High Notes

Senior High Notes 26th January 2024

Dear Parents

Education is a remarkable journey, a path of self-discovery where our students uncover not only what they enjoy but also where their true talents lie. It is a journey that transcends the classroom, guiding our students towards their passions and preparing them for the boundless opportunities that await.

For our Year 13 cohort, this voyage is reaching its zenith. They stand at the crossroads of decisions, shaping their futures as they make choices about what comes next. It's a pivotal moment as they prepare to step beyond the familiar corridors of our school and venture into the broader landscape of life. The students are already reaping the rewards of their hard work and dedication. The incredible offers pouring in from prestigious universities and competitive degree apprenticeships are a testament to their exceptional capabilities. Each offer signifies not just an academic achievement, but a recognition of their potential to make a meaningful impact in their chosen fields.

While it's true that some of our exceptional students have secured offers from Cambridge, we want to emphasise that our pride extends far beyond these prestigious institutions. Every student's journey is unique, and we are equally proud of each one who has meticulously chosen the university and course that resonates with their individual aspirations. Our commitment to celebrating diverse paths and recognising the value in each student's choice, underscores our belief in the limitless potential that education unlocks for everyone. It is a testament to the depth of our educational philosophy, where success is measured not by a singular destination, but by the fulfilment each student finds in their chosen pursuit.

Today marks a bittersweet moment as we bid farewell and extend our warmest bon voyage to Mrs Tudor, a cherished member of our Derby High School family for the past 20 years. Mrs Tudor has left an indelible mark on our school. At today's Primary assembly, we had the privilege of sharing some of those special memories and expressing our deepest thanks for Mrs Tudor's exceptional service.

While Mrs Tudor will be greatly missed, a new adventure beckons, and we wholeheartedly wish her the very best as she embarks on this exciting journey to France. May this next chapter be filled with joy, fulfilment, and new discoveries.

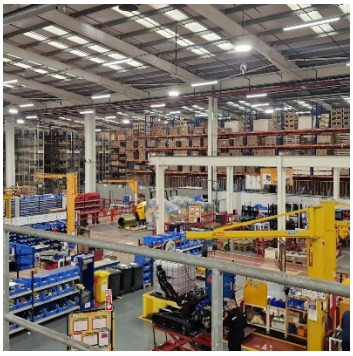
Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Gold Industrial Cadet Project

Last Thursday, as part of their Gold Industrial Cadet project, our teams of Year 12 students visited JCB attachments division for a very informative trip. Both teams are designing an attachment for a JCB vehicle, so were able to see first-hand how their designs will be put into practice. Many thanks to our mentors at JCB for hosting a great afternoon.



Dr Martin Stern MBE

Report by Poppy, Year 12

Dr Martin Stern is a holocaust survivor, who on Monday spoke to History, Psychology and RS students from years 10-13. I went into this talk hoping to learn more about the holocaust and the impact that it had from someone who had experienced it first hand and had survived. What I took away from meeting Dr Stern was not only that, but also a story of resilience and, most noticeably, luck that led to him being able to share his story with us. He emphasised in the talk that anyone who lived long enough to tell the story of the holocaust after the war was an anomaly. The story of most people who experienced the holocaust was to be killed by it. His story was one of chance and timing that had saved him on multiple occasions during his years as a Nazi prisoner. He had been taken by Nazi officials when he was five years old, and transported finally to a transportation camp that was a holding station for Auschwitz and Sobibor extermination camps. On the day that he and his sister were to be sent to Auschwitz, their names were missed off the list. After school, a small number of staff and students were invited to have a more informal talk with Dr Stern where we discussed his life and achievements. His long career in the NHS and his intellectual hunger, which he pursues by learning every day, were fascinating. He also wanted to draw attention to the fact that the persecution of groups is still a prevalent issue today and that we should learn from the past rather than letting it repeat itself. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to meet this incredible man and his story will not be forgotten. As we are losing the survivors as they age, Dr Stern jokingly referred to himself as a ‘precious commodity’. He most certainly is.

Year 11 Visit Megazone

After a busy two and a half weeks of mock examinations, Year 11 headed down to Megazone in Derby to let off steam in a laser-tag contest. Four teams battled it out in the arena with the team led by Mrs Martinez Hernandez claiming victory. It was a great way to celebrate the hard work put in by our students over the examination period and now it's back to business with the final push towards the summer.

Astro Club - "Are we the only intelligent planet?"

We were delighted to be joined again by Astro Club regular Dr Susan Cartwright, from Sheffield University, who spoke to us about the Fermi Paradox, which suggests that if aliens were out there, maybe they've had made contact by now! Another really great talk on a thought provoking subject, and enjoyed by over 20 of our students in the Sixth Form Common Room after school on Thursday. If your son or daughter would like to attend, please follow the links on recent High Posts. Clear skies!

Derbyshire Schools' Cross Country

A huge well done to the students who raced in the Derbyshire Schools' Cross Country event at Moorways on Saturday afternoon.

Amelie and Jakey ran in their Year 7 categories where they had one full lap to complete (approx 1.8km) and should be proud of their efforts - Amelie finished 31st and Jakey finished 54th.

