



Senior High Notes Friday 30th August 2024

Dear Parents

As we come to the end of our first week back, I am filled with immense joy and pride as I write my introduction for this week's HighNotes. It has been wonderful to see the school buzzing with energy once again and to welcome back all of our returning students, as well as those who are beginning their Derby High journey with us this year. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn have set a positive tone for what promises to be an exciting and successful year ahead.

Our students have returned to a refreshed and vibrant school site, with several exciting changes and improvements. In particular the brand new Lab 2 and the complete refurbishment of Lab 1 provide modernised facilities which will provide our students with enhanced opportunities for learning, discovery, and exploration in the sciences. These wonderful improvements would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our fantastic caretaking team. Over the summer break, they have worked tirelessly to ensure that all updates and renovations were completed on time and to the highest standard.



Today in my first assembly of the year with the senior school, I shared a little about something I like and something I don't. I began with what I don't like - beetroot! I asked the students to stand up if they didn't like beetroot, and quite a few did, though interestingly, a significant number of Sixth Form students are quite fond of it. I asked them to stay standing if they didn't like beetroot but had ever tried it. I explained that I have never liked beetroot, but the funny thing is, I had never actually tried it until a few years ago. Mr Chapman, who absolutely loves beetroot, encouraged me to give it a go. He insisted, "How can you know if you don't like something if you've never tried it?" So, I took his advice and gave it a try. And guess what? I still don't like it! But at least now I know for sure. The message I wanted to share with our students as they embark on the next chapter of their Derby High journey is this: try everything, say yes,

and give it a go, whether it's joining a new club or activity, reading a different genre of book, or trying something new in the classroom. Because you never know - you might just find something you love or discover a hidden talent.

I then moved on to something I do enjoy - Dr Seuss. I shared with the students how much I appreciate the messages in his stories. To kick off the year with some inspiration, I even wrote a poem for Derby High in the spirit of Dr Seuss, filled with encouraging words to motivate and uplift our school community as we start this new academic year.

*Oh, the bells are ringing, the halls are alive,
It's a brand new year, and it's here to arrive!
Welcome, welcome, one and all,
To Derby High School, come answer the call!*

*New students, come in from near and from far,
This school's your new home, no matter who you are.
In Year 7, Year 8, and Year 9, too,
We're so very happy to welcome all of you!*

*To Year 10 and Year 11, it's time to shine bright,
With new subjects to learn and new dreams to take flight.
Year 12, oh Year 12, you've made us so proud,
Your GCSE results were top of the crowd!*

*Year 13, your final school year is here,
With A Levels, revision, and futures so near.
University applications will soon be on their way,
As you prepare for the world beyond Derby High's bay.*

*Now here we are with a new year to explore,
With adventures in learning and so much more.
There's science and maths and history to know,
And places in books where your mind can go!*

Try new things, take a leap, be brave and bold,

*There are talents in you just waiting to unfold.
Whether it's sports, music, or painting with flair,
At Derby High School, we show that we care!*

*Work hard, yes indeed, but don't forget fun,
There's laughter and friendship for everyone.
We'll learn and we'll grow, both in and out of class,
And cherish each moment as the school days pass.*

*So here's to a year filled with possibilities,
New knowledge, new friends, and new activities!
To every student in every year group,
Welcome, welcome to our Derby High troop!*

*Let's make this year great, let's make this year bright,
At Derby High School, we'll soar to new heights!
So buckle up, folks, the adventure's begun—
Learn lots, try new things, work hard, and have fun!*

Here's to a fantastic year filled with joy, growth, and success for everyone at Derby High!

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Parents' Breakfast

It was fantastic to see so many KS3 parents attend our breakfast this morning. We are looking forward to welcoming KS4 and KS5 (Year 10 to Year 13) parents next Friday morning.



Congratulations, Gracie

During the summer break, Gracie (Year 9) was selected for the British Dressage North and West Region to represent England in the Home Nations Youth Championship.

Gracie placed in the top ten the first day and reached the finals of the under 25s prelim and novice British dressage championship finals. Gracie placed in the top 15 and top 20 being one of the youngest competitors. A fantastic achievement, well done, Gracie.



iParent App Reminder

A reminder to all parents that the Parent Portal can be accessed via the iParent App. This can be downloaded from Google Play or the App Store. Once downloaded, please enter the same credentials into the app that you are using to access the Parent Portal. The app will give you access to the school calendar, school news and reports (when they are published).



Safeguarding Corner

In2 Podcast, Episode 15 – The New School Year

Welcome back to our Safeguarding podcast and a very warm welcome all our new parents who will be listening to our weekly podcast for the first time. Each week we will post a podcast covering a variety of safeguarding themes.

To listen to our back catalogue please do visit our school's You Tube channel by [clicking here](#).

Our first podcast of this term (14th episode) is led by Claire Bellman (Deputy Head – Pastoral) and Jonathan Thornton (Assistant Head – Pastoral) and focuses on what parents can do to help and support their child to settle into the new academic year.

To listen to the podcast please [click here](#).



For further information on safeguarding at Derby High School please [visit our website](#).

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 6th September – KS4 and KS5 (Year 10 to Year 13) parents' breakfast

Wednesday 11th September – Supporting Your Child Through the Exam Years (Year 10 and Year 12 only)

Thursday 12th September – Whole School Photo

Useful Links

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

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