



DERBY HIGH
SCHOOL

HIGHLIGHTS

2024 / 2025





Welcome to our HIGHLIGHTS

As I reflect on the year, it is tempting to focus solely on achievement and progress. Yet at Derby High, we know education is about more than outcomes. It is about how we make people feel: seen, heard and valued. True learning lives in warm relationships, the courage to try, the kindness shown in quiet moments and the spark of curiosity.

This year our community has embodied these values. Curiosity has flourished through questions asked, ideas explored, and discoveries made - from our youngest pupils experiencing their first trip to our Sixth Form students stepping confidently into independent research and future pathways.

Kindness has been woven into everyday interactions, whether through peer support, charitable work or simple moments of thoughtfulness. It is kindness that strengthens our inclusive and respectful culture, and we have seen it consistently throughout the year.

Courage, in its many forms, has been deeply inspiring: performing on stage for the first time, representing the school in sport, speaking up in class, overcoming setbacks and facing exams with determination. Courage is not the absence of fear but the decision to persevere despite it, and our pupils have demonstrated this time and again.

At the heart of everything we do are strong, meaningful relationships. We believe deeply in the power of connection, between staff and pupils, between families and the school, and between peers. These relationships create belonging and safety, the foundations on which learning thrives. They ensure

every child is known, understood and supported, not only to succeed but to grow as a whole person.

As you read this year's Highlights, I hope you sense the heart of Derby High in each event and story. Behind every moment is a network of care. These experiences will stay with our pupils not just because of what they achieved, but because of how they felt: supported, inspired and empowered.

To our pupils, staff and families, thank you for all you have contributed. I look forward to all we will continue to learn and achieve together.

Amy Chapman

Head

With thanks to...

All the students and staff for their contributions.

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HOUSE REPORT

ST. ANDREW

This year
has certainly
been one of
St. Andrew's
best.



Caption



We've seen wins throughout the year, starting with House Netball and House Benchball. We concluded the year with Sports Day and we were delighted to be announced as overall house winners!

We had an absolutely incredible start to the year, taking the win in House Netball, shortly followed by another win in House Benchball. Each of our teams were able to work together seamlessly which resulted in fantastic wins.

As the year's first full house event, House Dance was an incredible display of enthusiasm and house spirit. Both students and teachers came together to dance to Katy Perry's "Part of Me", and with our tunnels, gymnastics, and mini St. Andrew's cross, we snagged the win for the second year in a row!

Unfortunately we were not able to continue our winning streak into House Football, despite some fantastic performances! Each of our teams battled through to the end, however we were not able to take the win. We look forward to making a comeback next year.

We saw the entire house shine in this year's House Music performances. It's always amazing to see the musical talent held by individuals in the house, and a huge well done to Esther (Year 13) who achieved Senior Musician of the Year for the house. This year's House Choir theme was Disney songs, and St Andrew sang "I just can't wait to be king" from The Lion King. Though we didn't win, it was a lot of fun to rehearse and perform, especially with the guest appearances of Mr Ince and Mr Quichaud - a huge thanks to both of them for their contributions throughout the year.

House Challenge victories continued from last year, as we saw both our intermediate and senior teams reach the finals. With the whole school collected to watch the pressure was certainly on, but our teams showed incredible fortitude, resulting in a win for the intermediate team, and a close second from the seniors.

With it being our first event as House Captains, Sports Day was as hectic as it was fun. The house gave an outstanding performance, especially on the track, where St. Andrew managed to place on the podium for almost every race. Records were broken, face paint and ribbons were in no short supply, and by the end of the day, we had won not only both individual prizes, but Sports Day overall!

Thank you to Immy, Elsie, Lia and Jai for leading the house with such enthusiasm. We've got big shoes to fill, and hope to lead St. Andrew to another year of excitement and victory.

Charlotte and Zainab, St. Andrew House Captains, James and Rosie, St. Andrew Deputies





HOUSE REPORT ST. DAVID

Caption

**The House Captain
Team has been
blown away by the
commitment!**



We've had an excellent year in St. David, keeping morale high and putting 100% effort into every single event.

The House Captain Team has been blown away by the commitment! The unwavering enthusiasm and dedication of everyone has impressed us immensely and we can't wait to smash our future events next academic year!

House Netball kick started the beginning of the year, and everyone gave their all, performing incredibly well and showing endless support- both on and off the court. Later in the year, House Benchball took place and our high morale remained high, with all years eager to volunteer. We performed incredibly well with all our teams working harmoniously, displaying impressive physical ability.

Aside from sporting events, House Choir and House Dance were key experiences this year. For House Choir, we performed 'Love Is an Open Door' from Frozen and added a humorous twist by adding the dialogue at the end. In House Dance, we achieved an amazing result and performed Firework by Katy Perry, blowing the school away with our formations and well-executed choreography.

Finally, we ended the year with a brilliant Sports Day. It was great to see everyone get involved and support each other, cheering everyone one no matter the house. We couldn't ask for anything more than your admirable attitude and dedication this year. Hopefully next year we can keep this up and continue performing to the best of our abilities!

**Morgan and Sophia, St. David House Captains
Beth and Jonathon, St. David Deputies**





HOUSE REPORT

ST. GEORGE



We've had a great year from all of **St. George** across a wide range of events both in school and out of school.



Throughout the year we maintained an amazing level of sportsmanship and team spirit that aided us in putting our best efforts into the events we were faced with.

This year started with House Netball followed by House Benchball where we had many volunteers ready to get stuck in with all House Events. We quickly moved onto House Dance where, as a house, we were able to dance together, mastering tricky choreography in a short period of time. This was the first event where we all performed together as a house with an impressive display of enthusiasm towards the routine to match the upbeat song.

Moving into the spring term we took part in House Challenge where we made it to the finals of the Senior category where we placed 1st against St. Andrew. As well as this we enjoyed a wide variety of performances in House Music with both solo and group performances. To finish the day off, we performed 'How far I'll go' from Moana for the rest of the school, judged by Mr. Marshall. Despite placing 3rd there was still an excellent display of talent from all.

After Easter, a fantastic range of art was submitted to the House Art competition. In this, the hard work of our participants really paid off as we placed first.

As the summer holidays approached the whole school got together to compete in Sports Day. On the field we saw many determined faces ready to take part in the events. Throughout the morning many St. George students placed in both their track and field events, with many students setting school records. Congratulations to all that took part, especially those that set such high standards for those to come in future years. Overall, we came in 2nd place narrowly missing out on the lead.

Thank you to Caden, Isabel, Owen and Tilly for doing such a great job in leading the house throughout this past academic year, leaving such a good impression and helping us in the transition for us to follow.

Finally, a thank you to every student who has taken part in these events as you have worked extremely hard and we are incredibly proud to be your House Captains next year.

**Isla and George, St. George House Captains
Tom and Callum, St. George Deputies**





HOUSE REPORT

ST. PATRICK

Since September, **St. Patrick** have excelled across a broad range of academic and extra-curricular activities.



Each and every member has displayed the value of teamwork, resilience and dedication, bringing an immense amount of pride to both past and current house captains.

We first began the year with House Netball, which saw hard work and skill win the Year 8 and 9 category, securing St. Patrick's first win of the year. These winning attributes could also be seen later in the year in House Benchball, which was quickly followed by House Football. Though narrowly missing out on first place, there were many standout moments from our fantastic teams. Lily (Year 10) performance in House Football was of particular note.

At the end of the autumn half term, the entire house came together for House Dance, to present an amazing performance to Katy Perry's hit song 'Hot N Cold'. We all had loads of fun and created a lively, coordinated show.

Drawing February to a close was House Music, which St. Patrick took by storm! Following an intensive process of initial entries and heats, we held a sizeable lead going into the finals, already showing our proficiency across a wide range of musical disciplines. We won confidently, Sophie, Year 9, incredibly winning Intermediate Musician of the Year Award. February brought even more success, with St. Patrick also working together to win House Choir, singing the very technically challenging song 'Let It Go' from Disney's Frozen.

And lastly, wrapping up the year's house events, was Sports Day. From 100m to 1500m, the athletes gave it their all, supported wholeheartedly by the housemates cheering from the sidelines. In spite of the slightly unbearable heat, we were amazed at many of our House members, with a lot of wins across the board. Honourable mentions include:

- Mr Gallagher's nail-biting teachers' race, coming in a very close second to St. Andrew
- Noah (Year 8) and Dylan (Year 9) dual triumphs on the track
- Hollie (Year 9) and Chloe (Year 7) determination on many field and track events

Throughout the day the scores were extremely close between St. George and St. Patrick, with St. George eventually finishing slightly ahead- by a mere 50 points! This year has proven that St. Patrick thrives on talent, camaraderie and house pride and we are so excited to see all of you grow and show off your strengths next year.

Thank you so much to Ruby, Maddie, Morgan and Patrick, who have led our house to many victories and impressive accomplishments. We hope to continue their commendable work in guiding this amazing house.

**Alana and Ellen, St. Patrick House Captains
Ciernan and Dhruv, St. Patrick Deputies**





PRE SCHOOL PRIMARY





Reflecting on the last twelve months, through the many 'Highlights' of the year, it brings to mind what a unique place Derby High is.

This year, in their end of summer term report, we asked each child to record their own highlights and areas for improvement. Every child's reflection was different and captured the broad range of opportunities and experiences that make Derby High!

From the earliest days in 'Wrens' (our pre-school) the children build a strong foundation to be a lifelong learner, shaping not only their academic capabilities but also their personal character. Within these pages you will see the nurturing environment where children, throughout their primary years, are encouraged to grow as curious, kind, and courageous individuals.

Curiosity is at the heart of early learning as we foster exploration and creative thinking. The children are encouraged to ask questions, seek understanding, and find joy in discovery. Whether through hands-on science experiments, interactive history lessons, or engaging literature discussions, curiosity becomes a habit of mind that drives academic excellence and that love of learning.

Kindness, too, is a core value that underpins the ethos of Derby High. With a strong emphasis on pastoral care and community, children learn to respect one another, celebrate differences, and offer support in times of need.

These values are not taught solely in lessons, but modelled by staff and woven into daily school life,

from playground interactions to collaborative classroom projects, teaching children empathy and emotional intelligence.

Courage plays a vital role in each child's development, especially in a setting that encourages taking initiative and embracing challenges. We encourage the children to be brave, have a growth mindset and experience... everything... the arts, sports, public speaking, leadership, and more, gently pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones. Courage is not only about standing on stage or competing in sport, but also about persevering through difficulty and standing up for what is right.

By cultivating **curiosity**, **kindness**, and **courage**, the children flourish. We nurture resilient, compassionate individuals, prepared to thrive both in school and beyond. This holistic approach ensures that the character development of each child is as valued as their intellectual growth and enables them to go on to discover their passions and be the best they can be in all that they do.

Jeremy Harper

Head of Primary



PRIMARY PRE SCHOOL

The Wrens have had a fantastic year. We began our adventure with our 'Wonderful Wrens' topic where we learned about ourselves and each other, as well as getting to know our new school environment.

