



Primary High Notes Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents

As we reach the end of our first week back at school, winter decided to make its presence felt with a blanket of snow this morning. Snow always brings excitement, but it also brings with it some very careful decision-making. Decisions about opening the school in adverse weather are never straightforward and are always taken with pupil, staff and parent safety at the very forefront of our minds.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful Maintenance team, who were on site before 6am ensuring the school was safe, clearing snow and gritting pathways. Thank you also to a number of teaching staff who rolled up their sleeves to help – a real team effort and a reminder of what a supportive community we are.

Thank you too to parents for your patience, flexibility and good humour this morning. We know snowy mornings can add an extra layer of challenge to already busy routines, and we really appreciate your support.

Once safely on site, the school day settled quickly and there was plenty of excitement as pupils enjoyed the wintery atmosphere (and the views from the classroom windows!). Snow may cause disruption, but it also brings moments of joy, togetherness and childhood wonder, and those are always worth pausing for.

Here's hoping it is the last snow of the season... but if not, please be reassured that we will always communicate clearly and make decisions with care, calm and safety at heart.

And while this week has reminded us of the importance of care, teamwork and community, it has also given us a lovely opportunity to pause and celebrate the exceptional work taking place across our school.

We are pleased to share that we have once again been nominated for the Lots for Tots Awards. This year, we are honoured to have received three nominations:

- Preschool Education Provider of the Year – Selected private or mainstream education providers serving preschool-aged pupils in Derbyshire.

- Primary Age Education Provider of the Year – Selected private or mainstream education providers serving primary-aged pupils in Derbyshire.
- Early Years Educator of the Year: Dora Eleftheriou – This category includes nominated individuals working in early years settings (Nursery to Key Stage 1) across Derbyshire. Nominations have been submitted by members of the public, employers, or sector professionals. This category is determined entirely by public vote, with no influence from the judging panel. We are delighted Mrs E has been nominated!

We are proud to be recognised in these categories as a leading provider of education for children in Derbyshire.

Public voting is now open, and we would greatly appreciate your support. Voting closes on 21 January at 9:00 a.m., with finalists announced on 28 January. Judging decisions will be confirmed in March.

Please cast your vote by [clicking here](#).

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Primary House Music Competition – Year 1 to Year 6

The annual house music competition takes place this term and already, preparations are being made.

The competition will be divided into two sections: - Instrumental and House Song.

The Instrumental competition is split into three age groups: Years 1 and 2, Year 3 and 4, Year 5 and 6. Pupils must prepare one piece of their choice, which lasts no longer than two minutes.

These heats will take place in class music lessons, during the week commencing 26th January and Mrs Cooke looks forward to listening to all instrumentalists playing so that they can win points for their house. Pupils must make sure that they bring their instrument, music and accompaniment part into school on the dates displayed below, otherwise they will not be able to take part in the competition. One pupil from each house and section (Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4, Years 5 and 6) will be put through to the finals, which will take place in the Senior Hall on Thursday 5th March 2026.

Preliminary heats will take place in curriculum music lessons on the following dates:

Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 - Monday 26th January

Year 5 - Tuesday 27th January

Year 1 and Year 3 - Wednesday 28th January

We are excited to share that the results will be revealed in assembly at the end of the week, along with the big unveiling of this year's House Song theme. The finals will take place on Thursday 5th March, which is also World Book Day, so pupils and staff are encouraged to get creative and come dressed up for the occasion. More information will be shared once the theme has been announced.

After half term, pupils will begin working on their House Songs with their House staff, and backing tracks will be available to everyone via Microsoft Teams. To access these, pupils will simply use their school email address and password.



Lamda Results

Before the Christmas holidays, our LAMDA pupils sat their examinations, and we are delighted to share that several achieved a Distinction or Merit. Congratulations to Yusuf (Year 5), Laasya (Year 5), Advith (Year 5), Dhian (Year 5), Shanaya (Year 5), Raya (Year 6) and Lois (Year 6).

A fantastic achievement - well done to you all!

LAMDA

Studio of Dance

Last month, Grace (Year 2) Alice (Year 2) and Rosie (Reception) took part in the Colour Mania Show with the Studio of Dance at Landau Forte College. They performed dance and acrobatics to songs with a colour theme. Well done, Grace, Alice and Rosie!



Fantastic Music Achievement for Anaisha

Congratulations to Anaisha (Year 2) who has recently been awarded her Grade 1 Exam with London School of Music. This is a fantastic achievement, congratulations, Anaisha.



Karate Success for James

Congratulations to James (Year 2) who won a bronze medal in Kumite at his Karate Club. Keep up the hard work James!



Maya's Ice-Skating Performance

Congratulations to Maya (Year 4) on her first ice skating show performance last term. Maya performed in Dick Whittington at Utttoxeter Ice Rink and had two roles – a Victorian baker and an Elf.

Well done, Maya!



Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast; In, 2 Courage, Kindness and Curiosity

Our first podcast of the year features Mrs Bellman and Mr Wood discussing our whole school values and how these relate to the start of the year for our students.

To listen to this week's podcast please [click here](#).



Advice on Your Teen's TikTok Feed

Culture Reframed has posted a useful article about Tik Tok and how its algorithm can quickly push sexualized content toward young users.

It explains why and how this happens and offers advice to parents on what they can do about it.

To read the article please [click here](#).

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 16th January – Swallows Class Assembly

Thursday 22nd January – Primary Tea Time Concert

Wednesday 28th January – Year 6 Hawkeye Falconry Visit

Useful Links