



High Notes

Senior High Notes Friday 20th September 2024

Dear Parents

In my senior school assembly today, I reflected on a topic that touches each of our lives: peace. Drawing from the powerful message behind Peace One Day, I shared with the students the inspiring story of how a simple question posed by British filmmaker Jeremy Gilley led to a global movement. His efforts resulted in the United Nations declaring 21st September as the International Day of Peace—a day dedicated to ceasefire and non-violence.

While we often associate peace with conflicts in distant places, the assembly reminded us that peace also begins with the small actions we take in our daily lives. I challenged our students to consider how they can contribute to peace within our own community—whether through kindness, empathy, or simply listening before passing judgment.

As we approach Peace Day on Saturday, I invite you to join us in this reflection. Let's encourage our children to think about how they can foster peace in their friendships, their families, and even within themselves. Peace is not just a lofty ideal; it is something we can build, one thoughtful choice at a time.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition

Thirty-nine members of Year 11 spent the weekend working in their teams to navigate their way across the Peak District on their Bronze Qualifying Expedition. They worked efficiently in their teams and made excellent progress to Barn Farm campsite at Birchover. After pitching their tents and cooking, they spent a chilly night under canvas. Sunday was rather wet but they persevered, finishing in good time.

The assessors were complimentary about how organised they were setting off from camp on Sunday morning, leaving no trace on site.

We witnessed lots of teamwork and problem-solving, with many students overcoming momentary adversity and showing real determination and resilience. As one parent neatly observed:

"Weekends like the one just gone are never really about how far you can walk or how good you are at camping [...] there will be life lessons there for many years to come plus lots of stories!"



Year 12 Engineering Challenge

The annual launch of the Year 12 Engineering Challenge happened this week. There was a real buzz of excitement in the Physics Lab as our 14 students met their mentors from JCB and brainstormed ideas for JCB vehicle attachments with sustainability as the chief factor in their planning. The project will run until May and will include a trip to JCB Academy for the practical work. We are all looking forward to the work and fun ahead.



Year 7 Trip to Rosliston Forestry Centre

On Thursday 19th September, the Year 7s went on a trip to Rosliston Forestry Centre. This was a great opportunity for the students to continue to get to know one another away from the class room, to continue their transition to secondary school, and to also spend time with their form tutors. Each form group took part in the three activities of Outdoor Laser Tag, Team Building and an opportunity for a Birds of Prey workshop, which included being able to handle three different species of owl! It was fantastic to see the form groups growing their new friendships and having fun with one another, and they certainly got the opportunity to work on things such as teamwork and communication as well as taking a responsible risk and, for some, stepping out of their comfort zone.

A great day had by all!



Year 10 and Year 11 Netball Tournament at Woodlands School – Round 1/3

Tuesday and Thursday night saw the much-anticipated first round of the City Schools Netball Tournament took place at Allestree Woodlands School, with Derby High School making a strong start in the competition.

Year 10 Match 1: Derby High vs. Woodlands School

Derby High faced the host team, Woodlands School, in a thrilling opener. Both teams were evenly matched from the start, displaying excellent teamwork and skill. The first half saw Woodlands take a slight lead, but Derby High quickly responded with fast-paced passing and accurate shooting to level the score. The defensive units of both teams were strong, particularly in the final minutes as each side tried to edge ahead, but ultimately, the match ended in a well-deserved 7-7 draw.

Year 10 Match 2: Derby High vs. West Park School Derby High's confidence soared in the second match as they came up against West Park School. From the opening whistle, Derby High dominated the court with

slick passing and clinical finishing. Their attack was relentless, racing ahead to build a commanding lead. West Park struggled to break through Derby's solid defence, managing to score only 2 goals. By contrast, Derby High showcased their strength in both attack and defence, securing an impressive 12-2 victory to close out the day. Derby High leaves the first round of the tournament with a solid foundation, having drawn with the hosts and convincingly beating West Park. With momentum building, the team will look to continue their strong form in the next round of matches.

