High Notes

Senior High Notes 13th October 2023

Dear Parents

On 6th October, our school embarked on an inspiring initiative by sowing wildflower seeds in our Conservation Area. We are privileged to have this natural haven within our school grounds and it is crucial to protect it. Despite the modest 8m by 8m size, this project carries the profound potential to HELP combat the decline of our native wildflower species and support a diverse range of wildlife, including bees, butterflies, pollinators, wild birds, and even small mammals. From our youngest Wrens to our Sixth Form students, pupils from every year group came together to sow their wildflower seeds, each group tending to their designated 2m x 2m square, demarcated by a stake, which will remain in place until the blossoms emerge.

Please do not walk on this area and help our wildflowers bloom. This project will keep giving our school community beautiful wildflowers and a home for lots of wildlife for many years to come.

It was a truly fantastic visit to the Modulek factory on Wednesday, where we had the opportunity to witness the construction of our new building up close. Our A-level students from Business, Economics, and Product Design were given a first-hand look at the process of creating modular buildings. We got to explore some of the rooms in various stages of construction and it was incredible to see the precision and care that goes into each module. Knowing that these modules will soon journey from Hull and be expertly positioned on our school grounds during the upcoming half-term break has us all eagerly anticipating the transformation that awaits us upon our return.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Visit to Kiwi House Care Home

On Friday, 6th October, KS4 and KS5 students visited Kiwi House care home.

Several of the residents have dementia, but remember poems from their youth. The students each chose suitable poems and performed them to residents.

One lady was particularly touched by Nadine's reading of 'If', by Rudyard Kipling, which she had written out, many years ago, using calligraphy for her A Level studies.

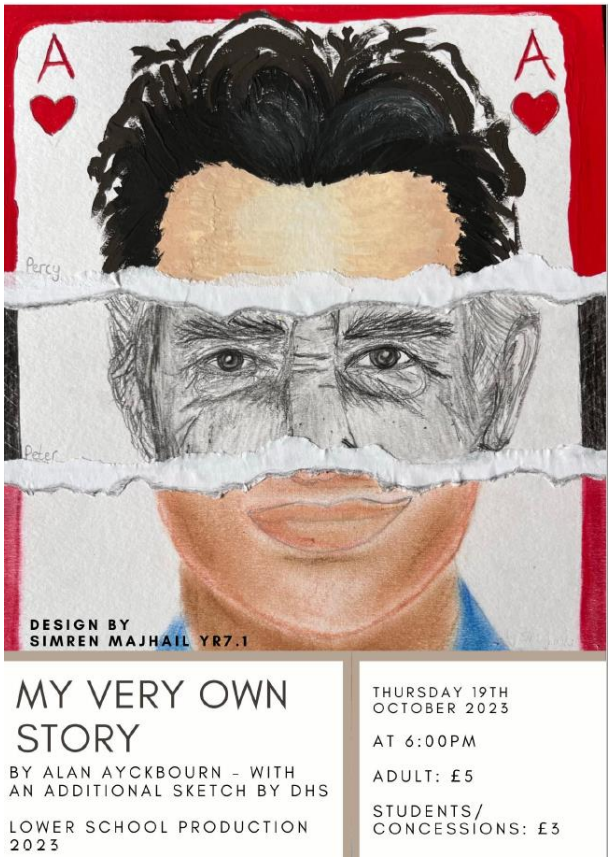
We thoroughly enjoyed our visit - it was so rewarding to speak with residents and share much-loved poems.

My Very Own Story; Thursday 19th October

We are delighted to announce that tickets for our Lower Senior School Drama production will be on sale at break and lunch times from student reception in the Senior School. This year's production is 'My Very Own Story', a comedy play by Alan Ayckbourn.

Ticket prices are adults £5, students and concessions £3. It would be really helpful to have the right money please when buying tickets from student reception - thank you!

We hope to see you there!



Save the Date – Saturday 16th March 2024

We are pleased to announce plans for an exciting musical event taking place next term.

We are looking for singers to join Derby High Chorus and perform in a concert at Derby Cathedral on Saturday 16th March, 2024. The programme will be varied in style and include music from the popular musical, Les Misérables along with the uplifting Gloria by Vivaldi. This fantastic opportunity will allow performers to sing in the wonderful setting of Derby Cathedral whilst being accompanied by a professional orchestra.

Further information will follow from Mrs Lesley. Please do keep an eye out for High Posts with more information to find out how to join in, either as a performer or as part of the audience.

CGP GCSE Maths revision materials

Thank you to those who ordered CGP GCSE maths revision materials. Most students should have already received their orders by now, but if anyone has missed the deadline and did wish to order, there are a small number of each item available "in stock" in school. The original High Post dated 12 September 2023 has been reopened until the end of term (deadline now 20 October 2023) so please respond as soon as possible. If this reopened offer is oversubscribed, we may have to prioritise orders from Year 11, since Year 10 can order again next year. Please email Mr Dodson if there are any queries.

