



Primary High Notes Friday 27th March

Dear Parents

What a term it has been.

A truly fabulous, full, and busy Spring Term, but one that has captured so much of what makes our school such a special place to learn and to grow.

We began, as ever, with focus and determination. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students approached their mock examinations with real maturity and commitment. They worked hard, performed impressively, and, most importantly, now have a clear understanding of what they need to do next to fulfil their potential. For our Year 13 students, this sits alongside the excitement of university offers and degree apprenticeships beginning to take shape, as futures become ever more tangible.

January also brought with it our Year 7 Entrance Examination. We were delighted not only by the number of applicants, but by the quality and character of those who wish to join our community. The continuation of three-form entry is something we should all see as a real strength. It allows us to maintain what we value most: small class sizes, strong relationships, and the ability to truly know each child as an individual.

Of course, a significant moment in the term was our ISI inspection. We are absolutely delighted with the outcome, but more than that, we are proud that the inspectors saw what we see every day, an environment where pupils are known, supported, challenged, and encouraged to flourish. The report reflects the lived experience of our school, and that is something in which we can all take great confidence. To read a summary of the report, please [click here](#).

Beyond the classroom, the term has been alive with opportunity. Concerts, recitals, drama productions, House Music, House Art, House Challenge, a photography competition, sports fixtures and tournaments, each providing a different stage on which our pupils have given their very best. What has stood out, time and again, is not simply the level of achievement, but the willingness to participate, to commit, and to strive. These moments matter. They build confidence, resilience, teamwork, and joy, qualities that will stay with our pupils far beyond their time here.

The weather, particularly in January and February, did its best to challenge us, but it never deterred us. And just as we have grown accustomed to resilience, we have recently been rewarded with

glimpses of spring sunshine, albeit with a reminder this week of just how unpredictable things can be, as we experienced sunshine, rain, hail, and even snow, all within a single school day!

This final week has, in many ways, encapsulated the richness of school life. Nine of our Year 12 students have been out on their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice expedition in Edale and Kinder Scout, developing independence, perseverance, and teamwork in equal measure. On Tuesday evening, over 100 of our Primary pupils took part in a wonderful concert, a joyful celebration of confidence and collaboration from Year 1 through to Year 6. Our Year 3 pupils embarked on their very first residential, an important milestone, filled with excitement, challenge, and growth. And on Thursday a superb concert from our senior musicians, showcasing both talent and dedication.

When we step back and look at the term as a whole, what is most striking is the breadth of experience our pupils are immersed in every day. This is education in its fullest sense, not just academic success, but the development of character, curiosity, creativity, and community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is a privilege to work in partnership with you and to share in the journey of your children.

I wish you all a restful and happy Easter break. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school on Tuesday 21st April.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Primary Spring Concert

Thank you to all our guests who attended our Primary Spring Concert on Tuesday. The evening featured a delightful variety of ensembles from across our Primary years, Year 1 to 6. It was a truly memorable evening.

The children performed to such a high level, showcasing huge contrast in dynamics and tone. The commitment and effort that Primary pupils put into their performances is way beyond their years.

Thank you to Mrs Cooke, Mrs Storey, our Peri staff and all the Primary staff who worked on making the evening such a special occasion.

A link to watch the recording of the concert will be sent to Primary parents via High post during the Easter holiday.



Lion Learners

The Swallows and Thrushes had an amazing afternoon on Thursday with Lion Learners. Kristen brought a wonderful range of animals into school, giving the children a hands-on way to explore animal classification as part of our science topic.

Each group had the opportunity to meet and handle a variety of animals, including rabbits, toads, giant land snails, gerbils, centipedes, and a snake. The children learned about what the animals eat, where they live, and how they are classified.

It was a fantastic and exciting way to end our topic, and the children had a truly memorable experience.





Year 3 Residential to Standon Bowers

Our Year 3 trip to Standon Bowers was absolutely wonderful, filled with moments of courage, kindness and curiosity from every single child. Whether they were bravely squeezing through the caving tunnels, working together with care and teamwork to cook around the campfire, or asking brilliant questions while building their own Stone Age-style shelters, the children showed determination and enthusiasm at every turn. Their creativity shone through as they crafted Stone Age jewellery and produced impressive cave art, exploring history with genuine excitement.

We were especially proud of how brilliantly they handled staying overnight—showing independence, resilience and buckets of positivity. It was a trip full of laughter, learning and unforgettable memories, and we all had so much fun experiencing it together.



Year 6 Netball

On Friday afternoon last week, two Year 6 netball teams travelled to Nottingham High School to take part in a friendly fixture. The girls were full of excitement after their journey and eager to perform well while working together as a team.

