



High Notes

Senior High Notes Friday 22nd November 2024

Dear Parents

This week began with an incredibly unexpected twist - a snow day on Tuesday! Derby hasn't seen snow this early in November for many years, and I think it caught us all by surprise. While it created a picturesque winter wonderland, the conditions also brought significant challenges.

Any decision to close the school is not taken lightly. The safety of our students and staff, both on the school site and travelling to school, is always our primary consideration when making decisions of this nature. Derby High has a large catchment area, with many of our students and staff traveling significant distances to reach school. On Tuesday, the road conditions in several areas became particularly challenging. While each school's circumstances differ, we made our decision based on the specific information for Derby High School.

I want to thank our parents, students and staff for their understanding and adaptability as we navigated this situation. It is a reminder of the strength of our community and our shared commitment to ensuring everyone's wellbeing.

Looking ahead, we are excited to see parents at our upcoming events as we approach the festive season. Please take a moment to read through High Notes and check the calendar on the Parent Portal to stay up to date with everything happening at Derby High. Your involvement is so important to us, and we look forward to welcoming you to these special occasions.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 9 Project with West Midlands Trains

On Friday 8th November 12 Year 9 students began their exciting 12 week project working with West Midlands Trains to redesign Watford Station. We were pleased to have Ray, Leah, Georgia and Melissa from WMT come into school for the afternoon to provide an excellent launch. We all learned a lot about the railways and the history of stations in the Midlands.

Then last Friday the students travelled on a WM Train to Watford, and were given an access all areas tour to see for themselves the challenges that are faced in this station. Having prepared questionnaires the teams then interviewed passengers on the concourse to find out what they thought about the facilities in the station, ranging from access arrangements, eating outlets, ability to travel through the station and how safe they felt both inside and on the platforms.

Armed with lots of info the teams are now ready to get to work on their transformations over the next 10 weeks.

Huge thanks to the staff at Watford Station and at West Midlands trains for welcoming us and well done to all the Year 9 students who were such super ambassadors for Derby High.



Year 9 Basketball v's Alvaston Moor

In a dominant performance, the Year 9 basketball team triumphed over Alvaston Moor Academy with a resounding 49-9 victory. Our experienced players, George and AJ, were instrumental in controlling the game, showcasing excellent teamwork and leadership. George's defensive prowess and AJ's clinical finishing ensured a commanding lead early on, which the team maintained with discipline and intensity. Every player contributed to a strong team effort, reflecting their hard work and preparation. This decisive win underscores the team's growing confidence and skill.



U14 Football County Cup

Match Report: Derbyshire County Cup – 1st Round, Wednesday 13th November.

Opponent: St Phillip Howard. Venue: Glossop Community Pitch. Result: 0-0 (won on penalties)

Derby High took on St Phillip Howard in the opening round of the Derbyshire County Cup, playing away on Glossop's new community pitch. Stepping into the goalkeeping role after an injury to our regular keeper, AJ put on an impressive performance, making several crucial saves throughout the game to keep us in contention. Morgan led the attack as the central attacking midfielder, taking multiple shots and trying to break down the opposition's defence. Our back line of Chester, Oscar, Jai, and Addy provided solid support, fending off St Phillip Howard's offensive efforts.

At halftime, Mr. Moorhouse commended the team for their strong communication but encouraged the squad to be more clinical in the final third. The emphasis was on lowering shots on goal and fully committing to each tackle.

The match proceeded to penalties, where the team demonstrated composure and precision:

- St Phillip Howard scored their first penalty.
- Chester stepped up to score our first.
- Both teams then exchanged successful penalties, with Oscar scoring our second.
- The pressure increased as St Phillip Howard missed their third, and Joel converted for us, putting us in the lead.
- St Phillip Howard missed their fourth penalty, allowing Morgan to seal the victory by confidently scoring the final penalty.

With a 4-2 win in the shootout, Derby High advances to the next round of the County Cup. The team displayed resilience and focus, and we eagerly await confirmation of our next opponent.



Jack, Zach and Ollie Represent Derbyshire U13s

Congratulations to Jack (Year 8), Zach (Year 8) and Ollie (Year 7) for representing Derbyshire U13 Hockey team on Sunday 17th November, in the County's first competitive fixture of the year against Leicestershire. All three contributed to fine results on the day.



Congratulations Hugo

Well done Hugo, Year 7, for being offered a place in the National Youth Choir boys ages 9 to 15 in 2025! We are looking forward to hearing more from Hugo on this fantastic opportunity in the New Year.



Supporting our Charity Collection this Christmas

Christmas presents are being collected from main reception on Thursday the 28th November. Please do bring in any Christmas presents before then. Every single present will make a huge impact on a disadvantaged child in Derbyshire, who might otherwise not get a present.

Christmas Cards and Presents Reminder

Students may exchange Christmas cards from Monday 2nd December if they wish. However, we respectfully request that Christmas presents not be brought into or exchanged on school premises.

Our decision is based on several important considerations:

1. Financial Pressure: Not all families can afford to purchase gifts, which can create stress and anxiety for students.
2. Emotional Well-being: Gift exchanges can:
 - Exclude students who are not part of gift-giving groups
 - Cause embarrassment for those who cannot bring gifts
 - Create potential social tension or feelings of inadequacy

3. Maintaining an Inclusive Environment: We aim to ensure all students feel comfortable and valued, regardless of their ability to give or receive presents.

We understand the spirit of generosity that motivates gift-giving and appreciate that some students will want to exchange presents. We simply ask that these exchanges occur outside of school, away from the school site in personal settings.

Thank you for your understanding and support in creating a positive, inclusive school environment.

Whole School Photo Reminder

As the holiday season approaches, Tempest wanted to remind you of a wonderful opportunity to order a keepsake that celebrates the Derby High School community — the whole school group photograph taken this September.

This very special photo offers a lasting memory of your child's time here and the friendships they've made along the way. You can view the photograph and place your order online by visiting the following link:

Whole School Group - <https://htmp.st/200095-59>

All orders will be shipped directly to your home (postage and packaging apply). To ensure your photo arrives in time for the festive period, please place your order by Sunday, December 1st.

Schoolblazer Flash Sale

[Schoolblazer](#) will be running a flash sale from Monday 25th – Tuesday 26th November 2024.

There will be 20% off ALL in-stock items online at schoolblazer.com during the sale period, while stocks last.

schoolblazer

Safety Notice

Parents and students are asked to please use the pedestrian gates, and not the vehicle gate, at the front of school when arriving or leaving school on foot. Thank you for helping us to keep our site safe.

Safeguarding Corner

Episode 23 – Tricky Subjects

This week we hear from Mrs McBride (Assistant Head - Pastoral, Primary) and Dr Evans-Bolger (PSHEE Lead, Primary). Today's topic is how we tackle tricky subjects and our approach to this in school. To listen to the podcast please [click here](#).



For further information on this subject please click the following link;

[How to talk to children about difficult topics | NSPCC](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 26th November – ARTiculation Internal Heat, Year 12 students

Tuesday 26th November – Mock MMI interviews with Medical/Dentistry students

Wednesday 27th November – Year 7 Learning Reviews (online)

Friday 29th November – House Dance Final

Useful Links

School menu week commencing 25th November - [click here](#).

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