



Senior High Notes Friday 10th October 2025

Dear Parents

It is hard to believe we are already approaching the final week before the half term break. This half term really has flown by! It has been a wonderfully busy few weeks, filled with achievement, creativity and enthusiasm across every year group.

This Saturday we are very much looking forward to welcoming visitors to our Open Morning. These events are always such a highlight, giving prospective families the chance to experience the warmth and vibrancy of our community. I am especially grateful to the many students who have volunteered to help. Whether giving tours, playing in a match, performing in music, and drama, or assisting in departments, they are outstanding ambassadors for Derby High, and I know they will make us all very proud.

Next week brings another exciting highlight, the Lower School production of Peter Pan on Thursday evening. The cast and crew have been working incredibly hard, and I cannot wait to see their efforts come together on stage.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 10 Manufacturing Trip

As part of National Manufacturing Day and in support of promoting STEM in industry, Year 10 Product Design students from Derby High School visited Acres Engineering in Melbourne.

During the visit, students were given a comprehensive tour of the facility, observing the full manufacturing process — from initial design through to final assembly. They saw first-hand how raw materials are transformed using advanced techniques including cad and 3d printing laser cutting, water jet cutting, CNC press brake operations, welding, and powder coating.

To enrich the experience, the visit included hands-on STEM activities such as drone building and flying, as well as trying out virtual welding — giving students an exciting insight into the skills and technology shaping modern manufacturing. Well done Charlotte Tipton who won an award for best drone landing.



House Maths

On Thursday, our senior students took part in an exciting inter-house Senior Team Maths Challenge. Each house was represented by a team of four, with participants from Year 11, 12, and 13, who tackled a fast-paced relay-style competition testing their problem-solving and teamwork skills. After three challenging rounds, it was fantastic to see so much enthusiasm, collaboration, and friendly rivalry across all houses, with St. Patrick coming out victorious.

English Schools Cross Country Cup – First Round at Ratcliffe College

The first round of the English Schools Cross Country Cup took place at Ratcliffe College, with athletes from ten schools competing in the Intermediate Girls and Intermediate Boys races, with Derby High taking a team of Year 9 and 10 students.

The Intermediate Girls tackled a 2.6 km course featuring a mix of open fields and a long forest section, where the undulating paths and exposed tree roots caused some havoc underfoot. The team produced a strong and consistent performance, with Amelie finishing 16th, Isla closely behind in 17th, and then with Amelie finishing 22nd, Phoebe 23rd, and Evie 24th - with all of the girls showing determination throughout the race.

The Intermediate Boys faced the same course plus an additional lap, extending their distance to 4.4 km. Joel led the team home in 13th place, followed by Jack in 33rd, Zach in 34th, and Ben in 35th. Unfortunately, both Reuben and Finian were forced to retire due to injury, but not before showing great effort and commitment.

Overall, it was a challenging but rewarding event of racing, with all athletes displaying resilience and spirit on a challenging course. A huge well done for everyone's efforts in their races! The top three teams from each race, based on the combined scores of the first four finishers per school, will progress to the next round — and we look forward to receiving the results!



Saachi's 'John Locke Essay Competition'

Over the weekend, Saachi (Year 12) had the fantastic opportunity to attend the John Locke Institute's Academic Conference.

After completing her GCSEs in June, she entered the global John Locke Essay Competition in the History category, choosing the title: "According to Bertrand Russell, 'Hitler is an outcome of Rousseau; Roosevelt and Churchill of Locke.' To what extent was he correct?" Out of over 63,000 applicants worldwide, Saachi was thrilled to be shortlisted and invited to the 3-day conference and gala dinner in early October.

At the gala, she received a commendation for her essay and was awarded a scholarship to one of the Institute's prestigious summer programmes, held in locations such as Oxford, Princeton, and Singapore.

The conference brought together students from around the world to engage in challenging discussions and lectures led by renowned thinkers like Steven Pinker and Matt Ridley. Saachi also gained insights into university admissions and explored new ideas in philosophy, politics, and economics alongside her peers.

The Saturday night gala was a highlight—an elegant evening of celebration and inspiration. Saachi left the event with new friends, a broader perspective, and a deeper passion for academic inquiry.

She's incredibly grateful for the experience and encourages others to take part in similar opportunities that challenge and inspire.



Fancy Dress Competition for World Mental Health Day

It was fantastic to see all the students and staff dressed up today for World Mental Health Day. Everyone made such an effort. Photos will be included in next week's High Notes. This year we will be raising money for our international charity: the Humane Society International. If you haven't had a chance to donate yet you can do so via our JustGiving page, by clicking on the following link: [Derby High School is fundraising for Humane World for Animals UK](#)

Thank you for your support.

LinkedIn – Calling All Derby High School Alumni!

Are you a former Derby High School student? We'd love to stay connected! Join our growing alumni community on LinkedIn by selecting *Derby High School* in the Education section of your profile. It's a great way to keep in touch, share your achievements, and see what fellow alumni are doing now. We look forward to connecting with you!



Sibling Photographs Reminder

A reminder to all families who have requested a sibling photograph: these will be taken on the morning of Thursday, 16th October. Further details will be shared with you early next week via HighPost.

Second-hand Uniform Shop Appointments - Half Term Break

Appointments can now be made for the second-hand uniform shop over the half term break. To book an appointment please email; uniform@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk. Thank you.

Harvest Donations - Monday 15th September to Monday 13th October

A reminder that this year we are once again collecting donations for the Padley Centre, a Derby-based charity that has been supporting people at risk of homelessness, hunger and poverty since 1985. Padley provides emergency shelter, hot meals, support services, and vital essentials to those in crisis across the city. Thank you to everyone who has so generously donated so far. If you would still like to donate please send your donations in no later than Monday 13th October.



PADLEY

@ YMCA Derbyshire

Safeguarding Corner

Episode 48 – How We Learn

In this week's episode, Mrs. Bellman and Mrs. Saunders explore the fascinating topic of how we learn. They discuss the science behind memory and information retention, and share how Derby High applies these insights to enhance teaching and learning across the school.

To listen to the podcast, [please click here.](#)



For more information on this topic, please visit the following links:

[Cognitive Load Theory: A guide to the basics | InnerDrive](#)

[PiXL-Secondary-Cognitive-Load-Theory-Parent-Pamphlet.pdf](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 13th October – House Dance Rehearsal Week

Thursday 16th October – Sibling Photos by Alethea Simpson

Thursday 16th October - Sixth Form Information Booklet and Scholarship Application pack sent out to Year 11

Thursday 16th October - Key Stage 3 Production, Peter Pan 6:00pm

Friday 17th October - Derby Cathedral Lunchtime recital

Friday 17th October – End of Term

Useful Links