



Senior High Notes Friday 14th November 2025

Dear Parents

The Greek Philosopher, Aristotle, said: "Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees the others."

This week, as we have marked Anti-Bullying Week and World Kindness Day, these words have felt especially relevant. Courage sits quietly behind so many of the qualities we value, kindness, honesty, respect, integrity. Without courage, those other qualities remain ideas rather than actions. It is courage that turns belief into behaviour, and good intention into meaningful change.

The theme of this year's Anti-Bullying Week, "Power for Good", echoes that same message. We have been reflecting on what it means to use our individual power positively: to speak up when something is not right, to support others, and to challenge unkindness wherever we see it. True power lies not in control, but in compassion, in the everyday courage to choose what is right over what is easy.

Our Year 9 students have led the way brilliantly this week. They delivered a thoughtful and thought-provoking assembly on Monday that inspired us all to think deeply about the influence we each have. Their maturity, honesty and leadership captured the spirit of Anti-Bullying Week perfectly, reminding us that every voice matters and that each of us has the power to make our community stronger, safer and kinder.

As we move forward, I hope we all carry this message with us, that courage is not loud or dramatic, but steady and purposeful. It is found in the quiet moments, when we stand beside someone, when we challenge an unkind comment, or when we choose inclusion over indifference. That is how we each use our power for good.

And, given the premiere of *Wicked: For Good* this week, it seems especially timely to reflect on its enduring message: power used for good may not always be recognised immediately, but it leaves a lasting mark. Just as Elphaba's courage changed the lives of those around her, so too can our own acts of kindness and bravery ripple through our school and beyond, shaping a world where respect, empathy and integrity prevail. As the musical reminds us, "Because I knew you, I have been changed for good". A reminder that the courage to act with kindness and use our power for good can transform us all.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Anti-Bullying Week and World Kindness Day 2025

This week has been Anti-Bullying Week, an annual UK-wide initiative to raise awareness of the impact of bullying, promote inclusion and empathy, and to empower young people to use their influence to support others and challenge unkindness.

Following a whole school assembly to start the week, Year 9 students designed and displayed posters around school containing inspirational and thought-provoking messages on this year's theme 'A Power for Good'.

To mark World Kindness Day on Thursday, Year 9 students attached Post-It notes with uplifting messages to students' lockers and students in all year groups held discussions and class debates on how to effectively support one another and demonstrate kindness.

On Friday, representatives from local charity Safe and Sound delivered Bystander Training workshops to further equip students to speak up against unkindness and to promote positive interactions within the school community and beyond. All-in-all a packed week full of positivity, creativity and much food-for-thought!



Remembrance Day

On Tuesday morning, our Senior School gathered in the Senior Hall for a special Remembrance service. Together, we observed a two-minute silence, honouring and reflecting on the lives of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in times of conflict.

Our gratitude goes to the Year 7 and Year 8 readers, our Head Prefects, and the Cantabile Choir for their meaningful contributions. A particular thank-you to Denny, Year 11, whose beautiful performance of the Last Post and Reveille added a deeply moving conclusion to the service.



Gold Duke of Edinburgh Navigation Day

On Sunday 9th November, 8 of our Y12 Gold Duke of Edinburgh took part in their Navigation Day to practice for next year's expedition. Beginning at Shining Cliff, Ambergate in the Peaks, the teams made their way to Middleton Top, a journey of around 10 miles. With barely a foot wrong, the teams made excellent time and even managed to get back to the minibus before the rain fell. Well done to both teams who look like they will make short work of the Three Peaks in Yorkshire next year.



Year 9 Netball Match Report

The Year 9 team played their first match of the season this week against Littleover. Although the final score was a 30–6 loss, the team showed great determination and improvement throughout the game.

It took a little while for the girls to settle into their rhythm, with Littleover making a strong start. However, as the match progressed, the team's confidence grew and their passing became more consistent. Their hard work paid off in the final quarter, which they won 4–2 - a fantastic sign of progress and teamwork.

Jasmine had a good game at goalkeeper, making several key interceptions and rebounds. Eesha worked tirelessly in attack, finding space and creating opportunities for her teammates. Roshni put

in a hard-working performance at centre, showing great energy throughout the court, and was deservedly named player of the match.

A tough start, but plenty of positives to build on for the next game.



Year 8 & 9 Girls Football Tournament

The Year 8 and 9 girls took part in a competitive football tournament, showing great determination and spirit throughout. The team's first game ended in a 3–0 defeat to Murry Park, but the girls quickly regrouped and demonstrated resilience in the following matches, securing draws in both.