Just before Christmas we visited Derby Theatre to see an engaging performance of Chicken Licken, which was enjoyed by all. We also greatly enjoyed our nativity performance where the children confidently sang in front of a large audience.

January saw us embark on lots of new learning, centred on our new topic of 'Terrific Transport'. We had so much fun taking part in a Cycle Derby workshop on the infant playground. Spring was soon upon us and we enjoyed getting out and about as part of our topics 'Spring has Sprung' and 'The World we Live in'.

The children took part in show and tell activities, planted their own cress seeds and made a delicious fruit salad. We had an exciting time at our Explorer Day where we got to meet some creepy crawlies, some of us were brave enough to hold them! We took part in whole school event days such as House Music, World Book Day and Sports Day as well as special occasions such as our Pancake Day celebrations and the much loved Teddy Bears Picnic.



A real highlight of our pre-school year was our trip to Chatsworth Farm Park; every child behaved impeccably well and we had so much fun. Mrs Downen, Mrs E and Mrs Watt have been so proud of everyone's achievements this year.

Mrs Downen, Mrs E and Mrs Watt





PRIMARY RECEPTION

In Reception, we had a spectacular year with some wonderful highlights.



We rounded off the first term with a trip to the theatre to see 'Chicken Licken'. The children were mesmerised by a wonderful performance inspiring them for their upcoming nativity. In their nativity 'Fishing for Stars', the children wowed the audience with how they projected their voices and their storytelling through song and action.

We then packed our bags and embarked on our imaginative adventure taking flight on DHS airlines. We visited three different countries, discussing their landmarks and weather. It was amazing to hear the children sharing their own experiences visiting these countries. Later on in the year, as part of our 'Nature Detectives' topic, the children enjoyed Explorer Day. They dressed for the occasion and showed great courage when handling some of the animals, including a snake, chinchilla and a hairless guinea pig.

Some of the children shocked the teachers by allowing the tarantula to have a cosy seat on their head! Another magical moment came from 'CCTV' which captured a dinosaur on our playground. The children looked for clues and wrote some excellent descriptions suggesting where the dinosaur may have ended up.

The children completed their wonderful year in Reception with an amazing performance of 'The Enormous Turnip'. They performed with enthusiasm, energy and lots of smiles. The teachers in Reception are extremely proud of all of the children this year and how hard they have worked. Their journey in Reception has been a memorable one and they are now ready for their new adventure in Year 1.

Miss Hyland, Miss Shore and Mrs Redpath





PRIMARY YEAR ONE



A Year of Exploration, Imagination and Discovery

This year has been a wonderful journey of learning, discovery and fun. We began by exploring our local area, starting with the school grounds - investigating the pond, woodland area, and conservation area. We then ventured out on a walk into Littleover village, observing different types of houses, shops, and churches.

As autumn arrived, we celebrated with a special Autumn Day. Dressed in warm autumn colours, we made clay hedgehogs, cooked fruit crumble, collected leaves to create animal art, and took part in a range of creative seasonal crafts.

In our topic on toys, we explored how they have changed over time. We looked closely at toys

from the past and compared them to modern ones - discussing what they're made of and how they work. The topic ended with an exciting trip to the Sudbury Museum of Childhood, where we saw and played with more toys than we could have imagined!

Spring term brought a virtual bus tour of London as we learned about famous landmarks and enjoyed reading *The Queen's Knickers* - a story that quickly became a class favourite. We also studied animals and their senses, investigating sight, touch, and hearing. A food workshop with our catering team helped us explore smell and taste in a deliciously fun way.

In the summer term, our topic Battles, Banquets and Balls



brought history to life. We compared Kings Charles I, II and III, visited Tamworth Castle, and got creative making our own castles in Design Technology. Our special day of battles, banquets and balls was packed with phonics duels, dancing, and historical fun. We even created fearsome dragon eye art!

It has been an exciting and memorable year. We've grown in confidence, made great progress and had lots of fun along the way. We can't wait to see what next year brings!

Mrs Dowell, Mrs Foster, Mrs Bateman and Miss Jackson



PRIMARY YEAR TWO

In the autumn term, Year 2 got off to a flying start with their 'Superhero Day'.



All of the children were invited to come to school dressed as a fictitious or 'real-life' superhero, to make links with our English book study, *Send for a Superhero*, and our history unit of work, based around the lives of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. The children had lots of fun, collaborating to write superhero poetry and learning about the lives of these inspiring, extraordinary women.

Heading into the latter part of the autumn term, the children took centre stage and put on the most amazing performance of 'Higgledy Piggledy'. The children sang their hearts out and performed like professionals, taking their acting skills to another level, as they took on the roles of a whole host of farmyard animals! Mrs Cooke, our fabulous Head of Music, had worked her magic yet again and the children did us all proud!

The excitement for Year 2 continued into the spring term, with a fun-filled trip to Dudley

Zoo to 'bring to life' the children's geography learning about the rainforest.

The children attended an informative workshop where they got to examine a range of interesting objects linked to the rainforest and studied a fascinating, giant rainforest map of the world. A friendly parrot even came to visit the children and had a chat with them! One of the highlights of the trip, according to the children, was Mrs Ford reprimanding a lemur who was being a little cheeky in the lemur enclosure! The trip was a fabulous opportunity for the children to consolidate and extend their learning about such an interesting topic!

In the summer term, the children were inspired by the fictitious character, Rosie Revere Engineer, and we held two STEM days where the children collaborated to design, make, test and evaluate a bridge and a boat, with a given set of criteria. The children had so much fun testing



their boats in huge water trays and they were sitting on the edge of their seats as we piled weights onto their paper bridges to see whose bridge could hold the most weight before collapsing!

We have had a fabulous year with all of our Year 2 children and are proud of the collaboration, resilience, creativity and independence they have exhibited throughout the year. They are more than ready for the challenges which await them in Year 3!

Mrs Ford, Mr Hart and Mrs Smith



PRIMARY YEAR THREE

Year 3 have had a jam-packed inspiring year, developing their independence and embracing a range of cross-curricular learning opportunities.

Their learning journey began as they immersed themselves in the enchanting world of Roald Dahl. Along with their classwork, the children enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book character in celebration of his birthday.

Parents were treated to the underwater extravaganza, 'Rock Pool' where the children transformed into spectacular sea creatures and wowed parents with their sensational singing. Working alongside Year 4, they demonstrated collaboration and teamwork to produce a performance to be proud of.

In the spring term, the children experienced their first residential visit to Standon Bowers. They wholeheartedly embraced every opportunity presented to them, and their busy schedule left little time for missing home. From blazing roaring campfires to Stone Age jewellery making, the children sang, built dens to shelter from storms, became hunter-gatherers and showcased their prior knowledge, all achieving personal goals. The trip was a wonderful way to enhance learning beyond the classroom and consolidate knowledge of the topic through practical experiences.

Rounding off a successful year, the children travelled back to Ancient Egypt where they explored ancient tombs, studied fascinating artefacts and became experts in the process of mummification. They developed historical enquiry skills by examining sources of evidence and drawing valid conclusions about life in ancient Egypt and compared this with other ancient civilisations in existence at that time.

Year 3 should be incredibly proud of their achievements this year. They have progressed socially as well as academically, completing their first junior year with enthusiasm, energy and persistence. It has been a pleasure to see the children develop and showcase our school values of 'Kindness, Curiosity and Courage' through collaborative activities and inspiring learning opportunities.

Mrs Trindell, Mrs Grosberg, Mrs Ireland, Mrs Earp, Mrs Holgate and Mrs Smith



PRIMARY YEAR FOUR

What a fantastic year it has been in Year 4! The children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and resilience, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.

The autumn term began with a real highlight – the children's brilliant performance of Rock Pool. Their energy, confidence, and teamwork on stage were a joy to watch, and it was a fantastic showcase of their creative talents.

Throughout the year, our pupils have taken part in a wide range of sporting fixtures and festivals, including gymnastics, golf, football, and hockey – to name just a few! Their team spirit and determination have been inspiring, and it's been wonderful to see so many children getting involved and trying new things.

Our geography learning took us further afield as we explored Greece and Italy, comparing their climates, cultures, and landscapes to our own home in the East Midlands. This led to some rich discussions and deeper understanding of the world around us.

In Design Technology, the children had great fun making pasta dishes, while also developing their computer-aided design skills to create impressive packaging for their products. This hands-on learning was a great way to bring creativity and technology together.

A real highlight of the year was our residential trip to Willersley Castle in May. This experience was packed with adventure and offered the children the chance to step out of their comfort zones. From team challenges to problem-solving activities, the trip helped to build resilience, independence, and life skills that will stay with them for years to come.

We are so proud of the progress, maturity, and joy the children have shown throughout the year – well done, Year 4!

Mrs McBride, Mrs Oshilaja and Mrs Cauldwell





PRIMARY YEAR FIVE



Year 5 has been full of exciting learning experiences, hands-on activities, and unforgettable memories.

We kicked off the academic year with a brilliant trip to the National Space Centre which linked to our science topic on space. The visit gave pupils the chance to explore the solar system in an immersive way, setting the tone for a year packed with curiosity and enthusiasm.

In history, our Anglo-Saxon Immersion Day brought the past to life. Pupils dressed up, handled replica artefacts, and took part in workshops that gave them a real sense of what life was like in Anglo-Saxon Britain. Later in the year, we celebrated Mexico Day as part of our geography work. Children explored Mexican culture through food, art, and music, and developed a deeper understanding of life in a different part of the world.

A real highlight was inviting senior staff into our classrooms to deliver special topic-themed lessons. We had an engaging economics session that introduced children to the basics of money, trade, and value, and a Spanish lesson that gave pupils a chance to practise vocabulary in a fun, interactive way. It was fantastic to see children so engaged and asking thoughtful questions.

We ended the year on a high with our much-anticipated residential to Boreatton Park. It was an incredible few days full of challenge and adventure. From soaring through the air on the giant swing to learning how to kayak, every child pushed themselves and built confidence, resilience, and teamwork skills.

It's been a fantastic year, and Year 5 should be really proud of everything they've achieved. We're excited to see where their learning journey takes them next!

Miss Khalid, Mr De Waal and Mrs Liddle





PRIMARY YEAR SIX



Like all the greatest gripping stories, our school year opened with intrigue and danger at the outbreak of World War 1!

Stepping into vastly different worlds - and times - began in earnest as we moved through the years 1914 to 1919. With winter's cooling presence taking a firmer hold, we shared the sense of the grave challenges of weather through visceral accounts of soldiers in the trenches. Our class book, by the wonderful author John Boyne, allowed us to venture into a child's experience of World War 1.

Stemming from another text, *The White Feather*, we learned of conscientious objectors, shell shock and a nation's fevered thirst for victory and glory.

With the advent of November, came a deeper understanding of the real-life implications of conflict as we visited Coventry Cathedral and walked among the ruins, read accounts from the city's beleaguered citizens and handled precious artefacts from 1941.

