



Senior High Notes Friday 12th June

Dear Parents

There was certainly a sense of excitement in our house last night as the World Cup got underway. I know that many of our students, families and staff will have been feeling exactly the same, eagerly anticipating the weeks of competition ahead. I also recognise that football will not be everyone's passion, and that is absolutely the point I found myself reflecting on. Whilst much of the conversation in England will naturally centre around how our own team performs, one of the things I love most about a World Cup is the stories behind the shirts. It is about athletes having the opportunity to represent their country on the biggest stage in their sport. For players from countries such as Uzbekistan and Jordan, who are appearing at a World Cup for the very first time, simply being there is an extraordinary achievement. For others, such as Canada, it marks a long-awaited return after decades away. Behind every moment we see on the television is a story of years of training, early mornings, disappointments, perseverance and an unwavering commitment to something they love.

It made me think about the role of sport within our own Derby High community. Of course, we celebrate victories, records broken and the success of our teams, but the real value of sport is so much greater than the result at the final whistle. It is about the confidence gained by trying something new, the resilience built when things do not go your way, the friendships formed within a team and the discipline of showing up, even on the days when you do not feel like it. The reality is that very few of us will ever represent our country at a World Cup, but all of us can discover something that sparks our interest, challenges us and brings us joy. Whether that is on the sports field, in the theatre, in the music room, the science laboratory or the classroom, the passions we develop as young people often shape who we become.

As we move towards the final few weeks of the academic year, with Sports Day, fixtures, performances and celebrations still ahead of us, I encourage every pupil to throw themselves into the opportunities around them. You never know where a passion might lead you, but even more importantly, you never know what it might teach you along the way.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Rounders fixture against Twycross House School

On Wednesday, our U12 and U13 rounders teams welcomed Twycross House School to Derby High for a series of friendly fixtures. Due to the weather, all matches had to be played indoors, creating a different challenge and requiring players to adapt their usual strategies and tactics.

The first round of games consisted of 30 good balls per innings. The Year 8 team faced Twycross's A team and produced a determined performance, scoring 6.5 rounders. Twycross responded strongly with 10.5 rounders to secure the win. There were some impressive fielding moments from DHS, with Gabrielle and Eva both taking excellent catches to dismiss opposition players.

The Year 7 team then took on Twycross's B team in a closely contested match. Derby High scored 7.5 rounders, but Twycross narrowly edged the game with 8 rounders. Once again, the team's fielding was a highlight, with fantastic catches from Tabitha and Racil helping to keep the game competitive.

Across both matches, there was some excellent batting on display from DHS. Players demonstrated determination and speed around the bases, successfully converting a number of opportunities into half and full rounders. Several players took significant but well-judged risks when running, and their bravery and commitment were rewarded with valuable scores for their teams.

With time remaining before Twycross had to leave, both teams played a second set of shorter matches consisting of 20 good-ball innings. The Year 7s faced the A team and produced an excellent performance, winning 3.5 rounders to 2.5. The victory provided a huge confidence boost, with Jasmine and Tabitha making important catches in the field. The Year 8s then played another tightly fought contest, drawing 3–3 in an evenly matched game.

Well done to everyone who took part. The players demonstrated excellent decision-making and a willingness to take responsible risks when batting, while remaining composed and focused in the field. Throughout the afternoon, they showed great tactical awareness, resilience and teamwork, representing Derby High School brilliantly.



Year 12 JCB Presentation trip to JCB HQ

On Wednesday the Y12 Engineering project drew to a close when the team travelled to the JCB HQ in Rocester to present their report and demonstrate their prototype to expert engineers at the plant.

The students- Angel, Hannah, Jamie, Saachi and Scout started their project in September when they were given the daunting task of redesigning a sustainable cab for a JCB Loadall. During weekly meetings after school, they planned, designed and tested their ideas ready for 2 days at JCB where they built their model prototype. Throughout the months the team showed terrific persistence, collaboration, time management and project management skills and the reports from their presentation day were excellent.

Very well done to the teams and a huge thanks to Matthew Smeaton and the team at JCB for their support throughout.



Lightning McKings Soapbox Race – Report by Aarav – Year 9

We started the project as a 5-man team- Aarav, Finian, Jack, Reuben and George.

At the beginning, we worked with Jack in Year 12 in the DT lab trying to think of ideas for our car. We eventually landed on the idea of Lightning McQueen and decided to name our team 'Lightning McKings'.

At this point we reached out to many companies for sponsorships and got a reply from a company that George knew called Acres, who were in Melbourne and were extremely helpful throughout this project.

