



CITY OF DERBY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

bringing news to our community

Issue 1 – Autumn 2017

A Successful Start

Dear parents, staff and students,

It has been a wonderful first term at the City of Derby Academy. Our students never cease to inspire and amaze with their many talents and abilities. I am incredibly proud of their positive attitude and marvellous achievements in and out of lessons including in the wider community. They are a real credit to their families and to the City of Derby Academy.

I would like to thank you for your on-going support and the time you put in to supporting your child's education. As we enter our Christmas and holiday celebrations, and look forward to 2018, we spare a thought for those who are less fortunate and hope that the work we do to make a difference in school with on-going charity work, such as the non-school uniform day and pantomime on the last day brings some comfort to others.

It has been a very busy yet productive term at CODA and our achievements are many, these include: -

- Our students making progress with their learning.
- Students are confident with describing their 'flightpaths' and where they are with regards to them.
- There have been many sporting successes.
- Our Year 7s have made a great start to their secondary education and have worked hard in their transition from primary school.

- Year 11 students sat their PPE (Pre Public Examinations) exams in November, which were very positive. They have had feedback on their performance and guidance on what they need to do to improve before their actual exams, which will be here before we know it.
- We have also had many visitors, including Robert Goodwill and educational Minister, who have sang their praises for the sense of community and achievement in school and the positive direction the school is making.
- Connie Spencer is running for youth mayor of Derby. This is a great achievement and I hope that she is elected by her peers across the city.



I will close with a heartfelt thank you to all members of our school community who have contributed so much this term. Our staff work hard and are passionate about your child's education and to them I want to say thank you too.

A very merry Christmas and a happy new year to you all!

Mr P Smith – Proud Headteacher

QEGSMAT

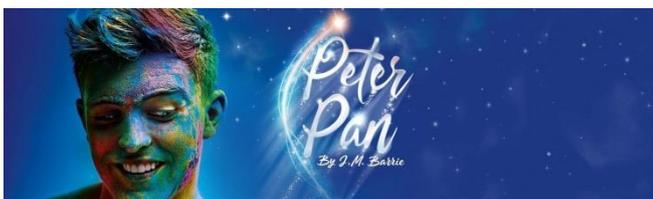
QEGSMAT is the name of our trust that has taken over the 'City of Derby Academy'. QEGSMAT have schools based in the City of Derby, Staffordshire and Derbyshire. They hope to deliver the best possible education and hope to improve even further, by bringing skills, experience and diversity. At CoDA, I am proud to be the Headteacher and I am confident that all the students will be successful.

Our School

Our School is full of talent and good news and often isn't recognised. Here are some examples of good news;

Acting Success

Joseph Smyth in Year 9 at the City of Derby Academy has been selected to appear in Peter Pan at Derby Theatre this Christmas. This is his first show. There were around 250 young people auditioning for eighteen parts: these are performing in teams of six. Joseph says: "I am really enjoying rehearsals as all of the teams, not just my own, are really nice and understanding. What helps most though is that they don't judge." He will take part in 29 out of the 39 performances playing a variety of roles including a pirate, a lost boy, a fairy and a mermaid. The school and year team are very proud of Joseph and have bought tickets to see him on the last Wednesday before Christmas.



Skills Show 2017

Year 8 pupils from the City of Derby Academy attended the Skills Show at the Birmingham NEC Arena on Thursday 16th November 2017. Form Representatives from the Academy took the opportunity to learn about post 16 opportunities in careers and further education. The pupils prepared an assembly on what they learned from the day and presented it to 190 pupils in their year group. Head of Year Mr Cholerton said the pupils were outstanding representatives for the Academy and learned a lot from the day. The TV Studio Production stall said "the Academy's pupils were better at TV Directing and Presenting than our own Apprentices."



Ministerial Visit

Robert Goodwill MP was appointed Minister of State for Children and Families on 12 June 2017. He was elected Conservative MP for Scarborough and Whitby in 2005.

Robert Goodwill MP visited the City of Derby Academy on the 30th November.

During his visit, he was keen to hear about education across the city and, he also took the opportunity to tour the school.

Robert Goodwill MP was impressed with the school, the atmosphere and the warmth that he experienced on his tour and visit

Class Charts

Class Charts is a new online monitoring system where teachers can record positive and negative incidents as well as interventions.

The school is launching a pupil and parent app that can be downloaded.

We will inform you when further information is released

Interviews

Some of the students took the opportunity to interview staff;

Mr Smith – Proud Headteacher

Question:

What were your first impressions of CoDA; positives and negatives?

Answer:

'For me they are all positive, amongst the many things, I like the facilities, teachers and the community but, above all, I like the students'.