A highlight of the term seems unanimously agreed upon: World War 2 Experience Day! From learning the jitterbug, wearing evacuee's tags, eating a rationed lunch and then experiencing an air raid, the day fired curiosity and created lasting memories.

Tentatively tiptoeing into spring, we changed our perspective entirely. From the ground, to the air. We embraced the magical world of the book *Spellboda*, by J. C. Clarke. In English, we explored a flight for freedom, writing rich descriptive pieces for a bird sanctuary in Norfolk. The term came alive, literally and figuratively-speaking, when we had a truly mesmerising visit from Hawkeye Falconry.

During the visit, we handled some beautiful birds of prey, flew them, and even had the opportunity to witness them flying mere millimetres from our noses! Awe and wonder abounded and the unanimous feedback was that it was AMAZING!

Bounding – headfirst – with renewed vigour, a pinch of trepidation and sheer excitement, we embraced the summer term. Our feet had barely settled back into school before setting off for France. The France residential is the bedrock of collective memories and experiences. For most, it is the first time away from family, and in foreign climes. With enviable gusto and enthusiasm, the children absolutely embraced every single experience. From a château to a gothic cathedral, from the trenches to an urban hive, and from frogs' legs to snails, the children let it envelop them so fully. What an unforgettable, memory forming, life affirming week of 'firsts'!

Nearing the closing chapter, we can look back and reminisce on the varied and rewarding journey of life in Year 6. It is with immense pride and a sense of accomplishment that we look back on reflect on the endeavour, achievement and foundation forming personal growth.

Et deinceps!

Miss Wright, Dr Evans-Bolger and Mrs Liddle



“ I was so proud
to be Crabby!
Aashwini



PRIMARY PERFORMING ARTS



Early Years Nativity

EYFS performed their Nativity play, 'Fishing for Stars', with confidence and skill. Wrens sang the songs and performed actions, while the Reception children each had an acting role. Every pupil at DHS has the chance to shine in a nativity or musical, and that is exactly what happened in 'Fishing for Stars'.

“ I liked dressing up in my costume! *Oscar*

Year 1 and 2 Christmas Production

The children in Years 1 & 2 thoroughly enjoyed performing their Christmas production, 'Higgledy, Piggledy Nativity' in the Senior Hall. Parents and grandparents were thrilled to watch this show. The animals prepared to tidy their stable for special visitors. Little did they know that the Baby Jesus was going to be born in their stable and they would be visited by shepherds and kings! It was a super performance with fantastic singing!

“ The songs were amazing and we loved
performing them to our family!'
Clara



Year 3 and 4 Production - Rock Pool

Crabby was desperate to be accepted into the Starfish Band, but her out of tune singing was the least of her worries.

After the high tide sweeps her out to sea, Crabby finds herself in a different rock pool with seaweed, and crab-eating octopus...and a lobster who trained Crabby to sing in tune. When Crabby finally returned home, the sea creatures were thrilled to see her and made her the lead in singer in the Rock Group. Year 3 and 4 dazzled their audience with amazing acting singing, choreography and fantastic costumes. Well done to all our wonderful performers for an excellent show!



Primary Concerts - Christmas, Spring & Summer

The standard of performance has been incredible at our Primary Concerts this year. Over 140 of our Primary pupils in Years 1-6 performed in the Senior Hall, as part of our choir and ensemble programme. Congratulations to the Andante Orchestra, Harmony Choir, Octavia Orchestra, Vivace Wind Ensemble, Rhapsody Choir, Allegro String Ensemble, Cadenza Orchestra, Aria Choir, Vocalise and Encore Choir. The exciting programme of contrasting musical styles has been so fabulous to watch and the quality of performance has improved throughout the year.

“ We sang our best – it has been amazing to be part of Aria and Encore choir this year! Ibrahim



House Music

Over 134 pupils entered the preliminary rounds and performed their instruments to gain points for their house. All Primary pupils and staff gathered in the Senior Hall listened to twelve polished performances from our instrumental finalists. After long deliberation from our panel of three judges, a winner was chosen from each age range.

Congratulations to Nourah, who won the Year 1 and 2 section with her fantastic performance of 'Gavotte' on the piano; to Naomi who won the Year 3 and 4 section who played beautifully on the piano with her rendition of 'Mamma Mia' and to Lara in the Year 5 and 6 section who dazzled us with her spectacular performance of 'Prelude' on the Violin. We then watched each house singing their Shrek! Song. St Andrew started with an upbeat version of 'All Star'. We then heard St David, who wowed us with 'I'm a believer'.

St George were next to perform their super version of 'Livin' la Vida Loca' and finally we listened to St Patrick who closed the event with their dramatic performance of 'Holding Out for a Hero'. The judges again, deliberated as to who should win the trophy - such a difficult decision as all houses produced such polished performances with strong singing throughout. St David won the House Song competition and the overall House winner was St Patrick.

Mrs Cooke



Year 5 and 6 Show - Mission Implausible

Year 5 & 6 wowed us with their superb production – 'Mission Implausible' Their singing and expression was electrifying! Year 6 took the lead parts and the audience were whipped into a story about spies and baddies with the Prime Minister and his cabinet in the mix. The production was sensational and all pupils sang with expression and enthusiasm.

“ I have enjoyed every minute of rehearsals and the final show was amazing!

Tabitha



PRIMARY SPORT

SWIMMING BY TABITHA (YEAR 6)

This school year, we competed in a major swimming gala after nearly a full year (two and a half terms) of dedicated swimming practice. From Year 1 to Year 6, we all swam at Moorways with an amazing teacher, and everyone made great progress in all four strokes.

Derby High took part in the DCCT (Derby County Community Trust) and Derby Excel Swimming Club galas, which have been held at Moorways for the past three years. We've always done well, but this year was our best yet- we achieved an incredible 14 wins out of 20 races!

Every swimmer who took part received a certificate for participation, a certificate for their win, and a medal from Derby Excel to celebrate their brilliant achievement. Pupils from Years 4, 5, and 6 competed, and we all gave it our absolute best.

We also held a House Swimming Gala at Moorways, with every pupil from Year 1 to Year 6 taking part. Everyone cheered each other on and helped their teammates to do their best. It was a competitive day with some exciting wins- and a few tough losses too. In the end, St. George came out on top, which was an amazing result!

Swimming this year has been full of achievement, teamwork, and fun.



HOCKEY BY HARRY (YEAR 6)

This year, hockey has been one of the most exciting and competitive sports at Derby High! Everyone has taken part and, most importantly, had lots of fun. We've really enjoyed learning new skills during our PE lessons and taking part in many fixtures—most of which we proudly won!

Many Year 6 pupils discovered a hidden talent for hockey that they didn't even know they had. Our brilliant PE teachers have been fantastic, helping us learn how to play as a team and organising House Hockey competitions for children from Year 3 to Year 6.

Hockey is mainly played during the autumn term, so we make the most of it while it lasts. The sport has even inspired some pupils to join hockey clubs outside of school and has helped boost confidence in both games and teamwork. Overall, hockey has been a brilliant experience this year, filled with learning, teamwork, and some fantastic wins.

TAG RUGBY BY RAYYAN (YEAR 6)

At Derby High School, tag rugby is not just about playing a game- it's about having fun while learning new skills and becoming better players. Through regular practice, we've learned important techniques such as passing, dodging, and making smart movements on the field to improve our overall performance.

One of the best things about tag rugby is learning how to work as a team. We practise communicating, supporting one another, and sharing responsibilities during matches. This teamwork helps us build trust and makes us stronger both as individuals and as a group. Playing Tag Rugby also teaches us important life skills like discipline, cooperation, and always giving our best effort. We'd like to thank our Tag Rugby teacher, Mr De Waal, for helping us learn and grow throughout the year!



CRICKET BY BEA (YEAR 6)

During this school year, we've been very competitive when playing against other schools, and everyone has really enjoyed themselves. We've taken part in several tournaments and have always stayed positive and supported our teammates.

As the term has gone on, everyone has improved their cricket skills by taking part in lots of fixtures. The Year 5 and 6 girls' team (run by Mrs Balfour) has made it all the way to the county final- so has the Year 5 and 6 mixed team (run by Mr Moorhouse)! Both finals will be played at the Derbyshire Country Ground.

Playing cricket in school has inspired lots of people to join clubs outside of school, and it's boosted their confidence to take part in even more school fixtures. Cricket is played during the summer term, and we really enjoy it - Derby High makes sure we don't miss any chances to play matches against other schools.

We also have a Year 3 and 4 cricket club at lunchtime on Wednesdays, and a Year 5 and 6 club after school on the same day. Both are run by Mr Hart, who makes every session fun, competitive, and exciting - helping everyone enjoy the sport to the fullest!

FOOTBALL BY FREDDIE (YEAR 6)

During this school year, we've been very competitive in our football. We took it to the next level with our new football league that Mr Hart entered us into. We were quite successful, managing to win a few games, and we all had loads of fun. We also had football club on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the year with Mr Hart. As well as the football league, there were other exciting fixtures, including a few tournaments with Mrs Balfour and Mr Moorhouse, and the all-girls festivals and tournaments run by Mr Harper. It's been a great year for football. We lost a couple of games and we won some too. Even when we lost, we knew the most important thing was that we all had fun.

GYMNASTICS BY MISS LIDDLE

Throughout this academic year, a selection of children from Years 1-6 have taken part in the DCCT Gymnastics events, hosted here at Derby High School. The children showcased their Gymnastic abilities in 3 different areas; Core Skills, Ribbon and Vault, with the criteria becoming progressively more difficult dependant on which level the pupils were entered for.

All the pupils were judged by gymnastic coaches and given a score for each skill demonstrated. They were then awarded either a bronze, silver or gold certificate dependant on their performance. A fantastic year of gymnastics from these primary pupils who represented the school fantastically performing with poise and precision.



DANCE BY MISS LIDDLE

Dance clubs at Derby High school are very popular, with 104 pupils attending 6 different weekly dance clubs running this academic year. This has meant that children right from Year 1 in the Primary school all the way to Year 9 in the Senior school could enjoy their love of dance. In June, all their hard work and dedication throughout the year came together in a fantastic showcase, which this year was called Dancing Through the Weather. The pupils danced through rain, sun and thunder to name just a few. We were also lucky enough to be able to take our Junior dancers to the DCCT Celebration of Dance Festival at Derby Theatre. The pupils have had a fantastic year of dance, performing with enthusiasm and confidence.



As you turn the pages of this year's Highlights, I know you will be amazed by the sheer breadth and depth of all that our students and staff have accomplished beyond the classroom.

This truly is a celebration of the energy, creativity and commitment that characterise life at Derby High.

And yet - remarkable as these pages are – they capture only a fraction of what goes on in our school community. Each achievement shown here has been pursued alongside the daily rhythm of lessons, homework, revision and exams. It is truly inspiring to see how our students not only strive for academic excellence, but do so while throwing themselves into such a rich variety of experiences with curiosity, kindness and courage.

