# High Notes

**Senior High Notes Friday 6th September 2024**

## Dear Parents

Over the summer holiday, I played a game with my family called Herd Mentality for the first time. It is a simple yet entertaining game where the aim is to guess what the majority of people will answer to various questions. If your response differs from the group, you do not score points, which leads to some fun moments as you try to think like everyone else. As we played, it sparked plenty of laughter, but it also got me thinking about something more meaningful.

In today's assembly with the senior school, I used Herd Mentality as a way to explore how easy it can be to follow the crowd—whether it is guessing the most popular ice cream flavour or imagining which superpower most people would choose. But while it is a fun game, it raises an important question: in real life, should we always strive to blend in with the majority?

At Derby High School, we celebrate the fact that we do not all think the same way. Our diversity of thought, background, and culture is what makes our community vibrant and dynamic. Life becomes far richer when we embrace our differences, stand out, and let our unique perspectives shine.

This week, I encourage everyone to take pride in thinking differently. It is our individuality that fuels creativity, innovation, and growth. Let's continue to learn from one another and celebrate the diversity that makes our school such a special place.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

### Evie and Georgia's Archaeology Success

During the summer holidays, Evie (Year 8) and Georgia (Year 6) took part in an Archaeology Activity weekend at Willesley Scout Campsite, just south of Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Evie and Georgia took part in five different activities, including excavating, metal detecting and geophysing.

The focus of the weekend was to look for one of the lost stately homes of Derbyshire, dating as far back to the Tudor times. Excitingly, the trench was in the perfect spot and Evie and Georgia were able to excavate what was the front door of the Tudor Hall.

There were lots of guests visiting throughout the weekend, including the local Ashby Mayor and the Derbyshire high. One of the most exciting was that ITV central news even came for a visit.

Evie and Georgia had a great day, which got even more exciting when taking part in the metal detecting activity. ITV central were over in perfect time to film their first find and to the sister's astonishment they had found an Anglo-Saxon Brooch.

It took a couple of weeks for the authenticity to be confirmed, but once confirmed ITV central was able to release the story (click here to watch). The story caught the attention of ITV national news (click here to watch) and Channel five. So the sisters were off on a train down to London to visit the British Museum and be given a tour of some similar Anglo-Saxon brooches.

Evie and Georgia were then interviewed live on Channel 5 news that evening (click here to watch). They did the school proud and were great ambassadors for Scouts. Bear Grylls even sent them a personal message congratulating them on their find.

To watch all the coverage please visit the Derbyshire Scout Archaeology YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/@derbyshirescoutarchaeology

For more about the brooch on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website: https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1174997

**LAMDA Results**

Derby High School recently received our latest set of LAMDA exam results which were taken in June.

Congratulations to the following students, who all passed in the following examinations:

Eesher, Year 7, Speaking in Public Grade 3

Simren, Year 8, Reading for Performance Grade 3

Emily, Year 9, Verse & Prose Grade 6, Bronze Medal

Jada, Year 10, Reading for Performance Grade 5

Priya, Year 13, Speaking in Public Grade 8, Gold Medal

**UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador (Gold)**

We are delighted to announce Mrs Bower-Gormley received confirmation of achieving the UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador (gold) award during the summer break.

Mrs Bower- Gormley was congratulated for her commitment in spreading the word about UK Parliament among our students, staff and beyond, through activities such as Parliament Week, Activity Week and Mock Election Week.

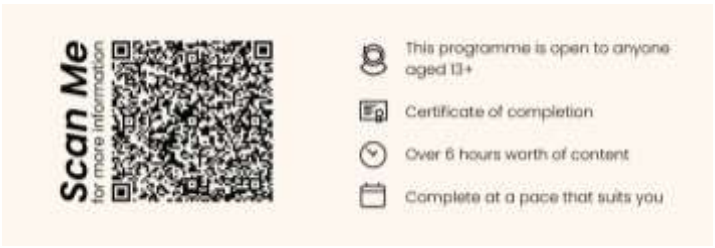
**"Images from space" exhibition at Repton Village Hall**

Mr Dodson was busy over the summer holidays, putting together an exhibition of his best astrophotography images at Repton Village Hall. Former Derby High School teacher, Mr Bournon, runs the gallery space at the hall and it didn't take much to persuade Mr Dodson to exhibit! The exhibition has over 30 images of deep space objects such as nebulae and galaxies, as well as some photos of the amazing aurorae we witnessed in our own back gardens, back in May this year. All of the images have some information attached, so hopefully even the most seasoned space expert can take something away. The exhibition is free to visit whenever the café in the hall is open (see The Maple Tree Cafe | Repton Village Hall for details) so please do pop along if you are in the vicinity. Mr Dodson is currently putting together the 2025 Astro Club charity calendar, so look out for more details of that to follow soon.

**Careers: JCB Virtual Work Experience Programme**

JCB are offering an excellent Virtual Work Experience programme, which is full of engaging content to learn about the multitude of opportunities at JCB. Plus, students get to take on a series of quizzes and activities to cement their knowledge and kickstart their career journey!

It is only open for a limited time (19th August – 10th November 2024) for students aged 13 or above. Students in Years 9 - 13 have been sent out details via their Unifrog account or they can scan the QR code below.




**Congratulations, Poppy**

Over the summer break, Poppy, Year 13, received some exciting news. Poppy has been shortlisted as a finalist in the John Locke 2024 Global Essay Competition in the Law category and has been invited to attend the awards ceremony at Grosvenor House, London this September. We look forward to hearing how Poppy has done once the winners are announced.

**Reminder: Whole School Photo Thursday 12th September**

Next Thursday we will be taking our whole school photo. The photo will be taken outside, in the morning, weather permitting.

Sixth formers should wear formal uniform (navy suit and white shirt/blouse). Year 7 to Year 11 should wear normal uniform, with blazers and without jumpers.

If it is a hot day, please do remind your child to wear sunscreen. Thank you.

**Please Note: Sixth Form Driving**

Students who are not siblings may only be driven by a sixth form student if their parents have given clear, written consent to do so and the letter has been handed in at the school office. This applies on journeys to and from school, or during the school day, and regardless of the age of the student.

## Safeguarding Corner

**In2 Podcast, Episode 16 – Alcohol and Young People**

Welcome to our 16th episode, discussing the topic of alcohol and young people. Our discussion is led by our Assistant Head - Pastoral, Jonathan Thornton and Head of Sixth Form, Joseph Gallagher.

To listen to the podcast please click here.

## Dates For Your Diary

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

Thursday 12th September – Whole School Photo

Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September – Bronze D of E qualifier

Thursday 19th September – Year 7 Trip

## Useful Links

School menu week commencing 9th September - click here.

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