



Senior High Notes Friday 13th December 2024

Dear Parents

This week has been a wonderful conclusion to what has been a busy and successful term. We started on a high note with our Carol Service at Derby Cathedral, an unforgettable evening of music, reflection, and celebration. Our performers and readers were outstanding, showcasing their talents and confidence in the stunning setting of the cathedral. It was particularly special to welcome so many parents, grandparents, siblings, and family members to share in this special event.

On Wednesday, we gathered for our final celebration assembly of the year, recognising the incredible achievements of our students. From Bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards to Maths Kangaroo certificates, National Poetry Day Competition successes and an array of Music grades, there was so much to applaud. A special congratulations to the five students who have achieved Grade 8 this term, as well as the four who earned diplomas - an exceptional accomplishment that reflects their dedication and hard work.

Thursday was filled with festive cheer, with Christmas jumpers, a delicious Christmas lunch, and an atmosphere of joy and togetherness.

As we now head into the Christmas break, it is an important time for our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they prepare for their mock examinations in January. This process is not just about the exams themselves but also about learning what revision techniques work best and gaining confidence in their preparation. We are proud of their efforts and will continue to support them every step of the way.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank our staff for their unwavering commitment and hard work this term. Their dedication to our students has been extraordinary.

Wishing everyone a restful and joyous festive season. May this Christmas bring peace, happiness, and precious time with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 7th January, ready for an exciting new year ahead.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Christmas Carol Service

Monday night's Carol Service at Derby Cathedral was a truly special evening that brought together our school community in a festive celebration. The Cathedral echoed with the harmonious sounds of our students' musical talents, marking the perfect culmination for our exceptional music department. The performances were nothing short of incredible, showcasing the dedication and hard work that our students have put into their musical pursuits throughout the term. Thank you to all of our young musicians, readers and the congregation for such a magical event.

For more photographs from our Carol Service [please click here](#) to visit our website gallery.



Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

Yesterday was our annual Christmas Jumper Day. It was great to see everyone in their festive jumpers and hats. Thank you for all the kind donations.

We also enjoyed our first Christmas lunch in our new refectory. The whole school came together to enjoy a delicious, traditional lunch. Thank you to our wonderful catering team.



Highlights Yearbook 2023 – 2024

Our annual yearbook, Highlights, is now available. Your child should have brought a printed copy home last week as a keepsake of last academic year at Derby High. A digital copy is also available to read on our website. To read online please click the following link: [Highlights 2023/2024 - Derby High School](#).

We hope you enjoy reading our latest edition. Thanks to all our students and staff for their contributions.



Year 10 and Year 12 Christmas Market

On Tuesday, our excellent Young Entrepreneurs in the Sixth Form and GCSE Business classes set up their stalls to sell their goods at the Derby High School Christmas Market. Selling personalised goods, candles, decorations, jewellery and cards. All businesses made a profit and provided excellent customer service and satisfaction.

Some of the teams will be selling again in time for Valentines and Easter, so look out for any offers next year.



Year 10 Christmas Movie Night

To celebrate the end of a successful first term in KS4, Year 10 enjoyed hot chocolate, popcorn and a Christmas movie in the sixth form common room after school on Wednesday. Students voted to watch the Christmas classic, "Home Alone", which narrowly pipped "Elf" and "Nativity" to the post.



Congratulations to All Our Musicians

Our Young Musicians have been working extremely hard this term. As well as performing at the Christmas Concert and Carol Service, many students have taken exams and had resounding success.

Congratulations to Amber, Amal and Maya in Year 7, Emilie, Khyan and Elizabeth in Year 9, Lily, Jaishna and Deepraj in Year 10 and Joshua in Year 13 for achieving excellent results on the violin, clarinet, piano and flute in their exams. It is wonderful to see so many of our senior students taking their musicianship to the highest levels.

Congratulations to Denny in Year 10 on achieving grade 8 bass guitar with merit and a diploma on the trumpet. In Year 11 congratulations go to Jessica on achieving grade 8 singing with distinction and Ella on achieving grade 8 piano with merit. In Year 12, congratulations to Manroop for gaining a distinction at grade 8 on flute and Anabelle for achieving grade 8 piano with distinction.

Three students in Year 13 all achieved their ARSM diplomas with distinction, congratulations to Evie for her singing diploma, Anna for her piano diploma and to Esther for her piano diploma. The visiting examiner was extremely impressed by the standard and quality of the performers.

In other musical news, Hugo in Year 7 has been successful in gaining a place in the National Youth Choir for boys for 2025. Well done, everyone.

Year 7 Netball

On Thursday this week, the Year 7 A and B netball teams faced Littleover Community School in two exciting matches.

The A team played with great determination and skill, securing a well-deserved 4-1 victory. Strong teamwork and precise passing were key to their success, with standout performances in both attack and defence.

