High Notes

Senior High Notes Friday 8th November 2024

Dear Parents

As we settle back into the school routine after the half term break, I have been reflecting on one of our core values: curiosity. Curiosity fuels our growth, pushing us to ask questions, delve deeper, and explore beyond the expected. It is a quality we encourage in every student, inspiring them not only to master the curriculum but to look beyond it and find their own paths of discovery.

Just like Alice in Alice in Wonderland, who followed her curiosity down the rabbit hole into a world of wonder, we encourage all of our students to embrace that same spirit of adventure. Curiosity is the key that unlocks new ideas and inspires learning that goes beyond the classroom. Curiosity can be the spark that leads to genuine excitement in learning.

When students ask questions like “Why?” and “What if?” - they are doing more than simply seeking answers; they are learning to think independently, creatively, and critically. These qualities prepare them for a world that values adaptability, innovation, and lifelong learning. Our aim is to inspire a love for supra-curricular learning - delving into topics, questions, and projects that stretch beyond the classroom and exam specifications. By going above and beyond, students do not just gain knowledge; they develop independence, resilience, and a richer understanding of the world around them.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping foster an environment where curiosity can thrive.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Kiwi House Care Home Visit

On Friday, 18th October, fourteen students from across Years 7 – Year 13, excitedly took part in the poetry festival at Kiwi House Care Home in Derby.

The students enjoyed choosing and performing many well-known poems, such as works by Rudyard Kipling, Thomas Hardy, William Wordsworth and Emily Dickinson, to entertain the residents. Several of the residents remembered these poems from their youth.

Matti (Year 9) and Deyalah (Year 8) also wrote and performed their own poems for the occasion.

In addition to this, the students were able to hear poems written by the residents and to enjoy speaking with them.

2024/25 - Derby High School House Share Competition

The Social Science Department is launching this year's share competition today where all staff and students have a chance to invest £20,000 in up to three of the UK's leading companies. House points are available for the house which generates the largest pool of profit and weekly tables will be published to check your progress.

All staff and students should check their emails for further information.

Good luck to all entrants. The deadline for entries is Monday 18th November at 08:00 when the markets open.

Congratulations Esther

Esther, Year 13, was delighted to perform with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra over October half term. Below, Esther explains more about this fantastic opportunity;

At the end of last year, I was encouraged by my violin teacher, Mr Svensson, to audition for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) Youth Orchestra and I was delighted to get a place. As a result, I spent last week at the CBSO Centre in Birmingham doing a course with the orchestra. There were students from across the Midlands, both at school and at university or conservatoires. We learnt repertoire including Mendelssohn's 5th symphony and Bruch's Scottish Fantasy, which we then performed in a concert in Symphony Hall at the end of the week. The experience of performing with this orchestra in Symphony Hall under the actual CBSO's conductor, Kazuki Yamada, was incredibly exciting. I felt very privileged to have this opportunity and was grateful to Mrs Lesley and Mr Svensson for coming to support the concert.

Winning start for the Year 8 Basketball Team

In a thrilling Year 8 basketball match, Derby High emerged victorious over Twycross House School with a narrow 14-12 win after overtime. The game, played with intensity and determination on both sides, saw Derby High maintain a lead throughout, though Twycross mounted a strong comeback to force extra time.

Right from the tip-off, Derby High showed strong form, with sharp passing and solid defence keeping them slightly ahead on the scoreboard. The team consistently outpaced Twycross, making efficient plays in the first half and building a lead that gave them confidence as the game progressed. The scoring was a team effort, with several players contributing key baskets to keep Derby High on top.

As the second half unfolded, however, Twycross House turned up the pressure. They tightened their defence and started connecting on their shots, inching closer with every possession. Despite Derby High's best efforts, Twycross managed to equalise late in the game, bringing the score to a tense 12-12 at the final buzzer.

In the overtime period, Derby High stayed composed and focused, relying on their disciplined gameplay and teamwork to hold their ground. Derby High scored the decisive basket, regaining the lead at 14-12.

It was a commendable performance by Derby High, who displayed resilience, teamwork, and a strong competitive spirit to claim the 14-12 win.

U16 Girls Football

The U16 girls had a mixed day in their latest 7-a-side league matches, with one win and two losses.

In the game against Murray Park, the team showed great determination and skill, securing a 3-0 victory. The girls dominated possession and were clinical in front of goal, with standout performances from their attacking players.

