



Senior High Notes Friday 12th September 2025

Dear Parents

It has been wonderful to welcome so many parents to our Parent Breakfasts this week. These events offered the chance for parents to meet key staff, connect with one another, and ask questions in an informal setting. The conversations we have during these breakfasts are invaluable, and I am so grateful to everyone who was able to join us. Looking ahead, there will be many more opportunities for parents to come into school over the coming term, from concerts and drama productions to sports fixtures, workshops, and celebration events. Each occasion provides a chance to share in the life of our community, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming you.

I am also delighted to share some truly exciting news. For the very first time, Derby High School has been named a Finalist in the Independent Schools of the Year 2025 Awards, in the category Regional Independent School of the Year: Central.



We are one of just six schools shortlisted in this category, a wonderful recognition of the excellent work and dedication of both our staff and our pupils. To see Derby High acknowledged in such distinguished company is a huge honour. The final will take place on 14th October and, whatever the outcome, being named a finalist is already a tremendous achievement and something of which we can all be very proud.

In my assembly this week, I shared with pupils one of my favourite short stories, The Pig of Happiness by Edward Monkton. On the surface, it's light-hearted, even a little silly, but at its heart lies a profound truth: kindness is not an accident, it is a choice. The pig in the story decides to see the world differently, choosing to live with joy and to share kindness. That one choice changes the

whole atmosphere of the farmyard, transforming the animals around him. This connects deeply with our own school value of Kindness. It is easy to think of kindness as something small or simple, but in reality, it can be one of the most powerful forces we have. It isn't about grand gestures, but about the daily decisions we make, to smile rather than scowl, to encourage rather than criticise, to include rather than exclude. These choices may seem minor, but together they create a culture in which everyone feels valued and supported. I also shared with pupils that kindness is not always the easy option. It can mean standing apart from the crowd, resisting gossip, or speaking up when it would be easier to stay silent. At times it asks us to put someone else's needs before our own. That is why kindness requires courage, and why it can have such a transformative impact, not just on those around us but on ourselves too. When we act with kindness, we see the world differently, and we become people others trust, respect, and want to be with.

In a world where success is often measured by grades, salaries, or status, kindness can seem undervalued. Yet research shows that it improves wellbeing, strengthens communities, and even enhances learning. As a school, we are rightly proud of our achievements, but what makes Derby High truly special is not just what we achieve, but how we achieve it, together, with kindness at the centre.

So, as we celebrate being a finalist in a national award, I hope we also celebrate the everyday acts of kindness that happen quietly in our corridors and classrooms. Because these are the things that shape our community most deeply. Just as the Pig of Happiness transformed his farmyard, each small act of kindness has the power to transform our school, our friendships, and our lives.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Match Report: U13s vs St Anselm's

The U13s kicked off their season in fine style with a convincing victory over St Anselm's. From the first whistle, the team looked sharp and full of energy, quickly taking control of the game.

At the back, Beau and Harley were outstanding, showing composure and strength in defence. Their solid partnership gave the side the platform to push forward, with the ball spending much of the match in the opposition's half.

The breakthrough came midway through the first half, with a well-worked move finished neatly. A second goal followed before the interval, giving the team a deserved 2-0 lead at half-time.

In the second half, the U13s pressed home their advantage, dominating possession and creating chance after chance. The energy and teamwork on display were excellent, with every player contributing to a performance full of confidence and determination. More goals followed, and the final whistle confirmed a resounding win.



Parents' Breakfast

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our parents' breakfast this week. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parents and extend a warm welcome to those new to Derby High.



Year 12 Truly Educated

Yesterday, in Truly Educated, Mrs Bellman completed some safeguarding training with the students. She also spoke to the students about the growing risks of sextortion, and the students had the opportunity to complete an online tool to help them navigate the risks online. You can find this here if you wish to experience it for yourself: www.noescaperoom.com and there is more information if you would like it here: [Advice for parents of children who are being 'sexorted' online](#)

iParent App

A reminder to parents that once you have created your account to view the parent portal, you can then download the app to view your child's information on your mobile phone. The iParent App is available from the App Store or Google Play. Once you have installed the app, please log in with the same credentials as the Parent Portal. When you log into the app for the first time you will be prompted to enter a school code. For Derby High School this code is DEHS.

If you have problems accessing the portal or using the app please email helpdesk@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk. Thank you.



Parking

While we understand that drop-offs and pickups can be hectic, it is essential that we are considerate and respectful of our neighbours and the local community when parking. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. We believe that by working together, we can create a safe and respectful environment for all.

Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast Episode 45; In2 - Top Tips from Ann Marie

This week, Mrs. Bellman (Deputy Head - Pastoral) is joined by Ann Marie Christian. Ann Marie is a safeguarding consultant, speaker and author, inspiring and motivating organisations in keeping children and adults safer by bringing safeguarding to the front line and embedded in their daily practice.

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



For further information from Ann Marie, please click the following link: [Ann Marie Christian | Bringing Safeguarding to Life](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 15th September – Year 9 Whitemoor Lakes information Evening (Online)

Thursday 18th September – Year 12 Business trip to Mini

Tuesday 23rd September – Year 7 teambuilding day Rosliston

Tuesday 23rd September – Iceland information talk (Online)

Thursday 25th September – Year 10 engineering trip

Thursday 25th September – Pastoral Parents evening (a HighPost will be sent to parents with additional information regarding this event).

Useful Links