



CoDA Chronicles



We would like to wish everybody in our school community a 'Happy New Year' for 2026.

We are looking forward to a successful year at the City of Derby Academy.

Attendance update

Top of the attendance charts for the Autumn Term

Highest year group Year 7

Highest registration group in the whole school 8A2

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Mrs Bruce and the Attendance team.

SEND Support:



Derby City Council's Specialist Teaching Service are running some useful sessions for parents and carers of students with additional needs at their family hubs (FH) across the city.

The following workshops are suitable for families of children and young people 0-19 who are or might be Autistic. Book a place for yourself and a supportive family member or friend. Please note these workshops are for adults only, there is no provision for children.

An introduction to Autism - (Booking required) Find out more about the Autism spectrum and how you can support your autistic child or young person.

Thursday 22 January 12:30pm-2:30pm Online - contact Mackworth Morley FH for link

Friday 27 February 9:30am-11:30am Osmaston Allenton FH

Wednesday 26 March 6pm-8pm Online - contact Mackworth Morley FH for link

An Introduction to ADHD (Booking required) Find out more about ADHD and how you can support your child or young person.

Thursday 26 February 12:30pm-2:30pm Becket FH

Wednesday 25 March 1pm-3pm Derwent FH

Using Visual Resources (Booking required) Find out how you can use visual resources to support your child's routines, communication and understanding. Take home your own set of visual resources to support your child at home.

Thursday 19 March 12:30pm-2:30pm Becket FH

Communicative Behaviour (Booking required) Find out more about what drives your child's behaviour, learn strategies to support them and develop your own personal coping skills.

Tuesday 24 March 9:30am-11:30am Sinfin FH

Understanding Social Communication (Booking required) Understand your child's perspective of social interactions and how you can support them.

Tuesday 20 January 9:30am-11:30am Mackworth Morley FH

Transition workshop - (Booking required) For families, carers or supportive adults of children and young people from 2-19, moving into a new education setting, who are autistic/have social communication needs or are awaiting a referral to the paediatrician. To gain information and practical ideas on how you can support your child with their transition into a new class, nursery, school or college. Book a place for yourself and a supportive family member or friend. Please note this session is for adults only - we have no provision for children.

Monday 26 February 9:30am-11:30am Sinfin FH

NEW! Sleep workshops - (Booking required) Delivered by Nickie Sutton, Specialist Sleep Practitioner. For parents and carers of 0-19 year olds who are or may be neurodivergent. All workshops are delivered online. If you're unable to attend the sleep workshops, please contact Mackworth Morley FH to access the link to the recorded workshop

Anxiety and sleep We all recognise how feeling stressed and anxious affects our sleep; we lay awake going over things in our mind, finding it difficult to let go and drop off. Many of our children also struggle with this; their worlds are busy, noisy and demanding. Their busy brains may also wake them during the night, affecting the quality of their sleep and yours too. We will look at some simple and

effective ways to help your child sleep and where you can go for onward support and help.

Wednesday 11 February 7pm-9pm

ADHD and sleep Sleep is much harder for children and young people with ADHD for reasons that they cannot control; there are biological differences which get in the way. They are often wired and busy at bedtime and cannot switch off. We will look at how having ADHD affects sleep and what you can do to help (no taking away of screens!)

Thursday 22 January 10am-12noon

Sensory Processing and Sleep Children and young people with sensory processing differences find it very hard to settle and sleep well because they are often overwhelmed with sensory discomfort. We will look at how the different senses impact on sleep, behaviours that you may see, and simple effective strategies to help when suggested sleep strategies often don't work.

Tuesday 10 March 10am-12noon

Autism and Sleep Sleep is much harder for autistic children and young people for reasons that they cannot control; there are biological differences which get in the way. You may have had advice before, but normal sleep strategies often don't work and are based on out of date information. Join Nickie for a workshop on how being autistic affects sleep and what you can do to help (no taking away of screens!)

Wednesday 11 March 7pm-9pm

Family Hub Contact information:

- Becket Family Hub
35 Stockbrook Street, Derby, DE22 3WR 01332 640250
BecketFamilyHub@derby.gov.uk

• Osmaston/Allenton Family Hub
60 Cockayne Street North Allenton, Derby, DE24 8XB 01332
956850 OsmastonAllentonFamilyHub@derby.gov.uk

• Rosehill Family Hub
17-19 Lower Dale Road Derby, DE23 6WY 01332 641315
RosehillFamilyHub@derby.gov.uk

• Mackworth Morley Family Hub
Reigate Drive, Mackworth, Derby, DE22 4EQ 01332 208175
MackworthMorleyFamilyHub@derby.gov.uk

• Derwent Family Hub
Monmouth Street Derby, DE21 6BD 01332 641010
DerwentFamilyHub@derby.gov.uk

• Rosehill Family Hub
17-19 Lower Dale Road Derby, DE23 6WY 01332 641315
RosehillFamilyHub@derby.gov.uk

• Sinfin Family Hub
345 Sinfin Lane, Sinfin Moor Derby, DE24 9SF 01332 956967
SinfinFamilyHub@derby.gov.uk

Did you know at CODA??



