

New Headteacher Commissioning

We were delighted to gather at Derby Cathedral on 30 September for a special service of commissioning led by Bishop Jackie for our new headteachers. It was a joyful occasion to celebrate, pray for and encourage those beginning this important chapter of leadership. We wish our new headteachers courage, wisdom and every blessing as they serve their school communities.



Black History Month – Thursday 08 October

Picture News is holding a live assembly on 08 October, 09:15-09:45, with special guest Swarzy to celebrate Black History Month and the people, stories and achievements that strengthen and inspire our communities. The assembly is suitable for children aged 4-11. Register [HERE](#)



Helios 20-31 October

A spectacular 7m model of the sun is set to light up Derby Cathedral this October marking the start of the diocesan centenary celebrations!

The immersive artwork by internationally acclaimed artist Luke Jerram combines art, science and sound to reveal the extraordinary detail of our nearest star.

There will be a range of interactive activities linked to the installation aimed at KS1 & KS2 schoolchildren, as well as visitors of all ages.

CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

The [Climate Ambassadors Programme](#) provides education settings with access to a skilled network of trained volunteers across England, to provide FREE personalised support to begin or make progress on climate action plans, no matter where you are on your sustainability journey.

For more information on the programme and how it will benefit your setting, register for the upcoming '*Introduction to the Climate Ambassadors Programme*' webinar:

- **Monday 12 October, 16:00-16:45, online.**

Alternatively, request support by emailing hello@climateambassadors.org.uk.



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 & review the guidance documentation on our [website](#) which explains all that you need to know. **The deadline for sending us your 2028/2029 policy is 30 November. If you are consulting, the deadline is 01 November.**

If your school is an academy in a MAT, you should 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 the end of February 2027, you will need to prepare and submit a nomination form 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 **15 October**.



Foundation Governors Needed

Could you use your gifts, experience and generous faith to make a difference for children and young people and help shape the future of our church schools?

Foundation governors play a vital role in enabling our schools to be beacons of hope, upholding the Christian vision and values that sit at the heart of education across the Diocese of Derby. By becoming a foundation governor, you will help nurture courageous hope, life-giving love and strong school communities where every child can flourish.

This is a key opportunity to put children and young people at the heart of the diocesan vision. No previous governance experience is required. We will provide training, guidance and ongoing support to help you grow into the role with confidence.

You can view current vacancies here: [Foundation Governor Vacancies](#) If you are interested but can't see a school in your local area listed, please still get in touch. We would love to speak with you about current and upcoming opportunities to serve our church school family.

Together, we can help our schools flourish as places of hope, faith and transformation for the communities they serve. Please get in touch at lindsey.bowe@derby.anglican.org



Partnership Agreement

The vision of Derby DBE 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](#).



Key Contacts

Thank you to those schools who have completed the short online form [HERE](#) requesting confirmation of names of key staff and their contact details.
Please could you complete the form by the end of October.

Inter Faith Week 08-15 November

The [Inter Faith Week for schools website](#) has free resources to help schools take part in and dive into this year's theme, '**Lighting the Way for a Shared Future**'. Resources are live now with a national schools' poetry competition accepting submissions from mid-October.

Inter Faith
Week



There are lots of ways to get involved with Inter Faith Week – see the [website](#) to find events happening in your local area, different ideas and ways to take part.



Facebook Page

Derby DBE now has a dedicated Facebook page. If your school has any forthcoming celebration and good news stories to share, do let us know!

You can follow us [HERE](#)

Association for Promoting Retreats

The APR provides a bursary fund for staff in CE schools to go on retreat for their own refreshment and renewal at one of their member APR houses. These bursaries are provided for all teaching and pastoral staff. The maximum grant is 50% of the total cost of a retreat priced at £300 or less. You can find out more [HERE](#)



Archbishops' Young Leaders Award (AYLA)

Rooted in the Church of England's Vision for Education, AYLA combines learning about leadership and character with practical opportunities for service and social action. It can be delivered flexibly through curriculum time, enrichment, PSHE, RE, collective worship or extra-curricular provision.

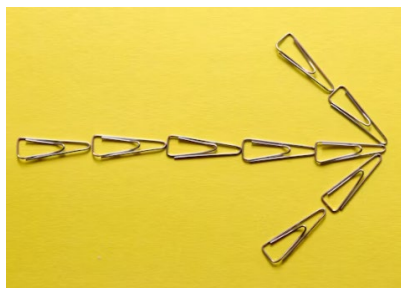
With the introduction of the new Enrichment Benchmarks, AYLA can provide schools with a structured and meaningful way of strengthening their enrichment offer. Through leadership development, volunteering, social action and engagement with their communities, pupils are given opportunities to participate, contribute and develop skills and experiences beyond the classroom. You can download an information pack [HERE](#)

UK Parliament Week (UKPW) 23 – 29 November

UKPW is an annual event, spreading the word about what UK Parliament is, what it does and how you can get involved.



