

## Newsletter – SEPTEMBER 2025

### Welcome back!

We trust you've had a restful summer holiday and the start of term is going well.

### Creationtide

Creationtide, or the Season of Creation, takes place in the church calendar from 1 September to 4 October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

Schools can also celebrate the season of creation, including harvest celebrations. Other activities could include renewing commitment to carbon reduction and courageous advocacy in the face of the climate crisis, including involvement in campaigns such as "[Let's Go Zero](#)".



### Partnership Agreement

Sign up before 26 September to receive 10% discount.

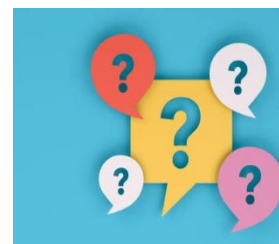
The vision of the Derby Diocesan Board of Education is to support our schools to [transform lives, grow faith and build community](#). None of our schools can achieve this on their own. We are a family of church schools and partnership is a fundamental principle of being a church school. This partnership takes many forms including relationship with other church schools, community schools, local clergy and church community and the wider diocese through the Board of Education.

The DBE receives no public money. It is reliant on income from investments and from the wider diocesan budget (ultimately from the voluntary giving of churchgoers). By signing up, your school is making an important contribution to our partnership. Each school is a valued part of the Diocese of Derby and so the DBE is committed to support each valued, family member. For more information and to sign up, see our website [HERE](#).

### Annual Return 2025

All schools will be emailed a request to complete their Annual Return. There are 3 forms to complete - school office / clerk to governors / headteacher, chair and ex officio foundation governor.

We would be grateful if you could complete and return the questionnaire by the end of October.





### Admissions Policies – For all VA schools & Academies

Your Admissions Policy must be reviewed each year with a full consultation at least every 7 years. Please refer to the checklist that was recently emailed out to you & review the guidance documentation on our [website](#) which explains all that you need to know.

If your school is an academy in a MAT, please liaise with your central team to check arrangements.

### Foundation Governor Nominations

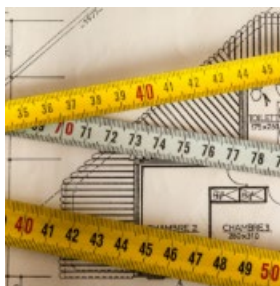
Please ask your clerk to review the terms of office for your foundation governors. If there are any which are due to expire before spring 2026, you will need to prepare and submit nominations forms along with a reference from the incumbent.

Procedures and guidance are on our website [HERE](#).



**Please note:** The deadline for sending us your paperwork is **04 November**. The DBE Board only meet 3 times per year. If you miss this deadline, the next meeting isn't until mid-February.

### DfE Net Capacity Assessment Programme



The DfE has informed Derby DBE that some schools will be contacted as part of Phase 2 of the Net Capacity Assessment (NCA) programme.

If you have any questions about buildings matters, please contact [Jason](#) in the first instance. Our website also has lots of information [HERE](#).

Find out about the DfE's Net Capacity Assessment (NCA) [HERE](#)

### Fairtrade Fortnight 22 September – 05 October

This annual event, organised by the Fairtrade Foundation, celebrates and promotes Fairtrade products and the farmers and workers who produce them. The 2025 campaign focuses on tea, with the theme "Brew It Fair," inviting people to host tea parties to learn more about the importance of choosing Fairtrade for a living wage and to tackle climate change challenges.



To help you celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight at school, the Foundation have created [Fairtrade Fortnight school resources](#).

## Archbishops' Young Leaders Award

### Information Webinars for schools new to the AYLA



If you've not run the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award (AYLA) before, find out more about their programmes for KS1-KS4/16+ via free online sessions this term. The primary webinar includes all the new details about our KS2 Award, and all sessions cover how the Award supports schools to create an active culture of justice and responsibility. For more information and to sign up, visit [HERE](#)

## Climate Ambassadors

Climate Ambassadors offers every education setting in England free access to volunteer support to develop and deliver impactful climate action plans. Put your interest and experience in sustainability and climate change to practical use, supporting education settings to reduce carbon emissions, tackle climate risks and inspire and inform the next generation



The scheme is recruiting volunteers to put their sustainability expertise to work. All volunteers will receive training on climate action plans and advice on applying their knowledge and skills in an educational setting. For further information see [HERE](#) or email the [East Midlands Regional Hub](#)



## NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe

Have you heard of the NSPCC *Speak out Stay safe* programme? The programme links to the RSE curriculum and resources are free.

Speak out Stay Safe resources [HERE](#)

Speak out Stay Safe SEND resources [HERE](#)

Talk Pants including lesson plans for different age groups [HERE](#)

Secondary education service resources [HERE](#) to support teachers and leaders to confidently deliver effective and inclusive Sex and Relationships Education. **This also includes a primary to secondary transition lesson plan that can be used with Year 6 pupils.**

Free self-assessment tool to help schools audit current safeguarding & child protection arrangements [HERE](#)

## Spot the Signs Campaign

Derby DBE recently signed up to be a [Spot the Signs](#) Ambassador to support the fight against modern slavery. Catriona Munn from the organisation Rebuild East Midlands, will be at the 22 September headteachers' briefing to talk about the Spot the Signs campaign and Anti-Slavery Week taking place 14-20 October.





### Love Thy Neighbour

Many people are concerned about the rising tension in some of our communities in light of the court case about asylum seekers being housed in hotels. The National Society for Education has produced some collective worship for primary and secondary schools [HERE](#) in the hope that they are a useful resource for schools to speak about loving our neighbour.

