



Senior High Notes Friday 28th February

Dear Parents

This week has been a wonderful celebration of what makes Derby High such a special community. On Wednesday, House Music brought the very best of our students, and staff, to the forefront. It is, without doubt, one of the most special days in our school calendar, and this year was no exception. The talent on display was simply outstanding, but what stood out even more was the spirit of togetherness. It was fantastic to see so many staff singing alongside our students in the house choirs, some taking on big parts, others supporting from within the group, but all contributing to the joy and energy of the day. That sense of shared experience, of everyone playing a role in something greater than themselves, is what makes Derby High truly unique. The atmosphere in the hall was electric, and it was a privilege to witness such a powerful display of teamwork, creativity, and enthusiasm.

Our strong sense of community was also evident on Thursday evening as we welcomed Year 9 students and their parents to the Options Evening. It was fantastic to see so many families engaging in conversations about the exciting choices ahead. I shared with them how important it is for students to pursue subjects that ignite their curiosity, play to their strengths, and spark their enthusiasm for learning. Education is not just about results, it is about fostering a lifelong love of discovery and preparing students to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

House Music – A Day of Unforgettable Performances!

What an incredible day of music we had this Wednesday! The House Music competition finals were nothing short of spectacular – a true celebration of talent and our Derby High spirit. This annual event is always a highlight of the year, bringing together students and staff alike for a day filled with excitement and pride.

We were delighted to have adjudicator Paul Marshall with us. His constructive feedback and glowing praise for the exceptional performances made him the perfect judge, though he had a tough job picking winners with such a high standard of talent on display. From piano and strings to woodwind, brass, and drums, every category was filled with standout performances. The competition included everything from soulful solos to dynamic duets and small ensembles.

Our House Choirs were amazing with their Disney-themed songs, bringing energy, joy, and a dash of humour to the stage. St. Patrick's House clinched the trophy with a heart-warming rendition of "Let It Go" from Frozen.

A huge thank you to the House Captains and Deputy House Captains for their leadership and preparation – your efforts were evident in every performance.

Special congratulations to Sophie S (Year 9), who was awarded the Intermediate Musician of the Year trophy, and to Esther (Year 13) who claimed the Senior Musician of the Year title.

And finally, the overall winner of House Music 2025 is St. Patrick! With the most points accumulated throughout the competition, they truly earned their victory.

To relive the magic, check out the full photo gallery by [clicking here](#) – what a day to remember!





Visit from our Local Constituency MP, Catherine Atkinson

On Friday 28th our local constituency MP, Catherine Atkinson visited the school. She met with our A-Level Politics students who got the opportunity to discuss a variety of issues with her, of both local and national interest. She discussed the building of local flood defences, the relationship between the UK and America, sustainable energy and her role as an MP to name just a few. Catherine then met with our School Council who got the opportunity to put more questions to her. Catherine discussed how difficult, yet rewarding, the role of representing others was and praised the students for their enthusiasm in taking such an active role in the school.



Careers Update

It was great to welcome back a former student, Bianca, this week. Bianca is currently doing a placement year with Microsoft as a technical consultant. She shared her journey from A levels at Derby High School to a Business Management degree course at Lancaster University and subsequent internship at Microsoft. Bianca will also be at our Careers Fair on March 5th; students will be able to ask her about her work and also find out more information about degree apprenticeships.



Careers Fair

We would like to remind all students in Years 7 – 13 and their parents to come along to our Careers Fair at Derby High School on Wednesday 5th March. This is an opportunity for students to explore a wide range of career pathways and to meet representatives from a variety of industries and higher education organisations. We have a large number of local and national companies exhibiting in the Senior Hall and surrounding spaces and these will cover a wide sector of employment. The Careers Fair will run from 5:30 – 7:00pm and you are welcome to come for as little or as long a time as you wish.



Derby High School Year 9 Netball Match Report

Derby High School's Year 9 A and B teams recently faced Littleover Community School in a competitive netball fixture, showcasing skill, determination, and teamwork throughout.

The B team delivered a strong performance, winning all four quarters and securing a hard-fought 7-6 victory. Their consistent attacking play and solid defence kept them in control of the game from start to finish. It was a fantastic result!

The A team started off brilliantly, winning the first two quarters. However, LCS fought back in the second half, and despite our best efforts, the match ended 15-12 in LCS's favour. It was a closely contested game, with plenty of positives to take away as the team looks ahead to future fixtures.

Well done to all the players for their hard work and team spirit.



Swim Camp for Amelie

During the February half-term break, Amelie, Year 9, embarked on an exciting training swim camp in Cyprus with Derby Excel Swimming Club. This incredible opportunity allowed Amelie to take her skills to the next level, preparing her for a thrilling series of upcoming competitions. The camp was an unforgettable experience, packed with intense training and new challenges that fuelled her passion for swimming. Amelie had an amazing time and can't wait to put her hard work into action in the competitions ahead!



Oskar's Got Talent!

Oskar, Year 8, received an exciting invitation last December to join *Poland's Got Talent* in Warsaw. He successfully made it to the semi-finals, which will be broadcast live on May 3rd. Oskar performed an amazing mix of solos by Ozzy Osbourne and Iron Maiden.

The show will begin airing on March 1st, and we look forward to seeing him on TV! To watch a promo video of Oskar, please [click here](#).

The final is scheduled for May 18th. We look forward to hearing how Oskar gets on in the competition. Good luck, Oskar!



Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast; In2 - Death and Bereavement

This week's podcast is brought to us by Mrs McBride, Assistant Head (Primary) – Pastoral, DSL and Dr Evans-Bolger PSHEE Lead, Year 6 Teacher. Mrs McBride and Dr E B discuss how to talk to young people about death and bereavement. A difficult topic to sometimes navigate with children.

To list to the podcast, please [click here](#):



For further information and advice on explaining death and dying to children please visit Child Bereavement UK by clicking the following link: [Explaining death and dying to children | Child Bereavement UK](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 3rd March – CERN trip parents meeting (online)

Tuesday 4th March – Sixth Form Theatre Trip

Wednesday 5th March – Careers Fair

Thursday 6th March – House Music Winners' Recital

Friday 7th March – House Football (KS5)

Sunday 9th March – Senior Production Technical rehearsal

Monday 10th March – Year 12 Geography Field trip departs

Wednesday 12th March – Year 12 Geography Field trip returns

Wednesday 12th March - Year 8 Learning Review (online)

Thursday 13th March – Year 8 Learning Review (online)