These core values underpin all that we do. Curiosity leads our students to explore new ideas, new places and new perspectives. Kindness strengthens our community and lifts us all. And courage is the thread that runs through every challenge faced, every risk taken, every new step forward. That these values are truly lived at Derby High School is evident in these pages.

To all our students and staff: thank you for making this year so memorable. To our parents: thank you for your support, enthusiasm and partnership.

I hope you enjoy this glimpse into the life of our school.

Miss Jordan - Senior Deputy Head





SIXTH FORM

As I sit here writing this in July it feels, as ever, that the past academic year has gone by in an instant.

The common room has been a constant hive of activity and so much has been packed into the past three terms. Just looking back over the past few weeks, we have seen the new House Captains do a tremendous job of coordinating their teams at Sports Day, several alumni return to give talks to our Year 12s as they decide upon their career choices, and our Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award group tackle an expedition traversing the Yorkshire Three Peaks. Working with our Sixth Form cohorts is an honour and a



privilege at every turn. Their energy and drive is truly something to behold, and year on year it helps guarantee them all manner of successes.

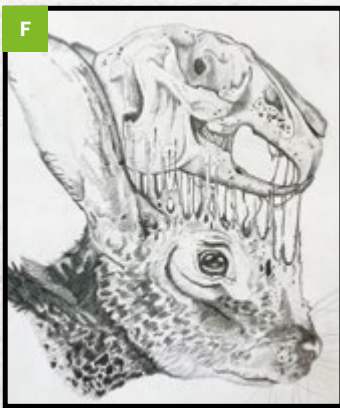
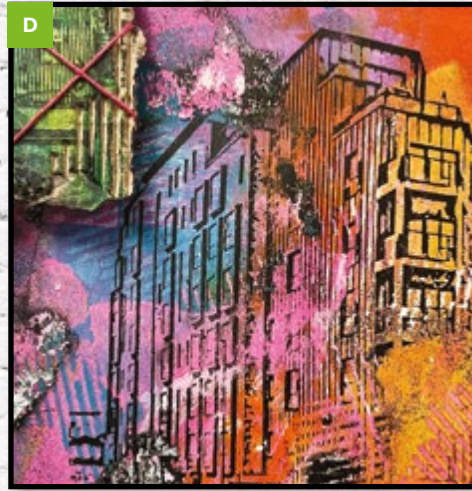
Returning to last August, our A Level results improved even further, with 27% at A* grade and 26% at A grade. Overall, 74% were between A* and B. Our students went on to

study a wide variety of degree courses across a range of different universities from Veterinary Medicine at the University of Cambridge to Music at the University of Manchester to Geology at the University of Liverpool. This year's Year 13 have gained an array of excellent offers for universities and degree apprenticeships and I am sure they will enjoy similar satisfaction with their results and pathways that follow this August.

In addition to this superb academic progress, we have seen students making headway in all sorts of super-curricular and extra-curricular fields, lighting up everywhere they can be found, from the stage to the sports pitch. Some wonderful victories have also been enjoyed, ranging from winning national tumbling competitions to reaching the national final of the Articulation Prize. We encourage, support and offer opportunities to all of our Sixth Formers as they pursue their interests and specialise into young people who can go out and make a real difference in the world around.

While the summer will offer a much-needed rest for all after such a busy year, I will be looking forward to getting started again in September with a new intake of Year 12s.

Mr Gallagher, Head of Sixth Form



- A** Alyvia, Year 11
- B** Evie, Year 11
- C** Rhea, Year 11
- D** Jasmine, Year 11
- E** Lucy, Year 11
- F** Navreet, Year 11
- G** Sophie, Year 11

VE ARTS



DESIGN ART & DESIGN A LEVEL



A/B/C Sneha, Year 13



KEYSTAGE 3 GALLERY



Year 7 African Inspired Clay Masks



Thomas, Year 7



Ashwin, Year 8



Kieran, Year 8



A Amelia, Year 9



B Emily, Year 9



C Harry, Year 9



D Laaibah, Year 9

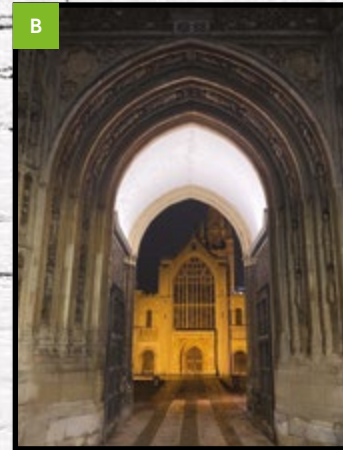
HOUSE ART



- A** Ashwin, Year 8, People's Choice Winner
- B** Sophie, Year 7, People's Choice Joint Runner Up
- C** Zainab, Year 12, People's Choice Joint Runner Up
- D** Simren, Year 8 St George Art and Design Department and Prefect Choice



HOUSE ART



- A** Sophie, Year 7, KS3 Winner
- B** Jessica, Year 11, KS4/5 Winner
- C** Mr Dodson, Staff Highly Commended
- D** Mrs Balfour, Staff Winner



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Senior School Musical Production

THE WIZARD OF OZ

THE WIZARD of OZ



What an outstanding achievement by Derby High School's senior production team! Their performance of *The Wizard of Oz*, held in the Senior Hall on Thursday 20th March, and Friday 21st March, drew the largest audience we have ever welcomed.

Congratulations to everyone involved in bringing this musical to life. The cast and crew's dedication and hard work shone through in every detail of the production. Performing in front of families, friends, and staff made the experience all the more memorable. Our leads told this well-known story in a fresh way, bringing the characters to life and the energetic chorus sang and danced their way from Kansas to the Emerald City. Bravo to Olivia, Anna, Rosie, Ruby, Uchechi, Matti, Alex, Jenny, Maya, Olivia, Charlotte, Aashi, Emilie, Josh, Ava, Ruby, Sophie, Katie, Kara, Lilah, May, Maria, Autumn, Zara, Peter, Eesha, Evie, Emily-Rose, Eva, Holly, Ishika, Jennah, Lucy, Avani, Jasdev and Summer.

The whole school production is a fantastic opportunity to work collaboratively with students and staff from all years and departments.



The costumes and makeup looked stunning thanks to Mrs Davies, Mrs Martin-Smith, Roshni, Phoebe, Jasmine and Navreet. Props and staging were carefully crafted by Mrs Martin-Smith and the Caretaking team and expertly managed by Miss Lomas who also designed the projections. The choreography was created by Mrs Liddle, Mrs McBeth, Olivia and Ruby. Thank you to all from Mrs Maddox and Mrs Lesley.

We are also deeply grateful to everyone who attended and supported the show with their generous donations - your encouragement made a real difference.

We hope our audience enjoyed the production as much as our students enjoyed creating it. Truly, an unforgettable experience for all!

FAIRY TALE COURTROOM

DRAMA



Last year, I had the chance to direct the Lower School Production, which was a very exciting experience for me. I chose to do the play 'Fairytale Courtroom' as I found the script funny, and heart-warming and the cast certainly used it to create a comedic and memorable performance.

With the help of fellow drama students Ruby and Olivia, I conducted auditions and assigned roles. Then alongside Mrs Maddox, we began rehearsals which were always a part of the week I looked forward to and will miss because the cast worked so well together and would often come up with their own ideas to include into scenes. I loved watching their confidence grow with each rehearsal especially the year 7s many of whom were new to the school.

The final performance in October was amazing to watch as despite a couple of hiccups everything went better than I could've imagined and the audience were laughing throughout.

Hettie, Drama Prefect and Production Director



SENIOR & SIXTH FORM MUSIC

We welcomed in the new academic year having celebrated a fantastic set of results from our A level and GCSE music students.

Individual successes in instrumental and singing exams have given us further cause to celebrate and our congratulations go to the many students who have taken graded exams during the year. In particular, those students achieving the highest levels at grade 8 and diploma standard.

Congratulations to Anabelle for achieving her grade 8 piano with distinction and grade 8 singing with merit, Manroop for achieving her grade 8 flute with distinction, Ella for gaining grade 8 with merit on the piano, Jessica for achieving grade 8 singing with distinction, Juliette for achieving her grade 8 drums with distinction, Sophie for gaining grade 8 singing with distinction, Ted for achieving grade 8 with distinction on drums and Denny for gaining his grade 8 on piano with merit and grade 8 on bass guitar with merit.

We have had a record number of students succeeding at diploma level, these include Denny for achieving his LCM diploma on trumpet, Anna for achieving her ARSM on piano with distinction, Evie for achieving her ARSM diploma in singing with distinction and Esther for achieving both her ARSM diploma on the piano and violin, both with distinction.

We are very proud to celebrate the successes of students who have participated in musical ensembles at county and national level. Congratulations to Denny for gaining his place in the National Youth Concert Band and National Youth Jazz Collective, Hugo for gaining a place in the National Youth Choir and Emilie for gaining a place in the National Youth Concert Band.



AUTUMN TERM

DERBY CATHEDRAL LUNCHTIME RECITAL

Musicians from the Sixth Form performed at a lunchtime concert in the recital series at Derby Cathedral. Soloists included George who played The Swan by Saint-Saëns on the cello, Manroop whose performances included the flute piece Fantasie by Fauré, Anna played the first movement of Beethoven's Sonata Pathétique for piano, Esther performed a piano Nocturne by Chopin, Anabelle who played Schubert's Impromptu no 2 in A flat on the piano, Evie sang Puccini's aria O Mio Babbino Caro and Jessica's programme included King David by Herbert Howells.

The programme was warmly received by the audience. Congratulations to all of our talented musicians.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

At our Christmas concert we celebrated the season with a mixture of fun and festive music. The Swing Band, Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, String Orchestra, The Upbeats, Mezzo, Cantabile and Chapel choirs, string quartet, saxophone, clarinet and flute ensembles filled the hall and the audience with the Christmas spirit with music including Let it Snow! It Feels Like Christmas and Seasons of Love.



CAROL SERVICE

We were fortunate to be able to hold our whole school carol service in the wonderful surroundings of Derby Cathedral. This traditional Christmas Carol Service included performances of Still, Still, Still by the Chapel choir, The Angel Gabriel by the Cantabile choir and The Candlelight Carol by the Mezzo choir.

Senior choirs joined forces with the Symphony Orchestra in an uplifting performance of Joy to the World and the songs were threaded through the service between readings which recounted the Christmas Story.

SPRING TERM

SWING BAND

The Swing Band took part in the National Festival of Music for Youth and was invited to take part in the fringe festival at Symphony Hall, Birmingham. You can watch the video of them performing Lullaby of Birdland, The Nearness of You, featuring a flugelhorn solo by Denny and Caravan on our school's YouTube channel.



SYMPHONY HALL VISIT

In February, Year 8 were dazzled by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra at the concert for schools in Symphony Hall, Birmingham. Students have been learning about the instruments of the orchestra and the interactive concert took us on a musical journey from the music of Bollywood to Star Wars. We loved hearing the talented orchestra performing in this world class concert hall.

