



High Notes

Senior High Notes Friday 4th October 2024

Dear Parents

This week I attended the HMC Heads' Conference in Belfast, where Heads from leading independent schools across the UK and beyond gathered to share insights and ideas. Now more than ever, the significance of school leaders coming together to address the challenges and opportunities facing education is key. The conference provided a valuable platform to reflect on the future of education in a rapidly changing world.

Two themes that resonated strongly with me were the role of AI in education and how we can ensure our pupils flourish, both of which are fundamental to our development plan at Derby High. The discussions around AI focused not only on its potential as a powerful educational tool but also on the ethical considerations we must navigate to harness it responsibly. As we move forward, we are committed to exploring how AI can enhance learning while maintaining the values that are central to our school ethos.

Equally important is our focus on nurturing students beyond academic success. In today's world, helping pupils flourish means equipping them with the resilience, character, and well-being to navigate complex futures. At Derby High, this is central to our mission, and we are continually refining our approach to ensure our students are not just prepared for exams but for life beyond the classroom.

I am excited to bring these ideas back to our school community and look forward to working together to continue shaping an environment where each student can reach their full potential.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Senior Autumn Recital

Congratulations to our musicians who performed at the Senior Autumn Recital on Tuesday evening.

We were treated to a stunning evening of musical highlights from students in Year 7 to Year 13. These included solo performances on the flute, saxophone, piano, guitar, violin and vocal performances.

Thank you to Anna, Chloe, Holly, Jasdev, Amal, Urvika, Matthew, Amelie, Jessica, Lydia, Sophie, Joshua, Ella, Ruby, Manroop, Esther and Olivia for a wonderful musical evening.

On Friday 11th October, soloists from Derby High School will be performing at a lunchtime recital at Derby Cathedral. This is a free hour-long concert that is open to the public, starting at 1pm. It would be lovely to see you there!

For more photos from the evening please visit our website gallery by [clicking here](#).



UK Maths Challenge in Key Stage 5

It's been a busy couple of weeks for UKMT challenges in school, with nine of our sixth form mathematicians sitting the Senior Maths Challenge this Tuesday. The SMC is a 90 minute multiple choice paper and builds on the style of challenges students will have seen before. Last week was the "Mathematical Olympiad for Girls" which saw Zainab (Year 12) and Esther (Year 13) willingly volunteer for a two-and-a-half hour paper consisting of five devilish maths problems, this time as a free-written paper not multiple choice. We wish them all the best for the results which we hope we'll get before the end of half term!

The Wettest Cross Country Ever!

On what can only be described as the wettest cross country race in recent memory, teams braved torrential rain, mud, and slippery conditions to complete the event. The perseverance and determination displayed by the runners were truly commendable. The race featured both junior and intermediate teams, with a combination of Year 7 and 8 students making up the junior teams and Year 9 and 10 students representing the intermediate teams.

Junior Boys' and Girls' Team (Years 7 and 8): Despite the relentless rain and challenging terrain, the junior boys and girls pushed through with incredible grit. The course was soaked and muddy, but that didn't dampen their spirits as they navigated each section with determination. Each runner gave it their all, and most importantly, every single student crossed the finish line. There were several impressive individual performances, with some of the younger students showing great promise for future events. The team's camaraderie and support for one another were key highlights, as they encouraged each other through the toughest parts of the course.

Intermediate Boys' and Girls' Team (Years 9 and 10): The intermediate boys and girls faced equally difficult conditions, with the rain not letting up and the course becoming increasingly treacherous as the race progressed. The more experienced runners demonstrated strong endurance and resilience, powering through the mud-soaked terrain. The older students' leadership shone through, setting a fantastic example for the younger athletes. Again, all students successfully completed the race, with some managing to finish strongly despite the challenging weather. There were some standout individual results, and the teams' collective effort was a testament to their dedication and training.

In one of the most demanding cross country races yet, every single student finished the course despite the extreme weather conditions. Their determination, teamwork, and positive attitudes were inspiring. This race will undoubtedly be remembered for years to come as a true test of perseverance!



Year 8 Netball 1/3 City Tournaments

The first city tournament of the season was hosted by West Park School, marking an exciting start for the competing teams. Derby High School had an eventful day on the court, facing tough competition in their first two matches.

In their opening game, Derby High went up against a strong Ecclesbourne team. Despite putting up a good fight, they were ultimately outplayed, resulting in a loss. The team showed determination and resilience, but Ecclesbourne's well-organised defence and sharp shooting proved decisive.

