



Senior High Notes Friday 13th March

Dear Parents

As we move through a busy and vibrant part of the term, it has been wonderful to see so many opportunities for our pupils to share their talents, creativity and hard work with the wider school community.

It was a real pleasure to attend the Music Recital last night, which brought together many of the winners from last week's House Music competition. What a reminder it was of the extraordinary talent we have in our Senior School. From confident soloists to beautifully nuanced performances, the evening showcased not only musical skill but also courage, discipline and creativity. Performing takes a particular kind of bravery, stepping forward, sharing something personal, and trusting the hours of practice that lie behind a polished performance. Our pupils did this with grace and poise, and it was a joy to see the audience respond so warmly. Moments like these remind us that music is not just about technical excellence; it is about expression, connection and the confidence to let your voice be heard.

Today in assembly we also held our Head Prefect hustings. This year, 11 members of Year 12 have applied to be part of the Head Prefect team and, as part of a rigorous selection process, each pupil stood in front of the entire Senior School to deliver a short speech about why they would like to take on the role. They were truly impressive. Speaking to such a large audience takes courage, clarity of thought and confidence, and every one of them rose to the occasion. Their speeches reflected a genuine commitment to the school and to the community they help shape each day. It will be a very difficult decision, which is perhaps the best possible sign of the strength of our Sixth Form. Leadership roles in the Sixth Form are an important part of the Derby High experience. They provide pupils with the opportunity to develop their voice, take responsibility and learn how to lead with empathy, integrity and purpose. What is particularly impressive is the wide range of prefect roles available, allowing pupils to play to their strengths and contribute in ways that feel authentic to them. Our students know themselves well; they understand where their passions lie and how they can best serve the community. Seeing so many pupils willing to step forward in this way is something of which we are immensely proud.

Looking ahead, excitement is building for next week's Senior School production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. The cast and crew have been working tirelessly behind the scenes, rehearsing lines, shaping characters, building sets and bringing Shakespeare's magical world to life. We are very much looking forward to sharing the results of their hard work with you. Tickets are still available, and I would warmly encourage you to come along and support what promises to be a fantastic evening of theatre.

On Tuesday afternoon we are also looking forward to welcoming Year 7 parents into school for our Year 7 Learning Showcase. This will be an opportunity for pupils to share their work, talk about their learning and celebrate the progress they have made since joining the Senior School. Creating opportunities for pupils to articulate and reflect on their learning is incredibly powerful, helping them to develop confidence, pride in their work and a deeper understanding of their own progress. This is the first time we have introduced a Learning Showcase in the Senior School, building on the success of similar events in our Primary School, and we are excited to see it become another way of strengthening the partnership between school, pupils and parents.

Finally, we are also looking forward to welcoming parents into school for our Celebration Breakfast and Afternoon Tea on Monday 23rd March. These moments are a lovely opportunity to come together as a community and to celebrate the many achievements of our pupils. If you are planning to attend, please do complete the HighPost form so that we know to expect you.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Senior House Music

This week marked the final event in our House Music programme. On Wednesday, Senior School students and staff gathered for our annual House Choir competition, performing the pieces they have been rehearsing over the past few weeks. It was a wonderful occasion, bringing the whole Senior School community together to celebrate one of Derby High's much-loved traditions.

Our thanks go to our singing teacher, Mrs Hunt, who kindly served as our independent adjudicator. With such high-quality performances from every house, she had the challenging task of selecting the winners.

Congratulations to St Andrew's House, who were crowned winners of this year's House Choir competition.

We were also delighted to present this year's Senior and Intermediate Musician of the Year awards. Following adjudication by Mr Losh last week, we are pleased to announce the following joint winners:

Senior Musician of the Year – Denny (Year 11) and Manroop (Year 13)

Intermediate Musician of the Year – May (Year 9) and Hugo (Year 8)

Highly Commended – Anna (Year 11), Anabelle (Year 13) and Ted (Year 11)

Congratulations to all our performers for their dedication and outstanding performances. It was truly a fantastic occasion.

