High Notes

Senior High Notes 8th March 2024

Dear Parents

As Sir Francis Bacon proclaimed "Knowledge itself is power." In my assembly today I discussed the idea of knowledge, power and wisdom through the captivating realm of collective nouns. From a parliament of owls to a school of fish, collective nouns embody the power of community and collaboration. Yet, the world of collective nouns is not without its complexities.

With no central authority to decide which term is correct, linguistic debates abound. Unlike the French, who have the esteemed French Academy, we navigate the nuances of English with the help of resources like the Oxford English Dictionary. In Susie Dent's book 'Word Perfect', she describes how some of our favourite collective nouns – a gaggle of geese, an exaltation of larks and a murmuration of starlings, sprang from the medieval imagination.

Today, they continue to delight and intrigue us, offering glimpses into the rich tapestry of language's evolution. More suggestions include a foothurt of Lego, a pedant of Oxford commas and a blur of opticians. But what does this knowledge actually give? As we ponder the whimsical nature of collective nouns, we are reminded of the distinction between knowledge and wisdom. While knowledge may empower us with facts, wisdom guides us in their application.

To have knowledge is to appreciate that a tomato is a fruit: to have wisdom is not to put one in a fruit salad.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Women in STEM

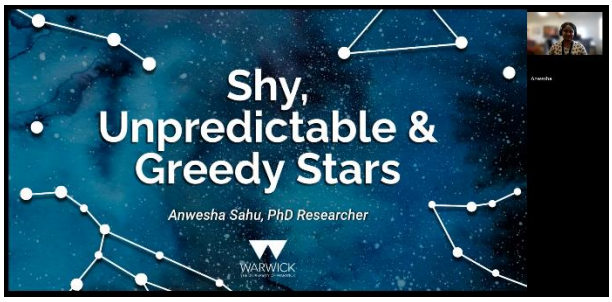
On Wednesday 11 of our Year 10 students travelled to Birmingham University to take part with 5 other schools in a Women in STEM day. After a tour of the campus, the students took part in a Virtual Reality Workshop and used the University's physics equipment to find the specific charge of an electron. After lunch they had a very interesting Q&A session with two alumni who were working

as a civil engineer and an engineering project manager respectively. They gave a fascinating first-hand insight into studying and working in a STEM discipline. Following a talk by an engineer from Northrop Grumman Engineering the day ended with a quiz. Thanks to Birmingham University for hosting such a packed day.

Astro Club learns about shy, unpredictable and greedy stars!

In the pen-ultimate lecture in what has been a superb series in 2024, Anwesha Sahu, PhD student at Warwick University, regaled us with stories of cataclysmic variable stars, supernovae, guinea pigs and life as a PhD student! Anwesha was a really enthusiastic speaker who captured our imagination nicely about some weighty topics, and generated a few interesting questions. Mr Wesley was very happy too, since he has just been covering much of the subject matter with his Year 13 Physics A level class.

Only one more session to go, which is in two weeks' time on Thursday owing to the parent consultation meeting next Thursday. We will be joined by Dr Annelies Mortier from Birmingham University, who will be talking to us about exoplanet detection. Promises to be a great finale to a wonderful Astro Club 2024. Please sign up your child on SchoolCloud if you would like them to attend.



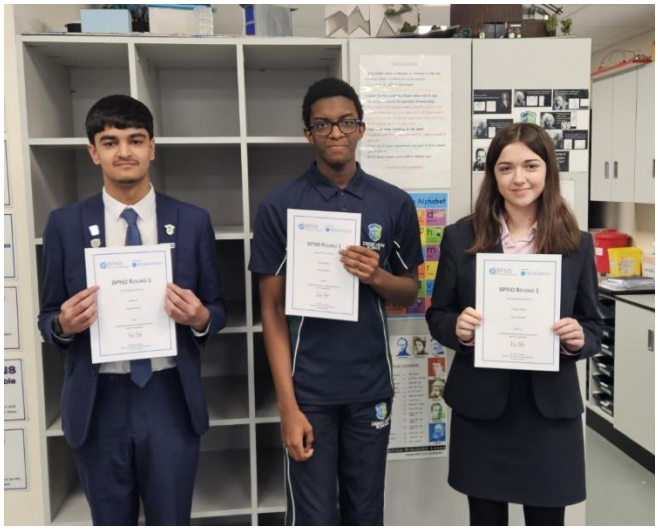
Careers

We are currently running lunchtime talks for our students in Years 10 - 13 to give them an insight into different careers. Before half term we welcomed two solicitors from Smith Partnership into school to talk about routes into Law and this week Craig Barker, Director of Koobr, was our guest speaker. Craig talked about his journey into graphic design and how he set up his own successful company. He gave some excellent general advice on how to get ahead in the career market as well as talking about some of the marketing projects he has worked with. Our next talk on 21st March will explore the world of accountancy.

Senior British Physics Olympiad Success

The Senior British Physics Olympiad is a national competition for Sixth Form Physics students in the UK to stretch their problem-solving skills and apply fundamental physical principles to novel situations. The competition required students to prepare for and sit a 2 hour 40 minute exam.

Students achieving a certificate of any colour in the competition are very able Physics problem-solvers. Many congratulations to Imogen and Joshua who achieved the top Bronze award and to Awais who achieved a Silver award.