However, Derby High bounced back in their second match against Woodland School, securing a thrilling 6-5 victory. Despite facing a last-minute team shortage and having to play with just 6 players instead of the usual 7, Derby High demonstrated impressive teamwork and adaptability. Their defensive coordination and quick transitions in attack were key in keeping the game close, with Derby High ultimately edging out Woodland by a single point.

This win reflects the team's resilience and fighting spirit, and they will be looking to build on this momentum in the next rounds of the tournament.



U19 County Netball Tournament

The U19 team travelled to Repton School to compete in a county netball tournament featuring 9 schools. The squad of 11 played a series of competitive matches, ultimately finishing in a respectable 3rd place overall. Here is a summary of their performance:

Game 1 vs. Repton; The opening match was a hard-fought battle, but the team struggled to find their rhythm and lost 7-4 to the hosts, Repton.

Game 2 vs. Lady Manners; Bouncing back in the second game, the team dominated from the outset, showing excellent teamwork and defensive play to secure a convincing 8-2 win against Lady Manners.

Game 3 vs. Woodlands; Continuing their momentum, the team put in a solid performance, outclassing Woodlands with a clean sheet, winning 7-0.

Game 4 vs. QEGS; The team's form peaked in this game, delivering an outstanding 11-2 victory over QEGS. Their attacking prowess was on full display, with sharp passing and clinical finishing.

Game 5 vs. Littleover; In a tighter match, the team kept their focus and composure, earning a 5-2 win over Littleover through disciplined play and strong defence.

Game 6 vs. Dronfield; In a closely contested match, the team narrowly lost 5-4 to Dronfield, despite a valiant effort in a game that could have gone either way.

Game 7 vs. Ecclesbourne; Facing a tough Ecclesbourne side, the team fought hard but ultimately fell short, losing 11-8 in a fast-paced and competitive encounter.

Game 8 vs. Trent; In their final game of the day, the team displayed great resilience and determination, securing an 8-6 win over Trent to finish the tournament on a high note.

Final Standing; The team finished 3rd overall out of the 9 competing schools, demonstrating strong performance and great potential throughout the tournament. The squad can be proud of their efforts and their solid standing in what was a challenging competition.

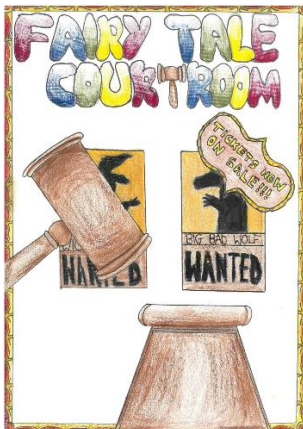
Special mention to our shooters, Poppy, Lia, Chloe and Harriet. Between them scoring a total of 54 goals! Immy, Priya, Zara, Connie and Rosie showed their extremely good level of fitness, back and forth throughout the centre court. Well done to our defensive players, Maddy and Elsie. Their team work in the circle was clear to see.



Fairytale Courtroom – KS3 Production, 10th October, 6pm, Senior Hall

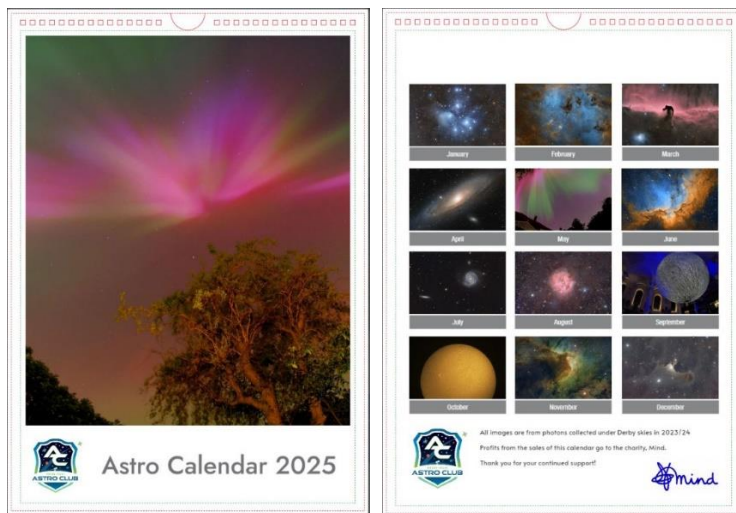
Tickets are now on sale for our KS3 drama production, Fairytale Courtroom. A comedy which shows the other side of several familiar fairy tales when two of their biggest villains, the Big Bad Wolf and the Wicked Witch, are brought to trial. Tickets are £5 adults and £3 students/concessions and are available from Student Reception.