Last call for Astro Club Calendar 2024

We have received a number of orders for the 2024 charity Astro Club calendar in aid of Mind, however there is still time! The calendar is full A3 and costs £12 delivered to your child in school, hopefully during November. These calendars are great quality and make wonderful gifts! Here are some pictures of the proof copy that is held in school, please ask Mr Dodson if you wish to take an advance look.

U16 County Netball

Due to the awful weather forecast the U16 county netball tournament moved venues last minute. Happily, this meant the tournament was played at Derby Arena! A great experience for our players. There were 2 pools of 4 teams. Derby High played against Repton School, Littleover Community

School and Woodlands School. Unfortunately, with 2 losses and 1 win our Derby High team did not progress beyond the group stage, however playing at Derby Arena was a great experience.

Well done all the players: Rosie, Hattie, Florrie, Ellen, Charlotte, Zoe, Beth, Matilda, Connie and Jenny

Year 10 Netball City Tournament

This week we headed to Littleover Community School to take part in the Year 10 City Netball Tournament. We competed against six local Secondary schools in a round robin tournament. Our first game was against Littleover, unfortunately we lost our first game with the team showing some initial nervousness. However, as the team settled into the tournament DHS went on to win the next 4 games, showing some brilliant attacking and movement in defence. This took us to our last game against Woodlands. Woodlands had also won all their games apart from Littleover, this meant we were playing for 2nd, or 3rd place. Woodlands secured the win by just one goal, meaning we finished with a Silver medal! Well done to all the players!

Derby City Schools' Cross Country

On Friday last week, a number of students took part in the 3rd week of Derby City Schools' Cross Country hosted by Derby Moor, just down the road. The route included a number of different fields, some hills and running through an uneven and interesting conservation area. Everyone who took part performed to their best and it was lovely to see their camaraderie and support for one another.

In the Year 8 and 9 girls' race, Charlie came 2nd, Mille 4th, Megan 14th, Mollie 22nd and Layla 24th - this was a popular race, and there was a large number of competitors so they all did fantastically well. In the boys' race, Barnaby finished in 11th place after a strong sprint finish, Mason finished in 13th and Morgan finished 27th. In the final event, the Year 10 and 11 girls' race, Connie came in a strong 3rd place and Beth came in 10th.

There were moments where the route was a little confusing, and whether they were running a short or long lap, but the Derby High students demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and got on with the task at hand.

A huge well done to everyone!

Well Done, Ciernan!

In the summer of ‘23 Ciernan (Year 11) transferred to Derby Rugby Club and commenced training with their U16 squad. Showing considerable progress, Ciernan was encouraged to train with the club’s U18 squad and after several training sessions, Ciernan was invited to play for them, initially impressing in the Newark 10s tournament which they won! Ciernan has since gone on to play for Derby U18s on four further occasions playing up 2 age grades which is normally only reserved for those showing the necessary ability, physical attributes and maturity that is essential for the greater demands of U18 rugby. It’s also interesting to note that he has played in three different positions and coped admirably with the greater speed and physicality of the game! A busy season of rugby is ahead for Ciernan who will also play for the clubs 2 sides in club, regional and national tournaments!

Acts of Kindness

On Monday, we launched our Random Acts of Kindness Challenge, to mark World Mental Health Week. Students at Derby High School spent the week showing gratitude and kindness to others. Giving back to others is a great way to brighten someone's day and remind them that they are appreciated. It also strengthens our connections with others and reminds us of the positive impact that we can have on the world around us. We are still welcoming any photos of the students carrying out their acts of kindness, to help us celebrate their achievements next week. Remember to seek permission from those in the photo.

Harvest Festival Collection

We would like to thank everyone for their kindness shown towards the Padley Centre. We are delighted to report that main reception is now brimming with harvest donations. These will be collected by the Padley Centre on 19th October so there is still time if you have not had chance to make a donation yet. Thank you.

Online Safety Quiz

Thank you to all the families who took the time to compete in our online safety quiz yesterday. Rather predictably, the students were victorious over their parents! Attached is a copy of the quiz and answer sheet in case parents want to spend a little time getting back up to speed. As a school, we are always here to listen to any concerns or answer any questions you may have about online safety and apps. Please do get in touch with your child's form tutor if you want to continue the conversation. Online Safety Quiz.pdf

Late Waiting

Please note, bookings for Late Waiting for next half term will be available from 16th October on SchoolCloud.

Timetable Information

Next week will be week B.

Safeguarding Corner

Tips for Better Sleep

Dr Pooky Knightsmith explains the importance of sleep for wellbeing, and gives us some tips on how to get to sleep and to stay asleep in this handy 60 second video! Take a look!

6 tips for better sleep in 60 seconds: 6 Tips for Better Sleep - YouTube

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 16th October – Sibling photos with Alethea Simpson

Thursday 19th October – Lower School Production, My Very Own Story

Friday 20th October – 3.45pm, start of half term break (late waiting available)