We arranged weekly sessions on Sundays at George's house. We began by buying an old go-karting frame from Facebook Marketplace and removing the engine, as we weren't allowed an engine for the race. Around this same time, we created a GoFundMe and a Facebook page to raise money for building the car.

At this point, we realised that we needed a push bar for the race and so, with the help of Acres, we were able to weld it on. We spray painted the frame and push bar and replaced the seat. By this time, the car was coming together nicely, and we were beginning to receive big donations.

This is around the time we realised we would be raising more money than we needed, and so we decided to give the excess money to a charity. We decided on Me & Dee, a local Melbourne charity who used donations to buy 'Hope Elephants'- elephant plushies with a voice recorder inside for kids with chronic illnesses so that they can be remembered if they may pass away.

After that we added a cardboard frame which was held on with wood. We added red and yellow vinyl and decorated the eyes. We also added stickers of the sponsors that contributed, such as Busy Lizzy's Cakes, CM33, Stretton Bikes, ARK Locums, Dean & Smedley, Wendy Haines, Harriman & Co and more.

On the 17th of May, we competed in the race, and we got 5th on the day in the junior section, which was an especially good achievement as we were the only team with a car that was built by only juniors. Unfortunately, Finian couldn't be there for the race, but he had a huge contribution.

Thanks to George for cheering us on the day. We even got to meet the Mayor of Ashby! In the end we raised £700 for Me & Dee. It was a great experience for all of us, and we are going to try to do it again next year!

GoFundMe link- <https://www.gofundme.com/f/lightning-mckings-soapbox-team>



Rolf Schild Award

Mrs Bower-Gormley, Head of History and Politics, spent the half-term break in Lithuania as part of her Rolf Schild Award with the Holocaust Educational Trust. During the Second World War, more than 95% of Lithuania's Jewish population was murdered. The history of the Holocaust in Lithuania is particularly complex, shaped by successive Soviet and Nazi occupations, as well as significant local collaboration.

During the visit, Mrs Bower-Gormley explored the sites of the former ghettos in Vilnius and Kaunas, visited the "Lost Shtetl" Museum in Šeduva, and paid her respects at the massacre sites of Ponar Forest, the Ninth Fort, and Lietūkis. She also learned about the rich and vibrant Jewish life that flourished in Lithuania before the war, alongside powerful stories of resistance, courage, and survival.

Although the week was challenging and deeply thought-provoking, it was also immensely educational. The experience will undoubtedly help to enrich and inform future Holocaust education at the school.



Annual Parent Survey Reminder

Thank you to all the parents who have already completed our annual parent survey.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to complete this, please do so by Friday 19th June. The survey should take no more than five minutes.

[Please click here.](#)

We ask for one response per child. If you have more than one child at the school, we would be grateful if you could complete a separate survey for each child. If both parents receive this email, please try to ensure that only one response is submitted per parent, per child.

Thank you for your support. The feedback it provides is invaluable in helping us understand what we are doing well, where we can improve, and how we can continue to develop the very best experience for our pupils and families

Senior Summer Concert - Wednesday 24th June

We are delighted to invite parents to our forthcoming Senior Summer Concert on Wednesday 24th June 2026. We hope that you will be able to join us for the occasion.

The performance will take place between 6pm and 7.30pm in the Senior Hall and will feature a variety of musical performances from a selection of our many ensembles.

Senior Sports Day – Friday 26th June

Our Senior Sports Day will be held on Friday morning – 26th June. Further information will be sent to parents on a HighPost.

We look forward to welcoming parents to spectate this event.

Hockey Summer Coaching

If your child is looking for a Hockey coaching opportunity over the summer holidays, Derbyshire County hockey will be hosting a number of different dates over the summer holidays. For more information, please email derbyshirecountyhockey@gmail.com

Please note that this hockey coaching is not ran by Derby high School.



The poster features the Derbyshire County Hockey logo at the top, which is a circular emblem with a stylized flower in the center and the words 'DERBYSHIRE COUNTY' and 'HOCKEY' around the perimeter. Below the logo, the title 'DERBYSHIRE HOCKEY SUMMER COACHING 2026' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. A short paragraph describes the coaching sessions as designed to enhance skills and build teamwork and confidence for young players. The poster is divided into two main sections: 'U13 B&G (TUESDAYS)' and 'U14-U17 BOYS & GIRLS (THURSDAYS)'. Each section lists specific dates and times for the sessions. A 'SUMMER STRENGTH & CONDITIONING' section provides details on age groups and dates. A 'DC COST' section lists prices for evening and day sessions. A 'S&C DATES' section lists dates for strength and conditioning sessions. A 'S&C COST' section states the cost per session and that it is payable in advance. At the bottom, there is a photograph of a group of young hockey players in their kits, standing in a line. Below the photo, there is a call to action to visit the website for more information and registration, followed by the website URL and contact email.

