



High Notes

Senior High Notes Friday 29th November 2024

Dear Parents

Today, the Senior School came alive with the energy and excitement of House Dance - a cherished Derby High tradition that highlights the very best of our school community. Collaboration, teamwork, creativity, and above all, a sense of fun. While winning is celebrated, the real success lies in how our students work together so brilliantly, showcasing the special spirit that makes Derby High unique. I must also commend our incredible House Captains and Deputies, whose outstanding leadership shines through, exemplifying the strength of student leadership.



This week, Australia made headlines by passing a law to ban social media use for children under 16. It's a decision that highlights the growing concern globally about the impact of social media on young people. While social media is undeniably a powerful tool for connection, creativity, and learning, it also has the potential to cause significant harm, particularly to mental health, self-esteem, and relationships.

At Derby High, we see the effects of harmful social media use regularly, and it is one of the most pressing issues we face as a school community. From online bullying to the pressures of curated perfection, the digital world can be an overwhelming space for young minds to navigate.

We are committed to educating our students about the safe and responsible use of social media, but we cannot do it alone. Parental support is vital. We ask for your help in reinforcing these messages at home and ensuring age restrictions are adhered to—many platforms set a minimum age of 13 or even 16 for good reason.

As part of our approach, we have a clear policy in the Senior School that students do not use their phones during the school day. Ideally, students would not bring phones to school at all; however, we understand that for some, a phone is essential for their journeys to and from school. In these cases, phones must be switched off and stored in lockers throughout the day. We know how tempting it can be for students to check their phones or feel a sense of FOMO (fear of missing out), but we also know how vital it is for them to develop face-to-face social skills and build real connections with their peers. Time away from screens helps young people focus on their learning, wellbeing, and the social interactions that are so important in shaping their confidence and resilience.

For lessons where a device is needed - perhaps for a quiz or research - we ensure that students have access to the technology required. Our class sets of Chromebooks are readily available and provide a safe, supervised way for students to engage with the digital tools necessary for their education. This allows us to integrate technology meaningfully while maintaining our focus on reducing unnecessary distractions.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership in supporting the wellbeing of our pupils.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

ARTiculation Competition

Advika: The Rosetta Stone (196 BCE)



Connie: The Execution of Lady Jane Grey by Paul Delaroche (1833)



Zainab: The Imam Reza Shrine, Iran (818 AD)



On Tuesday, we held the internal heat of ARTiculation, a public speaking competition on a work of art, an artefact or architecture.

Advika, Connie and Zainab, all in Year 12, spoke with impressive confidence, knowledge and enthusiasm on The Rosetta Stone, 'The Execution of Lady Jane Grey' (Delaroche), and the Imam Reza Shrine.

The students have researched and crafted their speeches throughout this term and the finished presentations were a testament to their diligence and tenacity.

Zainab was the winner of the internal heat with her thought-provoking exploration of a beautifully-crafted and awe-inspiring shrine, which has withstood the ravages of conflict throughout the ages; she will go to the Regional Final at Sleaford Hub on 30th January.



Year 10 GCSE Food and Nutrition

Year 10 GCSE Food and Nutrition were finding out more about the science of cooking this week.

They investigated how different types of flour work in bread making. The students each made exactly the same recipe using a range of flours including organic wholegrain grown locally, spelt, rye and strong white to find out if this would affect rise and texture. They discovered that the gluten content of the flour is really important and this varies massively from one type of flour to another. They also enjoyed the chance to try all the samples!



Year 11 Trip to See 'A Christmas Carol'

On Friday, 22nd November, Year 11 students dodged the snow to visit Birmingham Repertory Theatre, set in the festive Centenary Square, to see Mark Gatiss' adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol'.

It was a colourful production, filled with clever lighting, puppets and dance, which brought the novel to life for our Year 11 students as they begin to prepare for their Literature examinations next year.

Our congratulations to River (Year 9), who is playing a young Cratchit in this production.



Year 9 Basketball Team Dominates John Port in 51-14 Victory

The Year 9 basketball team continued their strong start to the season with an emphatic 51-14 win over John Port. From the outset, the team displayed exceptional teamwork and intensity, quickly establishing control.

An explosive first quarter set the tone, with sharp passing and accurate finishing securing an early lead. By halftime, the score was 28-6, thanks to relentless defensive pressure and clinical fast breaks.

In the second half, Year 9 showed no signs of slowing down. Dominating the rebounds and executing smooth offensive plays, the team extended their lead. A highlight of the match was a stunning three-pointer in the third quarter, met with cheers from the sidelines.

Despite John Port's determination, Year 9's skill and energy were unmatched. This convincing victory keeps them unbeaten this season and full of confidence heading into their next game.



