



Senior High Notes 18th October 2024

Dear Parents

As we reach the end of what has been an incredibly busy and fulfilling half term, I find myself reflecting on everything our students have achieved. From outstanding sporting performances to creative artistic endeavours, from academic challenges tackled with determination to friendships strengthened through collaboration - our students have truly embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and determination. They have worked tirelessly, supported one another, and should be immensely proud of their achievements.

My assembly today provided the perfect moment to pause and reflect on our journey so far, venturing into the wonderful world of Disney where dreams really do come true. Just as Rafiki tells us "the past can hurt, but you can either run from it or learn from it," we explored powerful life lessons that mirror our own half term's experiences.

Our journey showed us that sometimes, like Elsa, we all need to "let it go" and embrace who we truly are. We discussed how there is more to life than just "hakuna matata" - while a problem-free philosophy sounds appealing, true growth comes from facing our challenges head-on. After all, as Mulan reminds us, the flower that blooms in adversity is often the most rare and beautiful of all.

As we look ahead to the break, remember that each of our students has their own "reflection" staring back at them, discovering who they are meant to be. Just like Moana, they're learning that "the call isn't out there at all, it's inside" them. These are not just stories – they are guideposts for our children as they navigate their own journeys through education and beyond.

So while this half term may be drawing to a close, the magic of these lessons lives on. As Walt Disney himself believed, "if you can dream it, you can do it." Together, as a school community, we are helping our children discover that sometimes the greatest adventures begin when we dare to "step into the open air" and believe in ourselves.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

P.S. No matter what challenges lie ahead, remember - "the bare necessities of life will come to you!"

Harvest Collection

Yesterday, we were fortunate to have Paul Taylor from YMCA Derby lead our Harvest Assembly, focusing on the inspiring themes of gratitude, generosity, and kindness. During the assembly, our community gained valuable insights into the incredible work YMCA Derby does across Derbyshire and the significant impact of our harvest festival donations. These contributions will not only help keep local food banks well-stocked but also support YMCA's cooking workshops, which are offered to vulnerable children and adults in the community. These workshops are an essential part of empowering those in need with practical skills.

It is crucial that our children understand the positive impact they can have, not just within their school but in the wider community. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously donated to this cause.



Year 7 STEM Day

On Monday Year 7 had the day off timetable as they took part in a STEM day run by JCB engineering apprentices. In teams of 7 they had to complete quizzes, build paper aeroplanes which could fly exactly 5m and build bridges to see which team could make the strongest bridge which could hold the most masses. After lunch they designed and built amazing rollercoasters. Thanks to Year 7 for taking part with such enthusiasm and engagement - JCB staff were very impressed. Our thanks also go to JCB for providing such a fun and inspiring day.



Derby City Cross Country

On Monday, a team of cross country runners took part in the final Derby City cross country league event held at Derby Moor. The team comprised of a group of Year 10/11 girls and a team of Year 10 boys.

Both the girls and boys were required to run two full laps of the course, which comprised of two loops of three fields and a tough, rugged smaller loop through a tree conservation area with the finishing straight after a short but steep hill. The girls were up first and they made a great impact on the race early on, with Millie and Indie particularly shifting away from the rest of the field early on. It was great to see all of the girls run with such relaxed techniques, they really performed excellently. Millie won the race for the Year 10 girls (and overall), with Indie close behind in second, and Alex closely followed in 8th position. Alyna sadly did not finish the race after a tumble on the uneven surface on the second lap, but Katie and Ella worked hard and finished 12th and 14th, respectively.

It was then time for the boys' race, and they all got off to a quick start. The pace was high and all of the boys gave it their all. The front pack did shift away after the first field, and then it was up to them to maintain that pace for the remainder of the race. Mason and Tom were tight together the whole way through, and it was an exciting sprint finish to the funnel at the end for them, with Mason just pipping Tom at the post to come in 3rd and 4th, respectively. Ned followed closely behind in 7th, and Harris produced an effective sprint finish after the final hill to finish the race in 15th position.

A great effort by all on quite a tough course, but they all did Derby High very proud! Well done, all!



Match Report: Cross Country Meet at Woodlands School

Last week, Derby High School competed in their second of three cross country meets, held away at Woodlands School. Several local city schools participated, making it a competitive day of racing. Derby High was represented by 15 runners across Years 10 and 11, who put in a strong performance.

In the girls' races, Millie delivered an outstanding run, finishing 2nd in her age group. Close behind was Indi, who claimed an impressive 3rd place, and Charlie, who finished 4th, rounding off a strong showing for the team. Unfortunately, Ella was unable to complete her race due to an ankle injury, but she showed great determination.

On the boys' side, Edward secured 2nd place in a competitive field. Mason followed up with a solid 5th place, and Tom finished 6th, contributing vital points to the team.

A huge congratulations to all of our runners for their hard work and determination!



Year 9 Netball Inter-Year Tournament

The Year 9 Netball Inter-Year Tournament saw six teams compete in an exciting round-robin format. Each team played with fantastic energy and determination, making it a day full of competitive netball.

Team 1 delivered an exceptional performance, going undefeated throughout the tournament. Their outstanding teamwork and spirited play earned them the champion's trophy, a well-deserved reward for their efforts.

Congratulations to Team 1 on their victory and for bringing home the trophy! A big well done to all teams for their enthusiasm and impressive performances.



Well done, Rudra

Rudra has again represented Derbyshire County in golf this year. Rudra is a member of Derby Golf Club and has represented his club in the higher category NextGen. The NextGen Tour is for the more experienced juniors under the age of 14. Well done, Rudra.



River's Fantastic Performance in Oliver

Well done to River, Year 9, for his faultless performance in Oliver! which is currently on at Derby Theatre. River has the part as Dodger in this timeless musical adaptation of Charles Dicken's classic novel, Oliver Twist. For more information please [click here](#).



PSHE Consultation

Thank you to those parents who attended the session last night; it was great so many could join us. We do hope that the session was useful. We will send out a summary letter and invitation for further parent voice after half term when the current PSHE policy will have been updated and published on the website for your reference.

Safeguarding Corner

In2 Safeguarding Podcast

Welcome to our 20th episode! This week Mrs Bellman and Mr Thornton talk about half term, having a good break and good quality down time. [Click here to listen](#).



Adding Parental Controls – How To Guide

For those who want a 'how to' guide for adding parental controls to your devices, please follow the link: [Guides for Apple and Android devices parental controls | Internet Matters](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 4th November – Return to school

Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th November – Year 10 Learning Review (online)

Friday 8th November – Year 9 Engineering Project (in school)