



High Notes

Primary High Notes Friday 4th October 2024

Dear Parents

This week I attended the HMC Heads' Conference in Belfast, where Heads from leading independent schools across the UK and beyond gathered to share insights and ideas. Now more than ever, the significance of school leaders coming together to address the challenges and opportunities facing education is key. The conference provided a valuable platform to reflect on the future of education in a rapidly changing world.

Two themes that resonated strongly with me were the role of AI in education and how we can ensure our pupils flourish, both of which are fundamental to our development plan at Derby High. The discussions around AI focused not only on its potential as a powerful educational tool but also on the ethical considerations we must navigate to harness it responsibly. As we move forward, we are committed to exploring how AI can enhance learning while maintaining the values that are central to our school ethos.

Equally important is our focus on nurturing students beyond academic success. In today's world, helping pupils flourish means equipping them with the resilience, character, and well-being to navigate complex futures. At Derby High, this is central to our mission, and we are continually refining our approach to ensure our students are not just prepared for exams but for life beyond the classroom.

I am excited to bring these ideas back to our school community and look forward to working together to continue shaping an environment where each student can reach their full potential.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 1 Local Walk

On the 27th of September, the Year 1 Swallows and Thrushes classes enjoyed a delightful walk around the local area of Littleover. The children cheerfully waved at people in various locations, including the opticians, supermarket, and fish and chip shop. Their route took them through narrow lanes, past St. Peter's Church, and then back up a steep hill towards the school. The students were exceptionally well-behaved and sensible throughout the trip. With the sun shining brightly, it was a wonderful afternoon for all involved.



Year 6 Charity Representatives Update

We are excited to share some wonderful news from our Year 6 charity representatives, who recently had an insightful meeting with Mrs. McBride to discuss the charities we will support this year at Derby High School.

During the meeting, the children demonstrated remarkable maturity and passion as they deliberated on which charities resonate most with our school community. Their thoughtful discussions highlighted a deep understanding of the impact these organisations have on families and individuals.

One charity that stood out was the Air Ambulance service, which visited us earlier this term. The representatives learned that this vital service relies solely on donations, as it does not receive government funding. The children recognised how crucial the Air Ambulance is for emergency medical care, and they expressed a strong desire to support this essential service.

Additionally, they discussed Bridge the Gap, a local charity in Derby that focuses on supporting children's mental health. Many of our pupils have had positive experiences with Bridge the Gap, where they learn to explore and understand their emotions. The children highlighted the importance of this support and expressed a commitment to raising awareness and funds for this vital organisation.

We are particularly proud of our charity representatives for their initiative in reaching out to the founders of Bridge the Gap. They bravely made a telephone call to inform the charity that it would be one of our chosen charities to support this year. During these calls, they asked insightful questions about their services, showcasing their understanding of the important work being done in our community.

The children's enthusiasm and dedication to their roles as charity representatives have been truly inspiring. Their efforts reflect a genuine commitment to making a difference, and we commend them for taking this responsibility seriously.

We look forward to working together as a school community to support these charities throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support in fostering our students' passion for helping others.



National Poetry Day

Thursday saw primary celebrating National Poetry Day, now in its 30th year. The whole school community shared their favourite poems with one another and Mr. Harper was at the helm for a whole school assembly celebrating the very special day.

On the day itself, Year 2 performed their poem about superheroes; we watched Year 1 execute One Two, Buckle My Shoe with great gusto; several teachers read their favourite poems and we watched lots of super videos of our pupils reciting their favourite pieces. Special thanks go to Lucia's dog and Madeleine's cat who made star-studded appearances in their videos!

Throughout the week, children had been sending in their videos and bringing in their beautifully written favourite poems. Some children even chose to create their own compositions. Wonderful!

As always, a heartfelt thank you to all parents for your wonderful support in these initiatives. Without your encouragement and guidance, they would not be the successes they are. Thank you!

We leave you with Mrs. Oshilaja's chosen poem, My Wales by Jayne Davies

Over valleys and mountains

Through green hills and vales

My love for my hometown,

Lies right here in Wales.

It holds something special

Nowhere else, would I find

It holds loving memories

That rest in my mind

My love for its beauty

Forever will last

I'll hold my love close

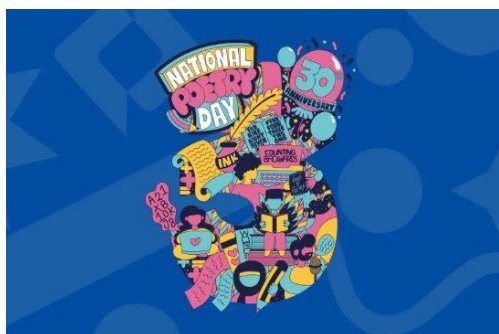
Till my days here have past.

This wonderful lifetime

Through sun, wind and gales

United with love

My wonderful Wales.



U11 Hockey, OVS Festival

On Wednesday, a mixed U11 hockey team travelled to Belper Hockey Club to play in the annual Old Vicarage School 7 a side festival. Derby High were in Group B, and took part in four matches against OVS Athletic, Dixie Grammar, St Wystans and Pennine Way.

Our first game was against St Wystans, and we had plenty of opportunities in the circle but sadly no goals. The team defended well, and the opposition barely made it into our half. The game ended with a 0-0 draw, as did our next game against Pennine Way. The team demonstrated some excellent passing, maintaining possession of the ball effectively, and there were some individual bits of brilliance when taking on opponents.

