High Notes

Senior High Notes 16th February 2024

Dear Parents

This week I have had the privilege of immersing myself in discussions and exchanges of ideas at York St John University alongside fellow educators, delving deep into the pressing issues shaping our education landscape today. It is always invigorating to step out of our familiar surroundings and engage with the broader educational community, gaining fresh perspectives and insights.

Returning to school today, I was greeted by an exciting sight: the ongoing transformation of our new dining facility, The Refectory. It is truly remarkable to witness the progress first-hand, with the scaffolding now down, unveiling the stunning exterior that seamlessly blends with the rest of our site. It is as if it has always belonged here!

In the photos below, you will see the interior progress, and I am sure you will agree it is looking wonderful as it nears completion.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

Our Years 9, 10 and 11 students took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge a few weeks ago, and we were delighted that 57% of our students secured either a bronze, silver or gold certificate. Students have received their certificates in lessons, but worthy of mention are our silver certificate winners: Jaishna, Matthew, Ben and Lewis in Year 9, with Lewis additionally securing best in year as well as qualifying for the follow on Grey Kangaroo in a few weeks. In Year 10, silver certificates were won by Olivier, Jamie, Hannah and Ella, who gets best in year. In Year 11 it was Rosie, Ella and Agi with silver, plus Zainab who did brilliantly to win a gold certificate as well as best in school. Well done to all!

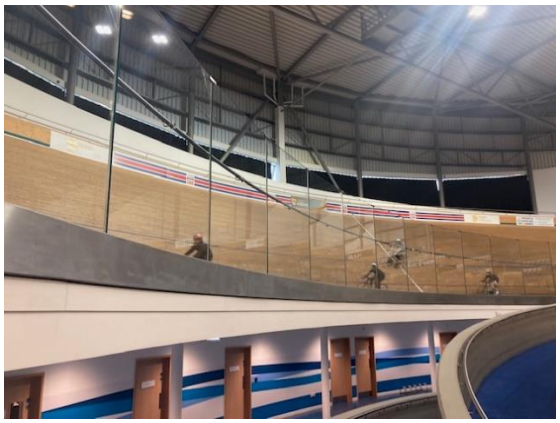
Year 9 trip to Derby Velodrome

Last Friday, 44 students from Year 9 visited the velodrome at Derby Arena. Some had been to the velodrome before but for the majority it was the first time that they would cycle up banks of 42 degree angles and on bikes with no brakes!

The students were taught how to cycle safely in an anti-clockwise direction, ensuring that they were aware of cyclists around them. The weather was not exactly kind to us but we battled on regardless, driven by the thought of tucking into our packed lunches and excited at the prospect of taking on the mighty velodrome in the afternoon.

The afternoon session did not disappoint. Every student gave it their all and staff watched on in amazement and with a degree of nervousness as our students whizzed around the track at hair-raising speeds. Mr Dodson, not to be undone, decided to show the youngsters a thing or two and was a sight to behold as he glided around the track as if he had been doing it all his life.

Mr Ince said, “it was a pleasure to spend time with our students. They were polite, attentive, determined and hugely supportive of each other. Whether we have discovered a new Laura Kenny or Sir Chris Hoy remains to be seen. What is for certain is that I am truly privileged to be their Head of Year.”



Library News

It has been a busy half term in the library. We started with the heats for the Year 7 STEM spelling bee - well done to Aarav, Bella and Faye for being selected. We will be taking part in a regional competition at Trent College in March.

Last week we also selected the team for the National Reading Champions Quiz after an internal quiz for Years 7 and 8. Congratulations to Jia, Lydia, Bareen and Pippy who will be taking part in the regional heat in March. Last year we got to the national final so we have our fingers crossed!

This week, after an assembly put together by the library on Lunar New Year, we had an activity session at lunchtime, making crafts. A big thank you to Emma, Emily and Megan for their work on this.

The student library team have also launched a competition this week for half term - Take a photo of yourself reading in an unusual place and email it to library@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk to be in with a chance of winning a prize. Closing date is 1st March so do get out and about this half term with a good book!

KS3 Archaeology Club

KS3 Archaeology Club have been learning to read Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, deciphering between determinatives tri-laterals and everything in between. We started out by looking at the different written systems used in Ancient Egypt, before learning to transliterate the famous hieroglyphics into Roman alphabet, then moving on to the final step of translation. Excitingly, in the most recent session we were joined virtually by Dr Alexandre Loktionov, an Egyptology expert from the University of Cambridge, who took us through the whole process of translating a couple of sentences. He even taught us how to pronounce all the words, but this would not have been too useful back in Ancient Egypt, as Hieroglyphics was never a spoken language, but a formal writing system gifted from the gods.