U13 City Netball

On Thursday, the U13 netball team travelled to Woodlands School to take part in their City Tournament. There were nine teams in total, separated into two pools with Derby High playing pool games against St Benedict's, West Park, Ecclesbourne and Derby Moor. With convincing wins over St Benedict's (9-1) and Derby Moor (4-1) early on, we then faced a tough game against Ecclesbourne (3-9) before a final pool game, and win, against West Park (6-2).

This meant that Derby High finished 2nd in the pool, and so we progressed into the semi-final where we faced Littleover Community School. This was another tight game and the ball was up and down the court throughout. The game ended in a close win for Littleover, which meant we then played in the 3rd/4th playoff game. We faced Woodlands, and put in a fantastic final performance to secure a 3rd place finish after a strong 6-0 win!

A huge well done to everyone who played; everyone contributed to the team's success and remained positive throughout. Well done!

Year 7, 8 and 9 Football at Repton Prep.

On Wednesday 28th February, Year 7, 8 and 9 girls played a friendly match against Repton Prep. The As (Year 8-9) played a fantastic game winning 6-1, with Amelie winning player of the match. The Bs (Year 7-8) had a more difficult game and lost. Ezra was named player of the match for this game. The girls played really well and had a lovely time at match tea!

First Place for Khyan - Aikido Shoshinkan Junior Aikido Competition

Khyan (Year 8) has been training with Sensei Tadashi at Derby High School and recently was awarded his junior black belt. This week he came 1st in the Aikido Shoshinkan Junior Aikido Competition. A gruelling 4 week tournament in Nottingham with competitors from ages 12 to 15, with 15 wins, 1 draw and 2 losses across the whole competition!

Good Luck to Mr Quichaud, Dr Ngwerume and Miss Wright

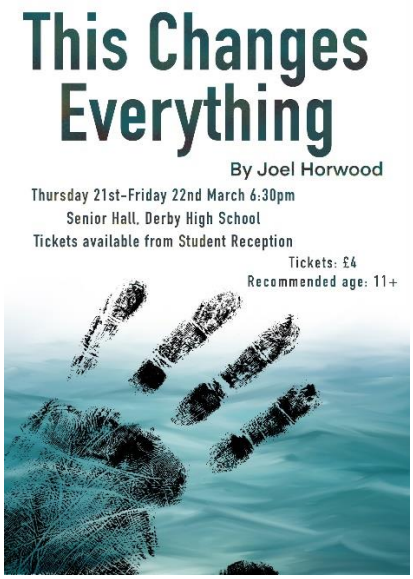
This Sunday Mr Quichaud, Dr Ngwerume and Miss Wright (from our Primary School) will be running and representing Derby High School in the Jane Tomlinson's Run For All 10k in Nottingham.

We look forward to hearing how they get on with the city centre route, starting in Old Market Square and finishing inside the grounds of Nottingham Castle.

Jane Tomlinson's RUN FOR ALL

Senior School Production, *This Changes Everything*

Tickets are now available from Student Reception for this year's Senior Production, *This Changes Everything* by Joel Horwood. The performance will be held across two evenings, Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd March. Tickets are £4, please note the recommended age for this performance is 11+. *This Changes Everything* is an exciting play that asks important questions about the way we live. A group of teenagers want things to change! They have run away to form: "The Community". A new society in the hopes of finding a better way of living. They intend to find the answers to the perfect way to live in harmony. The plan is to go home and teach others how to live without crime, pollution and hate. Can it really be that simple?



Easter Egg Collection

Thank you to everyone who has donated an Easter Egg for our collection for YMCA Derby. Please do continue to bring your eggs into main reception by Wednesday 14th March.

Timetable Information

Please note next week we will be on timetable A.

Information on Easter Holiday Courses

Please note, the following holiday courses are provided by external organisations, not through Derby High School.

Cycle Derby – Click here for more information: [Cycle Derby | Holidays]

Midland Soccer Coaching

MIDLAND SOCCER COACHING
EASTER CAMP 2024

DERBY MOOR ACADEMY
MOORWAY LANE, LITTLEOVER, DE23 2FS
TUESDAY 2nd - FRIDAY 5th APRIL 2024

For more information on how to book please click here. Or contact Dave Loughran, Course Co-Ordinator on 07749 164777.

Littleover Tennis Club

Littleover Tennis Club will be running 2 Tennis Camps during the Easter holiday. The camps run each day from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

These will take place during the following weeks:

- From Tuesday 2nd April to Friday 5th April
- From Monday 8th April to Friday 12th April

Children from 5 to 14 years, all abilities are welcome. For more information and to book please click here.

Safeguarding Corner

In2 Podcast – Episode 2

Welcome to episode 2 of our new series of two minute podcasts, led by our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Claire Bellman. In this week's In2 Podcast Mrs Bellman and Mr Thornton discuss vaping and myths and facts around e-cigarettes.

To listen please click here.

If you would like to find out more, please head to;

Vaping: What Parents Should Know (for Parents) | Nemours KidsHealth

For Parents - Interactive Stories

Internet Matters have put together some great interactive stories covering a range of issues from self-image and identity, online bullying, relationships and more. The interactive stories can be really useful for parents to go through with their children.

More information can be found by clicking here.

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 11th March – Year 12 Geography residential field trip departs

Tuesday 12th March – Year 7 Theatre Trip

Wednesday 13th March – Year 8 learning review (online)

Thursday 14th March – Year 8 learning review (online)

Friday 15th March – Year 13 Business Day