High Notes

Senior High Notes 31st January 2025

Dear Parents

This is a particularly busy time in school as we hold a number of Learning Review Meetings. This week, our Year 13 students have been reflecting on their mock exam results with staff, discussing their progress and next steps. Next week, it will be Year 11's turn, and the following week, Year 9 students will have their Learning Review Meetings before moving on to their GCSE options process, with their Options Evening taking place after half term - an exciting milestone in their educational journey.

At Derby High, we believe that a child's education is most successful when school and home work in partnership. Supporting students in achieving their best is not just about academic success, although strong GCSE and A Level results undoubtedly open doors to competitive universities, degree apprenticeships, and future careers. Just as important, however, is the journey they take along the way.

Learning is rarely a straightforward, linear path. Tests, homework, classwork, and exams all contribute to a much broader learning experience, building resilience, independence, and a deeper understanding of subjects. As part of this, it is essential that students themselves are actively involved in their own progress. This is why we expect them to attend their Learning Review Meetings, previously known as Parents' Evenings. We changed the name because these meetings are about the student's learning, not just the parent's role.

For this partnership to be truly effective, trust is key. Parents must trust us as educators, and equally, we encourage open conversations at home. Students need to understand how they can improve and feel supported by both school and family in doing so. By working together, we ensure that every child is at the centre of their own learning journey, empowered to achieve their very best.

As we move through this important period of reflection and decision-making, I encourage all our students to approach these conversations with curiosity and ambition. Every challenge is an opportunity to grow, and every setback is a step towards greater resilience. With the support of both school and home, they can navigate this journey with confidence and purpose.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Holocaust Memorial Service at Derby Cathedral

It was a privilege for the Chapel Choir to be invited by Derby Cathedral to sing at the Holocaust Memorial Service on Monday 27th January. It was a moving service and the choir sang beautifully. Thank you to Denny, George, Molly, Emily Rose, Hugo, Alice, Emilie, Chiara, Esther, Evie, Sophie, Jessica, Lydia, Anna, Matti, Eliza and Evie for representing the school and music department so well. We are very proud of you. Thank you to Mrs Lesley, Miss Riley, friends and family for supporting our musicians.

ARTiculation Regional Heat

On Thursday, Zainab (L6) took part in the ARTiculation regional heat at Sleaford Hub. ARTiculation is a national public speaking competition on a piece of art or architecture.

Zainab gave a presentation on the shrine of Imam Reza. She was praised for the excellent pace and clarity of her presentation, the impressive detail of her speech, the effectiveness of her slides and the sophistication of her argument, which explored the concept of enduring beauty in the face of perpetual conflict.

Zainab won the heat and will now go forward to speak in the grand final at The British Library in March.

U14 Football

On Wednesday, the U14 girls' football team played in their final league football night at John Port. They played their toughest opponents in their fixtures and, despite some challenging games, showed grit and determination throughout.

The first game against Derby Moor ended up goalless for most of the game, and quite end to end. In the final minutes both teams did score, finishing the game with a draw.

Our final two games against Chellaston A and John Port A were well fought but against well drilled and strong opposition. The team worked hard to thwart opportunities and there were certainly some incredible saves by Emilie and Aoibh who shared the role as goalkeeper! The team never gave up and keep running to the end, but some of the other teams' shots were just very good goals!

We look forward to hearing where we finished overall in the city league as this has been played over two venues over three evenings over the last few months! Well done to everyone who took part!

Year 13 A Level PE

This week Year 13 A level PE students had a Q & A session with primary teacher Mr Hart. Mr Hart will be competing in Royal Shrovetide football in a few weeks' time. Mob football is part of the Sport and Society topic studied by our students.

Year 11 Netball Fixture vs. Littleover

Yesterday, Derby High School's Year 11 netball team faced a tough challenge against a strong Littleover team. While the final score didn't reflect the quality of the netball played, I couldn't be prouder of how the team performed throughout the match.

Despite the loss, the players showed tremendous resilience and skill, making the game an exciting one to watch. I was particularly impressed with how the team responded to feedback as I coached from the side. They stayed focused, kept working together, and adapted their game throughout the fixture.

We had a few challenges leading up to the match, including injuries and illness, which meant we had to recruit some additional players. A special mention goes to Laila, Alisa, and Lucy from Year 10, who stepped up to play for the Year 11 team without hesitation. Their contribution was invaluable, and they brought energy, determination, and skill to the court.

