



Senior High Notes Friday 6th December 2024

Dear Parents

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents to our Senior Concert last night. The incredible talents of our musicians never fail to amaze, and it was a joy to see such a large number of students involved, showcasing their hard work, passion, and creativity. The end of the Autumn Term is always a particularly busy one for our performers, and they rise to the challenge with such dedication. As we approach the festive season, we are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone to our Christmas Carol Service at Derby Cathedral on Monday evening. Full details have been sent to parents via HighPost letters – it promises to be a truly magical evening.

Almost daily, we are celebrating offers rolling in for our Year 13 students from a range of prestigious universities, including York, Warwick, Nottingham, Newcastle, and Exeter, to name just a few. In addition, several students are preparing for interviews at Oxford, Cambridge, and for highly competitive courses such as Medicine and Dentistry. Their hard work, resilience, and ambition are inspiring, and we are immensely proud of them as they take these significant next steps in their educational journeys.

As we move into the final week of term, the atmosphere at school is buzzing with anticipation and festive cheer. While busy, it is also a time for reflection and celebration as we wrap up a remarkable term. Please note that there will be no Late Waiting on Monday or Friday next week. A reminder too that Thursday 12th December, is Christmas Jumper Day, when the whole school will come together to enjoy our Christmas lunch – the very first in our wonderful new refectory.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Senior Christmas Concert

Last night's Senior Christmas Concert was a wonderful occasion as our guests enjoyed listening to a programme of fun and festive music. Performed by our many co-curricular musical ensembles, it was a joyful celebration of music at Derby High School.

Thank you to all of our talented performers for a fantastic evening and to all our guests for supporting our young musicians.

For more photos, please visit our website gallery by [clicking here](#). A recording of the concert will be sent to parents via Highpost next week.



House Dance Competition: A Celebration of Teamwork and Creativity

Last week Derby High was alive with energy, creativity, and rhythm, as the annual House Dance Competition took centre stage. A truly unique event at our school, the competition saw all four houses—St. Andrew, St. George, St. David, and St. Patrick—coming together in a spectacular display of talent and teamwork.

What made this competition particularly special was the way it brought together the entire senior school, from Year 7 to Year 13. Each house was tasked with creating a dance routine that not only represented their house spirit but also showcased the hard work and collaboration of all students. The results were nothing short of impressive!

The House Captains played a pivotal role in bringing the dance routines to life. Over the course of the week, they worked tirelessly to choreograph their dances and teach the routines to the rest of their house. From early rehearsals to refining every step, the House Captains demonstrated incredible leadership, dedication, and creativity. They ensured that every student, no matter their age or experience, was involved and felt included in the performance.

The atmosphere throughout the week was filled with excitement and anticipation as students rehearsed together, developing not only their dance skills but also a strong sense of unity and pride within their

houses. It was a true testament to the spirit of teamwork at Derby High School, with every participant working towards a common goal.

On the day of the competition, the energy was palpable in the school hall. The dances, each distinct and full of character, captivated both the judges and the audience. It was clear that the hard work of the House Captains and the students paid off, as the performances were filled with creativity.

While the competition was fierce, the real victory lay in the sense of community and collaboration that emerged throughout the event. The House Dance Competition is a celebration of what makes Derby High School so unique—our ability to come together as one, to support one another, and to embrace creativity in all its forms.

After much deliberation the judges made the tough decision of the winners. St. Andrew came first, St. David second, St. Patrick was third and St. George was fourth place.

A huge congratulations to all the houses for their outstanding performances, and special thanks to the House Captains for their exceptional leadership. We look forward to next year's competition and the exciting opportunities it will bring for all involved!



National Poetry Day Competition

As part of National Poetry Day, students were invited to write their own poem.

The following students were highly commended for their work: Jack, Lilah, Verity, Hamdan, Leo, Aavai, Jaskara, Amy and Mrs Hewitt.

Zach, with his poem, 'Counting Stars' and Roshni, with '1984', were this year's joint winners.

