

Moving on to Secondary School

Welcome to the



**CITY OF DERBY
ACADEMY**

**A GUIDE FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS
AND PARENTS/CARERS**

2025-2026

Welcome from the Headteacher



May I take this opportunity to welcome you to The City of Derby Academy. I am delighted, and very proud, to be the Head of School. Our educational philosophy is to provide all students with an engaging and enjoyable learning experience which will develop both academic and personal success.

Your child is at the heart of everything we do and the school's vision of 'improving the life chances of all students' is nurtured through our shared values of the '3Rs' – being Respectful, Responsible and Ready to Achieve.

At the City of Derby Academy, we believe that academic outcomes are important and our expectation is that we will achieve national progress standards. However, we do not measure the success of our students by their examination results alone. Students access a balanced curriculum and we continually strive to develop characteristics such as self-confidence, self-belief and self-esteem so our students are fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

We believe that when the school, parents/carers, and students share high expectations every child will achieve great things. This includes having an excellent attitude centred on respect, high standards of appearance, good manners, full attendance and punctuality.

We believe that the City of Derby Academy is a vibrant and successful school where all students thrive through shared principles of Question, Explore Give and Succeed.

I look forward to welcoming you to the City of Derby Academy

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'A Harding'.

Mr A Harding
Headteacher

Introducing the Year 7 team



Mr Bult
Head of Year 7



Mrs Woods
Deputy Head of Year 7



Mrs Russell
Year 7 Link

At the City of Derby Academy we aim to provide outstanding, personalised support for every student which meets both their pastoral and academic needs. This will allow all students to achieve their full potential.

The move from primary school to a large secondary can be daunting. We recognise this and understand that students and parents need to feel reassured, happy and safe during this transition period. This pack aims to provide information which will help you through the transition process.

Year 6 students who have chosen to move to the City of Derby Academy from September 2024 will attend transition days. Students will have the opportunity to meet staff, tour the school and take part in a number of learning experiences.



School Day/Term and INSET Dates

Enter school by the main pedestrian gate, proceed down the drive into the yard, enter the school building via the doors between E01 and lower toilets.

The school day starts at 8:40am and will finish at 3:10pm. Further information regarding lesson timings will be provided in September.

Term Dates 2025-26

Friday 5th September 2025 (Year 7 Only) – Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025 – Friday 19th December 2025

Tuesday 6th January 2026 – Friday 13th February 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026 – Friday 27th March 2026

Monday 13th April 2026 – Friday 22nd May 2026

Monday 1st June 2026 – Thursday 23rd July 2026

INSET Days 2025-26

Thursday 4th September 2025

Thursday 20th November 2025

Friday 21st November 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Friday 20th March 2026

Form Time

Students will spend the first part of every day in a mixed ability form group. During form time the form tutors will deliver an additional curriculum which supports QEGS (Question, Explore, Give, Succeed) learning.



Year 7 Curriculum

Year 7 students will study a broad and balanced curriculum. Our curriculum is tailored to the needs of different students. This includes additional support in English and Mathematics for those students who are below the required standards. Below is a guide of what a student can expect to study over every fortnight:

- 7 –8 hours of English
- 7 –8 hours of Maths
- 6 hours of Science
- 4 – 6 hours of Modern Foreign Languages
- 3 hours of History
- 3 hours of Geography
- 2 hours of Religious Studies
- 3 hours of Art
- 4 hours of PE
- 3 hours of Music and Drama
- 4 hours of Design and Technology
- 2 hours of PSHE



Some students will also be selected for curriculum pathways that provide additional support in areas of need.

We also have a wide range of extended opportunities. There are a large number of clubs and activities available at break time and after school. We also offer a range of trips and in school enrichment activities throughout the school year.

Catering

We do not allow students to leave the Academy site during the school day. Students are encouraged to eat either a school lunch or a packed lunch in our dining hall. At the City of Derby Academy we provide reasonably priced, healthy food options at both break and lunchtime. Our food is cooked on site in partnership with ABM Catering. If students bring their own packed lunch please ensure that it is healthy. We do not allow energy drinks or fizzy drinks in school. Students may drink water in lessons, or we have water fountains in our corridors.

Please note that if you qualify for free school meals at primary school this does not automatically transfer to your chosen secondary school and a new claim **MUST** be made.

Please complete a free school meal application available at

<https://www.cityofderbyacademy.org/students/canteen/free-school-meals/>

B line

B_line is a travel discount and library card for young people aged 11-19. It is for young people in school, college, on training courses or in an apprenticeship. B_line cards must be applied for through the local council website. To find out more please visit the website:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport-roads/public-transport/fares-tickets-passes/b-line/b-line.aspx>



Uniform and Equipment

We enforce a strict uniform and presentation policy at the City of Derby Academy. Year 7 students will receive a free jumper, pe t-shirt and tie for September.

School Uniform

- City of Derby Academy blazer (Optional)
- City of Derby Academy tie
- Optional City of Derby Academy or plain black v neck jumper
- Smart black trousers, tailored shorts or skirt (sensible length skirt and not stretchy material)
- Plain white school shirt (not polo t-shirt)
- Sensible black school footwear

PE Uniform

- Suitable footwear for PE (trainers)
- City of Derby Academy PE top or plain black t-shirt
- Plain black PE shorts/tracksuit bottoms/skort/leggings
- Optional outdoor PE wear:
black jumper/hat/gloves for winter, cap for the summer

Additional items:

- A warm coat for travelling to and from the school, hoodies are not allowed.
- Students can wear a watch and small stud earrings, a nose stud and one small item of religious jewellery.
- Students should not wear excessive make up or nails of an unsafe length.

You can order uniform direct from our supplier, please visit their website:

<https://www.schoolsinuniform.co.uk/>.

Our supplier also provides pop-up shops in the school's gymnasium between 3.10pm – 4.00pm. Please visit our website for future dates.

Equipment for learning:

- A dark coloured, rucksack style bag suitable for carrying A4 books and equipment.
- All students should have their own black/blue pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, pencil sharpener and calculator. A planner and any other equipment needed for learning will be provided by the school.

Payment System

The City of Derby Academy operate a cashless payment system for lunch and trips, etc.

In line with many other schools, the City of Derby Academy has a biometric system where students' accounts are linked to their fingerprint pattern. This is safer and quicker than using money each day.

ParentPay should be used to "top up" your child's balance so they can use this towards lunch each day. You can also use this to pay for trips, revision guides, etc.

For more information, please visit ParentPay's website: <https://www.parentpay.com/>

ParentPay activation letters will be distributed to students and parents/carers in September.

It is important that you keep a check on your child's balance to ensure they have enough on the account to buy snacks and lunches. Students who qualify for free school meals will have the correct amount added to their account every day.



**CITY OF DERBY
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www.cityofderbyacademy.org



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