DERBY CATHEDRAL

The Chapel Choir were invited to perform at Derby Cathedral as part of the Holocaust Memorial Service. This was a poignant and moving occasion and the choir represented the school admirably, giving a beautiful performance of The Lord is My Shepherd.

HOUSE MUSIC

The annual House Music competition featured performances in categories including intermediate and senior piano, strings, woodwind, brass, guitar, drums, singing and duets and small ensembles. It was good to welcome back Mr Marshall as our adjudicator, who provided fair and informative feedback for our young musicians.

The overall intermediate musician of the year award went to Sophie Short and the senior musician of the year was awarded to Esther and a special commendation award was given to Denny. The house choirs were expertly co-ordinated by house captains and enabled all students to participate in this musical event. It was a clean sweep for St. Patrick winning both the House Choirs and the cup for the most points.

Congratulations to all performers. It was lovely to invite family and friends to share in a second performance by the winners of the house music sections in a recital the following week.

A LEVEL RECITAL

At the A level music recital evening, our singers and instrumentalists demonstrated their tremendous skills and musicianship through a range of diverse programmes. The audience were treated to operatic arias, musical theatre showstoppers, powerful and moving ballads, exciting rock music and stunning concertos. Congratulations to Evie, Olivia, Ruby, Patrick and Esther for an evening of high quality music making.

THE WIZARD OF OZ

We enjoyed joining forces with the drama department in our production of The Wizard of Oz. Our talented cast entertained audiences with familiar songs including Over the Rainbow, We're Off to See the Wizard and If I Only Had a Brain. They were accompanied by the show orchestra comprising Manroop, Sophia, Bella, Eve, Trisha, Hollie, Emily, Denny, Aarav, Hugo, Esther, Chiara, Lydia, Molly, Lydia, George, Dylan, Eliza, Deyalah, Ted and Anabelle and our peripatetic staff Mrs Richards, Mr Svensson, Mrs Newall and Mrs Storey.

The orchestra set the scene, providing the continuous thread of underscoring and soundtrack to this iconic musical. Sound and lighting were managed expertly by Ben, Matthew and Mr Statham.

SUMMER TERM

SUMMER CONCERT

The summer concert featured all of our ensembles in a varied programme of film music, pop, jazz, musical theatre and music inspired by other cultures.

The Symphony Orchestra began the evening with Ravel's Bolero and Slavonic Dance by Dvorak. Mezzo choir sang music from Mary Poppins and the return of Derby High Chorus arrived with the French song Les Champs-Élysées. The Chamber Orchestra continued the French theme with La Nouvelle Normalité followed by a Polka. The clarinet ensemble transported us to warmer climates with Habanera and the Flute Ensembles delighted us with arrangements of popular pieces including The Entertainer and Harry Potter.

Saxophony took us back to the 1940's with In the Mood followed by The Lone Arranger and The Upbeats brought us up to date with lively renditions of Livin' On a Prayer and Still Into You. Our Swing Band featured two soloists; Denny on flugelhorn in The Nearness of You and vocals in Skyfall were performed by May. The Chamber Ensemble performed a bespoke arrangement by Mr Svensson of She Used to Be Mine and the concert was brought to an exciting finish with a further arrangement of music from Pirates of the Caribbean performed by the String Orchestra.

We'll done to all of our musicians. We look forward to more exciting musical opportunities next year.



SENIOR

FOOD & NUTRITION

As part of their GCSE Food and Nutrition qualification, students are required to make a three course meal to a theme in their three hour practical exam. This year they were asked to produce interesting food to take to work.



Sophie



Florence



Lucy



Katie



Louisa

Many of the students used their own parents as the model and designed food especially for them. The results were a wide ranging mix of food styles from all over the world and showed off their fantastic cookery and presentational skills.



The library has undergone a lot of change this year. While the desks and shelves have mostly remained in the same places; the way we celebrate our books and students looks a little different. However, one very important thing has remained the same, the library is a kind and welcoming space for all of those wishing to read, revise and relax during the school day.

Our student librarian team has been incredible this year! They kept the library running for the few months the school was without a librarian, and they have been consistently dedicated to making our library the beating heart of the school.

FRANKENSTEIN'S BULLET JOURNAL

Frankenstein's bullet journal is a new initiative for this year.

The journal seeks to bring together examples of excellent bullet journal entries from across KS3 & 4. Highlighting the incredible hard work and talent of our readers. The journal is a near infinite font of inspiration, whether you're unsure what to read next or want an innovative way to display your thoughts.

LUNCHTIME LAUNCHES

Lunchtimes in our library have been very busy this year...

Since January, Tuesday lunchtime has been handed over to 'protected revision time' where students (particularly Year 11) have the benefit of a quiet library to focus on their work and access to all of our

resources. Writer's workshops took place on Wednesdays; Year 8 Book club met termly on a Thursday, and a new weekly debate topic was launched on a Friday!

LIBRARY WEEK

The school's inaugural library week took place this year.

The theme of recycling meant students were encouraged to re-read favourites, read retellings of other stories, make various origami flowers out of written-off book pages and donated 13 boxes of books to a book recycling / recirculating charity!

Thank you for welcoming me into your school,

Miss Ridley, Librarian

SENIOR & SIXTH FORM ENGLISH

Articulation



YEAR 12 Articulation Competition

This year I was extremely lucky to attend and participate in the ARTICULATION grand final at the British Library. Having won both our internal, and regional heat, boarding the train for London was as exhilarating as it was nerve-wracking.

The day was filled with learning and new experiences. As my first time at the British Library, I was thrilled to go on a tour, which not only revealed the treasures and history of the site, but was a chance to get to know the other participants. Between poring over the Magna Carta, gazing into the King's Collection, and discussing the naval inspiration for the building's design, being at the final allowed me to meet young people from across the country equally enthusiastic about art and history. As the day continued, the ten of us grew closer, laughing over lunch and hyping each other up for every presentation!

Eventually, the time came for the speeches themselves. Everyone gave it their all and it was an afternoon filled with passion and skill. Though nervous, presenting in front of so many on a topic I felt so closely connected to was a unique opportunity to develop public speaking skills and share my passion. Despite not placing for an award, I had an incredible experience, and felt I learnt so much from the other contestants, and would highly recommend participation to everyone in the future: it's an opportunity too good to miss!

Zainab, Year 12, Photo © Hydar Dewachi

YEAR 12 Poetry Reading at Kiwi House

The English department offered students the opportunity to read poems out to the lovely residents of Kiwi House Care Home.

I really enjoyed the experience of both reading out the poems and getting to know the residents themselves on a more personal level.

We were given the chance to speak to the residents and learn about their life and school experiences. This wholesome experience allowed many English students to share their passion for poetry and was a great way to build confidence in public speaking. I would love to go again and would encourage anyone to take advantage of this opportunity.

Sophia, Year 12



LITERARY ARTS



YEAR 12

Poetry Reading at Kiwi House

The trip to Kiwi House Care Home was an amazing experience, it felt great to be able to exchange the wonders of poetry with the residents of the care home.

Being able to speak to them after reading out poetry was my favourite part. I heard so many interesting stories and they were all lovely. It's a great trip and I look forward to going again!

Morgan, Year 12



SENIOR POETRY CORNER

A Waltz Through the Seasons

Highland mountain brown, fox orange and golden sandy yellow leaves that cascade down from the bare vulnerable trees, they join the wind and partner up creating an unforgettable display.

Nebula blue rain that pitta pattas on the windowpane gracefully, hibernating animals that scavenge for their meals while the nature whirls to the beat of the winds whistles.

Aromatic spices fill the air from the hearty vegetables; ruby amber pumpkins invade the fields creating a sheet of orange.

Smooth, gentle songs of the robins that perches at the edge of the branches.

The merge of the Vivaldi red, mimolette orange and soviet gold that light up the sky at the beginning of a new dawning day.

Crisp green bell pepper grass that soaks in the morning dew.

Fresh breezy air that encourages the trees to join in with the seasonal dance.

Crystal clear icicles, rockman blue that complement the natural colours of the winter flow. Thick kingly white snow that covers the land like a blanket, dense fog that makes the land mystical.

Bleating lambs calling for their mothers in the lively emerald fields that spread across the vast countryside.

Translucent aqua blue spreads across the sky like an artist's brush stroke on blank lifeless canvas, cotton candy clouds, dotted about, fluffy and a clean pure white.

Daffodils, butter cups, daisies and many more glisten sunshine yellow as they embrace the warm beams of happiness.

Trees grow leaves to complete their new head dress, green arrow heads, as thin as the finest paper. Unfolding to reveal their natural beauty.

Summer, the season which makes our lives full of colour, magenta lollies, tropical fruits, radiant butterflies that flutter flutter from flower to flower, cold condensed drinks that keep us cool from the shining coin in the sky.

The flaming orange sun starts to fade away as the righteous day filled with the joyous moments highlighting the beauty of the wildlife and nature that surrounds us every day, the rainbow array of colours that enclose around us draws to a close.

Deyalah, Year 8



A CHRISTMAS CAROL at The Rep Theatre

All of Year 11 had the opportunity to see 'A Christmas Carol' at The Rep Theatre in Birmingham. We were particularly impressed by the set, props and costumes and also the use of lighting.

One moment which caught my attention was when Scrooge was visited by swirling ghosts, suggested by puppets, after Marley's warning. The ghosts came into the audience and travelled through the whole theatre.

Jessica, Year 11

Scrooge was performed brilliantly and it has really helped to show me how the character changes throughout the story. It was really useful to see how different characters are portrayed: for example, the Cratchit were shown as a very grateful and loving family. The play had a lot of comedy and reminded me of some of the quotations I had learnt from the novel. Overall, it was a great play and an excellent experience.

Katie, Year 11

The production was an excellent iteration of the novel and was chock-full of words from Dickens' text, which will aid us in our English Literature GCSE. It highlighted the humorous and light-hearted aspects of Dickens' writing and provided excellent entertainment.

Saachi, Year 11

One of the most amusing parts of the production of 'A Christmas Carol' was following Scrooge's redemption. This humour, conjoined with the lines 'merry as a schoolboy' and 'light as a feather' emphasised the idea that he felt young again and the weight upon his soul had been released.

Jamie, Year 11

'A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE' at The Crucible

On 4th March, the English A Level students went to watch 'A Streetcar Named Desire' in Sheffield.

The play was performed in the round on a revolving stage, allowing the audience to see all aspects of the action. This was also used to suggest Blanche's whirling thoughts, making us feel as though we were seeing the world from her perspective.

In contrast to the original text, Allan Grey (Blanche's dead husband) was nearly always present, from appearing on the balcony at the beginning of the play to wrapping his arms around Blanche at the end of the play. This created a sense that Blanche's trauma is always with her and dictating her decisions, increasing the sympathy I had for her.