The B team had a closely contested match, resulting in an impressive draw. They displayed excellent resilience and teamwork throughout, with some brilliant interceptions and attacking plays.

Well done to both teams for their effort and sportsmanship!



Twycross House School 34 – 22 Derby High

Derby High faced a tough match against Twycross House School, ultimately falling to a 34-22 defeat. The game began poorly for Derby High, with Twycross dominating the first quarter. Strong defensive pressure and clinical finishing from the hosts saw Derby High struggle to find momentum, resulting in a 12-2 deficit by the end of the opening period.

Despite the early setback, Derby High regrouped and displayed great determination in the second quarter. Improved defensive organisation and sharper passing allowed the team to compete more effectively, and the gap began to stabilise. Twycross continued to push, but Derby High's resilience ensured the game remained competitive for the remainder of the half.

The third and fourth quarters saw both teams working hard to gain the upper hand. Derby High's increased confidence was evident in their willingness to take on challenges in both attack and defence. While the early deficit proved difficult to overcome, Derby High matched Twycross point for point in the later stages, showing significant improvement as the game progressed.

Though the result was not in our favour, the team can take heart from their fightback and will look to build on this performance in the matches to come.



U14 Football

On Wednesday, the Year 9 Girls football team played in the second evening of the Derby City football league, where we played in two fixtures.

Our first game was against John Port B team, and it was an end to end game with plenty of goals! John Port did manage to secure some goals early on, but the team worked hard, took control of the game and were tenacious on the ball when moving up the pitch. It was a close game, but with some impressive goals from Ruby and Phoebe, Derby High came out as the winners, with a 4-2 victory. Our final game of the night was against Chellaston B team. Again, this was a tight game and Derby High did have to soak up a lot of pressure. Chellaston scored an early goal, but that only spurred on the Derby High girls even more - with some fantastic efforts up front, just narrowly missing the goal. A rogue penalty was awarded to Chellaston in the closing minutes of the game, which Emilie did amazingly to try to stop, but they sadly scored. It was a 2-0 win for Chellaston, but the Derby High team are raring to go for the final evening of the league after Christmas. Over the two evenings, the team have played 5, won 4 and lost 1.

Well done to everyone who took part!



County Badminton

Last week, the Derby High School KS3 Boys Badminton Team had an outstanding performance in the county badminton competition, competing against Murray Park and Derby Moor School. Our four talented players displayed excellent skill and teamwork throughout the match.

In both singles and doubles formats, the team triumphed in every game they played. Each player showcased a remarkable level of focus, determination, and sportsmanship, securing victories in their respective matches. The team's combined efforts ensured a flawless result, and they emerged as the top contenders in the group.

With these wins, the Derby High School team has successfully qualified for the next round of the competition, which will take place in the new year. Congratulations to all the players for their hard work and dedication.

We look forward to continued success in the upcoming rounds and wish the team all the best as they aim for victory!



BEST Study Practices

In Monday's assembly, Mrs. Saunders and Joshua O. (U6.1) talked about how to learn better.

They recommended the following things as some of the BEST study practices. They help you learn material to remember it in the future!

- **Spaced Retrieval Practice:** regularly retrieving (remembering) information you have learnt.
- Regular self-testing with flashcards
- Frequent Quizzes
- Completing past papers with no notes often.
- And any other activity where you have to remember the material you have studied!

They also talked about how these things below might help you understand and encode material, but they **do not** help you remember it in the future!

- Re-reading notes
- Re-writing out notes by copying them up neatly
- Reading and note-taking
- Or any other activity where you do not need to remember the material you have studied!

And remember to **put that phone, and any other distraction, far away!** Studies show that even if you have someone else's phone, switched off, on your desk, your learning will be impaired and your studying will not be as effective as it could be!

Good luck to all Year 11 and Year 13 students as they prepare for mock examinations in January. And, remember: studying might be difficult, but you can do difficult things!

Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast, Episode 26 – Winter Wellbeing

In this week's podcast Mrs. Bellman and Mr. Thornton discuss Winter Wellbeing. To listen to the podcast [please click here.](#)



Beacon House have published a brilliant collection of resources specially designed by their therapists to support regulation, connection and rest during December. Take a look here: [Winter Resources](#)

The Impact of Smartphones on our Young People

For those of you interested in the impact of smartphones on our young people, please do check out this new series on C4:

[Watch Swiped: The School That Banned Smartphones](#) | [Stream free on Channel 4](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 7th January – return to school, first day of Spring Term.

Tuesday 7th January – 8:15am breakfast for Year 11 and Year 13 students in The Refectory.

Useful Links

Calendar (via the Parent Portal) - <https://derbyhigh.parents.isams.cloud/>