SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

JPSA

John Port Spencer Academy

Newsletter

Monday 20th April 2026

Welcome Back and Thank You to Our Families

As we welcome pupils back to school this week, we would like to begin by extending a sincere thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support, particularly in ensuring that pupils return in full and correct school uniform. High standards of uniform help foster a strong sense of identity, pride and belonging within our school community, and we are grateful for your partnership in upholding these expectations.

Returning to school also brings some exciting new developments on site, designed to enhance pupils' wellbeing, comfort and enjoyment throughout the school day.

Many students will already have noticed our new picnic benching area, which has been installed to provide a welcoming, social space for pupils to use at the start of the day, during break times and at lunchtime. This area offers students the opportunity to relax, socialise and enjoy their surroundings in a positive and supervised environment, supporting both friendships and wellbeing.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that the astro 3G pitch is now open for student use during lunchtime. This facility offers a fantastic opportunity for pupils to take part in physical activity, enjoy games with friends and benefit from the physical and mental health advantages that come from being active during the school day. Staff will continue to oversee use of the pitch to ensure it remains safe, inclusive and enjoyable for all.

For those pupils who prefer a quieter space, or who enjoy reading and study, the library remains available during lunchtime. This continues to be a calm and welcoming environment where students can read, complete schoolwork or simply enjoy some quiet time during the day.

We are proud to continue developing our school environment so that it meets the diverse needs of our students—whether that is through active spaces, social areas or calm, reflective settings. These improvements are part of our ongoing commitment to supporting pupils' wellbeing, engagement and positive experiences at school.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We look forward to another successful term working together for the benefit of all our students.





Joy Progress Success Act with care, kindness, respect and integrity

Key Dates

Term Dates:

Half Term 5 - 13th April 2026 - 22nd May 2026

Half Term 6 - 1st June 2026 - 23rd July 2026

INSET Days:

26th June 2026

April/May:

Summer Exams ~ 7th May - 17th June

School Events:

Wednesday 22nd April	A Level PE Moderation - Repton School
Thursday 23rd April	Online Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening
Friday 24th April	Year 12 Parliament Trip
Wednesday 29th April	Junior Maths Challenge
Monday 4th May	May Bank Holiday
Friday 8th May	Year 13 Prom
Wednesday 13th May	Mamma Mia Theatre Visit
Thursday 21st May	Royal Society of Chemistry Analyst Day - Year 12
Friday 22nd May	Students break up for Half Term
Monday 1st June	Students return
Tuesday 9th June	Junior Kanagroo (Maths Challenge)
Tuesday 9th June	Mathematical Olympiad
Tuesday 16th June	Year 12 Geography Field Trip (Birimingham)
Wednesday 17th June	Sheffield Hallam University - Sports Conference Trip
Wednesday 17th June	Mind Charity Concert

Save the Date:

Thursday 23rd April	Online Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 25th June	Online Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening



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JPSA Transition

citizens advice Mid Mercia

Transitioning to Secondary School Workshop



This workshop aims to build on parents/guardians/carers' existing understanding of how to support young people's successful transition to secondary school.

The workshop will outline some of the common challenges and explore some practical strategies to help, with a focus on effective communication and building good routines.

The aim of this workshop is for families to feel more confident:

·Understanding how to support young people to be ready for secondary school and to enjoy a smooth transition.

·Recognising their range of relevant pre-existing skills and experience.

·Knowing what to expect and where to go for help.

Training delivered by Derbyshire Educational Psychology Service
Making a Difference: enabling positive change through listening, optimism, and insight.

When: Tuesday 12th May 2026 13:00pm-14:30pm

Where: Citizens Advice Mid Mercia, 114 Church Street, Church Gresley, Swadlincote, DE11 9NR

Who: Parents/guardians/carers of children and young people that live in South Derbyshire.

To book: call 01332 228744 or email ch@citizensadvicemidmercia.org.uk for more info

NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board

DERBYSHIRE County Council

Joy

JPSA Library

All students welcome!



Students are welcome to access the library before and after school, during break times, and at lunchtimes.
The library offers opportunities to complete homework, use computers, borrow books, read with friends, and take part in activities such as jigsaw puzzles.

Opening Times:

Monday: 8.00am - 4.00pm
Tuesday: 8.00am - 4.00pm
Wednesday: 8.00am - 4.15pm
Thursday: 8.00am - 4.15pm
Friday: 8.00am - 3.30pm

Visit Our Library Website:





After School Library Clubs:

Tuesday: Homework Club led by Miss Russell
Wednesday: Reading Club led by Mrs Smith and Mrs Martin

More library clubs coming soon!