Year 10 Basketball Team Shows Grit in 49-27 Defeat

The Year 10 basketball team put up a valiant effort against a highly experienced opposition, ultimately falling 49-27 in a challenging match. Despite the result, the team showcased resilience and determination throughout.

The game began with the opposition demonstrating their skill and coordination, quickly building a lead. However, Year 10 fought back impressively in the second quarter, which they won with disciplined defence and sharp shooting. At half-time, the team remained in contention, trailing by only 9 points heading into the final quarter.

Unfortunately, the opposition's experience shone through in the closing stages as they pulled away with a strong offensive display. Nevertheless, Year 10 can take pride in their effort and moments of quality, which highlight their potential for future matches.

This performance, against such formidable opponents, reflects the team's progress and determination to improve as the season continues.



Year 8 Basketball Team Shines at West Park Tournament

The Year 8 basketball team delivered an outstanding performance at the West Park School tournament, finishing undefeated after three hard-fought matches.

The team secured impressive victories against Landau Forte and West Park B, with relentless defence and clinical finishing proving key. Their most challenging game came against West Park A, but the team showed great resilience and composure to battle to a well-earned draw.

Arjun, Alexia, and Noah were in fine form, scoring plenty of baskets throughout the tournament, while Aoi excelled as point guard, orchestrating the team's offence with precision passing and sharp decision-making.

The players worked tirelessly as a unit, demonstrating excellent teamwork, energy, and determination in every match. Remaining unbeaten is a testament to their growing confidence and skill.

The team should be proud of their achievements and will look to build on this momentum in the rest of the season.

Table Tennis City Tournament at Woodlands School

This week our school participated in the Table Tennis City Tournament at Woodlands School, where we attended with an Under-13 Boys' team and Under-13 & Under-16 Girls' teams. Interestingly, the other schools did not bring girls' teams, so our students had the unique opportunity to play in a competitive tournament against each other.

The girls' teams had the chance to win medals for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in their respective age groups. Congratulations to Imogen and Phoebe, who performed exceptionally well and claimed 1st place in their age group!

For the boys, we had a strong showing with 8 players in the Under-13 category. They competed in a round-robin format against teams from Woodlands and Murray Park. The top 2 players from each group advanced to the quarter-finals. Unfortunately, Yedidia, Adam, and Arnav just missed out on the quarter-finals, finishing 3rd in their respective group stages.

However, George had an outstanding performance. He finished 2nd in his group and progressed to the quarter-finals, where he faced off against Murray Park. He won the match 11-7, then moved on to the semi-final, where he triumphed again with an 11-6 victory. In the final, George sealed his victory with

another 11-7 win, securing 1st place overall. As a result, George has now qualified for the next stage of the county tournament, which will take place in January.

Well done to all our players for their dedication and sportsmanship throughout the tournament!



Year 9 Netball

On Tuesday our Year 9 netballers had an exciting inter class tournament. This week's team of the week and tournament winners were The Dark Blues.

Well done to all the players for such a great class tournament with 6 competitive teams.



House Point Pop Up

There will be a House Point Pop Up on Friday 6th December at lunchtime. Students will be able to pay £1 to partake in the "santa run challenge". They can win house points if they beat Mr Quichaud's time and all funds raised will be donated to their respective house charities. If your child would like to partake, please ensure they come to school with £1.

Polite Notice; Collecting Your Child from Late Waiting

Please may we remind parents collecting their child from Late Waiting to park in the Hillsway car park (at the back of school) rather than coming through the main gates on Pastures Hill. Thank you for your support in keeping our school site a safe place

Safeguarding Corner

Episode 24– So Called “Casual Racism”

In this week’s podcast Mrs Bellman and Mr Thornton discuss “so called, Casual Racism”. To listen to the two minute please [click here](#).

For further information on this topic please visit the following links:

[Talking to children about racism | NSPCC](#)

[Racism and mental health | How To Deal With Racism | YoungMinds](#)



For Parents - Second-Hand Devices Guide

Often when children get their first or subsequent devices, particularly mobile phones, it's a hand-me-down, for example when a parent gets a new device on contract. This can be a real positive, mobile devices are very expensive and the latest/greatest devices often have very limited additional functionality over older devices.

But it's really important these devices are configured correctly for younger users. Thankfully Internet Matters have a full guide to help parents navigate all the different features and settings, plus how to choose the right second-hand device, safety concerns and much more.

All information and guidance can be found [HERE](#).

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 5th December – Senior Christmas Concert, 6pm

Monday 9th December – Christmas Carol Service at Derby Cathedral, 7pm

Thursday 12th December – Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper day

Friday 13th December – End of term, 3:45pm. No late waiting.

Useful Links

School menu week commencing 2nd December - [click here](#).

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