Mr Bult – Head of Year 10/ PE teacher

Question:

From a Head of Year perspective, how much do you think the school has changed since QEGSMAT have taken over?

Answer:

The school is taking positive steps to improve every aspect of school life. The line '**teachers can teach and students can learn**' is being reinforced and walking around the school, it seems a lot calmer place.

Mr Milner – Head of Modern Foreign Language (MFL)

Question:

Do you plan on having any other languages being taught in school besides French?

Answer:

Yes, I would love to have Spanish, German and community languages, such as, Czech or Slovak. The problem is that there isn't any appropriate GCSE's but, I am working to introduce more languages in the curriculum.

Mrs Walker-Smith – ELL Instructor

Question:

Being a teacher at this school for 42 years, how have you seen the school progress?

Answer:

I started teaching in 1975 and it has had its ups and downs. The thing that has made me stay for so long are the students, teachers and colleagues. Overall, I just love it here. The discipline has improved.

Adverse Weather

Reminder

If we do experience any adverse weather conditions, failures of electricity or heating and we have to make the difficult decision to close the school for Health and Safety reasons. We will endeavour to notify parents as soon as possible by email and/or text

message. We are only able to do this to those parents who are registered.

If you would like to register, please contact the school.

We will also update our website and Facebook page so be sure to regularly check this for updates/news.

A copy of the letter sent home with students recently is on the back page of this newsletter. Can we, kindly, remind you to return the attached slip, if you haven't already.

Sports Fixtures

Year 7

Boys

| | | | |
|------|----|-------------|---|
| CoDA | 8 | Da Vinci | 0 |
| CoDA | 4 | Murray Park | 4 |
| CoDA | 2 | Derby Moor | 5 |
| CoDA | 17 | Merrill | 6 |

Girls

| | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|
| CoDA | 1 | Bemrose | 1 |
|------|---|---------|---|

Year 8

Boys

| | | | |
|------|---|-------------|---|
| CoDA | 4 | Da Vinci | 2 |
| CoDA | 1 | Murray Park | 3 |
| CoDA | 0 | Derby Moor | 6 |
| CoDA | 6 | Merrill | 1 |
| CoDA | 2 | Bemrose | 2 |

Girls

| | | | |
|------|----|------------|---|
| CoDA | 12 | Derby Moor | 7 |
|------|----|------------|---|

Year 9

Boys

| | | | |
|------|----|-----------|---|
| CoDA | 6 | Da Vinci | 2 |
| CoDA | 1 | West Park | 5 |
| CoDA | 11 | Merrill | 1 |

Girls - Netball

| | | | |
|------|---|------------|---|
| CoDA | 8 | Derby Moor | 7 |
|------|---|------------|---|

Key stage 3 & 4 came 3rd in the City badminton.

Well done!

Just for Fun 😊

Christmas 'sweet potato' pudding



Ingredients

- 5lbs - grated sweet potato
- 3 cups - brown sugar
- 1 cup - flour
- 2 cups - coconut milk
- 1 – grated nutmeg
- 1tbsp lime juice
- ¼ cup - melted butter
- 1tsp ground ginger
- Cinnamon powder
- Vanilla essence
- Salt

Method

1. In a large mixing bowl, add grated sweet potatoes, brown sugar, flour, raisins. Combine coconut milk
2. Add melted margarine, nutmeg, salt, cinnamon powder, vanilla essence and lime juice
3. Put mixture into greased baking tin, bake in the middle of a pre-heated oven at 350f or 180°C for approximately 1 ½ - 1 ¾ hours.

Parent e-safety

Here are some practical tips to help your child to stay safe and smart online.

(Taken from UK council for child safety internet safety UKCCIS parent and carers guide)

It's good practice for apps and websites to have safety advice and well-designed safety features which can make a difference to how safe your child will be when using them.

Don't be put off by believing your child knows more than you: the tools are easy to manage

- **Ask them to show you** which social media apps they use and talk to them about why they like them.
- **Explain** how they need to use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see and posts and images.
- **Check if any of the apps have 'geo-location'** enabled this enables their location to be shared.
- **Show them how to report offensive comments** or block people.
- **Check 'tagging' settings** so that when others are sharing and posting pictures your child's identity is not revealed.
- Encourage your child to **come and talk to you** if they see anything that upsets them.
- **Keep talking and stay involved.** In a mobile age children can't be completely protected so it's important to keep talking to your child about social media. It's important to get a sense of what they think.
Encourage them to think carefully about how they behave online and how they might deal with difficult situations such as:
- People not being who they say they are online

- Why it's not safe to meet anyone in the real world that you've only ever met online
- Even if your messages are private images and words can be **captured and broadcast**.
- Being anonymous can lead to people saying things they **wouldn't say to someone's face**.
- **There can be pressure to be part of a particular group** and be seen to be **following a set of ideas**. Talk about taking a step back and making their own decisions.

