



Primary High Notes Friday 17th October 2025

Dear Parents

As we reach the end of this first half term, I have been reflecting on what makes our community so special, that sense of belonging that allows every pupil to feel known, valued, and connected.

Our recent Open Morning was a wonderful example of this. It was fantastic to welcome so many parents of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils, and to see the school buzzing with energy and enthusiasm. Visitors commented on the welcoming atmosphere and the positivity they experienced from both staff and pupils, a clear reflection of the strong relationships and supportive environment we nurture every day.



This half term, we have also enjoyed seeing many class assemblies. These assemblies give children the chance to shine and feel part of something bigger than themselves, and we look forward to the many more planned throughout the rest of the year. Each one reinforces the bonds within our school community and the pride pupils take in contributing to it.

Belonging sits at the heart of life at Derby High. When pupils feel truly known, valued, and connected, they flourish, academically, socially, and personally. It gives them the confidence to take risks in their learning, to show kindness and empathy, and to contribute meaningfully to the life of the school. This sense of belonging is not accidental; it grows from the daily acts of care,

encouragement, and respect that define our community. It is what enables every pupil, whatever their starting point or stage, to thrive and to feel proud of the part they play in our shared story.

As we come to the end of a busy and vibrant half term, I would like to thank everyone, pupils, staff, and families, for their energy, positivity, and support. I wish you all a restful and refreshing half term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 3rd November.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 1 Autumn Day Celebration

To mark the end of a fantastic first half term, Year 1 celebrated with a special *Autumn Day* full of seasonal fun and creativity!

Children arrived at school dressed in beautiful autumn colours and as cheerful farmers, ready to enjoy the day. The morning began with an autumn walk around the school grounds, where the children spotted colourful leaves, acorns, and even some squirrels preparing for winter.

Back in the classroom, the autumn theme continued with lots of hands-on activities. The children made adorable clay hedgehogs, took part in autumn-inspired arts and crafts, and teamed up with Katie from Chartwells to make a delicious apple and blackberry crumble – the perfect autumn treat!

It was a fun-filled day that brought learning to life and was a lovely way to celebrate a brilliant first half term.



Year 5 Tag Rugby Fixture

On Monday, our Year 5 boys took part in a tag rugby fixture at Twycross. Both teams played exceptionally well, demonstrating impressive passing, teamwork, and tactical awareness throughout their matches. Their enthusiasm, determination, and outstanding sportsmanship were a credit to our school.

Well done to all who took part and represented Derby High with such pride and positivity — we are very proud of you!



Hockey Fixture

On Tuesday, the Year 5 girls battled hard against two experienced Twycross sides. Both Derby High teams made pleasing progress across the afternoon developing their understanding of utilising space, tackling to win possession and moving the ball quickly to gain territory and create attacking chances. Bea and Amarpreet were magnificent in defence for their respective teams clearing the ball and defending resolutely. Ishana, Lily and Laasya demonstrated good ball control and attacking skills when driving the ball forward, with goals coming from Sofia and Mia.

Well done to everyone who played and thank you for representing the school so well.



Early Years Got Talent Day

On Monday, the children in Early Years enjoyed their Early Years Has Got Talent Day! The children had a fantastic time celebrating their unique talents and what makes them special. They made their own trophies, shared what they're good at and talked about what makes them unique. To finish the day, everyone took part in our very own talent show, showcasing their amazing skills and wonderful costumes. The staff were all so proud of their confidence, creativity and enthusiasm!



Harvest Donations for The Padley Centre

On Thursday, representatives from The Padley Centre visited Derby High School to collect the generous Harvest donations from our school community. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed — The Padley Centre team were overwhelmed by the incredible amount of food, toiletries, and household essentials we were able to provide. Your kindness will make a real difference to so many individuals and families in need.



A Flavourful Visit from Chef Dipna Anand

On Monday 13th October, we were delighted to welcome chef and author Dipna Anand back to Derby High! Dipna first visited us in July 2024 as our special guest to officially open the refectory, and it was a pleasure to have her return once again.

This time, Dipna shared her passion for authentic Punjabi flavours with a modern twist, inspiring both pupils and staff throughout the day. Her morning assembly for Pre-School to Year 6 set the tone perfectly, encouraging our younger pupils to explore and enjoy the exciting variety of dishes that would be served at lunchtime.

By lunch time, the refectory was alive with the aroma of spices and the sizzle of fresh ingredients from the central Theatre Kitchen. Pupils and staff eagerly sampled the dishes from Dipna's special menu, with many commenting on just how delicious everything tasted.

It was a wonderful celebration of food, culture, and learning, and we look forward to welcoming Dipna back to Derby High again soon.



Georgia's signing

A Huge Congratulations to Georgia (Year 6) who has been signed to Aston Villa's Women's U11s. This is an incredible achievement Georgia. Keep up the hard work, we can't wait to see what the future holds for you.



Space Cadets Online

Spark your child's curiosity and love for space science with ONLINE Space Club sessions, hosted by the National Space Centre Discovery Team!

If your child is aged 7-11, loves science, and wants to explore the wonders of space while connecting with like-minded adventurers, sign up now.

Each 60-minute session is packed with exciting talks, fun craft ideas, downloadable resources, and interactive activities designed to inspire and engage young minds.

For more information and to book following this link: [Space Cadets ONLINE](#)



Safeguarding Corner

Podcast Episode 49: Vapes and Snus

Today on the podcast, Mrs. Bellman takes another look at the growing issue of vapes and snus. She's joined by Mr. Wood, Head of PSHEE, to unpack the latest trends and talk about what every parent should be aware of.

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



For further information please visit the following links:

[The rising use of nicotine pouches snus - and risk to gums and teeth - BBC News](#)

[Nicotine pouches - ASH Scotland](#)

[Young people and vaping - Better Health - NHS](#)

Medical Notice

Parents of children with allergies who use a Jext pen may find this useful.

A new Jext App is available to help with administering the pen — [click here for more information](#).

Swimming Notice

Moorways pool is closed to school swimming on Tuesday 4th November. If your child is in Year 1 to Year 6, please send them to school in their normal school uniform **without** their swimming kit. School swimming lessons will resume on Tuesday 11th November.

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 3rd November – Start of Term

Wednesday 5th November – Year 1 trip to Sudbury Museum of Childhood

Thursday 6th November – Primary Tea Time Concert

Friday 7th November – Chatsworth Class Assembly

Wednesday 12th November – Year 6 World War 2 Evacuation Experience Day