The performance will be on Thursday 10th October in the Senior Hall at 6:00pm. We are looking forward to seeing you there!



Astro Club Charity Calendars 2025

It's that time of year again, when we make the new Astro Club calendar available. This year's calendar is full A3 again, and comes with 12 images of deep space and other celestial objects, some closer the ground than others! All images taken by Mr Dodson, from in and around Derby. Calendars are £12 each with profits to Mind, please see the HighPost that went out earlier in the week for more details and to reserve your copy. Calendars are ordered later in October for delivery to students in school in November.



Congratulations, Lucy

Last weekend, Lucy, Year 10, had a fantastic weekend racing at the Motorsport UK Whilton Mill kart championship.

On Saturday, Lucy went out for timed qualifying on slick tyres just as the rain came down. It wasn't just rain, it was a storm where the track filled with water, and thunder and lightning. The competitors could hardly see in front of them. There were 28 karts on track with Lucy and a further group waiting in the pits. Lucy drove amazingly to end up 7th after qualifying out of 50 children (being 48 boys and 2 girls).

Unfortunately the weather deteriorated on Sunday morning and the rest of the racing was cancelled due to flooding on the track and safety concerns. Lucy still went home happy after the qualifying and is now looking forward to her next race at Huntingdon in a couple of weeks. Well done, Lucy.



A Letter From Downing Street

Eva, Year 7, had a wonderful surprise last Friday when she received a letter from 10 Downing Street. Eva wrote a letter to the Prime Minister informing him of the campaign work she has been doing to raise awareness of endangered animals.

Eva's letter has now been passed to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs so they are aware of her views. Well done, Ava.



Harvest Collection

As a reminder to all, we are now taking collections as part of our Harvest Festival. We are accepting non-monetary donations such as food and household items to assist the Padley Centre in their vital work in Derby and the surrounding areas. Thank you everyone who has already donated items. Please take donations to main reception from now until 16th October.

For further information please refer to the HighPost sent on 13th September and 29th September. Thank you.



Fancy Dress Competition – Friday 11th October

We are looking forward to our annual fancy dress competition next Friday. This year we will be raising money for our international charity: the Humane Society International. Please refer to the High post sent on Wednesday 25th September for further information on non-uniform guidelines. Thank you.

Reminder: Whole School Photo – Ready to Order

There is still time to order a copy of the whole school photo. To view and order please follow the web link below, please note, to view the photograph you will be asked to enter your email address and child's name. This is for security reasons.

Click here: <https://htmp.st/200095-59>

Please include your child's full name when placing an order. This will assist Student Reception to distribute the photographs when they arrive in school. All photographs ordered within two weeks will avoid a postage charge and will be delivered back to school. **Any orders after 8th October** will incur a P&P charge.

PSHE Consultation Evening for Parents

Parents are invited to join our first PSHE consultation evening on 17th October at 7:30pm. This will be a great opportunity for parents to learn more about the PSHE curriculum and we will be discussing all aspects of PSHE both in the senior and primary sections of the school.

A HighPost is being sent today with further information. We do hope as many parents can make it as possible.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

Appointments for parents to visit our Second Hand Uniform Shop during our October half term break can now be made. Please call main reception to make an appointment, 01332 514267. Thank you.

Polite Notice: Reporting Absences

Please use the following emails to inform school of your child's absence:

SENIORS: absence@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk

PRIMARY: primaryabsence@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk

If you have children in seniors and primary and both are absent, please include both email addresses so that the absence can be processed efficiently. Thank you.

Safeguarding Corner

Episode 19 – Raising a Concern

In today's Podcast Mrs Claire Bellman (Deputy Head – Pastoral) and Mr Jonathan Thornton (Assistant Head – Pastoral) discuss what happens when a child reports a concern to our Pastoral team at Derby High.

To listen to the podcast please [click here](#), or on the image below.



Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 10th October – Fairy Tale Courtroom, KS3 drama production, 6pm, Senior Hall

Monday 14th October – Year 9 residential trip begins

Wednesday 16th October – Year 9 residential trip returns

Thursday 17th October – PSHE Parent Consultation Meeting (online)

Friday 18th October – Sibling Portrait Photographs

Friday 18th October – 3:45pm half term begins

Useful Links

School menu week commencing 7th October - [click here](#).

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