Here's an example of one of our translations:

2. mk s3.t n.t nsw ḥr idb n itrw

This means: Look, the daughter of the king is upon the bank of the river.

Inaugural Year 13 Further Mathematicians Treasure Hunt Cup 2024

To round off a demanding few terms of study, our Year 13 Further Maths students took part in a treasure hunt relay around school on Friday to help them re-familiarise themselves with the single maths course, which can sometimes feel like ancient history! Competition was intense, with Mr Dodson hiding the clues in some obscure locations, but the winning team of Sowmya and Imogen prevailed with a perfect score of all correct answers in the correct order!

They had the honour of lifting the no-expense-spent Voronoi Cup. Look up the Voronoi Tessellation online for an interesting mathematical diversion! Well done to all, and wishing our hard working students a relaxing half term.

GCSE Drama Practical

Well done to all our GCSE students who participated in their practical examination this morning.

Emma's Visit to Copenhagen Gallery

Emma (Year 9) was very excited to view her art work which was on display at an art gallery in Copenhagen. Emma's work was submitted to a competition across China and she was delighted to have achieved a gold award.

Congratulations Aarav

Aarav (Year 7) was excited to hear that he's been offered a membership to Mensa for scoring in the top 2% of their supervised IQ test. Members of Mensa come from all walks of life, almost every job and profession, and range in age from 2 to 102! Mensa provides an opportunity to engage with other lively minds, whether that be through the exchange of ideas, social events, or the provision of intellectually stimulating content.

Aarav has received more good news when he found out that his entry to the Young Writers Competition has been chosen for publication. His story "The Lost Soul" will be featured in the published book, called The Glitch – Distorted Realities, and a copy of this will remain in the National Archives of the British Library.

Congratulations, Aarav!

Kings Award for Voluntary Service for Neev

Last Friday evening, Neev received her award for the outstanding volunteering work she has been doing with Burton HOPE. Neev is the longest serving young volunteer at Burton HOPE and has been volunteering with her parents for the last 4.5 years.

Burton HOPE received the first ever Kings Award for Voluntary Service to be awarded in Staffordshire, which was presented by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, Ian Dudson CBE and one of his Cadets. This prestigious award is the equivalent of an MBE and is the highest award that can be awarded to a volunteer charity.

Burton HOPE is the biggest and busiest foodbank in Burton, all volunteers received a badge from the Lord Lieutenant. Well done, Neev.

Swimming Success at Derbyshire ASA County Championships

Congratulations to all our students who competed over the last two weekends at the Derbyshire ASA County Championships at Moorways Sports Village. Thank you for sending through your highlights from the two weekends. Well done to Ella (Year 10), Amelie (Year 8), Alice H (Year 8), George (Year 8), Alice C (Year 13), Kitty (Year 11), EJ (Year 9), Megan (Year 9) and Khyan (Year 8).

Congratulations to Megan (Year 9) for reaching the 50m breaststroke final and finishing in the top ten in a number of event.
Ella (Year 10) had some fantastic results achieving multiple personal bests and achieving the finals.
Amelie (Year 8) was awarded gold for her 50m backstroke and was delighted to have achieved the 100m backstroke East Midlands regional qualifying time.
Kitty (Year 11) and Alice (Year 13) both competed in the 50m freestyle event and were both delighted to achieve a personal best.
George (Year 8) was awarded gold for 50m butterfly, silver for 50m breaststroke and finished fourth for 100m butterfly and 100m freestyle. George is delighted to have been selected to attend the Swim England Regional Development programme which will start next month.

U14B Netball

On Wednesday, the U14B team played a friendly fixture against Landau Forte in the sports hall. It was a fantastic game and the players should all be very proud of their efforts! It was end to end and very close throughout the game, with it getting nail bitingly close in the final seconds. Derby High had been in the lead for the majority and then all of a sudden Landau were drawing the game 2-2 with less than a minute to go. Fortunately, the team kept their cool, collaborated effectively to get the ball up to our circle and Lucy coolly and calmly slotted home the final shot in the dying seconds of the game! A big well done to all who played - it was a pleasure to watch! Final score 3-2 to Derby High.

