



Primary High Notes Friday 21st November 2025

Dear Parents

This week has been filled with energy, curiosity and plenty of passion, perfectly fitting for Maths Week! On Thursday, Miss Lomas kindly led our assembly for Year 3 to Year 6. For those who may not have met her, Miss Lomas is one of our Senior School Maths teachers. She is both passionate *and* enthusiastic about her subject, so Maths Week was the perfect moment for her to speak to the children.

In her assembly, she talked about the importance of having both passion and enthusiasm in life. She explained the difference beautifully: enthusiasm is that immediate spark of excitement, while passion is the deeper, long-lasting commitment that keeps us striving, learning and improving. To bring this to life, she used the late Steve Irwin as a wonderful example, someone whose boundless energy and lifelong dedication to wildlife inspired people across the world.

She also sparked some lively debate with a wonderfully simple question: *Is it acceptable to have pineapple on pizza?* The room was instantly divided, with strong opinions on both sides, proof, if ever we needed it, that passion can appear in the most unexpected places!

That same spirit of passion and enthusiasm was on full display again on Thursday evening when our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils took to the stage for their performance of *The Wind in the Willows*. What an extraordinary treat it was. The children amazed us with their stage presence, their confidence, their clear and expressive singing, and comic timing well beyond their years. Their joy and commitment shone through every scene, and it was hard to believe they are only in Years 3 and 4.

It has been a week that reminded us just how inspiring it is to see children throw themselves wholeheartedly into what they love—whether it's maths, performing, or even debating pizza toppings. Passion and enthusiasm truly are contagious, and we have certainly felt that throughout the Primary School this week.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 5 Visit the National Space Centre

Our Year 5 trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester was an unforgettable experience, filled with learning, adventure and plenty of fun. From the moment we arrived, the children were buzzing with excitement, ready to dive into the fascinating world of space exploration. The engaging exhibits and interactive displays gave them the perfect chance to learn about our solar system, the planets and the wonders of space travel.

The visit to the planetarium was a clear favourite. As the room darkened, the children felt as if they were drifting among the stars, gliding past planets and distant galaxies. It gave them a real sense of what space travel might feel like, and their faces showed just how absorbed they were in the moment.

They also had the chance to visit the gift shop and spend their money on something to remember the day. A lovely lunch was provided by the Chartwell team, so a special thank you to them for looking after us so well. And finally, a huge thank you goes to Dr Ngwerume, who went above and beyond to organise and lead this fantastic trip.



Year 3 and 4 Production: The Wind in the Willows

Last night, our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils dazzled their audience with a wonderful musical production of *The Wind in the Willows*. In a fantastic adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's beloved novel, the children brought the story to life on the Senior Hall stage, warmly welcoming guests to the Riverbank and the grand Toad Hall.

Thank you to all our performers — your singing, acting, and comic timing were exceptional. We are also grateful to the primary staff for supporting the children in delivering such a memorable performance. Finally, a special thank you to Mrs Cooke for her outstanding musical and dramatic direction. It truly was a remarkable evening.

The photo gallery and a link to watch the recording will be sent to parents next week via HighPost.

Rugby Fixture

On Tuesday afternoon Derby High hosted Denstone Prep for tag-rugby fixtures. Playing a round robin of 4 games across four pitches there was a rugby festival atmosphere. Despite the strength of the Denstone team, who have been undefeated for four years, Derby High competed with courage and determination. With the ball being turned over after 6 tackles, matches were end-to-end. When Derby High linked passes together they created chances and scored tries. Well done everyone for giving their all and competing all the way to the end.

Year 5 & 6 Girls' Hockey Fixtures vs. Denstone Prep

This week, our Year 5 and 6 girls played a series of hockey fixtures against Denstone Prep. Despite the chilly weather, the girls played brilliantly, securing 3 wins, 2 draws, and 1 loss. The team showed excellent teamwork, skill, and sportsmanship throughout the afternoon. In the wins, they demonstrated strong passing and attacking play, while in the draws, they fought hard and showed great resilience. Overall, it was a fantastic day of hockey, and the girls should be very proud of their efforts.



Book Buddies

We had our first Book Buddies session of the year last Friday, where older pupils paired up with our younger children to share stories and enjoy some quality reading time together. It was wonderful to see the excitement and the growing love of reading across the school.

We are already looking forward to the next session!