Overall, it was a fantastic learning experience for the team, and I'm confident that the lessons learned from this game will help us grow and improve. Well done to all players for their dedication and commitment, and a big thank you to Laila, Alisa, and Lucy for stepping in to help the team when needed! We look forward to the next fixture with even more determination.

U13's Derby High vs. Twycross House School

Derby High travelled to Twycross House School for an exciting netball match. We brought two teams to compete, showcasing great teamwork and determination. A special mention goes to Saran and Mahi, who were both voted MVP by the opposition for their outstanding performances on the court.

Well done to all players for their hard work and commitment during the game!

Central Zone Trampoline Championships

Massive congratulation to Pippy Year 9 for making it into the 2025 Trampoline National Finals!!! This year's trampoline finals are being held at the Derby Arena on Saturday 15th March 2025. We wish Pippy the best of luck for the competition and we are very excited to hear how she gets on in the final well done Pippy, a fantastic achievement. As a school we are very proud of you and hope you are proud of yourself!

A Level Music Recital Invitation

Our Year 13 A Level musicians will be showcasing their recital programmes on Tuesday, 4th February, from 5:50pm to 6:30pm in the Devonshire. We warmly invite everyone to come along and enjoy their performances.

Art and Design Photography Competition 2024/25

Well done to everyone who submitted an entry to this year's competition. This year's theme is Looking Through.
Thank you to our team of judges, they had an extremely difficult job choosing the winners and highly commended entries.

KS3 Winner – Sophie R, Year 7

KS3 Highly Commended – Matti, Year 9

KS4/5 Winner – Jessica S-B, Year 11

KS4/5 Highly Commended – Ava H, Year 10

Staff Winner – Mrs Balfour

Staff Highly Commended – Mr Dodson

Non uniform, Childrens Mental Health Week

As part of Children's Mental Health Week we will be having a non-uniform day on Friday 7th February. All of the funds raised by senior school pupils will be donated to our National Charity, which is The Little Princess Trust. The Little Princess Trust provides free real hair wigs to children and young people up to the age of 24, who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. The charity also funds research into kinder and more effective childhood cancer treatments.

If you would like to donate, form tutors will be collecting donations (suggested £2) from pupils on Friday 7th February. If you would rather donate online, please follow this link to our Just Giving page. Please see the HighPost dated 9th January 2025 for non-school uniform guidelines.

Streetwise workshop

This week, Andy Privett from Streetwise365 delivered personal safety workshops to KS3 students.

These workshops have given students the opportunity to develop key skills to help them stay safe in the real world. A recent student voice survey revealed that KS3 students' biggest safety concern is encountering danger when away from home or school. These workshops supported students to feel more confident when out and about, by equipping them with practical strategies to make safe choices. They explored different attitudes towards safety, learned how to make decisions under pressure, and practised de-escalation techniques to avoid confrontation.

The sessions also helped students manage fear and emotions effectively while covering important legal aspects of personal safety.

Creative Writing Club for KS3

They say a picture paints a thousand words. In this writer's workshop we will be working backwards from this by using covers and pictures from books and turning them into a thousand(ish) words.

This is an opportunity for 12 KS3 pupils to write and workshop some ekphrastic creative writing pieces (poetry, flash fiction & short stories). The writer's best pieces will then be put together into an anthology.

Signups will start in the library from Monday 3rd February. If this opportunity is oversubscribed there will be a reserve list for future workshopping groups. The prompts will also be available for students who wish to write independently alongside the project.

Second Hand Uniform Shop – Open During February Half Term

Appointments for the Second Hand Uniform Shop can now been made for during February Half Term holiday. If you would like to book an appointment please email Mrs Holland on sholland@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk or call main reception on 01332 514267. Thank you.

Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast In2: Personal Safety

In this week's podcast Mr. Thornton is joined by a guest speaker, Andy Privett from Streetwise365. This week's discussion is on personal safety following Andy's workshops with our Key Stage 3 students.

To listen to the podcast please click here.

Free Online Safety Virtual Workshop from NCPCC

As we approach Safer Internet Day on February 9th, we would like to share with you the free workshop produced by the NSPCC on Online Safety. It is an informative watch with lots of practical tips and advice around keeping your children safe online.

Click here: Free online safety virtual workshop | NSPCC

NSPCC

Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 5th February – Year 11 Learning Review (online)

Thursday 6th February - Year 11 Learning Review (online)

Friday 7th February – Non-uniform day for Children's Mental Health Week

Wednesday 12th February – Year 9 Learning Review (online)

Thursday 13th February – Year 9 Learning Review (online)

Friday 14th February – End of Half Term 3:45pm (Late Waiting still available)