High Notes

Senior High Notes 22nd March 2024

Dear Parents

I am absolutely delighted to confirm that the eagerly awaited new Refectory will be ready for use from the start of the Summer Term.

THE REFECTORY AT DERBY HIGH SCHOOL

This represents a real step forward for Derby High, enhancing the facilities for all our students and staff. Our catering and cleaning teams will be working hard over the Easter break to ensure the facilities are ready to be used. We will be planning an opening celebration later in the term along with opportunities for parents to see the new facilities.

This week saw the end of the process for our Year 12 where they were given their leadership roles for their final school year. Every member of our Sixth Form has the opportunity to develop their leadership potential by taking on a position of responsibility in the school. Roles range from those which are long established, such as Head Prefect, House Captains etc, to more innovative ones which reflect the skills and qualities of the students in the year group. All sixth formers undertake prefect duties and are role models for the younger students in a host of ways. These opportunities mean that our sixth form students have a wide range of experiences from which to draw when making job applications in the future and confidence as they move into the next stage of their lives. Recognising the potential in all of our students, we offer a range of opportunities and roles for them to become involved in leading others, influencing practice and embedding change. It's important for students to experience leadership opportunities during their schooling, to learn the art of building relationships within teams, defining identities and achieving

tasks effectively. It also provides an opportunity to learn to identify and display effective communication and interpersonal skills.

Our Senior School production, *This Changes Everything*, is a spectacular showcase of talent and creativity. I am very much looking forward to watching it this evening and celebrating the remarkable achievements of our students.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

This Changes Everything – Senior School Production

Congratulations to all our performers who are taking part in this year's Senior School production. Our opening night was last night and our final night will be this evening. This year's play is This Changes Everything by Joel Horwood, an exciting play that asks important questions about the way we live based on a group of teenagers who want things to change!

Thank you to Mrs Maddox and Mrs Webster for all their work as the play directors, and to all the staff and students who have been involved in this inspiring production.

To view more photos please visit our website gallery by clicking here.

Year 13 Physicists visit Jodrell Bank Observatory

This week the U6 Physicists took a break from their busy schedules in school to visit Jodrell Bank Observatory in Manchester. Starting with a chance to have a go at some hands on activities they then attended a workshop where, using data from the world leading Lovell Radio Telescope and their A level understanding of circular motion, gravitational fields and astrophysics, they were able to calculate the mass of the universe! They then had a very enjoyable planetarium show on how the elements are made from stars and after lunch had a chance to fully explore all the exhibits on display including an exhibition on astrophotography. Following the all-important trip to the gift shop, it was time to head home. This was a fun end to 2 years of hard work in Physics for our U6 and a great way to support their learning.

Philosothon Success!

On Tuesday 19th March, eight students competed in the inaugural Derbyshire Interschool Philosothon at Repton School. In two mixed-year teams they discussed a number of philosophical inquiries, tackling a number of philosophical themes such as free will, determinism, identity and memory. They engaged with big questions like 'what is a number?', 'what is the difference between trust and gullibility?' and 'was Abraham right to follow God's command to kill his son?' They also demonstrated excellent metacognition and teamwork as they analysed the strengths and developed any weaknesses in their thinking and contributions.

Two guest judges, Mrs Driver and Dr Hunter, commended both teams, commenting on their excellent teamwork: "Both teams from Derby High were inclusive and supportive when discussing their ideas. They were the best communities of inquiry in the competition".

Although we narrowly missed out on the coveted Best Team Prize, the students did come away with three of the five available prizes, with both Josh (Y8) and Emma (Y9) winning Best Junior Philosopher, and Saachi (Y10) winning Best Senior Philosopher.

All participants should be really proud of the high levels of oracy and creative thinking they demonstrated, as well as for their excellent collaboration and philosophical insights. We look forward to next year's contest!

If you would like to get involved, Philosophy Club runs on a Thursday lunchtime with Mrs Saunders in Room X3. All students are warmly welcomed.

ARTiculation Grand Final at The British Library

On Wednesday, 20th March, Eliza in L6 took part in the final of ARTiculation, a national public speaking competition on a work of art, hosted by The British Library.

Eliza gave a dynamic and erudite presentation on Janis Rozentāls' 1897 painting, Nāve, clinching her third prize out of a field of ten impressive speakers.

Year 7 STEM Spelling Bee Final

On Tuesday, Derby High took a team of Year 7 students to Trent College for the final of the STEM Spelling Bee. To get to this point, we had an in-house event and Bella, Aarav and Faye were our top spellers. The final saw 5 schools battling it out across 7 teams. Despite the pressure, our team did really well being tested on a range of STEM curriculum related words. Bella was called back for a nail biting tie breaker and was thrilled to discover she had come 1st! She received a bundle of STEM books and a trophy. Well done to all 3 who were in the top 21 out of 150+ students who entered. Also a big thank you to Mrs Orr and Mrs Huskisson.

Career Talk - Accountancy

Students from Years 10 - 13 attended our lunchtime careers talk on accountancy yesterday. Collin Franklin and Lisa Gray from local firm, Franklins, came in to give an overview of what their jobs entail and to dispel the myth that accountants are geeks. They were also able to talk through the advantages of the direct route into accountancy and we hope to get them back into School in the Autumn Term to promote recruitment from our student body.

Congratulations Juliette!

Well done to Juliette (Year 10) for winning the Emerging Musical Talent Competition organised by Melbourne Choir in November 2023. Juliette was presented with the trophy by Mr Marshall in last Friday's Music Recital.

U12 Netball vs Littleover Community School

On Wednesday, Year 7 A and B netball teams played in some friendly fixtures against Littleover Community School. Both games were played in good spirits and they all got to play plenty of netball.

The A team started off well, working hard to keep possession and to move the ball up the court, but there was a number of good interceptions from Littleover who then took their opportunities. Into the second third, the team were keen to work on their movement off the ball to get free, and focus on their passing power and certainly made some progress. Littleover were a well drilled team and took their chances in their circle; however, Derby High powered through in the final third, never giving up with attempting to keep possession and move up the court, and managed to secure two lovely goals.

The B team also started strongly, and there were some excellent interceptions and thwarting of goal scoring opportunities by our defence. The team worked well to pass the ball effectively up the court, and certainly were trying to help each other. Getting in front of their defenders was a target for the final two thirds, and everyone made huge progress with this. Derby High managed to score a lovely goal in the final third.

Simren and Lily were named as Players' Player for their respective teams. Well done to all involved!

Senior Spring Concert, 6pm, Senior Hall

On Tuesday 26th March we will be welcoming guests to our Senior Hall for the Senior Spring Concert. The performance will take place between 6 pm and 7.30 pm and will feature a variety of musical

performances from our many ensembles. The evening will also include a special performance by the Derby High Chorus, consisting of staff and students, performing music from Les Miserables.

If you would like to attend please could you complete the HighPost, indicating how many seats you would like.

We look forward to welcoming you to a memorable evening.

Safeguarding Corner

In2 Podcast – Episode 4

Welcome to our fourth episode of our two-minute podcast. This week we focus on positive parenting. Our discussion is led by our Whole School Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Bellman and our Primary Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs McBride.

To listen please click here.

If you would like to find out more information on positive parenting, please head to;

9 Steps to More Effective Parenting (for Parents) | Nemours KidsHealth

Positive parenting tips (parentingscience.com)

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 26th March – Senior Spring Concert, 6pm to 7.30pm

Thursday 28th March – term ends at 3.45pm, no afterschool clubs or late waiting

Tuesday 23rd April – return to school, Summer Term begins