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Progress



Year 12 Visit to the University of Leicester

Our Year 12 students have begun preparing for their post-18 study applications. As part of their sixth form programme, all students are offered the opportunity to visit at least one university and engage in higher education experiences, helping them to make informed decisions about their future.

During their visit to the University of Leicester, students attended informative sessions covering careers, student support, accommodation, budgeting, and how to make the most of university life. They also had the opportunity to explore the campus and speak with current undergraduate students, gaining valuable first-hand insights.

The students engaged positively throughout the day, asked thoughtful questions, and embraced the opportunity to experience a new university environment.

Later this term, other Year 12 students will visit the University of Derby and Nottingham Trent University.

Please see the following link for a Parents' Guide to University, full of information for parents to help support their child through the university application process:

https://www.unitasterdays.com/university-support-for-parents/parents-guide-to-university-brochure/

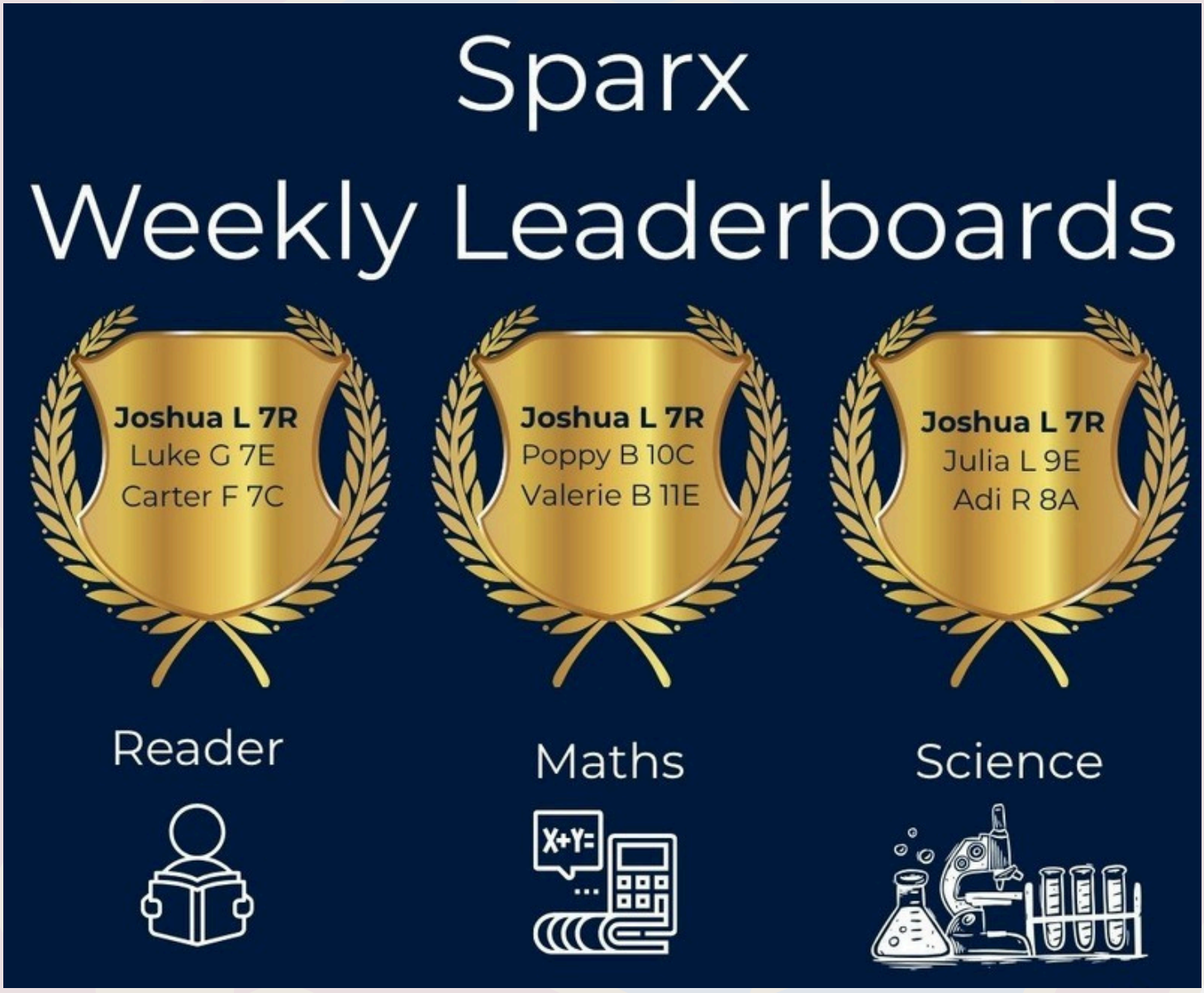


Progress



SPARX LEADERBOARDS

Well done to our current leaders!





SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

Success



Year 12 Geography Fieldwork at Mam Tor

This week, our Year 12 Geography students took part in an enriching field trip to Mam Tor as part of their A-Level course. Enjoying dry and sunny weather, the group spent the day investigating the impacts of tourism on this well-visited Peak District landmark. Students collected a wide range of primary data, including measurements of footpath erosion, surveys of vegetation cover, footfall counts, and observations of litter. These techniques not only helped them understand how visitor pressure shapes the landscape, but also strengthened the practical skills they will need when planning their own NEA investigations later in the year. Throughout the day, students showed excellent focus, teamwork and enthusiasm. Their positive attitude made the fieldwork both productive and enjoyable, and staff were incredibly proud of the way they represented the school.



Success











Success



A-Level Chemistry Olympiad 2026 Winners

We are proud to celebrate our A-level chemists who took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad 2026.
This nationally respected competition challenges students with rigorous, creative problems that stretch far beyond the syllabus, testing analytical thinking, resilience, and scientific curiosity.

Taking part demonstrates not only strong chemical knowledge, but also a willingness to embrace academic challenge and independent thinking.

We congratulate all participants for their commitment to excellence in chemistry!

Bronze Award Winners:
E. Campion
E.Novakova
G. Eagle
O.Eaton

Silver Award Winner:
L. Jennings



ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY

Act

with care, kindness, respect and integrity



Year 8 Charity Run

On Saturday 18th April the Y8 Football Team completed their charity fun run in support of Betel, raising money in memory of Daniel's mum. The team showed fantastic determination, teamwork and spirit throughout.

It was brilliant to see such a positive atmosphere on the day, with staff, students and parents all coming together to support the event.

So far, they have raised an amazing £2,350 — a fantastic achievement!

A huge thank you to all the parents, staff and students for their involvement and support.

There is still time to donate and support this wonderful cause:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/jpsa-y8-football-team



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Attendance Matters



WHY YOUR ATTENDANCE MATTERS!!!

Students with GREEN attendance rating (97% or higher) achieved 1 ½ grades higher in each of their GCSEs than students with a RED attendance rating (below 90%). The results are similar at A Level.

Unlock Rewards

Red	< 90%
Red Amber	90 - 93%
Amber	94 - 95.9%
Amber Green	96 - 96.9%
Green	97+ %



Attendance postcard rewarded every half term

Feel Good Friday

Weekly mentions as part of Feel Good Friday

DID YOU KNOW?



Poor attendance could lead to you earning around **£10,000** less by the time you're 28 compared to someone who shows up to school almost every day.

The John Port Community

1:1 Meetings

We are delighted to invite you to one to one meetings with Miss O'Leary, Principal

Tuesdays

From 3.00pm

We are committed to working together with families to ensure every child thrives in our care and open communication is key to addressing any concerns or challenges affecting your child's education and wellbeing.

Appointments are available every Tuesday after school to discuss any issues, ideas, or concerns you may have. These sessions are an opportunity for us to work collaboratively to support your child's success and happiness at school. Whether you wish to talk about academic progress, social or emotional wellbeing, or share suggestions. Your insights as parents are invaluable, and I want to ensure that every child has the best possible experience at our school.



To book an appointment please email:

lsmith@johnportspencer.org.uk

John Port Spencer Academy



SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

The John Port Experience



Basketball Fixtures Update

Well done to all our students who have represented the school in basketball fixtures against West Park!

A Year 9/10 combined girls team travelled to West Park on Tuesday for their first ever competitive game. They played some fantastic basketball and ended up running out as comfortable winners. Players: R. Bennett, E. Critchley, F. Harlow, L. Vincent, A. Howes, L. Houlgrave and E. Hadfield.

A Year 7/8/9 team then faced West Park at home on Wednesday. This was a much closer affair with an excellent standard of basketball being played by both teams. With the game being a tie in the last minute of the final quarter, a late basket by C. Clarke-Malcolm and a three-pointer from C. Okaula helped seal the win for JP! Players: A. Genders, M. Tubby, F. Betts, C. Clarke-Malcolm, C. Okaula, B. Wong, H. Pratt, N. Hemmings, N. Booth, J. MacHukatta and E. Sarwar.