Years 7 and 8 B Netball vs Landau

The Year 7s played first and they demonstrated great levels of possession and helpful movement off the ball from the first whistle. They scored two quick goals in the first quarter, which certainly settled their nerves. As the game progressed, there were some effective and helpful interceptions by the defence, which prevented Landau from entering the shooting circle quite a lot. Sadly they managed to sneak a couple of goals in the 3rd and 4th quarters, but a final goal from Derby High secured the win. A really big well done to all those who played, they showed some great team work, effort and discipline. The final score was 3-2 to Derby High.

Then it was the turn of the Year 8s, who also got off to a good start. The second quarter was by far their best quarter, with goals aplenty, and some effective team work. A little bit rushed, the team did steady their play effectively and demonstrated some really promising possession throughout. It did get somewhat close in the penultimate third, but the team kept their cool, thwarted a number of attempts by Landau and took their opportunities in the circle. The final score was a pleasing 8-4 win for Derby High.

Year 7 Netball vs Woodlands School

On Thursday, the Year 7 A and B netball teams played in some friendly fixtures against Woodlands School in the Sports Hall.

The B team played first, and quickly secured a number of well executed goals. They worked hard to keep possession and move the ball successfully up the court. There were moments of obstruction, contact and footwork, but this significantly improved as the game went on. They continued this progress into the second half and should be really proud of their efforts. The B team ended the game as 5-1 winners!

The A team then played which was a little more challenging, but also full of end to end play! The team fought hard to win the ball all over the court, and were successful with thwarting many attempts on goal but did struggle a little to keep possession moving up towards the attacking circle. There were moments of obstruction but every player made huge improvements with their discipline as the game went on. Woodlands just managed to win.

A huge well done to everyone who took part, gave their all and demonstrated true Derby High spirit throughout!

Year 10 Acro

Mrs Keegan has been really impressed with her Year 10 PE groups over the last few weeks. The group have been focusing on their balances.

Grand Champions in Cheerleading

Ella H (Year 11) and Alivia H (Year 10) took part in a cheerleading competition last weekend. They both cheer for Derby Extreme Cheer Academy.

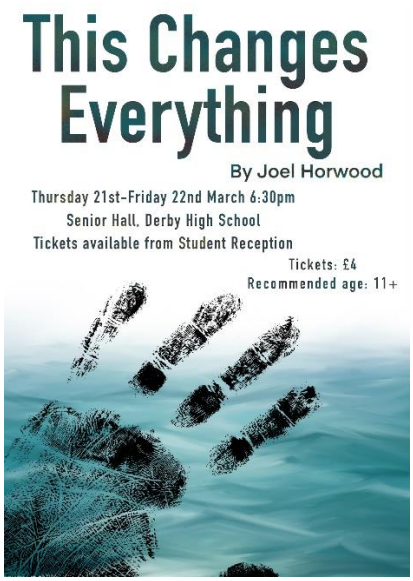
After winning both of their categories they were delighted to be crowned Grand Champions! They will both now have the chance to travel to Florida later in the year to compete as well!

Art Club

Art Club have been busy this half term designing and making clay pinch pot plant holders. Here are a few of their wonderful creations.

Save the Date – School Production, *This Changes Everything*

On our return from half term tickets will be available from Student Reception for this year's Senior Production, *This Changes Everything* by Joel Horwood. The performance will be held across two evenings, Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd March. Tickets are £4, please note the recommended age for this performance is 11+.



Safeguarding Corner

Body Image

Body image is how we think and feel about our bodies. These thoughts and feelings can impact us throughout our lives and affect how accepting we are of our bodies and appearance, how much we value our bodies, and how we perceive our bodies in our environment.

There are many factors that can affect your child's body image – both positively and negatively. Such as:

Their thoughts and feelings towards their own body

- The media and social media
- Family members
- Peers, especially close friends
- Health conditions or disabilities
- Life changes that affect how our bodies look and function, like puberty
- Ethnicity and culture

If you are worried about your child, it is important to give the time and space at home to allow for conversations about how they are feeling and the concerns they have.

More information can be found here:

Body Image Guide for Parents and Caregivers (mentalhealth.org.uk)

Support & advice for parents on body image concerns: Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together (hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 26th February – return to school

Wednesday 28th February – Senior Music Recital 5.30pm

Thursday 29th February – GCSE Options and Careers Evening for Year 9 students and parents 6pm