We have pink boxes full of sanitary products that are available for students to use, they can be accessed in offices or at student services.

We also have a wide range of uniform that students can borrow when they need it. Students can go to F01 during form time and swap a bus ticket, house keys or mobile phone for anything they need to borrow for the day.

Music News:

On Wednesday 10th December, Mrs Powell took 14 singers to Castle View Primary (Matlock) to take part in their Christmas Fayre and carol singing at an assisted living facility.

Our students were amazing - they were polite and friendly and despite having to 'climb a mountain' (a steepish hill opposite Riber Castle) they all tackled whatever they faced with professionalism and patience.

A massive well done to:

Lexi W

Tegan T

Lily G

Alana F

Ellie-Mae G

Martina M

Nevaeh P

Jasmeen K

Kaycee S

Katelin E

Katelin G

Lacy-May H

Sidonia J

Anjali G

Winter Concert:

On Thursday 18th December we held our annual winter concert showcasing our fantastic talent. It was an evening of singing, dancing, instrumental performances, and our legendary choir.

The concert was a fabulous showcase of our wonderful musicians, some of whom delivered solo performances to the large crowd that attended the evening.

Mrs Powell would like to thank everyone who took part and make the effort to turn up week in week out to rehearse. Your commitment to our school is outstanding and I am so proud of you all.

Mrs Powell



EAL support group - Year 10 & 11:

'Our wonderful Year 10 EAL students did a remarkable job in presenting their PowerPoint presentations on 'Unhealthy Habits', demonstrating and developing both their English proficiency level and speaking with confidence.

They had all exceeded expectations and excelled in their work, and I am taken aback by their resilience and constant commitment to achieve.

Although all of the students' presentations were fantastic, special praise goes to Gabriel C and Tnok M who produced the top scoring marks based off of the assessment criteria.

We are very proud of them and lucky to teach such amazing children!

In addition, our amazing year 11 EAL class, they made fairy cakes and cookies recently.

Most of our students have never cooked or baked before, they thoroughly enjoyed their experience and personally thanked me for letting them bake. This was heartbreaking and lovely at the same time.

Mrs Dhillon; IGCSE -English as a Second language.'



CoDA Reading Mountain - Results!

Across the school, our students have been competing in a Reading Mountain Challenge where they have been encouraged to read books from their respective year groups Reading Mountain and post reviews on them.

The results are listed below. Winning form groups will receive prizes as well as students who have individually read books from the majority of the Mountain and posted their reviews!



CoDA Cadet Force - Update:

It is that wonderful time of the term when I get the pleasure of updating you all with how well our cadets have done this academic year. So far, our cadets have achieved the following awards and qualifications:

Basic Drill and Turnout	x29
Basic Military Knowledge	x34
Basic First Aid	x25
Basic Keeping Active	x22
1 Star Drill and Turnout	x13
1 Star First Aid	x25
1 Star Keeping Active	x14
2 Star Drill and Turnout	x12
2 Star First Aid	x26
2 Star Keeping Active	x6
L98 GP Rifle Wpn tests	x10

Of note are the 26 cadets who have achieved 2* First Aid. This is the equivalent of a full 3 day First Aid at Work course.

This is an amazing total of **216** improvements to life chances in a term!

To give you an idea of scale, in the winter term 2024/25 our cadets achieved **132** qualifications and in the 2023/24 academic year they achieved **176**. This is an amazing effort even more remarkable when considering the background of our cadet force:

52% PP

43% EAL

25% SEND

These achievements would not be possible without the hard work of our dedicated Cadet Forces Adult Volunteers, @Miss Z Wheatley [ZWH]@Mr C Campbell [CCA]@Mr G Kwiatkowski [GKW] and the wider support of all school staff.

I often receive praise for the hard work of CODA CCF, whether it comes from Parents, the Community, the Trust, or the Army. While I am grateful for the responsibilities I hold, I like to think of myself a bit like Colonel Sanders and KFC - Just because my face is on the bucket, doesn't mean I'm the one cooking the chicken.

So, to everyone who makes and supports CODA CCF in any way, thank you.

Kind regards,
Captain (acting Major) Timmins



Spotlight on Departments:

This week's department - Art:



There is a lot of new and exciting projects that are Art department are working on with their students.

Year 7- starting their Architecture project.

Year 8- Begin learning about Mexican Art and Culture.

Year 9- Learn about Steampunk.

Year 10 Art and Photography are working on individual projects.

Year 11- Start their component 2 this week which is worth 40% of their final grade.

Careers Update:

The end of 2025 saw CoDA lose one of its longest standing staff members with Mrs Matthews leaving us.

Mrs Matthews has served CoDA for over 30 years and has supported thousands of our students with their entry into further education opportunities.