Similarly, Joanna Vanderham, who played Blanche, used a more desperate tone and presented a more nervous disposition than I had originally imagined, emphasising the impact of society upon her.

Jake Dunn (who played Stanley) played the role with visibly animalistic traits, such as approaching Blanche on all fours, showing him as a predator towards Stella and Blanche.

Finally, the end of the play emphasised the tragedy with Mitch and Stella weeping for Blanche. We felt those emotions as well. Overall, I rate it 10/10!

Connie, Year 12

Our English class was given the opportunity to see 'A Streetcar Named Desire'. It was an incredible experience, which had the audience captivated. Despite the sombre storyline, the director cleverly intertwined elements of humour and surprise.

The production really allowed me to develop my understanding of the plot and character development.

Sophia, Year 12

SENIOR MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

YEAR 9 & 10 Trip to Normandy

On the first day we went to Pegasus Bridge and memorial site where we saw the real bridge and the replicas of gliders (although we did get to see the remains of a real one that was used in the war). We also learnt about how the pilots had to adapt to difficult circumstances whilst flying.

In the afternoon, we went to Festyland which is a French theme park! Everyone had a great time challenging themselves and pushing new limits.

On Wednesday, we got to visit the Bayeux Tapestry, and had a guided tour talking us through what the tapestry showed. We then visited a museum in Arromanches which had an incredible 360° cinema screen which showed us a short movie about the challenges people faced in the war. After a day of walking around in the cold weather, it started to warm up and we took a well-deserved trip to the beach. Everyone had a great time paddling in the sea, collecting shells, and playing games!

On Thursday, we visited the island fortress, Mont-Saint-Michel, which is an incredibly amazing and old building that was built in 708 AD! With breath-taking views and delicious food, it was a trip that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. After lunch we visited a goat cheese farm where we were greeted by two huge Rottweilers! We then watched a short movie about the life of a goat before meeting them. They were very friendly, and we were very lucky to be able to feed them. Then we tried some of the different flavours of cheeses and lots of people even bought some to take home!

All in all, it was a great trip with lots of new and unique experiences and adventures!!

Jia and Elizabeth, Year 9



During our time in Normandy, we visited many different attractions and museums, spanning all the way from the Mont Saint-Michel built in 708 to D-Day in 1944!

We packed in a lot in our 3 full days, even managing a trip to the beach on Wednesday evening. My favourite part was the Mont Saint-Michel, where the views from the Abbey were spectacular and inside was just as beautiful. The only problem was having to run from seagulls threatening to take our food! Our visits to D-Day museums were extremely poignant and interesting, especially as it ties to what we've learnt in history over the years.

I think I speak for a lot of people by saying the trip was one for the memory books, so thank you Miss Kelliher for organising such an amazing trip!

Chiara, Year 10



SENIOR & SIXTH FORM DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

In Design Technology, students work with a diverse range of materials and processes. This page displays examples of some of the exciting work completed by our students this year.

Year 7

TECH CLUB AND MOOD LAMP PROJECT



Amber, Year7



Christo, Year7



Ollie, Year7

Year 8

STORAGE BOXES



Isabella, Year 8, Hot
Chocolate Storage Box



Sienna, Year 8,
Jewellery Storage Box



Corey, Year 8,
Storage Box

Year 9

DINING ACCESSORIES



AJ, Year 9



Charlotte, Year 9



Hannah, Year 9



Phoebe, Year 9

Year 10

LIGHTS PROJECT



Natalie, Year 10



Abbey, Year 10



Brooke, Year 10



Leo, Year 10

GCSE

GCSE PROJECTS



Ella, Year 11



Scout, Year 11



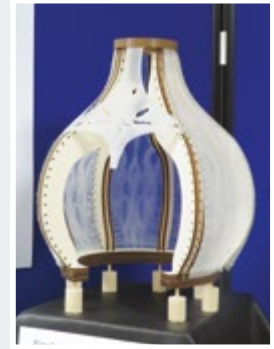
Sophia, Year 11



Tom, Year 11

A LEVEL

A LEVEL PROJECTS



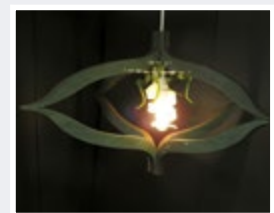
Su, Year 13



Su, Year 13



Emma, Year 13



Su, Year 13

SENIOR & SIXTH FORM GEOGRAPHY

YEAR 10

Shropshire Field Trip

At the start of May, the Year 10 Geography cohort spent two days conducting fieldwork in Shropshire, staying at FSC Preston Montford.



Blessed with sunny weather, the first day was centred on examining Shrewsbury's park and ride scheme, assessing to what extent it was providing a sustainable solution to congestion in the town. This involved measuring the occupancy rates at a park and ride site, questioning members of public and then conducting an advanced form of traffic count known as a Vehicle Mobility Unit survey.

After some data presentation work and tea back at the centre we then enjoyed some teambuilding activities on a low ropes course in the evening.

The next morning we were out early, heading to the Carding Mill Valley near Church Stretton for some river-based data collection. Our aim here was to examine how closely the Ash Brook river fitted the Bradshaw Model in terms of changes we would expect to see as we moved downstream.

Despite the best efforts of some boisterous sheep the groups successfully gathered the data required and enjoyed a cooling ice cream from the National Trust café to finish the trip.

Mr Gallagher

SHROPSHIRE

YEAR 12 Yorkshire Field Trip

In March, our Year 12 Geographers headed to North Yorkshire for their fieldwork residential.

YORKSHIRE



The aim of this trip was to develop our understanding of data collection methods as well as statistical analysis techniques ahead of starting the Independent Investigation in the summer term. So on a chilly Monday morning we hopped into the minibus and headed for the Cranedale Centre in Kirby Grindalythe.

On the first day we stayed local to the centre, examining how the water and carbon cycle operate in different environments including pasture, forest and a small stream. We learned how to measure carbon stocks in trees and carbon flows in running water. After a cold afternoon outdoors it was a pleasure to tuck in to one of the centre's hearty three course meals for tea.

On the Tuesday we journeyed east to the Yorkshire coast. We first stopped at Flamborough Head to study the geology and build our understanding of a range of different coastal processes at work. We were also treated to the sight of a hundred or so seals bathing in a bay just to the south of the headland. In the afternoon we ventured further down the coast to Hornsea and then Skipsea,



learning about the strategies used to defend (or not defend in the case of Skipsea) the coast. At Skipsea it was eerie to witness where houses and roads had recently tumbled into the sea as the waves take effect upon the soft boulder clay soil.

On our final day we visited Hull, 8 years on from the city being awarded UK Capital of Culture. We were introduced to a variety of qualitative urban fieldwork methods as we contrasted the thriving Fruit Market area with some sections of the city centre that are economically struggling. There was just about time for a coffee and cake before we got back on the minibus to return to Derby!

Mr Gallagher

SENIOR

PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS & RELIGION

YEAR 8

Religious Studies School Trip: A Journey Through Faith

This year, our Year 8 Religious Studies students embarked on an eye-opening trip to explore three distinct places of worship.

HINDU MANDIR

Our first stop was the Hindu Mandir, where the beauty of Hindu rituals and worship came to life. With the temple's intricate carvings, vibrant colours, and the aromatic incense filling the air, the Mandir was a sensory experience. Students had the opportunity to observe a live arti (worship ceremony), where devotees sing devotional songs and offer prayers to the gods. The visit provided a deeper understanding of the Hindu belief in dharma (duty), karma (the law of cause and effect), and moksha (liberation from the cycle of rebirth).

MUSLIM MOSQUE

The next stop on the trip was a Muslim Mosque, where students were able to learn about the teachings of Islam and the significance of the five pillars of Islam. Students were given a tour of the mosque, which is not only a place of worship but also a community centre. They observed the minbar (pulpit) where the imam leads the Friday prayers, and the tranquil prayer hall where Muslims bow in submission to Allah. Students had the opportunity to quiz the imam on matters of belief and practice.

SIKH GURDWARA

Our last stop was the Gurdwara, the place of worship for Sikhs. As students entered, they were greeted with warmth and hospitality, a hallmark of Sikh tradition. The Gurdwara, with its serene and welcoming atmosphere, allowed students to witness one of the core principles of Sikhism- Seva (selfless service) and Ik Onkar (belief in one God). The visit began with a guided tour, explaining the significance of the Guru Granth Sahib, the central scripture of Sikhism, which is treated with the utmost reverence. Finally, the students were invited into the langar (community kitchen) for food, where volunteers serve free meals to all visitors, embodying Sikhism's commitment to equality, generosity, and service to humanity.



AN EXPERIENCE OF RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING

The opportunity to visit these places of worship allowed students to engage with their curriculum in a tangible and meaningful way, and they returned to school with a deeper understanding of the diverse religious landscape that shapes our world. For some students, it was a wonderful opportunity for them to share their own place of worship with their peers. This school trip was not just a learning experience-it was a journey that fostered empathy, curiosity, and a greater sense of global citizenship.

Miss Wilson



SIXTH FORM SOCIAL SCIENCES

Christmas Market

Our Year 12 Mini Business Activity (MBA) students were joined at this year's Christmas market by the Year 10 Business students and there was a real excitement in the Wessex Hall as they marketed and sold their products. A lot of profit was made and the students learned key lessons in customer service, book-keeping, teamwork and stock control - all vital for the courses they are studying and for their future careers.



Visit to London

In November our Social Science students in Politics, Business and Economics enjoyed a day out in London.

Beginning with a busy tour of Parliament, we saw many familiar MPs as they left Prime Minister's Questions and into their offices. Following a short tube ride to the Bank of England's Museum, we had an insight into this important institution and the work that they do not only in managing the economy but also our own finances. A quick lunch stop at the fully automated Amazon Go store was followed by a brisk walk to Oxford Street for some retail therapy and dinner. A tiring day but a valuable one to experience the impact that London has on all the subjects we study.

Derby High School Share Competition

This year's share competition was extremely volatile following Donald Trump's Liberation Day in April.

Many potential winners saw their profits disappear as world trade became uncertain. It was the students that invested heavily in Rolls-Royce that did best this year. Unsurprising since they have climbed over 2000% since October 2020. Year 13 Business student Oliver was this year's winner with a return in 6 months of 45%. Eve (Year 7) was second and only £105 behind. Third place was taken by Will (Year 11) with a diverse portfolio of Coca-Cola, Howden's and Antofagasta and a 37% return.

PEBL Social Science Club

The Politics/Psychology, Economics, Business and Law Social Science Club led by our scholars and prefects continues to offer an insight into what Social Sciences are for our Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students.

Of particular note this year were the sessions on Law and the Courts as well as looking at the business of Fortnite and what makes this so successful. The PEBL Club will continue next year with the help of even more dedicated prefects and scholars in our Sixth Form.

Mr King

POLITICS

HIGHLIGHTS

TRIP TO PARLIAMENT

The students were given a tour of the Houses of Parliament, starting with Westminster Hall (the oldest part of Parliament).