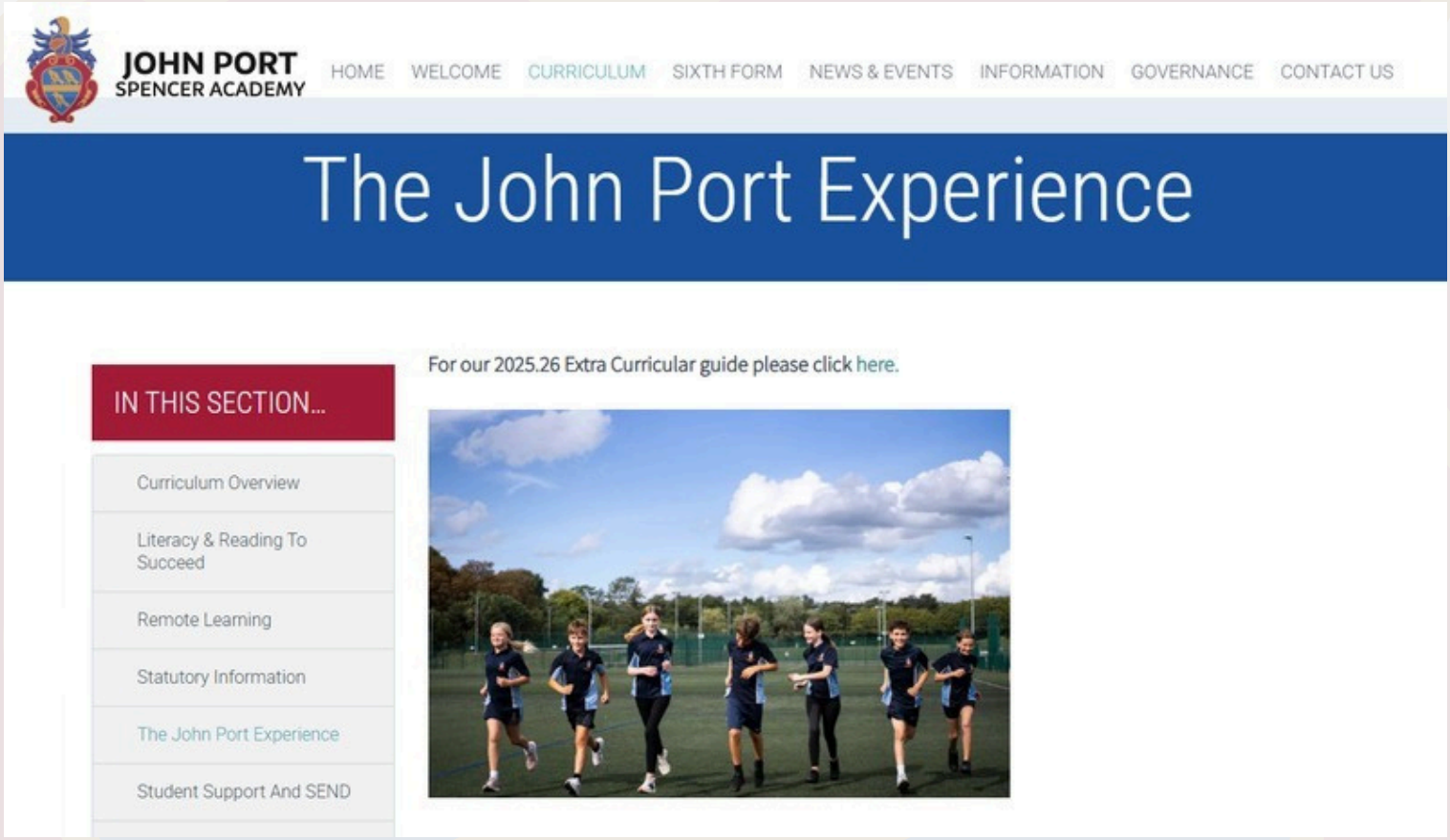


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The John Port Experience

Our Extra Curricular Timetable for this half term is available here:

https: //johnportspencer.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/JPSA-EXTRA-CURRICULAR-BOOKLET-TERM-5-25.26.pdf





What children need to know about

ONLINE BULLYING

What is online bullying?