FREE kits are available with booklets tailored for different age groups including primary schools. You can download an information pack [HERE](#)



DBE Guidance for Schools

If you haven't looked at our website for a while, please do take the time to do so. We have lots of information and guidance on [THIS PAGE](#).

In particular, we recommend that all staff read our guidance on working in church schools & academies [HERE](#)

The document is entitled for Headteachers and Governors, but **ALL STAFF** will find this guidance informative and hopefully helpful.

Training

See our [website](#) for full details of all the courses we offer.

Understanding Christianity – Refresher

Fri 16 October 09:30-12:30/13:00-16:00 Derby Church House

Fee: PA £50 / Non PA £100 Booking Form [HERE](#)

Primary RE Development Training

3 dates venues CHOOSE - Wed 21 Oct Derby Church House/Thurs 22 Oct Hartington/ Glossop

Fee: PA £50 / Non PA £100 Booking form [HERE](#)

Help! New RE Coordinators

18 November

If you have questions about the training we offer, contact [Liz](#)



Upcoming Briefings

Headteachers

13:30 Friday 23 October

10:30 Monday 23 November

Governors (chairs, clerks, foundation governors)

19:00 Wednesday 21 October

19:00 Monday 23 November

Collective Worship

16:00 Tuesday 13 October

16:00 Monday 09 November



If you would like details, please contact [the DBE office](#)

Supporting our Schools to TRANSFORM – GROW – BUILD

Showing **generous faith, courageous hope & life-giving love**, Derby DBE's actions will be to:

- affirm and strengthen our relationship with school leaders and governors,
- offer a high-quality training & development programme for school leaders, governors, clergy, RE & CW practitioners.

Do remember to visit our [website](#) for lots of useful information and guidance.
Previous newsletters can be viewed [here](#).



Christmas Card Competition 2026

The winning entry will be used for Derby DBE's official Christmas card for 2026 & will be sent out NATIONWIDE!

The winning pupil will receive a £10 book token.

Entries can be hand drawn, painted or electronically produced & should be either A4 or A5 in size.

Please scan entries & email to officeDBE@derby.anglican.org or post to Derby DBE, Church House, Full Street, Derby DE1 3DR

Please remember to include the pupil's name and the school's name!

CLOSING DATE
16:00 on Friday 20 November

Key Dates for 2026/2027 Academic Year

Autumn Term

CPD PROGRAMME Ensure staff & governors are booked onto relevant training. Details & booking links CPD programme	ASAP
MONTHLY BRIEFINGS Ensure dates in diary for headteacher, chair, clerk & foundation governors. See newsletter and CPD programme for dates	ASAP
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT Sign up via website HERE	
LAND & BUILDINGS COLLECTION RETURN for Academy Trusts More information HERE	
KEY CONTACTS & EMAILS School office to complete online form HERE	31 October
ADMISSIONS: CONSULTING - <i>VA schools & Academies only</i> Review policy for 2 years ahead & send draft to DBE. Guidance on website HERE	01 November
FOUNDATION GOVERNORS Deadline to submit application form & reference for TOO ending before 28 Feb	15 October
FOUNDATION GOVERNORS – CHECK TERM OF OFFICE (TOO) Start renewal process for TOO ending before 30 June – see website HERE (process can take up to 6 months)	ASAP
CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION Deadline for submission	20 November
ADMISSIONS: NOT CONSULTING - <i>VA schools & Academies only</i> Review policy for 2 years ahead & send draft to DBE. Guidance on website HERE	30 November
HEADTEACHER CONFERENCE 22 June 2027 at The Hayes Conference Centre Booking form HERE	ASAP
EXEC / HEADTEACHER / HEAD OF SCHOOL RECRUITMENT Start process if notice has been given. DBE must be involved. See guidance HERE	

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 nina.hern@derby.anglican.org

Admission Appeal Hearings for Academic Year 2026-2027

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

School holiday dates:

Half Term 26-30 October / Christmas Holidays 21 December-01 January / Half Term 16-20 February / Easter Holidays 26 Mar-09 April / Half Term 31-04 Jun