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 12th December

As part of our Christmas Celebrations, we will be having our annual Christmas jumper day on the same day as our Christmas dinner. We are asking for donations of £1 and will be raising money for Save the Children. By pulling on our Christmassy knits and donating, we will be supporting children in the UK and around the world to keep safe, healthy, and learning. We will be helping them fight for the future they deserve. Students are expected to wear their normal school trousers or skirts with a festive, decorated or sparkly top or jumper. We encourage students to reuse / redecorate an existing jumper rather than buying new. Christmas hats are optional extras! If you would prefer to donate online, you can do so via the following

link. <https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/CJD230021200> The charity will also receive 25% extra funds through GiftAid.



Year 9 Indoor Beachball Competition

Due to the wet and icy weather conditions over the past few weeks, Year 9 students participated in an exciting indoor beachball competition. With outdoor sports being unfeasible, the students embraced the challenge of competing in a fun and competitive indoor event.

The competition featured 6 teams, each playing in a round robin format over the course of two lessons. The matches were highly competitive, with students showcasing excellent teamwork, agility, and sportsmanship. The energy in the gym was palpable as each team fought hard to claim victory.

After an intense series of games, our winning team remained undefeated throughout the competition, demonstrating remarkable skill and determination. Congratulations to them for their outstanding performance!

This event not only provided a great opportunity for students to stay active and engaged during the winter months, but also helped to build camaraderie and team spirit among Year 9. Well done to all participants!



County Table Tennis Competition

Derby High School took part in the first round of the County Table Tennis Competition, represented by our Under-13 boys' and girls' teams. The event was hosted at the prestigious Draycott Table Tennis Centre, attracting some of the top-ranked players in the country.

This was the second-ever competition for all of the girls, and to support their development, the coaches at Draycott held a special coaching session designed to help improve their skills. The session focused on

key aspects of technique and match strategy, giving the players valuable insights to enhance their performance on the day.

The competition was fierce, with our students demonstrating resilience and sportsmanship as they faced opponents from the top 10 national rankings. Despite the challenging matches, our players displayed remarkable skill and determination, gaining valuable experience in a high-level competition.

The boys' team showed great teamwork and tactical play throughout their matches, while the girls' team impressed with their focus and adaptability against tough opponents.

This experience provided our players with an excellent opportunity to develop their game and test themselves against some of the best young talents in the country. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to building on this performance in future competitions.

Well done to all involved!



Year 7 Basketball

On Tuesday, a Year 7 basketball team went to Noel Baker Academy to play in the first basketball tournament evening, where developing their knowledge of basketball, and getting plenty of play was the fundamental purpose.

There were nine teams taking part and, as we had a large squad, we separated the squad into two smaller teams to make rotations easier. The first section of the evening, the team played a small round robin with Noel Baker and Landau Forte, in the smaller of the two sports halls. Team 1 played in the first game against Landau, and they demonstrated some great ability and team work from the outset, winning the game 6-2.

Team 2 played in the next game against Noel Baker and, again, showed some real tenacity and skill with dominating the game, which they won 17-1. After these games, the teams were mixed up again to then play another round of matches against some more evenly matched opponents; with Derby High being drawn to play against Woodlands and John Port. With much more space in the larger sports hall, and more opportunity to substitute when the ball went out of play, both "teams" were able to participate in these final games, with Team 1 starting off the games and Team 2 substituting on for the second halves. It was a tough game against John Port, who had a number of strong players, but Derby High never gave up and always did their best to outwit their opponents with their improved man marking, or their fast and determined attack. Derby High did take some shots during the game, but sadly John Port were able to secure more, winning the game 8-0.

Our final game against Woodlands was tense and very fast paced. The team, again, worked hard for one another, improved their team communication about who was marking who, and took their attacking

opportunities. A final basket in the closing minute of the game secured the win for Derby High, 6-4 - a huge feat! The entire squad should be hugely proud of their efforts, as they all contributed excellently and worked hard for one another. I'm sure they are looking forward to the next friendly tournament at Noel Baker very soon.