For several players, this was their first experience of competitive football, and they should be very proud of their performances. The girls showed growing confidence on the ball, worked well as a team, and supported one another across the tournament.

While the results didn't fully reflect their effort, the improvement in play and positive attitude were evident in every match. Well done to all the girls for embracing the challenge, gaining valuable experience, and enjoying their football in a competitive environment.



U13 Basketball Match Report – vs Twycross House

The U13 boys put in a strong and exciting performance against Twycross House, narrowly losing 22–16 in a closely contested game. From the tip-off, both teams traded baskets, keeping the match tight and competitive throughout.

Our players showed a marked improvement in tactical awareness, moving the ball confidently and working together to create opportunities. Defensive effort was excellent, with interceptions, rebounds, and strong marking helping to keep the scoreline close. Communication on court was much better, reflecting the focus on teamwork and strategy in recent training.

Despite creating numerous chances, the boys struggled to convert in front of the basket. A lack of composure when shooting led to several missed opportunities, which ultimately allowed Twycross House to edge ahead in the closing stages.

Nevertheless, the team's commitment and determination never wavered. The match highlighted areas for improvement, particularly finishing under pressure, while also showcasing the progress made in tactics, decision-making, and teamwork.

Though the final score did not go our way, there were many positives to take from the game. With continued focus on composure and shooting, the U13s are well placed to turn close matches into victories in future fixtures.



Drama Scholars Performance

During Wednesday lunchtime our Drama Scholars performed an original piece of theatre to their peers. Their task was to create monologues about characters who were experiencing the Lionesses' parade and how it feels to be part of a large crowd. The monologues were then interwoven to form a wonderful mini performance collage. Well done to all the students who performed.



Art & Design Photography

					
Colour					
Art Photography Competition 2025/26 Theme: Colour Closing date: Friday 9th January 2026 Photographs need to be emailed in a Jpeg format to Mrs Martin-Smith (smartin-smith@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk) KS3, KS4-5 and staff winner and runner up prizes Get creative!					
					

The Art & Design Photography Competition is an opportunity for both students and staff to get creative.

The theme this year is 'Colour' ... be creative in your thinking and composing. You could consider ideas such as, seasonal colour, monochrome, blur, artificial colour, the golden hour, etc.

Photographs can be taken on camera or phone camera as long as the resolution is of a good quality. There will be a first place and runner up in each category: U3-U4/ L5-U6 and of course staff!

Photographic entries need to be emailed as a Jpeg file to Mrs Martin-Smith (smartin-smith@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk) and clearly state your full name and form group. The closing date for the competition is Friday 9th January 2026 (plenty of time to be creative over the holiday). An exhibition of all of the photographic entries will go on a virtual display for you all to enjoy.

UK Athletics Cross Challenge Series

Last weekend Sam (Year 12) competed in the UK Athletics Cross Challenge Series in Cardiff. Up against the best athletes in the country, Sam came 27th in the u17 category, recording a time of 18.50 over the distance of 5560m. Well done Sam and best of luck at your next event in Liverpool next weekend!



Congratulations Denny

Denny, Year 11, has recently secured a place at the Birmingham Conservatoire Junior Academy. The Junior Royal Birmingham Conservatoire offers specialist, high-level musical training for exceptionally talented young musicians aged 8 to 18, making Denny's achievement a remarkable milestone. We are incredibly proud of his dedication and look forward to seeing his musical journey continue to flourish.



Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast, Episode 50, Relational Practice

This week Mrs McBride and Dr Evans-Bolger talk about relational practice and how we apply this to our school setting. They discuss how positive noticing is simple, practical and highly effective.

Catching children doing the right thing and marking it with positive acknowledgement is not just kindness, it teaches behaviour. To listen to this podcase please [click here](#).



For more information on Positive Noticing – please click the following link - [SCHOOL ADULTS | Positive Noticing](#)

The Enlightened Parent

Follow @the_enlightened_parent on Instagram for useful parenting information around safeguarding topics. This week we are sharing a video posted on Anti - Bullying week. Click here to watch. [Instagram](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 17th November – Year 12 Internal Scholarships Exams commence

Wednesday 19th November – Year 12 Learning Reviews (Online)

Wednesday 19th November – ABRSM Exams

Thursday 20th November - A Level Textiles Exhibition Harrogate

Thursday 20th November - World Philosophy Day – Philosothon

Friday 21st November - House Drama Practice

Monday 24th November – Model UN day

Wednesday 26th November – Year 7 Learning review meetings (Online)

Thursday 27th November – Year 7 Learning review meetings (Online)

Thursday 27th November – Senior Flu Vaccinations

Friday 28th November – House Drama Final

Useful Links