the LEGO brick remains one of the world's most iconic designs because one simple brick can lead to unlimited creativity.

Got a nomination?

What product, invention or design do you think deserves to be a Workbench Wonder? Send your suggestions to Mr Wakefield and your idea could feature in the next newsletter.

Mr Ashworth's Brain Teaser

Which unusual word has
seven letters,
three of which are 'U'?



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 Freddie S

Q 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.

A: Tuna



Meet Our Educational Psychologist



We are delighted to introduce Nuala, our Educational Psychologist, who will be working with our school over the coming weeks.

We are pleased to welcome her to our school community and look forward to introducing her to our students parents and staff.

Parents and carers — watch this space! We will be sharing more information about Nuala and her work with the school in due course.

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

Firefighter

Firefighters respond to emergency call outs, search and rescue incidents and road traffic accidents. They also give advice on fire safety.

Job of the Week



Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

- knowledge of public safety and security
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- excellent verbal communication skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- sensitivity and understanding
- the ability to work well with others
- physical fitness and endurance
- knowledge of training and how to present information
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

Salary - £28,000 - £42,000

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



You can get into this job through:

- a college course
- an apprenticeship
- applying directly
- a fire service training course

College - You could take a college course before applying to join the fire service as a trainee, though this is not essential.

Courses include:

- public services
- fire and rescue services in the community

Entry requirements may vary.

Apprenticeship - You could apply for an Operational Firefighter Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship with a fire and rescue service.

The apprenticeship takes about 2 years and combines on-the-job training with off-site study.

Entry requirements - You'll usually need:

- GCSEs grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, in English and maths

Direct Application

You can apply directly to join the fire service. Each service sets its own entry requirements.

Many ask for GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) in English and maths, or equivalent qualifications.

The selection process takes time and involves:

- online aptitude tests
- attendance at an assessment centre
- fitness and medical checks
- interviews

Restrictions and Requirements - You'll need to:

- pass a fitness test
- pass a medical check
- pass [enhanced background checks](#)
- have a full driving licence
- be over 18 years of age



CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Careers Street Chesterfield: training, apprenticeships and work

Wednesday 14 October - 6pm to 8pm

SMH Group Stadium, Chesterfield Football Club

Speak directly to training providers, local businesses, and apprentices about career options for post-16 and post-18, with a focus on vacancies, apprenticeships and on the job training.

Scan the QR code to secure your place



This free event is designed for parents/ carers and young people to get advice on career pathways from local providers and employers.

5.45pm Arrival and registration

6.10pm Welcome: apprenticeship and technical education

6.15pm Apprenticeships: a quick introduction

6.30pm Apprentice and employer panel

6.40pm How to take action

6.55pm Your feedback, your voice

7pm Food, refreshments and marketplace networking



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



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)

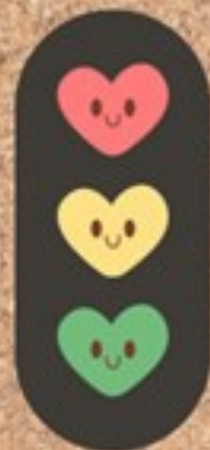
**STEM Club
Room 38**
Dr Albon
Starts 23/9

**Y11 English Rev
Power & Conflict
Room 12**
Mrs Gallacher

* Please see Performing Arts notice board for details

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.

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