High Notes

Senior High Notes 28th March 2024

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of the Spring Term, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible achievements of our students and staff. This term has been a whirlwind of activities, showcasing the unwavering dedication and talents of our school community.

Despite the challenges of the terrible weather during their practice expedition in the High Peak this week, our Year 12 Gold Duke of Edinburgh participants persevered, arriving back with smiles on their faces. Their resilience and determination is truly inspiring. A special thank you to the staff members who supported this important activity.

Last week, our Senior School Production, "This Changes Everything," captivated audiences with its thought-provoking and inspirational performances. The dedication of our students, under the guidance of Mrs Maddox and Mrs Webster, was truly remarkable.

On Tuesday evening, we were treated to an incredible Spring Concert, where our students' performances far exceeded their years. The final piece from our Derby High Chorus, bringing together singers from our student body and staff, as well as an orchestra, was simply phenomenal.

As we head into the well deserved Easter break, our thoughts turn to our exam year students in Years 11 and 13. This break provides them with a crucial opportunity to immerse themselves in revision, ensuring they are fully prepared for their upcoming exams in May and June.

Today, we bid farewell to our current dining hall, but we are excited to welcome everyone back on Tuesday April 23rd, when we will enjoy our first meal in the new refectory, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter for our school.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Senior Spring Concert

On Tuesday night we welcomed guests to our Spring Concert. It was an amazing night, with a fantastic programme consisting of musical theatre, the rhythms of Jazz, the serenity of Classical music and the dazzling virtuosity of the Romantic era. The concert featured many of our ensembles including the Derby High Chorus and ensemble, especially formed for this performance.

Congratulations to all our musicians from Years 7 to 13, to Mrs Lesley, Mrs Storey and all the peripatetic music teachers who presented such a phenomenal musical evening.

For more photographs from the evening please click here to view the website gallery.

Duke of Edinburgh

Twelve students took to the hills last weekend to practice for their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. Conditions were variable to put it mildly! Brilliant sunshine on Sunday, followed by sleet and fog on day two and back to sunshine on Tuesday - really testing the groups' resilience as they climbed the ring of Edale and circumnavigated Kinder Scout. Walking 45 km in total, the Year 12s showed their team spirit and navigational skills in readiness for the qualifier, which will take them up to the Yorkshire Three Peaks in June. Well done everybody and thanks to Miss Lomas, Mr Gallagher, Mr King, Mr Maddox and Mrs Davies for supporting them.

Astro Club 2024 Finishes on a High

Last week, Astro Club welcomed its final virtual speaker of what has been a hugely successful series of lectures from a glittering array of academics and professionals from the astro world. Dr Annalies Mortier joined us from the University of Birmingham to talk to us about the methods of detection of exoplanets around distant stars. We heard some dizzying details about how we can determine their **location by** either the "wobble" or the dimming effect they have on their parent star. We even learned about plans to block out the light from such stars to enable the planets to be imaged more easily.

We have had seven different speakers this year and nearly 30 students have attended the after school sessions, asking some amazingly insightful questions along the way. We cannot wait for Astro Club 2025, where we have big plans to visit the brand new University of Warwick observatory!

Year 8 Football

On Tuesday the Year 8 football team took part in round 3 of the DCCT league at John Port School.
The team played four games against local schools, Bemrose, Chellaston, Murray Park and Derby Moor.
Well done to the team, with the final results being two wins and two losses.

Year 9 City Netball Tournament

On Tuesday afternoon, the Year 9 netball team competed in the City Netball Tournament at Woodlands School. With some no shows and late arrivals, the format of the tournament changed to a round robin event where we would play against 6 other schools. Each game comprised of two 4-minute halves and so, there was plenty of netball - and it was nice to play (and finish!) in the day light! The team were an absolute delight and worked their socks off throughout! With impressive wins over Derby Moor (6-0), Derby Cathedral (5-1), West Park (7-2) and Saint Benedict's (4-1) they started off the tournament effectively and worked very well together. There were some close losses to Woodlands (4-6) and Ecclesbourne (3-8) but the team never gave up, and kept on fighting.
The team finished in a fantastic 3rd place overall and should be very proud of their efforts and achievements this season! A huge well done to all involved.

Congratulations Pippy – BSGA National Finals

Well done to Pippy (Year 8) for taking part in the British Schools Gymnastics Association Trampoline National Finals in Telford.

Pippy showcased a new routine with a 7.1 difficulty and was delighted to come 5th overall in the Year 7 to Year 9 elite category. This was a great result for Pippy's first year in the finals.

Eesha's Fundraising for The Little Princess Trust

Well done to Eesha (Year 7) for raising more than £1,600 for The Little Princess Trust, a charity that provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair due to cancer treatment.

Eesha had her hair cut this week and is delighted to have raised so much for this incredible charity. If you wish to make a donation, please click here.

Timetable Information

Please note that we return to school on Week B; on Tuesday 23 April, students should bring all equipment needed for Week B lessons.

Safeguarding Corner

In2 Podcast – Episode 5

Welcome to episode five of our two-minute podcast. This week we focus on revision. Our discussion is led by our Deputy Head – Pastoral, Mrs Bellman and Mr Thornton, Assistant Head - Pastoral.

To listen please click here.

If you would like to find out more information on revision, please head to; Top ten tips for parents: revision | The Good Schools Guide

Happiness and Wellbeing – Words for Life

Words for Life is created by the National Literacy Trust and supported by UK publishers. They have published lots of recommended reading and writing activities which parents could do with their child to support happiness and wellbeing. To view their page, please click here: Books and activities to support your child's mental health | Words for Life

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 23rd April – return to school, Summer Term begins (week B timetable)