Year 10 Netball

On Monday, a Year 10 Netball team travelled to Allestree Woodlands School to play in a friendly fixture. The team played in four 10 minute quarters, and did a fantastic job. The game was pretty end to end, throughout all four quarters, and the team worked well together demonstrating some huge improvements in their play.

Woodlands had a large squad so mixed up their team every quarter, with fresh legs. However, there were plenty of goals, but also plenty of thwarting of the opposition from scoring too, and the girls never gave up! It was 3-9 in the first quarter, then we technically won the second quarter bringing the score up to 8-13 and also dominated the third quarter (which finished 17-19) sinking some fantastic goals.

The final quarter was really end to end, and the team played their heart out, but the strong shooters from Woodlands secured most of their shots; the final score ended up as 21-31 to Woodlands. The team should be proud of their efforts and the score, as they demonstrated some real progress and great teamwork. Well done to all who played!



U18s Fall 5-2 to Twycross in Tough Conditions

The U18s slipped to a 5-2 defeat against Twycross in a rain-soaked, wind-battered match that made controlled football almost impossible. Despite taking a 2-1 lead in the first half, the team couldn't hold off a resurgent Twycross after the break.

Twycross opened the scoring early on, but substitute Adi made an instant impact, scoring twice in quick succession to turn the game around before half-time. The conditions, however, worsened, and the second half belonged to the hosts.

Adi's brace was the standout highlight in a challenging match, but defensive lapses and the difficult conditions proved too much to overcome. The team will look to regroup and respond in their next outing.



Year 8s Hold Repton to a 1-1 Draw

The Year 8s earned a well-deserved 1-1 draw against Repton in a competitive match that saw the team grow stronger as the game progressed.

Repton made a fast start and took the lead early on with a well-taken header from a corner. The opening stages were difficult for our side, as Repton applied consistent pressure and controlled possession. However, a solid defensive effort kept the scoreline manageable going into the break.

The second half saw a marked improvement in our performance. The team pressed higher up the pitch, moved the ball more effectively, and began to create chances. The equaliser came after sustained pressure, with Reuben finishing coolly after latching onto a loose ball in the box.

Both teams battled hard in the closing stages, with our side looking the more likely to find a winner. However, a combination of strong defending and missed opportunities meant the match ended level.

This was a performance full of character, with the players showing resilience to recover from a tough start. The improvement in the second half bodes well for future fixtures, and the team can take plenty of positives from the result.



Art Photography Competition

Looking Through					
Art Photography Competition 2024/25 Theme: Looking Through Closing date: Friday 10th January 2025 Photographs need to be emailed in a Jpeg format to Mrs Martin-Smith (smartin-smith@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk) KS3, KS4-5 and staff winner and runner up prizes Get creative!					

Safeguarding Corner

Throwback Friday - Episode 4 – Positive Parenting

This week we have re posted one of our very first podcasts. This podcast focuses on Positive Parenting. To listen to the pod cast please [click here](#).



When The Adults Change are offering introductory online sessions focused on Supporting Behaviour at Home - Where to Start. For more information please visit their website:

<https://www.whentheadultschange.com/events>

To find out more about “When the parents change” book, please click [here](#)



BEHAVIOUR BOOK CLUB

Live, online sessions open to all parents and carers.

When the Adults Change is working with your child's school and want to support you at home as well. The relationship you have with your children is guaranteed to impact the relationship your children have with themselves. Our intuitive adult responses to difficult behaviour are rarely helpful, often harmful and almost always ineffective. There is another way. Let us show you how. Come along to our Behaviour Book Club, run by our Clinical Director, Dr Charlotte Clarke.

This session will focus on **Supporting Behaviour at Home: Where to Start** and will offer incredibly practical advice that will positively impact all families.

Join the next session

WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER

8:00PM

By [clicking here](#) or scanning the QR code.





What to learn more?

Purchase the **When the Parents Change** book by [clicking here](#) or scanning the QR code.



Dates For Your Diary

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 9th December - [click here](#).

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