



Primary High Notes Friday 8th May

Dear Parents

Yesterday, our Primary pupils were treated to a wonderful assembly led by Miss Lomas from the Senior School. She spoke about the many different dream jobs she had imagined for herself growing up. From army engineer, to archaeologist, to the merchant navy, before eventually becoming a teacher. But perhaps the most important message from the assembly was that, in the end, it was never really about the jobs themselves at all. Instead, it was about the journey she had taken and the person she was becoming along the way, discovering what mattered to her, what brought her joy and the kind of difference she wanted to make in the world.

It was such a thoughtful message and one that felt especially poignant this week as we celebrated our Year 13 students, the Class of 2026, before they head off on study leave and begin their final examinations.

Because in many ways, their journey at Derby High has been about exactly the same thing. Over the years, we have watched this year group grow not only academically, but personally too, becoming more confident, more resilient, more compassionate and more certain of who they are.

For a number of these students, that journey began right here in Primary, some all the way back in Pre-School or Reception. Tiny uniforms, first friendships, first performances and first nervous mornings have slowly become leadership roles, university offers, lifelong memories and the exciting anticipation of what comes next.

There has been a wonderful atmosphere around school all week. From the laughter and creativity of fancy dress to final lessons, shared memories and celebrations with staff and friends, Year 13 have embraced their final days at Derby High with warmth, humour and genuine appreciation for one another.

On Thursday evening, it was wonderful to welcome parents, staff and students to our Leavers' Celebration, a chance to pause together and reflect on the remarkable journey this year group has taken.

This Year 13 cohort will always hold a particularly special place in Derby High history as the very first co-educational Year 7 cohort in the Senior School. They were the first group to begin this new

chapter in the life of the school, helping to shape the culture, warmth and sense of community that now feels such a natural part of Derby High life.

As a school, we are incredibly proud not only of all they have achieved, but of the people they have become.

And now, a new chapter begins for the Class of 2026.

Whilst examinations are naturally the immediate focus, this is also a moment filled with excitement, possibility and adventure. University, apprenticeships, travel, new friendships and opportunities await.

We wish all of our Year 13 students the very best as they begin their examinations and look ahead to the exciting journeys still to come. Derby High will always be part of their story, and they will always hold a special place in ours.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 6 Residential to France

The children enjoyed a busy and memorable trip exploring the history and culture of northern France. They visited the towns of Montdidier, Amiens and Albert, learning about the impact of the First World War through museums, memorials and preserved trenches. Highlights included visiting Amiens Cathedral and the Somme battlefields, including Thiepval and Beaumont-Hamel. The group also experienced French culture by exploring local markets, tasting chocolate, ordering ice cream in French and taking part in outdoor activities back at the château. The trip ended with the children reflecting on the sacrifice and history they had learned about while enjoying time together with friends. They all behaved incredibly well and made us very proud. Thank you Year 6 for such a memorable time.





Year 1 and 2 Gym competition

On Thursday 7th May, 9 children from Year 1 and 2 took part in the DCCT Gymnastics event, which was hosted here at Derby High School. The children had to display their gymnastic abilities in 3 different areas - Core Skills, Ribbon and Vault. All the children were outstanding and performed their routines with confidence and enthusiasm.



Skiing and Snowboarding Success

Congratulations to Dom, Swallows who has successfully completed all his ski stages, and he has also progressed to snowboarding. Well Done, Dom, Keep up the hard work.

Nicholas (Robins) has also been working very hard on his skiing and has now advanced to Level Three in skiing. This is an incredible achievement, Nicholas!



Swimming Achievement

Well done to Asees, Year 1, who has been working very hard on her swimming and has passed her stage 3 in swimming. Congratulations, Asees!



Football Success

Over the bank holiday weekend both Mason, Year 5, and Rome, Year 3, had a very successful weekend with their football team, Grassroots. Grassroots football teams made it to the Derby Junior League Cup Final. An amazing achievement for them and their teams.

Mason's team took 1st place with a brilliant 3–1 win, and Mason capped it off with a fantastic goal — bringing his season total to an incredible 39 goals.

Rome's team who've spent the entire season playing a year up — finished as runners-up after a tight 2–1 battle, showing just how strong and competitive they've become. Congratulations to both boys, you should be very proud of yourselves.



Swimming Achievement

Congratulations to Oscar in Reception who has been awarded with his 25m swimming certificate. Well Done, Oscar, keep up the hard work.



Football Victory

Annabelle, Year 3, and Mickleover U8 Girls Huracan enjoyed an incredible bank holiday weekend, winning both the Castle Donnington Tournament and the Derbyshire Girls' and Ladies League Challenge Cup. In their first season together, Annabelle has quickly become a key defender, playing an important role in both victories with her excellent defending and passing.



National Youth Monologue Competition

Congratulations to Harley, Year 6, who was picked as a finalist for the regional finals of the National Youth Monologue competition. Harley will be performing on stage on Sunday 17th May. Good Luck, Harley, we look forward hearing it goes!



Senior and Sixth Form Open Evening

Our next Senior and Sixth Form Open Evening is on Wednesday 13th May, 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

Members of our Senior Leadership Team will be available throughout the evening in the Refectory to meet with families and answer any questions you may have.

Guided tours will also run regularly, offering the opportunity to explore our specialist teaching facilities and classrooms. All primary parents are most welcome to attend to learn more about our Senior School.



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

In this week's podcast Mrs Bellman (Deputy Head - Pastoral) and Mrs McBride (Primary Assistant Head - Pastoral) talk about next week's Mental Health Awareness Week. Hosted by the Mental Health Foundation, the week's theme is "take action". Mrs Bellman and Mrs McBride chat through their top tips to help and support mental health.

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

For more information on Mental Health Awareness Week please click the following link: [Mental Health Awareness Week](#) | [Mental Health Foundation](#)



Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 13th May – Year 5 Residential departs

Wednesday 13th May – Senior and Sixth Form Open Evening 5pm to 7pm

Friday 15th May – Year 5 Residential returns

Friday 15th May – Year 2 Kingfishers' assembly

Wednesday 20th May – Year 1 trip to Tamworth Castle

Thursday 21st May – Primary Teatime Concert

Friday 22nd May – 3.30pm May half term break begins

Monday 1st June – Return to school after May half term break

Monday 1st June – Year 2 trip to Hindu Temple

Friday 5th June – Kedleston Class Assembly

Friday 5th June – Little Learners' Teddy Bear Picnic

Useful Links