Everyone at CoDA would like to wish Mrs Matthews well in her well-earned retirement and thank her for all her effort over the years.



City of Derby Academy

Careers Bulletin

Nottingham University Extreme Materials STEM Christmas Lecture

The University of Nottingham invited a group of our students to attend their Christmas Lecture. This had been designed to enhance the national curriculum, driving interest into STEM subjects while demonstrating the exciting and diverse world of engineering.

Our students had the opportunity to browse the interactive activities in their Engineering & Science Learning Centre and find out more about the engineering courses and state of the art facilities Nottingham University has. This year's lecture entitled, 'Extreme Materials' had a high-energy and immersive lecture, which explored how materials respond in different environments. Plus, our students had the chance to: Participate in interactive STEM activities featuring partners like JCB, Jaguar & Land Rover, and Rolls Royce. Had a tour state-of-the-art laboratory – an Immersive VR experience & learnt more about our cutting-edge engineering courses and facilities Nottingham University has to offer.



PSHE News:

We are excited to be teaching CODA student's our PSHE curriculum, the skills and knowledge are vital to improving the life chances of our students.

We are about to start the next topics within PSHE for Spring 1;
Year 7 - Identify how to respond appropriately to bullying of any kind, including online, and explain how to provide support to others in need.

Year 8 -How to recognise and safely challenging homophobia, biphobia, racism, and religious discrimination.

Year 9 - Explain methods to manage conflict in relationships, navigating changes such as separation and divorce, and utilising support services for family-related issues.

Year 10 - Analyse the influence of media and pornography on sexual attitudes and behaviours and understand the ethical and legal considerations for consent.

Year 11 - Explain various forms of relationship abuse and access support to overcome challenges in abusive relationships.

If anyone has any questions please email Miss McQuilton the lead teacher of PSHE - mmcquilton@cityofderbyacademy.org

Ms McQuilton

Tutor Time programme:

Below is an example of our tutor time programme for this academic year. We deliver this programme from 8.40am - 9.00am every morning with the structure of the day's dependent on what year group students are in. **Parents**, please support the school in ensuring that your child is on time in the morning and maximising their learning opportunities. **Pupils**, please make every effort to improve the life skill of getting to school on-time.

Outline for the week –

Monday: Assembly

Tuesday: Thought for the week/Discussion Topics

Wednesday: Tutor Reads

Thursday: Ready to Learn/Tutor Reads

Friday: Debate



Sports Desk:

PE After School Clubs

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Basketball JPE	Badminton JEV / KJU	Volleyball KJU	Year 11 GCSE PE ABU
Dance SSI	Year 10 Sports Studies JPE	All Years Football JEV	Year 11 Sports Studies SSI
		Inter-House Competitions ABU	

Our KS4 exam groups have some important interventions after school on Wednesdays (Year 10) and Fridays (Year 11). Please speak to your child about whether they have been asked to attend these sessions to support them with being successful on their respective course.

Music lessons/clubs

Our Music department work tirelessly to give students every opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and experiences in Music. Please see the timetable below and encourage your son/daughter to attend one of the clubs:

Music Instrumental Lessons and Clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Violin lessons (10.30am – 1.30pm) 	Guitar & Drum lessons (all day) 		Singing lessons (all day) 	Piano lessons (9am – 2pm) 
Strings Group (Break B)	Woodwind lessons (10.30am – 11:30am) Brass lessons (9am – 10:30 am)		CoDA Chromatics (Break B) 	
	Enrichment: Music Production (3:10pm – 4:10pm)	Enrichment: GCSE Revision (3:10pm – 4:10pm)	Enrichment: CoDA Choir (3:10pm – 4:10pm)	

Instrumental lessons

We still have available spaces on the following instruments:

Brass
Violin
Piano

If interested, please see Mrs Powell.

Inter-House Competition

On a two-weekly basis, our four Houses (**Courage**, **Determination**, **Optimism** & **Ambition**) compete against each other to see which one has the best attendance and Class Charts ratios. The winning House at the end of each halfterm is awarded with a non-uniform day and 100 Class Charts points will be retrospectively awarded to each pupil in that House.

Please see below for information from halfterm 2's scores:

	7	8	9	10	11	2-week total:	Halfterm total:
C	16	16	32	28	32	124	312
O	20	16	32	36	36	140	332
D	20	16	36	32	24	128	304
A	16	8	36	32	20	112	272
Highest form group:	7O1+7O2	8C1	9C1+9O2 9D2+9A1	10O1	11O2		

Congratulations to **OPTIMISM** House for achieving the best Class Charts and Attendance percentages for this halfterm.

Congratulations to **8C1**, **9C1**, **9D2** and **9A1** who were either the highest or joint highest scoring form groups in their year groups (outside of Optimism House). These form groups will also receive a non-uniform day in January.

Courage - 312

Optimism - 332

Determination - 304

Ambition - 272