The A team played strongly throughout the match, showing great composure on the ball. Their movement off the ball was particularly effective, allowing them to create space and enter the shooting circle on numerous occasions, resulting in some excellent goals. Their opposition proved to

be well organised, with a strong centre court partnership, and despite the team's best efforts, the A team were narrowly beaten 12-4. However, the girls showed great determination and resilience, making fantastic progress in every quarter.

The B team also delivered a strong performance, working well together and showing good communication across the court. They moved the ball nicely through the thirds and maintained possession effectively for much of the game. As the match progressed, their confidence grew and they made some excellent decisions under pressure, winning the game 4-0. Paru and Zibby were deservedly named as Players' Players for their respective teams, for their consistent effort and positive contribution to the team. Well done to everyone who took part!



Year 6 German

Monday, Year 6 were learning about Easter in Germany and how Easter Trees are very Popular and can be seen in many households around the Easter Period. Year 6 had the opportunity to make their own Easter decorations for their class Easter tree.



Wrens Learn About Our Amazing Catering Team

On Tuesday, the children in the pre-school visited the refectory to learn about the important role our catering team play in helping us every day. They listened carefully as they found out how meals are prepared and served and enjoyed the opportunity to try some new foods. The children showed great enthusiasm throughout the visit. Thank you to our wonderful catering team!



Rugby Success for Isabella

Congratulation to Isabella, Year 1, who over the weekend achieved the most improved player that week. Isabella was also a mascot for her club's first team. Congratulations Isabella, keep up the hard work.



Kendra's Dancing

Kendra, Year 5, has been training after school at Foot Fusion School of Dance in Derby's city centre, where she has shown impressive dedication and progress.

Recently, she achieved outstanding success at the Derby Dance Festival Performance of Arts. Competing against dancers from across several counties, including Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, Kendra won a gold medal as part of a trio performance. She also placed fourth in the solo ballet category.

Following her achievements, Kendra has been selected for several exciting performance opportunities. She is set to perform at Alton Towers in June 2026, Blackpool Arena in November 2026, and at Disneyland Paris in 2027.



Amber's Photography Award

Amber, Year 6, recently achieved first place in the photography competition at the Belper & Duffield Rotary You-Create showcase. The theme, 'Belper: past, present and future', saw her winning entry feature the East Mill.

She was invited to an awards ceremony on Friday evening, where she received her prize money and certificate in the presence of local dignitaries, including the MP and the Mayor of Belper.



Anaisha's Swimming Achievement

Last Week, Anaisha, Year 2, achieved her 50 metres swimming certificate. Congratulations! Keep up the hard work.



English Youth Ballet

Lyla, Year 6, recently performed with the English Youth Ballet in their production of Coppélia at the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent. Taking on the role of a leading villager, she helped lead a large group and performed some solo work.

She thoroughly enjoyed the experience, creating wonderful memories and making her family extremely proud. Well done, Lyla, keep up the great work!



Karate Yellow belt

Congratulations to Vansh in Reception, who has recently been rewarded his yellow belt in Karate. Congratulations Vansh, we are very proud of you.



Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast, Episode 65: Approach to Mobile Phones

This week Mrs Bellman (Deputy Head - Pastoral) discusses Derby High School's approach to mobile phones. Further to the Governments recently strengthened guidance in the area, Mrs Bellman talks about our clear and consistent approach to mobiles phones.

To listen to the podcast please click the link below. You can find Derby High School's full updated Mobile Phone policy [here](#).

[The Parent's Guide to Mobile Phone Health & Safety for kids](#)



For further information on this topic, we recommend visiting the following link:

[The Parent's Guide to Mobile Phone Health & Safety for kids](#)

Growing up in the online world: a national consultation – gov.uk

The Department for Science, Innovation and technology are consulting on further measures to prepare children for the future in an age of rapid technological change. This includes potential age restrictions on social media and other services such as gaming sites and AI chatbots, restrictions on addictive design features and risky functionalities, and better support for parents and families.

For more information and to part in the consultation please visit the following link:

[Growing up in the online world: a national consultation - GOV.UK](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 20th April – Staff training day, no pupils

Tuesday 21st April – Start of term for all pupils

Tuesday 21st April – Year 5 & 6 Celebration of Dance

Wednesday 22nd April – Individual portrait photos by Alethea Simpson

Wednesday 22nd April – Year 4 Residential trip – Parent meeting

Monday 27th April – Year 6 France Residential trip departs

Monday 27th April – Year 1 Battles, Balls and Banquets Event

Wednesday 29th April – Year 5 Hardwick French Café

Friday 1st May – Haddon Class Assembly

Useful Links