Charlie, Millie, Indi and Amelie ran in the Junior Girls' category, with their distance increasing to two laps (approx 3.6km). All four students worked hard and were determined to run effectively; Charlie came in 2nd, and Millie came in 6th, Indi was closely behind in 9th place and Amelie came in 29th - a fantastic achievement for all! For finishing in the top 8 places, Charlie and Millie qualify to represent Derbyshire in the English Schools' event in March, with Indi just missing out by one place but securing a reserve spot should a space open up - fingers crossed.

Mason competed in the Junior Boys' event, where he ran with focus and good pace. The course had certainly began to get muddier at this point, but Mason gave it his all and finished in 40th place.

Connie, Florrie and Ella took part in the final race of the afternoon, the Intermediate Girls' event (alongside the Senior Girls' race). Again, determination and focus were evident by all, and the girls should be proud of their efforts. Connie finished in 8th spot, securing qualification to the English Schools' event, with Florrie just behind in 10th place. Like Indi, Florrie secured a reserve spot and hopefully may well get called up. Ella was close behind in 19th place, demonstrating real grit in the final lap.

A huge well done to everyone who took part, representing Derby High, but also the Derby City area - you should be very proud of your achievements!

Derbyshire Schools' Badminton Competition

On Tuesday, a KS4 boys' team and KS4 girls' team competed in the Derbyshire Schools' Badminton competition held at John Port Spencer Academy.

For the boys, Agi, Dhyrya, Alfie and Oliver competed in various singles and doubles games, against a total of 4 schools from across the County. Against each school, there were 2 singles matches played and 3 doubles matches and the total number of games won across the 5 matches decided who won each match. The girls' team, comprising of Nysha, Juliette, Hattie and Isla, only had two others teams in their competition so their format was slightly different. Against each school, there were 3 singles matches and 4 doubles matches- with each of the singles matches playing the best of 3 games!

It was fantastic to see the students play and progress throughout the afternoon, and certainly become more confident with outwitting their opponents - with a number of matches won, or very closely lost. Each player should be proud of their efforts and contribution to their teams' overall performance.

Overall, the boys team finished in 3rd place and the girls also finished in 3rd. A huge well done - it was a long afternoon with a LOT of badminton played!

East Midlands Schools Championships – Trampolining

Congratulations to Pippy, Year 8, for competing last Sunday in the East Midlands Schools Championships. Pippy came third in the zonal event, qualifying for the National Schools Final which will take place in Telford on the 16th March. We look forward to hearing how Pippy gets on the in the final round!

Congratulations Nokutenda

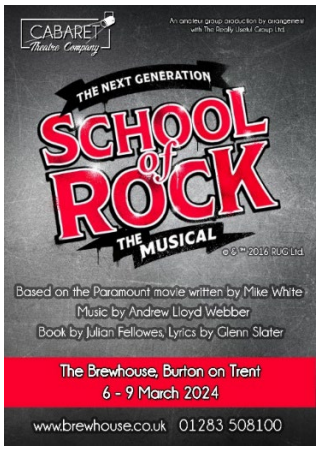
Congratulations to Nokutenda (Year 7) who was invited to feature on the 2024 KidzBop Album. KidzBop is one of the biggest kids pop groups in the world. Consisting of USA, UK, France and Germany. Nokutenda is a part of the UK Album this year which was released last week on the 19th January. Nokutenda recorded the album in London, last August, and was invited back in October. Now Nokutenda has since been invited to audition to become a permanent member of KidzBop. Well done!

School of Rock – Cabaret Theatre Company

Well done to our four senior students for their roles in the upcoming production of the musical School of Rock, presented by the Cabaret Theatre Company. Olivia (Year 12), Juliette (Year 10), Oskar (Year 7) and Lydia (Year 10) will all perform, alongside Dr Evans-Bolger from our Primary school, at The Brewhouse, Burton on Trent, 6th to 9th March.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's award-winning smash hit musical premiered on Broadway in 2015. Based on the hilarious hit movie, the story follows Dewey Finn, a failed, wannabe rock star who decides to earn a few extra bucks by posing as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school. (Please note, suitable for ages 8yrs+ due to some bad language)

For more information, please follow this link: School of Rock - Brewhouse Arts Centre and Café Bar



Oliver – Central Musical Theatre Co.

Well done to River, Year 8, for playing the part of The Artful Dodger in Oliver, presented by the Central Musical Theatre Co. The performance will be over Feb half term, from 20th to 24th February at the Duchess Theatre, Long Eaton. For more information please follow this link: OLIVER - Central Musical Theatre Co. at Duchess Theatre event tickets from TicketSource

Timetable Information

Next week, we will be on timetable B.

Safeguarding Corner

Supporting Your Child With Their Friendships

Friendships can be a tricky thing to navigate when you are growing up. Here are 6 tips in 60 seconds from Dr Pooky Knightsmith on how to best support your child through the ups and downs!

Click here to watch the 60 second video on YouTube.

Assertiveness, Podcast from Dr Pooky Knightsmith

Here is a podcast from Dr Pooky Knightsmith, exploring practical activities to encourage your child to be more assertive. Some students find the increased independence of growing up tricky; here we find out how to support them in finding their voice.

What Practical Tools Can Help Children Master Assertiveness? (buzzsprout.com)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 29th January – The Industrial Cadet Gold Residential

Monday 29th January – House Music Heats continue

Tuesday 30th January – Year 13 Learning Review (online)

Friday 2nd February – House Football