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY HOCKEY

DERBYSHIRE HOCKEY SUMMER COACHING 2026

Join us for exciting **summer coaching sessions** designed to enhance skills and build teamwork and confidence for young hockey players in Derbyshire.

U13 B&G (TUESDAYS)

TUES 7TH JULY 18:30-20:00
TUES 21ST JULY 18:30-20:00
TUES 28TH JULY 10:00-15:00
TUES 4TH AUG 10:00-15:00
TUES 25TH AUG 18:30-20:00
TUES 1ST SEPT 18:00-19:30

U14-U17 BOYS & GIRLS (THURSDAYS)

THURS 9TH JULY 18:30-20:00
THURS 23RD JULY 18:30-20:00
THURS 30TH JULY 10:00-15:00
THURS 6TH AUG 10:00-15:00
THURS 27TH AUG 18:30-20:00
THURS 3RD SEPT 18:00-19:30

DC COST

EVENING SESSIONS: £10 FOR 1.5 HOURS
DAY SESSIONS: £20 FOR 4 HOURS
ALL SESSIONS £100 (DISCOUNTED PRICE)

SUMMER STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

AGE GROUPS ARE BASED ON SCHOOL YEAR IN SEPTEMBER 2026.
U13 - U17S (IN SEPT 2026, I.E. BORN 01 SEP 2009 - 31 AUG 2016)

ALSO AT THE ELLIS ASTRO, SHOBNALL, 9:30-10:30

S&C DATES:

SUN 21ST JUNE
SUN 28TH JUNE
SUN 26TH JULY
SUN 2ND AUG
SUN 9TH AUG
SUN 16TH AUG

S&C COST:

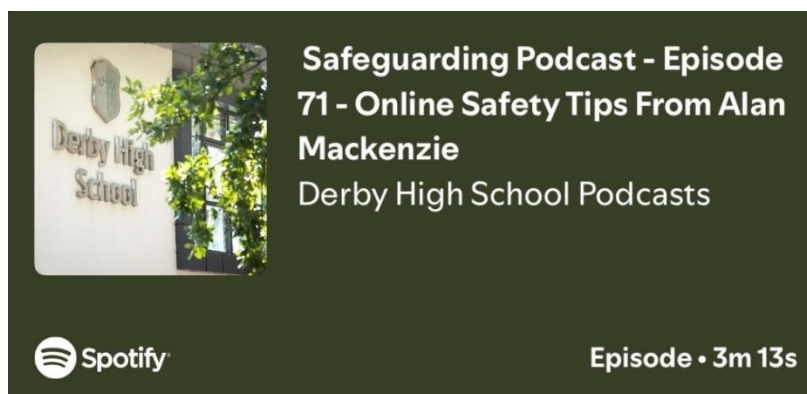
£10 PER SESSION
PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION!
www.derbyshirecountyhockey.talentplatform.hockey/summer-coaching-2026/
Any questions please contact derbyshirecountyhockey@gmail.com

Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast - Episode 71 - Online Safety Tips From Alan Mackenzie

This week Mrs Bellman (Deputy Head Pastoral and DSL) is joined by a guest Alan Mackenzie. Alan works with hundreds of schools nationally and internationally, speaking with children, young people, their parents, and their children. Today he offers is top three tips to parents to help and support their child to remain safe online. To listen please [Click Here](#)



For more information on Alan, please click here - [Alan Mackenzie - Online Safety Specialist](#)

For more information and support on this topic please see the links below:

[Popular Apps and Games - A Handy Guide for Parents](#)

[The 4 Cs of online safety | NSPCC Learning](#)

[Parental controls and privacy settings guides | Internet Matters](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 15th June – Year 12 Geography Field Work – Yorkshire coast

Tuesday 16th June – Year 12 Learning Reviews (In Person)

Thursday 18th June – Eco Club Talk from Derby Council Recycling Team

Friday 19th June - Sunday 21st June – Silver Duke of Edinburgh Qualifier

Monday 22nd June – ABRSM Exams

Tuesday 23rd June – ABRSM Exams

Tuesday 23rd June – Year 12 Geography Field Trip to Birmingham

Wednesday 24th June – LAMDA Exams

Wednesday 24th June – Senior Summer Concert

Thursday 25th June – Eco Club trip to Hannah Fields

Thursday 25th June – Dance Show

Friday 26th June – Senior Sports Day

Useful Links