ONLINE BULLYING – ALSO KNOWN AS CYBERBULLYING – IS BULLYING THAT TAKES PLACE ON THE INTERNET OR VIA ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND MOBILE PHONES. IT CAN INCLUDE:

1. SENDING SOMEONE MEAN OR THREATENING EMAILS, DIRECT MESSAGES OR TEXT MESSAGES
2. HACKING INTO SOMEONE'S ONLINE ACCOUNT
3. BEING RUDE OR MEAN TO SOMEONE WHEN PLAYING ONLINE GAMES
4. POSTING PRIVATE OR EMBARRASSING PHOTOS ONLINE OR SENDING THEM TO OTHERS
5. CREATING FAKE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS THAT MOCK SOMEONE OR TRICK THEM
6. EXCLUDING SOMEONE FROM AN ONLINE CONVERSATION OR BLOCKING THEM FOR NO REASON

BE KIND ONLINE

BEFORE PRESSING 'SEND' ON COMMENTS, ASK YOURSELF THESE 3 QUESTIONS...

1. WHY AM I POSTING THIS?
2. WOULD I SAY THIS IN REAL LIFE?
3. HOW WOULD I FEEL IF SOMEBODY SAID THIS TO ME?

NOS National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



Why does it happen?

GOING ONLINE MAKES IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO SAY AND DO THINGS THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T DO FACE TO FACE. ONLINE BULLIES DON'T GET TO SEE THEIR VICTIMS' REACTIONS IN REAL LIFE, SO THIS CAN COCOON THEM FROM THE REAL DAMAGE THAT THEY ARE DOING. QUITE OFTEN, PEOPLE BULLY BECAUSE THEY ARE GOING THROUGH SOMETHING DIFFICULT THEMSELVES AND TAKING IT OUT ON OTHERS IS THE ONLY WAY THEY KNOW HOW TO GET CONTROL OF THEIR OWN EMOTIONS.

How does it feel to be bullied?

BEING BULLIED CAN IMPACT ON YOUR SELF-ESTEEM, CONFIDENCE AND SOCIAL SKILLS. BECAUSE IT HAPPENS ON YOUR PHONE, TABLET OR COMPUTER, IT CAN FEEL LIKE YOU ARE UNDER THREAT EVEN WHEN YOU'RE IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, SUCH AS YOUR BEDROOM. DON'T FORGET...IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT IF YOU'RE BEING BULLIED.





Am I an online bully?

SOMETIMES IT ISN'T OBVIOUS THAT WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS WRONG, BUT IF YOU USE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO UPSET, ANGER OR EMBARRASS SOMEONE ON PURPOSE, THIS MEANS YOU'RE INVOLVED IN ONLINE BULLYING. IT MIGHT BE AS SIMPLE AS 'LIKING' A MEAN POST, LAUGHING AT AN ONLINE VIDEO, OR SPREADING A RUMOUR, BUT THE PERSON BEING BULLIED COULD FEEL LIKE THEY ARE BEING GANGED UP ON. THINK ABOUT HOW IT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL IF IT HAPPENED TO YOU. EVERYONE CAN MAKE MISTAKES, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO LEARN FROM THEM – GO BACK AND DELETE ANY UPSETTING OR NASTY POSTS, TWEETS OR COMMENTS YOU'VE WRITTEN.

Who do I tell?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE BULLYING ON YOUR OWN. TALK TO AN ADULT THAT YOU TRUST – A PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR TEACHER. MOST WEBSITES, SOCIAL MEDIA WEBSITES AND ONLINE GAMES OR MOBILE APPS LET YOU REPORT AND BLOCK PEOPLE WHO ARE BOTHERING YOU. YOU COULD ALSO CONTACT CHILDLINE (WWW.CHILDLINE.ORG.UK), WHERE A TRAINED COUNSELLOR WILL LISTEN TO ANYTHING THAT'S WORRYING YOU – YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO GIVE YOUR NAME.





How do I prove it?

WHEN CYBERBULLYING HAPPENS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO DOCUMENT AND REPORT THE BEHAVIOUR, SO IT CAN BE ADDRESSED – RECORD THE DATES AND TIMES WHEN CYBERBULLYING HAS OCCURRED, AND SAVE AND PRINT SCREENSHOTS, EMAILS, AND TEXT MESSAGES.

How can I stay safe?

MAKE SURE YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS ARE SET SO THAT ONLY PEOPLE YOU KNOW AND TRUST CAN SEE WHAT YOU POST. NEVER GIVE OUT PERSONAL INFORMATION ONLINE, SUCH AS IN PUBLIC PROFILES, CHAT ROOMS OR BLOGS, AND AVOID FURTHER COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE SENDING THE MESSAGES. KEEP AWARE OF FAKE PROFILES AND INTERNET USERS PRETENDING TO BE SOMEONE THAT THEY ARE NOT.