To view the full gallery of photos from House Music, please [Click Here](#). The password is **MusicWinners2026**



Derby High Football 1st XI – vs Repton

Derby High 1st XI football travelled to Repton on Tuesday for an entertaining and hard-fought fixture. The opening stages of the game were evenly balanced, with both sides competing well and looking to establish control. As the half progressed, however, Repton began to dominate possession and apply sustained pressure on the Derby defence. After a spell of pressure, they eventually broke through to take the lead.

Derby responded with some tactical adjustments, bringing Charan into central midfield. The change helped Derby regain a foothold in the game, with Charan linking well alongside Tumelo and Reehan to provide greater control in the middle of the pitch. Derby's improved play led to a corner, and from the resulting delivery Jeevan produced a composed cushioned header to bring Derby level.

Derby made a strong start to the second half and soon took the lead in spectacular fashion. Charan drove forward from his own half before unleashing a powerful strike from around 30 yards that crashed in off the underside of the crossbar.

With the advantage, Derby showed great determination to keep Repton at bay. Krishan, Dhruv and Mason were strong defensively, making several important tackles and blocks, and they were well organised by Jeevan, who delivered a calm and composed performance throughout the match at the heart of the defence.

Despite Derby's resilience, the pressure from Repton continued and with ten minutes remaining they managed to find an equaliser. Both sides pushed for a winner in the closing stages. Awab worked tirelessly to break up play and support further attacks, while Tumelo, Ethan and Charan combined well going forward. Ethan came close to snatching a late winner, but his effort narrowly missed the target. The defence continued to work hard with last ditch blocks and tackles keeping Repton from adding a third.

In the end it was a battling and disciplined performance from Derby High, earning a well-deserved 2–2 draw against a strong Repton side that plays regularly.



Year 9 and 10 Netball

On a very windy Thursday afternoon, the Year 9 and Year 10 netball teams hosted Twycross for a friendly on our courts. Both matches were played in excellent spirits and remained closely contested throughout, with impressive end-to-end play on display.

The Year 9 team fought hard for the entire game. Despite being behind for much of the match, they showed fantastic determination and resilience to battle back in the final stages and secure an 11–9 victory at the final whistle. They should be very proud of their effort and teamwork—well done to them!

The Year 10 team also demonstrated excellent tenacity and spirit. There was some incredible shooting on display, alongside superb work bringing the ball up the court to create valuable goal-scoring opportunities. It was a tight contest every quarter, with never more than one or two goals separating the teams. In the end, Derby High came out on top with a well-earned 20–18 win.

Well done to everyone involved for their effort and contributions to two fantastic team victories!



Derby High Year 10 Football vs Twycross

Derby High's Year 10 football team travelled to Twycross for a challenging fixture played in tough, windy conditions. The weather made it difficult for the boys to settle into their usual style of play, with the wind disrupting attempts to keep the ball on the ground and build controlled passages of play.

Twycross started the stronger side, controlling much of the possession and winning the majority of the physical battles across the pitch. Derby High struggled to find their rhythm during the first half, and a difficult ten-minute spell saw Twycross score three goals in quick succession. This gave the hosts a commanding 3–0 lead heading into half time.

Derby High produced a far more composed performance in the second half. Chester and Oscar showed real composure in defence, carrying the ball forward and looking to play out from the back. Dhian held the ball up well in attack and began to link play effectively with AJ and Morgan in midfield, allowing Derby to build more sustained pressure. Rory also worked tirelessly in the middle of the pitch, breaking up Twycross attacks and keeping things simple in possession to help Derby regain control.

Derby dominated much of the second half and were rewarded with ten minutes remaining when Chester struck a superb direct free kick to pull a goal back. The goal sparked further pressure from Derby High as they pushed forward in search of more, but despite several promising moments they were unable to find another breakthrough.

Man of the Match went to Joel for a strong and disciplined performance. He was commanding at centre-back during the first half before moving to right-back after the break, where he contributed to a number of attacking moves while continuing to defend resolutely.