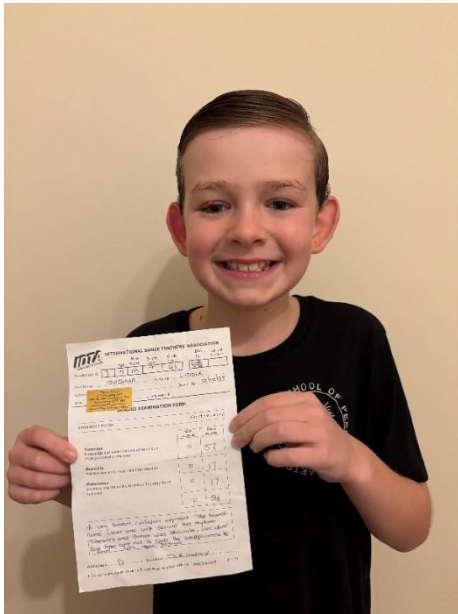
Charity Donations

Last Week, Isla in Wrens, donated some of her books to her local charity shop. At home Isla and her family have been thinking about giving to others as Christmas. This is such a generous thing to do Isla! Thank you for your kindness.



Tap Exam

Last Week Josh in Year 5 took his grade 1 Tap Exam. Josh achieved a very impressive distinction. Congratulations Josh, Keep up the hard work.



Swimming Success

Last weekend, Hadley in Year 6 delivered an outstanding performance at his swimming competition. He finished with an impressive four medals and has now qualified for the Counties in January.

Congratulations, Hadley! Keep up the fantastic work!



Good Luck, Lyla

This Friday, Lyla in Year 6 will be treading the boards for her National Youth Ballet audition for their 2026 production of Coppelia.

We wish her the very best of luck in this wonderfully exciting endeavour (and shall have our fingers crossed).



Baskets for Dhian!

Last Week Dhian in Year 5 took part in his first basketball game with the Derby Trailblazers U10 team. Dhian had a very successful game and scored lots of baskets. Keep up the hard work, Dhian!



Junior Park Run

Lily in Year 5 had an amazing achievement last weekend. Lily has now received her Park Run marathon wristband from Junior Park Run. This means Lily has completed the equivalent of 26.2 miles by running weekly at Markeaton Park!



Schoolblazer Flash Sale

Schoolblazer will be running a flash sale from Monday 24th – Tuesday 25th November 2025.

There will be 1/3rd off ALL in-stock items online at schoolblazer.com during the sale period, while stocks last.



Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast - Episode 50, Group Chats and Online Communication

While social media can help students stay connected, it can also be challenging, and although these platforms operate outside school hours, we feel it is important to address how online communication affects relationships and wellbeing within our community.

In this week's podcast Mrs Bellman (Deputy Head - Pastoral) and Mrs Balfour (Head of Year 7) discuss group chats and online communication. To list to the podcast please [click here.](#)



At Derby High School, we promote curiosity, kindness, and courage in students' online interactions by encouraging them to consider others' perspectives, communicate respectfully, and stand up against unkind behaviour. We would like to remind our students of the following key points:

WhatsApp's age recommendation of 13, the importance of managing screen time—especially avoiding late-night messaging—awareness of the “online disinhibition effect,” and the need to prioritise kindness in all digital communications.

Group chats can become overwhelming or lead to gossip, its important students understand how crucial it is to seek help rather than pass on unkindness, and the value of face-to-face conversations in reducing misunderstandings.

Students should pause before sending messages and consider whether they are kind, true, necessary, and appropriate. Parents support at home in reinforcing these messages, encouraging open conversations, and guiding children to seek help or report concerns when needed is greatly appreciated.

For Parents - Discord Family Center

Discord, the app, is still very popular particularly with gamers and like many apps it has safety features, including features for parents/guardians. The Discord Family Center is *“a tool built to help parents and guardians stay informed and involved in your teen's Discord experience while respecting their privacy and autonomy”*. The safety features have recently been updated and now include:

- Ability to view the activity feed.
- Get weekly email summaries,
- Manage safety and privacy settings.

To find out more about these features and more, and how to set up Family Center you can view the Discord Family Center [HERE](#). There is also a parent hub which has lots of information and resources for parents such as user controls, moderation, reporting and more. You can find the parent hub [HERE](#).

Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 26th November – Year and 2 Christmas Production Rehearsals

Thursday 27th November – Year 1 and 2 Christmas Production 2.30pm

Thursday 27th November- Year 3 Residential Trip – Parent Information Evening 5pm

Wednesday 3rd December – LAMDA Examinations

Wednesday 3rd December- Primary Learning Review Meetings (Online)

Wednesday 3rd December – EYFS Parents Breakfast 8:30am and Nativity 9:15am

Thursday 4th December – Early Years Wrens trip to Herotown

Thursday 4th December – Early Year Reception to HeroTown

Thursday 4th December – Primary Christmas Concert 4:30pm

Thursday 4th December – No Primary After School Clubs (PET Available)

Monday 8th December – Year 6 deadline for Year 7 Scholarship Applications

Tuesday 9th December – Primary Learning Review Meetings (in person)

Wednesday 10th December – Carol Service at Derby Cathedral

Thursday 11th December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 12th December – end of term 3:30pm, no clubs or PET