



Senior High Notes Friday 13th June 2025

Dear Parents

Last weekend, nearly three quarters of our Year 10 students took part in their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award practice expedition, an impressive number that reflects the appetite our students have for challenge, adventure and personal growth.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was established in 1956 by Prince Philip, inspired by the principles of Outward Bound and the belief that young people thrive when given the chance to push themselves, work as a team, and connect with the outdoors. That ethos remains at the heart of the Award today. It's about developing resilience, confidence and character – not through textbooks, but through real experiences and hard-won lessons.

Here at Derby High, the Award offers students a clear and meaningful journey: from Bronze in Year 10, through to Silver in Year 11, and ultimately to Gold in the Sixth Form. It challenges them to step outside their comfort zones, to learn new skills, to serve their community, and to discover what they are capable of. The Award offers a unique journey of self-discovery, and for many, it becomes one of the most memorable and defining parts of their school experience.

Last weekend's expedition was a great starting point, camping on the school field, learning essential skills, and navigating a day walk through the local area. There were a few wrong turns, of course, but that is all part of the experience. Everyone returned with tired legs, muddy boots, and a real sense of achievement.

We are so proud of the number of students embracing this challenge, and grateful to the dedicated staff who give their time and encouragement to make it possible.

In just a few weeks' time, our Year 11 and Year 12 students will be taking on their Silver and Gold qualifying expeditions, the next step in a journey that continues to inspire, stretch and shape them.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

On Saturday 7th June our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh group of 56 Year 10s arrived to school ready for to meet their instructors from Adventure Expeditions. They spent the day in school in their teams completing their training course, to equip them with the skills they will require on their expedition. This included first aid, route planning and camp craft, all whilst dodging the heavy showers. The staff were very impressed with their cooking skills and the tents went up very quickly!

After camping on the school field they set off on Sunday to test their navigation skills, following a route in our local area. Well done to all for navigating successfully and working effectively within their teams. Good luck for the Qualifier in September!



Sports Report: Rounders & Cricket Success

Year 8 Girls' Rounders

Our Year 8 girls put in two fantastic performances this week in their rounders fixtures. Both matches were closely contested and, although the girls narrowly missed out on victory, they demonstrated excellent teamwork, communication, and resilience throughout. Their fielding was sharp, with several impressive catches and quick thinking under pressure. In batting, the team made smart decisions and showed real determination to keep the scoreboard ticking over. The narrow losses do not reflect the quality of play or the spirit shown – well done to all involved for their positive attitude and sportsmanship.



U13 Cricket Victory

Congratulations to our U13 cricket team on a brilliant 9-wicket win! After a disciplined bowling performance and some sharp fielding, the team chased down the target with ease. Autumn was outstanding with the bat, scoring a composed 26 not out, while Jack provided strong support with an unbeaten 16. Their confident partnership sealed the win in style. It was a great team effort, and the players should be proud of their focus, teamwork, and sportsmanship.



Derby High v Nottingham High - LTA Tennis League

On a bright and competitive afternoon of tennis, Derby High School faced off against Nottingham High School in an exciting and well-contested fixture. With both boys' and girls' teams taking to the courts, the tournament format saw each player compete in one singles and one doubles match, testing both individual skill and team chemistry.

Girls' Matches:

The girls' team put in a spirited performance, securing 3 wins out of 6 matches. They triumphed in two doubles matches with impressive teamwork and communication, as well as a hard-fought singles win that showcased excellent resilience under pressure. Despite three closely contested losses, the girls demonstrated great determination and improvement throughout.

Boys' Matches:

The boys' team delivered a dominant display, winning all of their matches except for one doubles. Strong baseline play, consistent serving, and excellent net play saw them take all of their singles matches, as well as two out of three doubles. Their overall performance reflected a well-prepared and cohesive squad.

Overall Outcome:

- Derby High Girls: 3 wins / 6 matches
- Derby High Boys: 5 wins / 6 matches
- Combined Total: 8 wins out of 12

A strong outing from Derby High, with excellent performances across the board. The players should be proud of their teamwork, sportsmanship, and competitive spirit. We look forward to building on this success in future matches. Well done, team!



Year 10 Athletics

A team of Year 10 GCSE PE athletes represented the school at the Derby City Athletics Meet on Wednesday evening at West Park, competing with energy and determination across a range of track and field events against a number of local schools.

There were several outstanding individual performances on the day. In the 1500 metres, Indi and Millie led the way with superb runs, finishing 1st and 2nd respectively. Tom also impressed in the same race, finishing a strong 4th in a competitive field for the boys. Over 800 metres, Charlie ran a brilliant race to claim 1st place, while Ned secured 4th and Harry followed closely behind with a determined effort.

In the field events, Mollie jumped a solid 2.57 metres in the long jump, while in the boys' long jump, Ned reached 3.24 metres and Haris went even further with a 3.60 metre leap. Tom delivered one of the team's top field results, throwing 18.80 metres in the javelin, showcasing great strength and technique. Charlie also competed well in the shot put, recording a distance of 5.40 metres.

To cap off a fantastic evening, the girls' 4 x 100 metre relay team - EJ, Alex, Hannah, and Layla - ran with great determination and speed to take 3rd place in a tightly contested race.

Well done to everyone who took part: your effort and team spirit made for an excellent evening of competition and reflected brilliantly on the school.



The Performance Workshop

Please see details below for a drama workshop during the summer holidays. Please note this is not ran by Derby High School.



Safeguarding Corner

In2 Podcast, Episode 14 – The Language of Social Media

This week we look back to one of our most popular podcasts - The Language of Social Media. Our discussion is led by our Deputy Head - Pastoral, Claire Bellman and our Assistant Head - Pastoral, Jonathan Thornton.

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



Safeguarding Corner Podcast

Episode 14

In 2

The Language of Social Media



Claire Bellman
Deputy Head - Pastoral



Jonathan Thornton
Assistant Head - Pastoral

Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 18th June – Last GCSE Exam

Thursday 19th June – Year 12 Learning Review (in person)

Friday 20th June – Senior Sports day

Friday 20th June – Dance Show

Wednesday 25th June – Senior Celebration of Cultural Diversity – Non Uniform

Wednesday 25th June – Senior Summer Concert

Thursday 26th June – Sunday 29th June – Gold Duke of Edinburgh Qualifier

Useful Links