However, the team found it tougher in their two other matches. Against Littleover, they were narrowly beaten 1-0. Despite creating some chances, the opposition's solid defence and quick counter-attacks proved difficult to break down.

In the final match against John Port, they were also defeated 1-0. Although they battled hard, and played some great football.

House Benchball

House Benchball remains a cherished tradition at Derby High School, offering students the chance to compete in a fun and energetic event. Though not a conventional sport, the competition embodies the spirit of teamwork, strategy, and school pride. This year's Junior and Senior House Benchball competitions took place just before half-term, with both the junior teams (Year 7–9) and senior teams (Year 10–13) battling it out in a round robin format.

Junior Competition Results:

4th place: St. David

3rd place: St. George

2nd place: St. Andrew

1st place: St. Patrick

St. Patrick's junior team dominated the competition, finishing in first place with consistent performances throughout the round robin matches. Despite strong efforts from St. Andrew and St. George, it was St. Patrick who stood firm in securing the top spot.

Senior Competition Results:

Joint 1st place: St. Andrew & St. David

2nd place: St. Patrick

3rd place: St. George

The senior competition was a thrilling contest with St. Andrew and St. David finishing in a tie for first place, both showing exceptional skill and teamwork. St. Patrick put in a solid effort, finishing second, while St. George rounded off the senior standings in third.

Congratulations to St. Andrew for their overall victory, and to all the participants for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. We look forward to next year's competition and the continuation of this proud tradition!

Alice to Perform in Cinderella

Congratulations to Alice, Year 7, for securing a role in Cinderella. Cinderella is on this year at Derby Arena from Friday 6th December to Tuesday 31st December. For further information please click here. Well done and good luck with your rehearsals and performances, Alice.

National Schools Equestrian Association

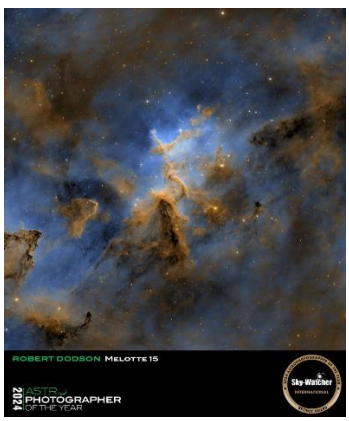
Last weekend, Jessica, Year 7, represented Derby High at Beaver Hall Equestrian Centre in the National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) competition.

It was a busy day for Jessica who rode exceptionally well for 5th and 6th in the 60cm with two ponies, Saffy and Benji. Jessica then found the energy to compete again in the 70cm for 4th place with Benji.

This success now means that Jessica has now qualified to represent Derby High in the National NSEA Grassroots championships at Hicksted in August 2025. Congratulations, Jessica!

Award Winning Astro Photo, Congratulations Mr Dodson

Congratulations to Mr Dodson for being awarded a bronze award for his astro photography. Mr Dodson entered the Sky-Watcher International Astrophotographer of the Year 2024 competition. Mr Dodson submitted his photograph of Melotte 15 and was delighted to discover this news. For more information please click here. This photograph is on display in the library.



Welcome to Derby High's new Librarian

A huge welcome to Grace Ridley, Derby High's new Librarian, who started with us on Monday 4th November. Students and staff are looking forward to Grace settling in and joining our school community.

Save the Date: Senior Christmas Concert and Carol Service

We are looking forward to welcoming parents to the upcoming Christmas events. Highposts will be sent with additional information. Our Senior Christmas Concert will be 6pm in the Senior Hall and our Carol Service will be held at Derby Cathedral at 7pm. We are looking forward to these special annual events.

Safeguarding Corner

In2 Safeguarding Podcast, Episode 21 – Eating

Welcome to our 21st episode! This week Mrs Bellman and Mr Thornton discuss eating.

For further information on this topic please visit the following link: Eating Disorders and Problems | Parent Guide | YoungMinds

Click here to listen to this week's podcast or click on the image below.

From Andrew Hall's Safeguarding Briefing:

Being a parent has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'. The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted. Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link below:

Free online parenting classes | Family Lives

Family Lives offers a confidential and free* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on 0808 800 2222 for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 11th November – Remembrance Day, Interfaith Week, Anti Bullying Week

Useful Links

School menu week commencing 11th November - click here.

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