Kiwi House Care Home Visit

On Monday, twenty-eight students from across the school visited Kiwi House, a local care home, to take part in a poetry reading for the residents.

Poetry has continued to be popular with the residents: many with dementia are able to remember and enjoy poems which they learnt at school.

The students performed their chosen poems with enthusiasm, and the Kiwi House residents also shared the poems they had written. It was also a wonderful opportunity to talk with residents and enjoy feeling part of the community.



Safe and Sound – Visit Year 7

Last week Year 7 had some special guests from [Safe and Sound](#) Derbyshire. They kindly ran small group workshops with our Year 7s. Our weekly safeguarding podcast this week talks more about what Shelia and Ali from Safe and Sound discussed with the students.

Thank you to Saran, Year 7, for the report below.

The session about safety, by standing behaviour and also about knife crime - how possessing a knife can make situations more dangerous for all involved. We learnt about bystander behaviour and how when we are on our own we are more likely to help someone in need than in a group. The session was very helpful and quite important for young people to know about by standing behaviour and how important it is to be a positive bystander, even if it could be scary. I particularly enjoyed talking in small groups about situations that can occur!

Archaeology Club

This term, Archaeology Club has explored the fascinating world of the Romans and Greeks. Students have enjoyed learning about them through fun and creative activities.

This week, club members proudly finished making their leather pouches after several sessions of hard work.

A big thank you to Miss Lomas for running such a wonderful and engaging club.



House Art Competition

The brief this year is The Sea. You can create a piece of art that explores this theme in any way.

You can use any media, 2D or 3D, from sculpture, to painting, drawing, mixed media, digital illustration, textiles, photography ... Anything you like!

The Deadline is Friday 24th of April 2026.

To submit your entry, bring your pieces to the art room , with your name, form and house clearly written on the back. Every single entry will receive a House point that will go towards the winning House Art trophy. Staff entries welcome.

KS3 will receive more information about the competition in lessons.

If you have any questions, feel free to talk to Kate (U6), Jasmine (L6) or Sophie (L6) in the art gallery/sixth form common room, or speak to Mrs. Martin-Smith or Miss Kay... you will always find us in the art room.

Look forward to seeing your entries!

House Art 2026

Theme: The Sea



You can create any piece of artwork linked to the theme **The Sea**. Think about ideas such as sea life and creatures, seascapes, the seaside, harbours, ice cream stalls, shells, climate change, pollution, or travel — the list is endless!

You can create your own 2D or 3D piece, using any media you wish! Sculpture, painting, drawing, textiles, digital illustration, photography etc.

All entries will receive a House Point and go through to the **People's Choice** vote.

Any questions just pop along to the art room.



Deadline: Friday 24th April 2026

How to submit your entry: Bring your pieces to the art room, with your **name, form and house clearly written on the back or attached to the work.**

The Subtle Art of Family, Clarendon Fine Art, Derby.

Congratulations to Ashwin Year 9, who is the Derby winner of *The Subtle Art of Family Art* competition!

The brief focused on celebrating the idea of family, whatever that means to you and Ashwin's thoughtful and creative response truly stood out.

His artwork is currently framed and proudly displayed at Clarendon Fine Art Gallery in the Derbion, Derby city centre where visitors can see his fantastic achievement in person.

Ashwin has now progressed to the national round, where his work will be considered for the overall prize, chosen by acclaimed artist Doug Hyde.



We wish him the very best of luck in the next round, what an incredible accomplishment!

Carnegie Awards

To celebrate the announcement of the Shortlists for the Carnegie Awards we would like to remind you to sign up for the Carnegies go co-curricular reading group starting next week!

As a reminder in the group, we will read at least 3 of the books shortlisted for the Carnegie awards; we will then have two lunchtimes sessions to discuss these. This is a great opportunity to read something which might surprise you — We are sure none of these books will disappoint.

Open to all years, this is a great opportunity to meet new people and enjoy some of the best new books for young people.



Student Librarian Training

The biggest well done to Damla, Huriayya and Manleen in Year 9 for their incredible work in completing their student librarian training!