If you have bought or are thinking of buying a Furby as a Christmas present or other blue tooth enabled toys please be aware that safety failures were discovered in Furby Connect, i-Que Intelligent Robot, Toy-Fi Teddy and CloudePets. There is a strong warning from the government's privacy watchdog to turn off cameras and automatic tracking on such presents

Further support

If you need help or support with online safety there are a lot of online resources for you to use. Here is a small selection:

For information on **blocking and reporting** visit:
www.childnet.com/resources/how-to-make-a-report
You can find information on **cyber bullying** at:

www.ndcsbuzz.org.uk/stayingsafeonline

Advice on **Facebook**; www.facebook.com/safety

Advice on **snapchat/ safety centre**:

[www.connectsafely.org/wp-](http://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/snapchat_parents_guide.pdf)

[content/uploads/snapchat_parents_guide.pdf](http://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/snapchat_parents_guide.pdf)

www.snapchat.com/safety

To report or remove **tags video**:

<http://youtu.be/CaJqXiu3PY>

If you have met **someone online** that is making you feel uncomfortable

www.thinkyuknow.co.uk

To report **abuse or grooming**

www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-report

Important dates for your diaries

Term Dates 2017-18

Monday 30th October – Tuesday 19th December 2017

Thursday 4th January 2018 – Friday 16th February 2018

Monday 26th February 2018 – Friday 23rd March 2018

Monday 9th April 2018 – Friday 25th May 2018

Monday 4th June 2018 – Wednesday 25th July 2018

INSET Days 2017-18

3rd January 2018

16th February 2018

Please be aware that the last day for this term (Tuesday 19th December) will be non-uniform and school will close at 1.00pm.

Did you know.....?



When paying for school dinners, trips, etc. you can pay electronically through Parent Pay. If you would like to access this, please contact the school so we can register you.



City of Derby Academy has a Facebook page. This is regularly updated so please like our page and keep up to date with current news.

Mr Smith would like to thank S Dhariwal, O Khan, C Groves, A Ark, M Hussain and Mrs Bell for putting the newsletter together.

**From everyone at the
City of Derby Academy**





H B

R O M S



A O S C N Y

W T O A B A L K



T S J R I T M J J O



F R S I W X

B G U V K O F W

S L E I G H N Q K V



T N E S E R P S W D X M

D E C R E E D N I E R H F N



H I Y J L I H G



G T R E N G T T G W

F K L X I S S N S O O X



Y O K E E G S O A I M N O N

G I F T S D U G T I W S S W H X

R S Y L I M A F B L M X H B Q O W P



P W I C Q P D A O C



G I H W B Z M O P S C O

K N R X R I X I A N J Y B L

Q T Q S U S E J T S V F A I J D



O E U T O Q Y M O T T J T I C O B Q

Y R L A S P H D X M E D N L O M J R R C



X D N A



Z F S F

CHRISTMAS

JESUS

FAMILY

SANTA

GIFTS

SLEIGH

REINDEER

PRESENT

WINTER

COLD

SNOW

SNOWMAN

SING

MITTENS

BOOTS

SCARF

Friday 8th December 2017

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Snow is forecast over the next few days and it is our intention to open as normal, however, if the weather affects the safety of our students and staff, then the decision to close might have to be made.

I appreciate that this decision may affect members of the school community so we may start the school day later, for example 10.00am, as a measure to prevent the school closing.

If there is snow or, snow is forecast, please check our website regularly. In the case of the school starting later or a closure, we will provide parents with as much notice as we can and the website will be regularly updated during periods of uncertain weather. We will also send emails and/or text messages to those parents who are registered. If you would like to register please contact the school.

In the case of light snow or slippery conditions, please ensure that your child wears safe and dry footwear (e.g. boots) to school until conditions improve.

The decision to close the school is never easy, and we appreciate your patience and understanding at these times.

In addition, in the event that we have to close the school during the day due to an emergency, for example, failures of electricity/ heating or the weather we will endeavour to make contact with parents/ carers so we can arrange a safe journey home. To support the school in this unlikely event, can you please complete the reply slip below and return to school immediately.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Mr P Smith
Proud Headteacher of City of Derby Academy

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In the event that City of Derby Academy closes due to unforeseen emergency situations, I give permission for my child to: *please tick relevant boxes*

- travel home on their own
- travel to a friend/neighbour
- stay in school

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Childs Name: | |
| Tutor group: | |
| Parent/ Carer contact number | |
| Parent/ Carer email | |

Signed:.....(Parent/Carer) Date:...../...../.....