



Primary High Notes Friday 15th May

Dear Parents

This week, it was wonderful to welcome so many current and prospective families into school for our Open Evening. In particular, it was lovely to see so many pupils from Years 3 to 6 exploring the next stages of their Derby High journey and beginning to look ahead with excitement and confidence.

Transition points in education are always important. They give children the opportunity to begin imagining themselves in the next part of school life, whilst also giving families the chance to see what lies ahead. For many of our pupils, moving through the school is not simply about changing classrooms or uniforms; it is about growing in independence, confidence and character whilst remaining part of a familiar and supportive community. Events such as these help make those next steps feel exciting, achievable and full of opportunity.

This week has also seen Year 5 away on their residential visit. From the updates we have received, the children have had a fantastic time and, as always, have represented the school wonderfully well. My thanks go to the staff who have given up their time to support the visit and make these opportunities possible for our pupils.

As we move towards the final part of the half term, there continues to be a huge amount happening across the Primary School and it remains a pleasure to see the enthusiasm, energy and curiosity that our children bring into school each day.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 4 Residential Trip to Willersley Castle

What an incredible adventure Year 4 had on their recent residential trip to Willersley Castle! From the moment we set off from school, the children embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, courage and excitement, making memories that will last a lifetime.

On our journey to Willersley, we stopped at the historic Cromford Mills, where the children enjoyed an engaging and fascinating insight into local geography and history. They learned all about Sir

Richard Arkwright and his pioneering role in the Industrial Revolution, discovering how Cromford became home to the world's first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill. The children explored how the surrounding landscape and the River Derwent played such an important role in the development of the mills and discussed why this area became such a significant part of Britain's industrial heritage. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and making links to their learning back in school.

After arriving at the magnificent Willersley Castle, the excitement continued across three action-packed days and two fun-filled nights. The children challenged themselves in so many different ways and should be incredibly proud of everything they achieved.

Throughout the residential, the children took part in a wide range of adventurous activities, including bushcraft, ziplining, rifle shooting, rock climbing and team-building challenges. They learned valuable outdoor survival skills during bushcraft sessions, worked together to solve problems and encouraged one another every step of the way. Many children stepped well outside of their comfort zones, showing fantastic bravery and determination.

One of the highlights for many was soaring through the air on the zipline, while others loved the challenge of scaling the climbing wall and reaching new heights with growing confidence. The rifle shooting sessions required focus, patience and perseverance, while the evening campfire brought everyone together for laughter, songs and toasted marshmallows.

The residential provided so many opportunities for the children to develop important life skills beyond the classroom. Their teamwork, resilience, independence and communication skills grew tremendously over the course of the trip. Staff were particularly impressed by the kindness, encouragement and support the children showed one another throughout every activity.





Year 6 Heart Dissection

This week, Year 6 enjoyed an engaging and hands-on science lesson in the Senior School Biology laboratory. As part of their Animals and Humans topic, pupils had the exciting opportunity to dissect a heart and explore its structure in detail.

With the support and guidance of Dr Ngwerume and Mrs Hewitt, the children learned how to identify the chambers, valves and major blood vessels, developing their understanding of how the heart functions.

Experiences such as these provide invaluable opportunities for pupils to deepen their scientific knowledge through practical learning and gain a greater appreciation of the human body. Activities like this also support a smooth transition from Primary to Senior School, allowing pupils to benefit from specialist teaching and access to outstanding facilities.



Year 4 Science Lesson

Year 4 took part in an exciting bug hunt around the school grounds this week as part of their Science learning. To support their Animals topic, Dr Ngwerume led the children on an outdoor investigation through the Conservation Area and down to the school pond at the end of the field.

During the session, pupils developed their understanding of habitats and ecosystems, while learning more about minibeasts, food chains and the importance of biodiversity within the natural world.

Despite the damp weather, the children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to learn outdoors. Experiences such as these provide valuable hands-on learning opportunities, helping to bring classroom learning to life through practical exploration and discovery.



Year 5 and 6 Cricket: Derby High v Nottingham High

On Monday, Derby High hosted Nottingham High for an exciting afternoon of Year 5 and 6 cricket. With five fixtures taking place simultaneously, a fantastic total of 100 pupils were involved across the two schools, creating a brilliant atmosphere.

All five matches were played in excellent spirit and produced some incredibly close and competitive cricket. Team Bashir and Team Brook were involved in tightly contested games, with both teams showing great determination, teamwork and skill throughout their matches.

Team Archer produced a dramatic finish, securing victory for Derby High with the penultimate ball of the match after a tense chase. Team Stokes also held their nerve in a thrilling encounter, winning on the very final ball to cap off a superb game of cricket.

The closest finish of the day came in Team Root's match, where the scores were tied at the end of play. This led to a bowl-off, with Advith stepping up brilliantly to secure victory for Derby High in dramatic fashion.

The afternoon was a fantastic showcase of participation and enjoyment, with all pupils representing their school superbly.