The students also got the opportunity to look at the art installation 'New Dawn' which is an artwork celebrating the long journey for the female suffrage. We were then taken through the House of Lords; looking at the famous woolsack where the Lord Speaker of the Lords sits as well as the throne used for the State Opening of Parliament.

We visited just in time to see the MPs come out of Prime Minister's Questions, and were able to spot a number of MPs as well as get the opportunity to talk with them. We also had time with Catherine Atkinson MP and Jacob Collier MP who were able to share more insights into what they had just watched in PMQs.

Mrs Bower-Gormley

MRS BOWER-GORMLEY RETURNS TO PARLIAMENT

Mrs Bower-Gormley returned to Parliament in June, to showcase her presentation for her Teachers Ambassador Gold Award, to the next cohort of trainees.

As part of the day, the group also got to hear from 3 current MPs about their experience in Parliament (Linos Medi - Plaid Cymru, Adam Dance - Liberal Democrat and Wendy Morton - Conservative).



SCHOOL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Derby High's School Council provides a platform for students to have their voices heard, with representatives from every year group and meetings attended by Senior Management.

This year, we have focused on several key initiatives: improving catering, introducing new clubs, and organizing Cultural Diversity Day, which celebrated our inclusive and diverse school community. The council encourages students to engage with the principles of democracy, debate important issues, and participate in discussions with local figures, including MP Catherine Atkinson. It also gives students with an interest in politics the opportunity to develop ideas, collaborate with like-minded peers, and actively contribute to improving our school.

As Head of School Council Prefect, my role is to act as a bridge between students and staff, ensuring that student voices are heard and acted upon. A special thank you goes to our catering staff, who have listened to our feedback and made positive changes.

Next year, the council will focus on recycling and sustainability, alongside continuing to prioritize student opinions. Being part of the School Council allows us to grow as a community, working together to make Derby High an even better place.

Advika, Year 12

POLITICS POLITICS



LEARN WITH THE LORDS ONLINE WITH BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

In May, we were lucky to get a 45-minute online session with Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle. Baroness Bennett was leader of the Green Party from 2012-2016, and has been a peer since 2019.

We were able to question her on a number of topical issues, from climate change, to mental health in schools, the impact of Brexit, Sir Keir Starmer and immigration to name just a few. It was a real insight into the work of a peer, and the students were particularly impressed by her range and depth of knowledge.



VISIT FROM CATHERINE ATKINSON MP

In March the Politics students got a visit from our local MP Catherine Atkinson. Catherine spoke with us about her vision for Derby and what she is trying to achieve.

The students got the opportunity to ask her questions on a number of issues; such as the problem with getting driving tests, property rights, her visions for Derby, her opinion of Keir Starmer and Donald Trump, the VAT on independent schools and the youth vote. Catherine also spoke with our School Council and was keen to find out the issues faced by the young people of Derby.

SENIOR & SIXTH FORM MATHS

Senior Maths Challenges

Back in the autumn term, nine of our Sixth Form mathematicians took part in the Senior Maths Challenge, with eight of these qualifying for a certificate, including two golds for Owen and Esther. Both therefore qualified for the follow on Kangaroo round, on which Owen scored well enough for a certificate of merit.

Mathematical Olympiad for Girls (MOG)

Perhaps the sternest test anyone can face in the UKMT range of challenges, the MOG consists of a mere five questions to be answered over 2.5 hours. Zainab and Esther chose to sit the MOG, and both brilliantly scored well enough to earn certificates of distinction.

Intermediate Maths Challenge

The winter term saw our Year 10 and Year 11 sit the Intermediate Maths Challenge, with well over two thirds securing certificates. Of particular note was the huge number receiving gold certificates: Jaishna, Ben, Gulona, Tom, Lewis, Ailsa and Angelo. Both Jaishna and Ben qualified for the follow on Kangaroo, with Jaishna earning an excellent silver certificate.

Team Maths Challenge

Miss Lomas took a group of our enthusiastic Year 8 to David Nieper Academy back in February to participate in this competition against other schools. Over four rounds our students pitted themselves brilliantly, and were the only team consisting completely of Year 8 students. A great experience indeed.

Junior Maths Challenge

The final challenge of the year saw our Year 8s do brilliantly, with four of our students attaining well enough to qualify for follow on rounds. Three of them then sat the Kangaroo, and Aarav did so well that he qualified for the Junior Mathematical Olympiad which is an excellent achievement.

Jack and George both did well enough on the Kangaroo to earn bronze certificates of merit, and Aarav secured a certificate of distinction on the Junior Olympiad. Well done to all!

Mr Dodson



Intermediate Maths Challenge



Aarav, Year 8, achieved a Certificate of Distinction in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad..

House Maths Challenge

Not content with taking our team to the actual team challenge, Miss Lomas organised a cut-down event towards the end of the school year to give everyone else a flavour of the competition.

It was a great atmosphere and St. David emerged victorious.



STEM



JCB Engineering Project

At the start of Year 12, a group of physicists, mathematicians, chemists and product designers were offered an incredible opportunity to take part in a design and engineering project run by JCB.

This unique initiative invited students to step into the world of real-life engineering and innovation, challenging us to design a functional attachment for a JCB Hydra-dig. Our brief was to design an attachment for a Hydra-Dig that could contribute to combating climate change or mitigating its effects.

During the initial stages of the project we were split into two engineering teams each assigned two JCB mentors to help us along the way. By the end of the planning period each team had decided upon a project idea one team tackling the recycling of bricks and rubble post natural disasters and war, and the other tackling the ever growing frequency of wild fires.

As part of the exciting design and building project, both teams had the opportunity to visit JCB Academy for a hands-on, immersive two day experience. Over the course of two days in the workshop, we collaborated closely with JCB engineers to design our custom JCB attachment, applying practical engineering principles and gaining valuable industry insight. We sketched, prototyped, and refined our design using professional tools and workshop equipment. The following month, we presented our final attachment concept to a panel of JCB experts, showcasing our design rationale and functionality. The experience offered us a unique blend of creativity, teamwork, and real-world problem-solving.

Kitty and Ellen, Year 12

Sixth Form Trip To Geneva

After a very early start and a hearty airport breakfast, we touched down in Geneva. The first excitement of the trip was the double decker train where we were unknowingly lead to the first class area, which was a very nice surprise!

On day one we visited the UN and had the opportunity to witness a meeting of the Human Rights Council as well as have a guided tour of the building itself.

After a good night's sleep we were ready and raring for day two - a trip to CERN. After speaking to a PhD student and an employee on the graduate programme, we had a deeper understanding of the science at CERN. There was lots on offer including an interactive museum, a short film on the history of CERN and the Big-Bang Café.



In the evening, we walked down to the fondue restaurant which we could smell from a mile away. They brought out buckets full of cheese, bread and an assortment of meat. We were hesitant at first; however, a demonstration from the waiters, who were clearly passionate about their cheese, reassured us and we tucked in!

On day three, after getting to know the locals on the tram, we went to the Botanical Gardens and wandered through the diverse range of plants from around the world. We also visited the 'exotic' zoo which housed ducks, sheep and goats – perhaps animals considered unusual in Switzerland. A boat trip across Lake Geneva ended our time in Switzerland and armed with a gift of 14 croissants from the hotel owner, we set off for the airport.

We'd like to say a massive thanks to all the teachers and a big shout out to Mrs Orr who organised the trip - you were sorely missed.

Anabelle and Manroop, Year 12

YEAR 8

Silver CREST Science Award

Over the summer term, Elise and Charlotte for Year 8 have been hard at work designing and building a wind turbine as part of their Silver CREST Science Award.

Their turbine, made using recycled materials, is a brilliant showcase of creativity, sustainability, and applied knowledge in physics and engineering. Their project is now complete and ready for submission - a fantastic achievement that reflects their dedication and innovation.

Mrs Swallow



YEAR 9

West Midlands Trains Project

On Tuesday 17th June, 12 Year 9 students travelled to Watford at the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Peter Taylor, to show him the work they have been doing to redesign Watford Station.

This was a fitting finale for a whole year's hard work from the two teams and as ever throughout this project, they were terrific ambassadors for Derby High. The Mayor spoke to the students at length hearing their ideas, questioning them on such topics as budget, accessibility, sustainability and their future plans.

They showed him the models they have made and he took away a copy of both teams' reports to look at further. It was a wonderful day and huge congratulations go to our Year 9 students, as well as thanks to council staff, staff from London Northwestern and of course the Mayor himself.

Mrs Orr

SIXTH FORM EPQ's

Year 7 to 13 Scholarships



YEAR 7-13

Celebrating Excellence: The Minerva Scholars' Journey

The Minerva Scholarship Programme continues to shine as a beacon of dedication and achievement within our school community.

This year, our scholars have demonstrated exceptional commitment to their academic and cross-curricular pursuits, curating detailed portfolios that showcase a rich tapestry of learning experiences. From engaging with thought-provoking podcasts and joining extra-curricular clubs to entering school-based or national competitions, visiting museums and historic landmarks, and immersing themselves in concerts and cultural events, these students have embraced every opportunity to broaden their horizons. Many have taken their learning further by mastering new languages, completing MOOCs and online courses, watching documentaries, and reading extensively around their chosen subjects.

Their scholarly endeavours are equally inspiring. In music, students have achieved impressive ABRSM grades and performed in orchestras both within and beyond school, with one scholar contributing to the ABRSM advisory panel. Others have excelled in sport, earning high rankings in swimming, tennis, gymnastics, and dance competitions at regional and national levels, while developing as athletes in football, cricket, triathlon, show-jumping, trampolining, basketball and tennis - some even completing FA coaching qualifications.

The performing arts have also flourished, with scholars attaining LAMDA grades and starring in productions both in school and with external theatre companies. Artistic talent has been recognised at the highest level, with one student's work celebrated by the Royal Academy. Entrepreneurial spirit is alive too, as one scholar designs and manufactures products for international sale via Etsy. Academic ambition remains strong, highlighted by a successful application for a Taster Day with The Economist.

The Minerva Programme is more than a scholarship- it is a celebration of curiosity, creativity, and resilience. We applaud our scholars for their remarkable achievements and look forward to seeing how they continue to inspire us all.

Mrs Smith

YEAR 12-13

Sixth Form Extended Project Qualification 24/25

This year's EPQ cohort has once again demonstrated outstanding academic rigour, creativity, and professionalism.

The Extended Project Qualification is designed to challenge students beyond the traditional curriculum, and the 2024-2025 group rose to this impressively, producing work of consistently high quality across a wide range of topics.

From the outset, students approached their projects with determination and curiosity. Each project demanded independent research, critical analysis, and engagement with complex ideas—skills essential for future academic study. Their written reports showed careful planning, strong methodology, and thoughtful conclusions, with many achieving top grades.

Students also delivered confident and professional presentations. Explaining nuanced arguments and defending their findings before an audience is demanding, yet they spoke with clarity and conviction. Their presentations were dynamic explorations of their research rather than simple summaries, highlighting excellent communication and analytical skills.