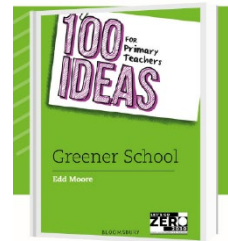
### Climate Action - Book Launch

Hucknall Flying High Academy are hosting an exclusive launch event (16:30 - 18:30 Monday 22 September) to celebrate the publication of "[100 Ideas for Primary Teachers: Greener School by Edd Moore](#)", a pioneering resource that aligns closely with the DfE's climate and sustainability goals. The book offers practical, evidence-based strategies for embedding sustainability into primary education - a critical component in equipping schools to take meaningful climate action.

Places are on a first-come, first-served basis. Register for a place [HERE](#)

Evening highlights include:

- Guided eco tour of Hucknall Flying High Academy
- Live book reading and signing by the author
- Insightful panel discussion on sustainable practices in education



### Guidance for schools

Do please continue to go to our website for guidance. We have updated it with lots of documents and information that you can download.

**We recommend that all staff read the DBE General Guidance document [HERE](#).**

### Upcoming Briefings

*Headteachers*

10:00 Monday 22 September

10:30 Wednesday 22 October

*Governors (chairs, clerks, foundation governors)*

19:00 Monday 22 September

19:00 Wednesday 22 October

*Collective Worship*

16:00 Monday 20 October



If you would like details, please contact [Liz](#)

**Do remember to visit our [website](#) for lots of useful information and guidance.**

**Previous newsletters can be viewed [here](#)..**

## Key Dates for 2024/2025 Academic Year

### Autumn Term

NEW HEADTEACHER / HEAD OF SCHOOL INDUCTION Confirm attendance with DBE office and sign up <a href="#">HERE</a>	23 September
CPD PROGRAMME Ensure staff & governors are booked onto relevant training. Details & booking links <a href="#">CPD programme</a>	ASAP
MONTHLY BRIEFINGS Ensure dates in diary for headteacher, chair, clerk & foundation governors. See newsletter and <a href="#">CPD programme</a> for dates	ASAP
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT Sign up via website <a href="#">HERE</a>	
MAT ROADSHOWS (MAINTAINED SCHOOLS ONLY) Sign up <a href="#">HERE</a>	07 October
LAND & BUILDINGS COLLECTION RETURN for Academy Trusts More information <a href="#">HERE</a>	
ANNUAL RETURN Governing body to complete & return to DBE	31 October
ADMISSIONS – CONSULTING (VA schools & Academy Trusts) Review policy for 2 years ahead & send draft to DBE. Guidance on website <a href="#">HERE</a>	01 November
FOUNDATION GOVERNORS Deadline to submit application form & reference for TOO ending before 28 Feb	04 November
FOUNDATION GOVERNORS – CHECK TERM OF OFFICE (TOO) Start renewal process for TOO ending before 30 June – see website <a href="#">HERE</a> (process can take up to 6 months)	ASAP
CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION Deadline for submission	22 November
ADMISSIONS – NOT CONSULTING (VA schools & Academy Trusts) Review policy for 2 years ahead & send draft to DBE. Guidance on website <a href="#">HERE</a>	30 November
HEADTEACHER / HEAD OF SCHOOL / EXEC HEADTEACHER RECRUITMENT Start process if notice has been given. DBE must be involved. See guidance <a href="#">HERE</a>	

For schools wishing to use our Admissions Appeals Service,  
see overleaf for hearing dates and deadlines for submission of paperwork.

Any school considering capital works must obtain DBE and site trustees' consent.  
In the first instance, contact [Jason.aldridge@derby.anglican.org](mailto:Jason.aldridge@derby.anglican.org)

## Admission Appeal Hearings for Academic Year 2024-2025

APPEALS LODGED BETWEEN		SCHOOL CASE SENT TO DBE <b>No later than</b>	DBE SEND OUT PAPERS	HEARING
FRI 21-Jun	TUES 23-Jul	WED 31-Jul	WED 04-Sept	THURS 12-Sept
WED 04-Sep	FRI 20-Sep	FRI 27-Sep	TUES 01-Oct	TUES 08-Oct
MON 23-Sep	FRI 18-Oct	FRI 25-Oct	TUES 29-Oct	TUES 05-Nov
MON 21-Oct	FRI 15-Nov	FRI 22-Nov	TUES 26-Nov	TUES 03-Dec
MON 18-Nov	FRI 06-Dec	FRI 13-Dec	TUES 17-Dec	THU 09-Jan
MON 09-Dec	FRI 10-Jan	FRI 17-Jan	THU 23-Jan	TUES 04-Feb
MON 13-Jan	FRI 07-Feb	FRI 14-Feb	THU 20-Feb	THU 27-Feb
MON 10-Feb	FRI 07-Mar	FRI 14-Mar	THU 20-Mar	THU 27-Mar
MON 10-Mar	FRI 21-Mar	FRI 17-Apr	THU 24-Apr	THU 01-May
MON 24-Mar	FRI 25-Apr	FRI 02-May	THU 08-May	THU 15-May
MON 28-Apr	FRI 16-May	FRI 30-May	THU 05-Jun	THU 12-Jun
MON 19-May	FRI 13-Jun	FRI 20-Jun	THU 26-Jun	THU 03-Jul
MON 16-Jun	FRI 04-Jul	FRI 11-Jul	TUES 15-Jul	TUES 22-Jul
MON 07-Jul	TUES	FRI	TUES *-Sep	TUES *-Sept

### School holiday dates:

Half Term 28 Oct-01 Nov / Christmas Holidays 23 December-03 January / Half Term 17-21 February / Easter Holidays 07-21 April / Half Term 27-31 May