



High Notes

Primary High Notes Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parents

Yesterday in my first assembly of the year with our Primary pupils, I shared a little about something I like and something I don't. I began with what I don't like - beetroot! I asked the pupils to stand up if they didn't like beetroot, and quite a few did, though interestingly, all the staff are quite fond of it. I asked them to stay standing if they didn't like beetroot but had ever tried it. I explained that I have never liked beetroot, but the funny thing is, I had never actually tried it until a few years ago. Mr Chapman, who absolutely loves beetroot, encouraged me to give it a go. He insisted, "How can you know if you don't like something if you've never tried it?" So, I took his advice and gave it a try. And guess what? I still don't like it! But at least now I know for sure. The message I wanted to share with our pupils as they embark on the next chapter of their Derby High journey is this: try everything, say yes, and give it a go, whether it's joining a new club or activity, reading a different genre of book, or trying something new in the classroom. Because you never know - you might just find something you love or discover a hidden talent.

I then moved on to something I do enjoy - Dr Seuss. I shared with the pupils how much I appreciate the messages in his stories. To kick off the year with some inspiration, I even wrote a poem for Derby High Primary in the spirit of Dr Seuss, filled with encouraging words to motivate and uplift our school community as we start this new academic year.

Oh, the bells are ringing, the classrooms are bright,

It's a brand new year, and it's quite the delight!

Welcome, welcome, one and all,

To Derby High Primary, come answer the call!

Our new Wrens and Reception, it's time to embark,

On your Derby High journey, you'll soon leave your mark.

Year 1 and Year 2 with smiles, giggles and learning in store,

You'll discover so much, and there's always more!

*Years 3, 4, 5, and 6, oh, what fun lies ahead,
With residentials to come, new places to be tread.
Adventure awaits you beyond these four walls,
Exploring together as your courage enthralls.*

*Year 6, your last year, it's special, it's grand,
With leadership roles, you'll lend a strong hand.
You're nearly ready for what lies in view,
Preparing to move up to the senior school, too.*

*Now here we are with a new year to explore,
With adventures in learning and so much more.
There's science and reading and stories to know,
And places in books where your mind can go!*

*Try new things, take a leap, be brave and bold,
There are talents in you just waiting to unfold.
Whether it's sports, music, or painting with flair,
At Derby High Primary, we show that we care!*

*Work hard, yes indeed, but don't forget fun,
There's laughter and friendship for everyone.
We'll learn and we'll grow, both in and out of class,
And cherish each moment as the school days pass.*

*So here's to a year filled with possibilities,
New knowledge, new friends, and new activities!
To every student, from Wrens up to Year 6,
Welcome, welcome to our Derby High mix!*

*Let's make this year great, let's make this year bright,
At Derby High Primary, we'll soar to new heights!
So buckle up, folks, the adventure's begun—*

Learn lots, try new things, work hard, and have fun!

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Summer Reading Challenge 2024

Friday afternoon saw a very special celebration assembly in honour of the tremendous levels of participation from our wonderful pupils. Our school's love of reading shone brightly!

In acknowledgement of the efforts of so many children, over 60 pupils took to the stage to receive their honour mark card rewards! Three lucky pupils received a Waterstones book voucher in acknowledgement of their reading endeavours. It was a tense moment waiting for names to be pulled from Mr. Harper's magic hat!

We saw photographs of various pupils with their Summer Reading Challenge certificates, from Wrens right through to our eldest pupils in Chatsworth and Eyam. We were also treated to a little peek of some of the weird and wacky places our children have read as part of the summer's Extreme Reading Challenge.

None of this would have been at all possible without the phenomenal parental support we received for these reading initiatives. Thank you so very much.



Creative Challenge

Today saw the end of submission for entries to our Creative Challenge.

A new initiative, the response from the children has been simply superb. The sheer breath of creations which have trickled their way into school since the start of term is wonderful. The staff have all loved seeing what each new day would bring bag-wise.

From rams to piñatas, wreaths to bubble tea and vehicles to hanging baskets (complete with plants), the quality of the entries has been incredibly high. It is with real pride that Mrs Wright shall be inviting in a secret judge to decide the three EYFS, KS1 and KS2 winners of the challenge.

Thank you so very much to those parents and carers who have supported their children in their Creative Challenge endeavours. Your continued encouragement and support makes such initiatives the success they are, so a heartfelt thank you.

Winners are to be revealed in a special assembly next week with honour marks credited to pupils by next Friday (September 13th).



Evie and Georgia's Archaeology Success

During the summer holidays, Evie (Year 8) and Georgia (Year 6) took part in an Archaeology Activity weekend at Willesley Scout Campsite, just south of Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Evie and Georgia took part in five different activities, including excavating, metal detecting and geophysics.

The focus of the weekend was to look for one of the lost stately homes of Derbyshire, dating as far back to the Tudor times. Excitingly, the trench was in the perfect spot and Evie and Georgia were able to excavate what was the front door of the Tudor Hall.

There were lots of guests visiting throughout the weekend, including the local Ashby Mayor and the Derbyshire high. One of the most exciting was that ITV central news even came for a visit.

Evie and Georgia had a great day, which got even more exciting when taking part in the metal detecting activity. ITV central were over in perfect time to film their first find and to the sister's astonishment they had found an Anglo-Saxon Brooch.

It took a couple of weeks for the authenticity to be confirmed, but once confirmed ITV central was able to release the story ([click here to watch](#)). The story caught the attention of ITV national news ([click here to watch](#)) and Channel five. So the sisters were off on a train down to London to visit the British Museum and be given a tour of some similar Anglo-Saxon brooches.

Evie and Georgia were then interviewed live on Channel 5 news that evening ([click here to watch](#)). They did the school proud and were great ambassadors for Scouts. Bear Grylls even sent them a personal message congratulating them on their find.

To watch all the coverage please visit the Derbyshire Scout Archaeology YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@derbyshirescoutarchaeology>

For more about the brooch on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website:

<https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1174997>



LAMDA Results

Derby High School recently received our latest set of LAMDA exam results which were taken in June.

Congratulations to the following primary pupils, who all received distinctions in the following examinations:

Advith, Year 4, Speaking in Public Entry Level

Dhian, Year 4, Speaking in Public Entry Level

Shanaya, Year 4 Acting Entry Level

Jibreel, Year 6, Verse & Prose Grade 1

Reminder: Whole School Photo Thursday 12th September

Next Thursday we will be taking our whole school photo. The photo will be taken outside, in the morning, weather permitting.

All Primary children must come to school wearing their winter uniform and long hair must be tied back neatly.

Year 5 pupils do not need to bring their PE kit, but all other year groups who have PE on a Thursday should still bring their PE kit to school.

Parents of Pre-School children, who do not attend on a Thursday, are welcome to come into school for the morning or the day if that is more convenient, so that they appear in the photograph. Please contact Mrs Downen to make arrangements. sdownen@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk

If it is a hot day, please do remind your child to wear sunscreen.

Safeguarding Corner

In2 Podcast, Episode 16 – Alcohol and Young People

Welcome to our 16th episode, discussing the topic of alcohol and young people. Our discussion is led by our Assistant Head - Pastoral, Jonathan Thornton and Head of Sixth Form, Joseph Gallagher.

To listen to the podcast please [click here](#).



Dates For Your Diary

Monday 9th September – EYFS Emergency Services Day

Thursday 12th September – Whole School Photo

Friday 13th September – Year 2 Superhero Day

Wednesday 18th September – Year 3 Roald Dahl Day

Thursday 19th September – Year 5 Anglo-Saxon Day

Useful Links

School menu week commencing 9th September - [click here](#).

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