The diversity of topics this year was particularly impressive. One student designed a board game exploring the ethics of cosmetic dentistry, blending creativity with ethical analysis. Another examined the safety of personal data online, addressing cybersecurity and digital vulnerability. A project on neuroarchitecture explored how design affects cognition and how architecture can convey ideological messages. Also notable was a scientific investigation into the effectiveness of immunotherapy, a timely and significant area of medical research.

These projects embody the EPQ's aim of fostering independence and curiosity. Students navigated ethical, scientific, and technological challenges while developing essential skills such as time management, problem-solving, and resilience.

The achievements of the 2024-2025 cohort reflect both individual talent and a supportive environment that nurtures innovation. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments and excited to see how they continue to develop their ideas.



SPORT



SENIOR BASKETBALL



Basketball's growing popularity at Derby High has strengthened our position and game this year resulting in some great wins.

The Year 8 basketball team delivered an outstanding performance at the West Park School tournament, finishing undefeated after three hard-fought matches.

Our Year 9 team dominated the start of the season an incredible 51-14 victory over John Port School. Year 9 dominated the rebounds and executed smooth offensive plays. Despite John Port's determination, Year 9's skill and energy were unmatched. This convincing victory kept them full of confidence as they headed into their next games.



Our Year 10 basketball team showed plenty of grit and resilience throughout their games.

After a challenging game in November against an experienced opposition from St Benedict's, the team continued to show determination throughout the season.

SENIOR ATHLETICS

Summer term was packed with energy, dedication, and outstanding performances from Derby High's athletics teams.

Students from across the school competed in a number of events, proudly representing the school, Derby City, and even Derbyshire. From exciting sprints to powerful throws and long-distance determination, our athletes have shown skill, resilience, and true sportsmanship throughout. They really have been a pleasure to take on athletics fixtures!

A huge congratulations to every student who took part in athletics this year - whether it be in athletics fixtures or simply in PE lessons and Sports Day - your hard work and dedication have made it a successful and rewarding season for Derby High!

SENIOR FOOTBALL



GIRLS' FOOTBALL

This year has been a fantastic journey for girls' football at Derby High, with both our U14 and U16 teams showing passion, progress, and perseverance in their league campaigns.

U14 GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Our U14 girls had a busy and exciting season in the Derby City football league, spread across multiple evenings and venues. The team grew in confidence with every match, putting on impressive performances against strong opposition.

U16 GIRLS' FOOTBALL

The U16 girls also had a season to be proud of, competing in their 7-a-side league with focus and heart. They opened their campaign with a dominant 3-0 win over Murray Park, showing composure in possession and attacking flair, with some excellent goals and strong team play.

It's been a brilliant season of football for our girls. With continued dedication, teamwork, and that trademark Derby High determination, we look forward to seeing what

next season brings. A huge well done to all players involved- you have done yourselves and your school proud!

BOYS' FOOTBALL

This year has been an exciting and successful one for our school football teams, with plenty to celebrate across the age groups.

The U14s enjoyed an impressive run in the Derbyshire County Cup, showcasing excellent teamwork and determination throughout the competition. Their hard work paid off as they progressed to the semi-final stage, narrowly missing out on a place in the final. The squad should be proud of their performance and the character they showed in every match. Our U12 team also had a strong showing in the same competition, making it through to the later rounds. For such a young side, this was a fantastic achievement and a clear sign of the talent coming through the school. They played with great spirit and skill, setting a strong foundation for the years ahead.

Overall, it has been a year of growth and achievement for our football teams, with plenty of promise for the future.

SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY

Derby High School's cross-country teams showed incredible heart and teamwork, proudly representing the school at every meet.

The Derby City Schools' League opened the season, with standout performances from the Year 10/11 girls - Indie 2nd and Millie 3rd - and from Edward, who took 2nd for the boys. At Derby Moor, a tough, hilly course brought more success: Millie won, Indie was 2nd, and Alex 8th. Mason and Tom placed 3rd and 4th for the boys, with Ned 7th and Harris 15th. In the final race, Millie, Indie, and Charlie finished 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, while Edward, Mason, and Tom secured top-six places. Ella's brave run despite injury inspired everyone.



In October, Derby High competed in the muddy English Schools' Cross Country Cup. Every runner finished strong, with top efforts from Tom, Mason, Charlie, Millie, and Indi - proving Derby High's cross-country future is in great hands



SENIOR TENNIS

This year has been an outstanding one for tennis at Derby High. For the first time, we entered the LTA Schools Tennis League, giving students the chance to compete across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire in a structured, competitive setting.

Our players showed determination, teamwork, and adaptability throughout the summer, gaining valuable experience on different courts against strong opposition.

As Phoebe shared,

"It's been an amazing season! The U15 team won matches against Nottingham Girls' High, Nottingham High, Trent College, and Worksop College, while the U13s secured a great win against Nottingham High. We're so proud of all we've achieved this year."

SENIOR NETBALL

Netball continues to be a long-standing and much-loved sport at Derby High School, with teams across a wide range of age groups taking part in both local and county competitions. The year has been filled with memorable highlights.

Our U19 squad delivered an outstanding performance at the county tournament hosted by Repton School, competing against nine schools and securing an impressive 3rd place overall. Equally enthusiastic were our Year 9 girls, who began the season full of energy and determination.

Their first major challenge came early in the year at the City Tournament at Littleover, where they faced fierce competition. The team showed remarkable resilience, skilful attacking play and excellent defensive teamwork.



SENIOR CRICKET



It has been a highly successful and enjoyable year for school cricket, with all teams showing strong development, determination, and enthusiasm for the game.

One of the standout moments came in the Derbyshire Indoor Competition, where the U12s put in a fantastic series of performances and narrowly missed out on the title after a close-fought final. Their run to the final was a real highlight, demonstrating excellent teamwork and resilience under pressure.

In the outdoor version of the same competition, both the U13 and U14 teams played competitive matches and held their own against tough opposition. Their performances showed great promise, with several close contests that could have gone either way. The experience gained will no doubt benefit the players as they continue to grow in confidence and skill.

In addition to these county-level competitions, our teams took part in numerous interschool fixtures throughout the year, recording many impressive wins. These matches gave our players the opportunity to develop their game, build team spirit, and enjoy representing the school.

Overall, it has been a rewarding year for school cricket, with strong foundations laid for continued success in the seasons ahead.

SENIOR EQUESTRIAN

Derby High's talented equestrians have achieved remarkable success this year, excelling at national and international levels.

DAISY'S STELLAR SEASON

Daisy, Year 10, enjoyed a stellar season, competing in the U16 pony trial at the Cornbury House International Horse Trials and finishing 8th at the National Championships at Osberton after personal bests in dressage and strong jumping rounds.

"It was our last event of the season, so I'm really pleased to finish on such a high."



GRACIE REPRESENTS ENGLAND

Gracie, Year 9, represented England at the Home Nations Youth Championships, placing impressively across multiple classes. She then joined Sophie, Year 11 and Tabitha, Year 6, to win the County Dressage title and qualify for Hickstead.

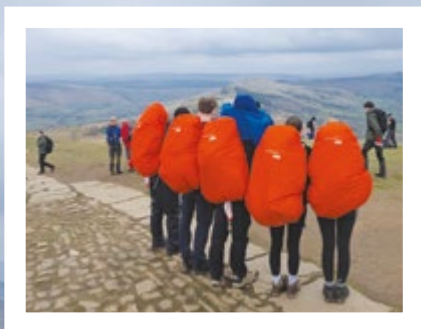
JESSICA QUALIFIES FOR NATIONALS

Jessica, Year 7, also shone, qualifying for the NSEA Grassroots Nationals 2025 after top finishes at Beaver Hall.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

BEYOND THE CURRICULUM



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a personal development program for 14 to 24 year olds.



The award is designed to be enjoyable whilst learning a wealth of new skills, such as self-reliance, teamwork, and leadership. The award also helps students to push themselves physically, help others and explore new territories.

As a Duke of Edinburgh Licenced Centre, we are proud to be able to offer students the opportunity to undertake The Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels.

The award split into three sections covering volunteering, physical and skills activities, followed by an expedition section help students to develop their whole being, both emotionally, mentally, and physically whilst developing the skills, experience, and confidence to successfully navigate adult life. Taking part builds confidence, develops self-esteem and recognises their infinite potential,



allowing them to take on their own challenges and discover talents they never knew they had. It requires persistence, commitment and has a lasting impact on the attitudes and outlook of all young people who do their Duke of Edinburgh Award. The award is held in high esteem by universities and employers.

We are always amazed at the range of activities that our students choose as part of their award particularly volunteering in the community, helping with litter picking, environmental projects, supporting younger children in sports and social activity clubs and older members of their community who

need extra support. The physical and skills activities include learning new skills; crocheting being a current favourite in our knitting club, art and chess clubs; or building on existing skills, students do this through school clubs or outside organisations including sports activities, dance and fitness, creative arts, music, life skills and performing arts, plus many more. Students tell us that despite the physical aspect of the expedition they gain the most benefit from this experience, understanding team dynamics; how to

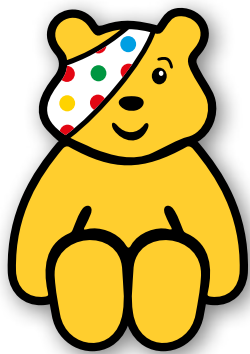
work together to overcome challenges and being in the outdoors. Our lower sixth Gold students recently completed the Yorkshire three peaks challenge, and our Bronze Yr10 and Silver Yr11 students completed their expedition in some extreme weather conditions. Well done to everyone who has undertaken the award this year.

Mrs Peake



Despite the physical aspect of the expedition they probably gain the most benefit from this experience, understanding team dynamics; how to work together to overcome challenges and being in the outdoors.





DERBY HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORTING CHARITIES

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every parent, guardian, and student who contributed donations this year. Your kindness and generosity allowed us to raise over £2,700 for local and national charities, as well as provide countless Easter eggs, Christmas presents and Harvest Festival items.

One of the highlights of the year was our annual fancy dress competition, which raised funds for Children in Need. The assembly was filled with creativity and fun, thanks to the many imaginative costumes from students and staff alike.

We also continued to strengthen our relationship with the Padley Centre. They were especially grateful for the overwhelming Harvest Festival donations, which ensured essential supplies reached those in need. In March, they were delighted by the extraordinary collection of Easter eggs, which meant many children received gifts they otherwise would not have had.

As the academic year draws to a close, we are able to reflect on the incredible generosity and kindness shown by the Derby High School community. Your support has made a real difference in the lives of others.

Looking ahead we are delighted to welcome Connie as our new Charities Prefect, who will lead the charities program in Seniors next year.

Mr Thornton





“ Thank you for all the ways you’ve supported our charity work this year!

Charity Prefect



DERBY HIGH SCHOOL



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