What's On in the Local Area

The **Junior County Hockey** season for 2026–27 begins in June 2026. To support player development ahead ofthe season, **Derbyshire Hockey Association** will be offering a programme of Development Coaching (DC) and Strength & Conditioning (S&C) sessions throughout the summer.

Who can take part

The programme is open to all players in the following age groups (based on school year in September 2026):

U13: Years 6–8 (born 01 Sep 2013 – 31 Aug 2016)
U14: Year 9 (born 01 Sep 2012 – 31 Aug 2013)
U15: Year 10 (born 01 Sep 2011 – 31 Aug 2012)
U16: Year 11 (born 01 Sep 2010 – 31 Aug 2011)
U17: Year 12 (born 01 Sep 2009 – 31 Aug 2010)



Development Coaching (DC)

A total of 14 hours coaching will be delivered at the Ellis Astro , Shobnall Leisure Complex across July, August and early September.
U13 sessions: Tuesdays
U14–U17 sessions: Thursdays
Sessions include both evening (1.5 hours) and daytime (4 hours) formats.
There is no selection or nomination required—players of all abilities are encouraged to attend although places are limited due to capacity. Coaches will provide feedback during sessions, and attendance may lead to selection for the County Academy in September.

[Summer Coaching 2026 - Derbyshire County Hockey]

Strength & Conditioning (S&C)

These sessions will also take place at The Ellis Astro on selected Sundays (June–August), from 9:30–10:30am, and are designed specifically for hockey players.

Costs

DC evening sessions: £10
DC day sessions: £40
All DC sessions: £100 (discounted rate)
S&C sessions: £10 per session

Registration

All players must be registered on the Derbyshire Talent Platform:

www.derbyshirecountyhockey.talentplatform.hockey

New players must complete registration before attending. Existing players should log in and ensure all required profile details (including medical and emergency contact information) are up to date.

Additional Information

Sessions are led by experienced coaches following England Hockey's development framework.
Players should bring standard hockey kit (stick, shin pads, gum shield, water, etc.) Payment for sessions must be made in advance via BACS (details available upon registration and on website)
This programme is an excellent opportunity for young players to develop their skills in a structured and supportive environment ahead of the upcoming season.

What's On in the Local Area

Derby County Under-18s' to be played at Pride Park Stadium on Friday 24th April (7pm kick-off)

Free Entry!

The Young Rams, overseen by Lead Coach Bradley Johnson, will play against Burnley in their penultimate home game of the 2025/26 Premier League – North campaign.

The Under-18s' home matches are usually played at Moor Farm Training Centre, making the clash with the Clarets an important opportunity for the Academy prospects to gain match experience in a first-team environment.

The East Stand will be open to spectators, with FREE entry to Pride Park Stadium. Turnstiles 33 to 38 will open at 6pm, one hour prior to kick-off. Kick-off is 7pm.



Safeguarding



Our latest Safeguarding Parent Newsletter is available here:

JPSA Parent/Carer Safeguarding Newsletter



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Who to Contact

General Enquiries - info@johnportspencer.org.uk
To Report an Absence - attendance@johnportspencer.org.uk
Sixth Form Enquiries/Absences - sixthform@johnportspencer.org.uk
Arbor Enquiries - arbor@johnportspencer.org.uk
Safeguarding - safeguarding@johnportspencer.org.uk



Principal:
Miss O'Leary - HT@johnportspencer.org.uk
Leadership Team - Please see our website



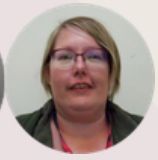
Year 7:
Mr Collier - NCollier@johnportspencer.org.uk
Miss Spray TSpray@johnportspencer.org.uk




Year 8:
Miss Perry - HPerry@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mr Gaynor - CGaynor@johnportspencer.org.uk




Year 9:
Mr Bray - LBray@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mrs Dare - TDare@johnportspencer.org.uk

Year 10:
Miss Woodward - DWoodward@johnportspencer.org.uk
Ms Askin - LAskin@johnportspencer.org.uk




Year 11:
Mrs Orr - LOrr@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mrs Humphrey - SHumphrey@johnportspencer.org.uk




Sixth Form Team:
Mr Barker - GBarker@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mrs Lowndes - RLowndes@johnportspencer.org.uk
Admin & Attendance - Sixthform@johnportspencer.org.uk



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