We then played one of the Old Vicarage teams. The team were determined to score some goals, and produced two well worked team goals to secure the first win. Dixie Grammar were our next opponents, and the team were able to outwit them effectively in all areas of the pitch. There were some impressive tackles and strong driving with the ball into space, which was great to see. The final score was 2-0 to Derby High, which meant that we finished top of our pool and that we went through to the Final.

In this game, we played another OVS team, who were quite strong, and despite various chances and lots of end to end play, it was a tight game ending in 0-0, which meant that it went to penalty strokes to determine the winner! Santosh in Goal did a fantastic job at thwarting their attempts on goal. Harry and Seth tried hard with their strokes, but they sadly got saved, but Freddie slotted home his penalty stroke which put us in a good position. Santhosh made three incredible saves, including the final stroke to determine if we went to another round of strokes, and secured the win for Derby High!

A huge well done to everyone who played. We made a lot of substitutions throughout the games, and everyone was supportive of one another throughout the afternoon. The team certainly were proud of their medals!



Congratulations, Georgia

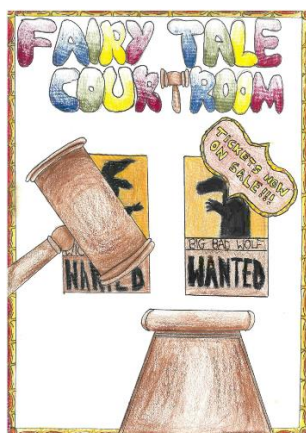
Well done and congratulations to Georgia, Year 5, on being signed for Aston Villa Women's Academy U10s. We look forward to hearing from Georgia about all her future tournaments with Aston Villa.



Fairytale Courtroom – KS3 Production, 10th October, 6pm, Senior Hall

Tickets are now on sale for our KS3 drama production, Fairytale Courtroom. A comedy which shows the other side of several familiar fairy tales when two of their biggest villains, the Big Bad Wolf and the Wicked Witch, are brought to trial. Tickets are £5 adults and £3 students/concessions and are available from Senior Student Reception. Please note the performance is suitable for children in Year 3 upwards.

The performance will be on Thursday 10th October in the Senior Hall at 6:00pm. We are looking forward to seeing you there!



Harvest Collection

We are now taking collections as part of our Harvest Festival. We are accepting non-monetary donations such as food and household items to assist the Padley Centre in their vital work in Derby and the surrounding areas. Thank you everyone who have already donated items. Donations can be brought into school now until Wednesday 16th October, to Mrs Walsh in the Junior building.

Thank you for your support in making a positive impact in our community!

For further information please refer to the HighPost sent on Wednesday 2nd October.



Non Uniform Day – Thursday 10th October

As part of World Mental Health Day we will be having a non-uniform day on Thursday 10th October, with all proceeds going towards The Air Ambulance. Please refer to the HighPost sent on Tuesday 17th September for further information. Thank you.

Reminder: Whole School Photo – Ready to Order

There is still time to order a copy of the whole school photo. To view and order please following the web link below, please note, to view the photograph you will be asked to enter your email address and child's name. This is for security reasons.

Click here: <https://http.st/200095-59>

Please include your child's full name when placing an order. This will assist Student Reception to distribute the photographs when they arrive in school. All photographs ordered within two weeks will avoid a postage charge and will be delivered back to school. **Any orders after 8th October** will incur a P&P charge.

PSHE Consultation Evening for Parents

Parents are invited to join our first PSHE consultation evening on 17th October at 7:30pm. This will be a great opportunity for parents to learn more about the PSHE curriculum and we will be discussing all aspects of PSHE both in the senior and primary sections of the school.

A HighPost is being sent today, with further information. We do hope as many parents can make it as possible.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

Appointments for parents to visit our Second Hand Uniform Shop during our October half term break can now be made. Please call main reception to make an appointment, 01332 514267. Thank you.

Polite Notice: Reporting Absences

Please use the following emails to inform school of your child's absence:

SENIORS: absence@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk

PRIMARY: primaryabsence@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk

If you have children in seniors and primary and both are absent, please include both email addresses so that the absence can be processed efficiently. Thank you.

Safeguarding Corner

Episode 19 – Raising a Concern

In today's Podcast Mrs Claire Bellman (Deputy Head – Pastoral) and Mr Jonathan Thornton (Assistant Head – Pastoral) discuss what happens when a child reports a concern to our Pastoral team at Derby High.

To listen to the podcast please [click here](#), or on the image below.



Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 8th October – Senior School Discovery Day for Year 6

Thursday 10th October – Primary Non Uniform Day

Thursday 10th October – Fairy Tale Courtroom, KS3 drama production, 6pm, Senior Hall

Monday 14th October – Year 6 Trip

Tuesday 15th October – 'In2 the New Academic Year' Presentation and Breakfast, early years to Year 2 parents

Wednesday 16th October – "This is me" Day – EYFS

Thursday 17th October – PSHE Parent Consultation Meeting (online)

Friday 18th October – Sibling Portrait Photographs

Friday 18th October – Scholarship Application Packs sent out to all Year 6

Friday 18th October – 3:30pm half term begins

Useful Links

School menu week commencing 7th October - [click here](#).

Calendar (via the Parent Portal) - <https://derbyhigh.parents.isams.cloud/>