Thank you Rohan - Book Donations

Thank you to Rohan in Year 6 who has kindly donated some of his books. Thank you for your generosity, Rohan!



Football Success

Congratulations to Harry, Year 4, Georgia and Raya, Year 6 on their fantastic achievements at the regional tournament, which feeds into the National Championship.

Harry's team were crowned Midlands Champions and have now qualified for the National Finals — an outstanding accomplishment.

Georgia and Raya's team also had an incredible tournament, winning the Plate competition in their age group against a very strong field. This included Aston Villa U12s and teams featuring players from Arsenal, Nottingham Forest, West Ham, Manchester City and Leicester City.



Gymnastics News

Isabelle, Year 6, Lilly & Edie, Year 3 and Flora, Wrens, have been very busy these last few weeks with their gymnastics, and they are very excited to share their achievements.

On 8th March, Lilly and Edie both passed their Prep 1 grades, with Lilly placing an impressive 4th All Around out of 81 gymnasts in the East Midlands.

On 15th March, Isabelle competed at a pre grade's competition at Notts Gymnastics Academy, winning gold on Bars and as Vault Champion, silver on Beam, bronze on Range and finishing 2nd All Around.

On 29th March, Isabelle passed her Excel 2 grades with a "Working Beyond" and placed 3rd All Around, qualifying to represent the East Midlands at the National Finals on 22 May. She has also been selected for the East Midlands Regional Team for 2026.

On 2nd May, Lilly and Edie competed in the club's Two-Piece Floor and Vault Competition at Tin Level. Edie won gold on Vault, while Lilly won gold on Floor and was Joint All Around Champion.

Flora has also recently achieved her Level 2 Badge in preschool gymnastics.

Well done to all four gymnasts!



Aikido Success

Congratulations to Thomas, Year 2, who took part in an Aikido competition very well. Well-done Thomas, we are very proud of you.



Fundraiser – Cancer Research

Arjun and Jasper, Year 4, are taking on the race for life in aid of Cancer Research. The boys are very close to get to their target of £1000. If you are able to donate they would be very grateful <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/arjun-and-jasper/members> .

Thank you for your support



Summer Uniform Reminder

A polite reminder that all Primary pupils are expected to return to school after the May half term wearing their Summer uniform. Thank you.

Uniform Shop Appointments

If you would like to visit the second-hand uniform shop during the May half term, please email Mrs Holland at uniform@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk to arrange an appointment. Thank you.

DCCT Multi – Sport and Football during May half term at Derby High School

We are delighted to announce Derby County Community Trust are hosting two Holiday Coaching camps at Derby High School over the May half term. The details are as follows:

Multi-Sports, for 5- to 11-year-olds (Year 1 to Year 6) 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th May - £20 per day. For more information and to book click [here](#).



Football Holiday, for 5- to 11-year-olds (Year 1 to Year 6) 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th May - £20 per day.
For more information and to book click [here](#).



Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding podcast – In2 Disordered Eating

In this week's podcast, Mrs Bellman (Deputy Head – Pastoral) and Mrs Cornes (Pastoral Support Assistant) explore the topic of disordered eating, including early signs that may suggest a child is beginning to develop a concerning relationship with food.

Mrs Bellman and Mrs Cornes suggest who to go to for help and advice if you are worried about your child. To listen, [please click here](#).

For more information visit the following websites:

[Helplines - Beat](#)

[First Steps ED | Eating Disorder Support & Recovery Charity](#)



The Online Safety Act: Are Children Safer Online?

This is a new report from Internet Matters using data from surveys and focus groups offering a few of how new online safety rules are shaping families lives.

It's a very interesting report, e.g.:

- Seven in 10 children and parents report seeing more safety features such as ways to report and filter content.
- Around half of children have been asked to verify their age on platforms.
- 54% of children report that the content they have seen online recently is more child friendly.

But:

- Almost half of children think age checks are easy to bypass (fake birthday, drawing on facial hair).
- A quarter of parents have allowed their child to bypass age checks.
- Almost half of children say they have experienced harm online in the past month.

Link: [Internet Matters Report - The Online safety Act: are children safer online?](#)

How to Talk to Children if they see Traumatic Events

Many children will have seen or heard some of the horrific events that have been happening recently. Whether that's on the news, someone discussing it, or perhaps online, children can be traumatised by what they are seeing and hearing.

This article from The Conversation discusses the issue and gives some really good advice.

Link: [The Conversation - How to talk to children when terrorist attacks and violence dominate the news.](#)

From Alan McKenzie's online safety update

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 18th May – Year 2 & 3 Open Centre workshop in school

Wednesday 20th May – Year 1 trip to Tamworth Castle

Thursday 21st May – Primary Teatime Concert

Friday 22nd May – 3.30pm May half term begins – PET and homework club available

Monday 1st June – return to school

Friday 5th June - Kedleston Class Assembly

Friday 5th June - Little Learners Teddy Bear Picnic

Useful Links