Year 11

On Tuesday evening it was the Year 11 netball team's opportunity to compete in the first round of the new city league. The team played 3 very competitive games against Woodland's, West Park and Littleover Community School. The Year 11 team took lots of learnings to take forward to the next round.



Juliette and Oskar Perform at the Melbourne Festival

Last weekend was the Melbourne Festival, a lively event when the town transforms into a cultural hub, with artists opening their studios, exhibitions showcasing diverse talents, and live performances bringing the streets to life. One of the live performances was by two Derby High students!

Congratulations to Juliette, Year 11, and Oskar, Year 8, for performing their fantastic set together on Saturday 14th September. They performed 'Crazy Train', 'Enter Sandman', 'Bang Bang' and 'Losfer Words'. Well done, Juliette and Oskar!



Congratulations, Amelie

Congratulations to Year 9 student Amelie who has been selected to play netball for the U15 Nottinghamshire County Academy Squad, following a tough few weeks of selection assessment sessions. Amelie will train and play for the county over the coming season, a particularly impressive achievement considering she is a year younger in this age group! Well done, Amelie.



Cornbury House International Horse Trials Success for Daisy

Well done to Daisy for achieving a PB last weekend. Here are her accounts from the weekend.

Last weekend I competed at Cornbury House International Horse Trials in the U16 pony trial class (the highest level ponies can do). We had a great time with a pb dressage result and two great jumping rounds. I am looking forward to our final event of the season in a few weeks at Osberton International for my first 2!*



Save the Date: Derby High School Careers Fair

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) forms an important part of the PSHE, Truly Educated and tutor programmes, and is provided for pupils in Year 7 to 13 at Derby High School. We are delighted to announce our next Careers Fair for Year 9 to Year 13 students, will be held on Wednesday 5th March 2025, from 5:30pm to 7pm in our Senior Hall. Our Career Fair provides an excellent opportunity for students to explore a wide range of career pathways and to meet representatives from a variety of industries and higher education organisations.

Exhibition space is complimentary to any organisation wishing to exhibit, please contact Miss Riley via email, criley@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk to book a space or for further information. Thank you.



Monday 23rd September- climate change assembly

Professor Bethan Davies is leading our assembly on how glaciers across the world are responding to climate change. This assembly should be intriguing, and we welcome your online donations to WWF ([please click here](#)) as a thank you for Bethan voluntarily giving up her time and expertise to talk to our community.



House Point Pop Up - Friday 27th September

Our Wellbeing prefects will be hosting our first “House Point Pop Up”. Students can pay 50p to partake in a fun challenge to try to earn their House a point in our House Championship. All donations will also support their House local charity.

Safeguarding Corner

Guest Podcast: Improving mental health, one practical idea at a time

This week we are sharing a video from Dr Pooky Knightsmith. Pooky has a PhD from the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London, is the former chair of Children and Young People’s Mental Health Coalition, the author of several books and educator of thousands through her speaking, online training and YouTube videos.

Pooky’s knowledge, ideas and advice come from years of study, practice and hard-earned lived experience with PTSD, anorexia, self-harm and depression. She’s an autistic mum of two (one biological daughter, one adopted) who enjoys bouldering, paragliding, walking and singing when she’s not teaching.

The video is three minutes long and discusses tips on how to help your child open up if something is on their mind; [VIDEO: Tip to Help Your Child to Open Up - Dr Pooky Knightsmith](#)



You can connect with Pooky via [Patreon](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 25th September – Sixth Form Open Evening (for year 11)

Thursday 26th September – Year 9 parents online meeting regarding residential trip

Friday 27th September – House Point Pop Up

Sunday 29th September – KS3 production technical rehearsal

Tuesday 1st October – Senior School Recital

Useful Links

School menu week commencing 23rd September - [click here](#).

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