This week they finished all of the tasks on the student librarian bingo sheet. Every week they have come to their library duty and have aimed to do their best and make progress through the tasks. Mastering new skills and consolidating old ones throughout the process.

Tickets on Sale - A Midsummer Night's Dream

Tickets are still available for our Senior school drama production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, a Shakespearean comedy about love, magic, and mistaken identity. The performance will be held on Friday 20th March at 6.00pm in the Senior Hall.

Our cast of students have been working extremely hard in rehearsals and are excited about performing to their guests.

Tickets are available from senior student reception; the suggested donation is £5 per ticket. Cash only, please.

Join us for a memorable performance of this comedic tale.



LAST CHANCE TO VOTE, voting closes 9am 18th March - Please Support Mrs E

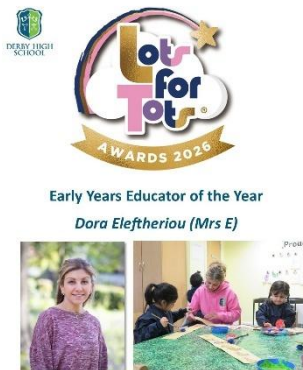
You may recall that last term we asked for your support in voting for Mrs E in the Lots for Tots Awards. We are delighted to share that she has now been shortlisted as a finalist in the category Early Years Educator of the Year.

Public voting closes 9am Wednesday 18th March and every vote truly counts. If you previously voted to help Mrs E reach the shortlist, we would be very grateful for your continued support as we now

aim for the final stage — winning the award. You can view a short video explaining what this recognition would mean to Mrs E here: [CLICK HERE](#)

To vote, please select Dora Eleftheriou under Early Years Educator of the Year at the following link:
Vote - Lots for Tots

Thank you for your support!



Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast Episode 62 - Safe and Sound

This week Mrs Bellman (Deputy Head - Pastoral, DSL) welcomes two guests onto our weekly safeguarding podcast. Sheila and Ali from Safe and Sound join Mrs Bellman to talk about the important workshops they have been running in our school with Year 7. Safe and Sound work with young people in Derbyshire and are passionate that every child should live a life without exploitation.

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

For more information on Safe and Sound please follow this link: [Home - SAFE AND SOUND](#)



When School Feels Impossible – Webinar

This webinar is for parents, carers, teachers, TAs, SENCOs, and anyone supporting a child who is struggling to attend school. We'll look at what's really driving school avoidance, how to break the shame cycle for everyone involved, and how to recognise progress that doesn't show up on a register.

For more information please click the following link: [Book your place here](#)

With both parents and educators in the room, there'll be space for honest conversation across the home-school divide.

Date: Wednesday 25th March 2026

Time: 7pm GMT

Duration: 90 minutes (45 mins taught, 45 mins Q&A)

Platform: Live on Zoom

Cost: £20

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 16th March – Year 12 Food and Nutrition Exam

Tuesday 17th March - Year 12 Food and Nutrition Exam

Tuesday 17th March – Year 7 Learning Showcase and afternoon tea

Wednesday 18th March - Year 12 Food and Nutrition Exam

Wednesday 18th March – Performance of a Midsummer Night's dream to Year 7 and Year 8

Thursday 19th March – Year 9 Vaccinations

Friday 20th March – Senior School production of A Midsummer Night's Dream

Saturday 21st March – Gold Duke of Edinburgh Practice

Sunday 22nd March - Gold Duke of Edinburgh Practice

Monday 23rd March - Gold Duke of Edinburgh Practice

Monday 23rd March – ABRSM Exam Day

Monday 23rd March – Year 8 & 9 Scholars project meeting

Tuesday 24th March – ABRSM Exams

Wednesday 25th March – Drama Scholars, Lunchtime performance

Thursday 26th March – Senior Spring Concert

Friday 27th March – House Challenge

Friday 27th March – End of Term, No PET or Late Waiting

Saturday 28th March – Ski trip to Salzburger Sportwelt Departs

Friday 3rd April – Ski trip to Salzburger Sportwelt Returns

Useful Links