



Senior High Notes Friday 16th May 2025

Dear Parents

With the Eurovision Song Contest taking place this Saturday, I took the opportunity in my assembly today to talk about this wonderfully unique event – one I always enjoy watching each year.

Eurovision is, of course, known for its glitter, dramatic key changes, and sometimes truly surprising costume choices. But beyond the fun and spectacle lies a much deeper message – one that really resonates with us here at Derby High.

When Eurovision was first created in 1956, it was designed to bring countries together through music following the devastation of World War II. It was about celebrating creativity, culture and, most importantly, difference. Each country takes to the stage not to fit in, but to proudly share their own voice, in their own way.

That idea of celebrating difference is something I encouraged our students to reflect on today. In a school community like ours, difference is not just something to accept, it is something to value. Whether it is a unique perspective, background, talent or personality, what makes us different also makes us stronger.

As we go into a busy few weeks of exams, I hope we can all continue to nurture an environment where individuality is embraced and where everyone feels confident to be themselves.

So whether you will be tuning in to Eurovision this weekend or not, perhaps we can all take a little inspiration from its message:

Be bold, be kind, and never be afraid to stand out.

Wishing you a happy and restful weekend.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

JCB Headquarters visit

On Tuesday, fifteen Year 12 travelled to JCB Headquarters in Rocester for the culmination of their 9 month long engineering project working with JCB to design and build a prototype for a sustainability enhancing attachment for a JCB loadall. The students have worked very hard since the launch in September, working every Monday and Tuesday in meetings after school for over an hour as well as for two full days at JCB academy to build their model and lots of their own time refining their model, writing an industry standard report, and preparing a presentation.

One team chose a brick sieve which could be used to aid clear up of demolished buildings in war torn areas. Choosing Ukraine and researching the standard brick size in the country they designed and built their prototype with measured grids which could be scaled up to filter whole bricks and gather the remains for reuse.

Following the L.A. wildfires, the other team chose a water sprinkler attachment which could help extinguish such fires. They designed and made a pump which fed water to a rotating attachment which they researched and built from scratch and which allowed water to be dispersed over a wide area of land.

Both attachments could be used on JCB's military machinery.

At JCB HQ they presented their reports to a panel of engineers who questioned them on their design and gave them feedback. They were also given feedback on their reports. All agreed that they had shown innovation, creative thinking, persistence, excellent team working and a real flair for engineering. The students were awarded JCB Cadet Certificates.

After a very interesting tour of The Story of JCB and a chance to look at a dizzying selection of tractors, diggers and other machinery and a quick visit to the gift shop, it was time to head home. The teams should be very proud of their efforts since September; they have done brilliantly. Mrs Orr would like to thank the students' mentors, the Academy staff and all in JCB who were involved in supporting this project.





Athletics report

On Wednesday, a Year 7 and 8 Athletics Team took part in the Derby Inter Schools Athletics Match held at West Park School. These events are always fun and enjoyable to take part in, and the mixture of track and field events run simultaneously. All of the students who took part did so with a fantastic attitude and with their best efforts, culminating in some fantastic results and finishing positions. There were some podium finishes for Evie and Finley in the 100 metres (2nd place and 3rd place, respectively), Zinovi in the 300 metres (2nd place), and Yedidia in 1st place in the Boys Shot Put and Eve finished 3rd in the girls' event. Other results and finishing positions are still to come from the organisers, but it was a fantastic afternoon of Athletics, and everyone should be proud of their efforts and achievements. Well done to all!

U15 and U13 Girls Tennis vs Nottingham Girls' High School

Last week, Derby High School faced Nottingham Girls' High School in an exciting tennis fixture featuring both U15 and U13 girls' squads. Each team fielded a squad of four players, with each athlete competing in one singles and one doubles match. All matches were played as one set, best of six games.

U15 Match: Derby High 6 – 0 Nottingham Girls' High

The U15 squad from Derby High put on a dominant performance, winning all six matches without conceding a single set. The team displayed excellent technique, composure, and teamwork throughout the afternoon.

- **Singles:** Derby High took all four singles matches with confident baseline play and strong serves.
- **Doubles:** Both Derby pairs worked seamlessly together, showing great communication and strategic play to secure two further wins.

A clean sweep for Derby High, showcasing the strength and depth of the U15 team.

U15 Result:

Derby High 6 – 0 Nottingham Girls' High

U13 Match: Derby High 1 – 5 Nottingham Girls' High

The U13 team faced a tough Nottingham Girls' High side and despite spirited efforts, came away with a 1–5 defeat.

- **Singles:** Nottingham proved strong in singles, winning three out of the four matches, though several games were tightly contested.
- **Doubles:** Nottingham carried their momentum into doubles, winning both matches, but Derby High managed to pick up a hard-earned singles win through Mahi and Imogen.

The younger Derby High squad showed great determination and valuable experience was gained for future fixtures.

U13 Result:

Derby High 1 – 5 Nottingham Girls' High



U15 Girls Tennis vs Nottingham High School

On Thursday evening, the U15 girls took on Nottingham High School in a spirited tennis match. With some outstanding performances across the board, Derby High emerged victorious with an impressive 8–4 win.

Congratulations to Charlotte, Harriet, Phoebe, and Jia for their excellent play and contribution to the team's success!

Buckingham Palace Celebrations

Last Friday, glorious sunshine welcomed us to Buckingham Palace to celebrate the success of our Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants, in honour of their achievements. Former students Lauren F, Julia M and Alice C were invited to London to meet the patron of the award, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and enjoy tea and cake in the beautiful gardens. Achieving the award is the culmination of months of hard work and dedication, including volunteering, sport, skills, a residential and the infamous expedition. Mrs Davies was also invited to represent school for her role in supporting this aspect of the award.

This year, Year 13 students, Chloe and Lachlan have also fully completed their Gold Award and will be visiting the palace in the near future. Former Students Megan A, Sora A, Diya R, Isabella W and Oliver S have also finished the award. Well done to all!



Congratulations to our Junior Maths Challenge participants!

A huge well done to all the students who took part in the Junior Maths Challenge! The results are in, and they're truly impressive. Along With gold certificates amongst our entrants, four of our year 8s have also qualified for the Kangaroo follow on round.

In Year 7, we had 16 bronze, 7 silver and 1 gold. Well done to Muhammad on his gold and "Best in Year" award. In Year 8, we had 13 bronze and 5 silver. With golds in year 8 we had Trisha, Ben, Aarav, George, Jaskara and Jack. Of these, Aarav, George, Jaskara and Jack all qualify for the Kangaroo and Aarav additionally gets the "Best in school" award.

Keep up the great work, and we look forward to seeing even more success in the next round!

House Art 2025 - Mythology

The voting deadline has been extended for students until tonight at 9pm.

Many thanks to everyone that has voted so far. Please don't forget to send your casting vote to Mrs Martin-Smith.

Trisha's Success

Trisha had a fantastic experience at the Derby Arts Festival, where she was awarded Honours in Prose Reading (Prepared) and received the prestigious Stevenson Shield. She also earned a Commended rating for Prose Reading (Unprepared).

In addition, Trisha's talents were recognised in the 20th Elmbridge Literary Competition, where her entry was commended. Trisha's work should be published on the R C Sherriff trust website soon. Congratulations Trisha. You should be very proud of yourself.



Second Hand Uniform Shop – May Half Term Holiday

Appointments for the Second Hand Uniform Shop can now be made for during the May half term. If you would like to book an appointment please email Mrs Holland on sholland@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk or call main reception on 01332 514267. Thank you.

Bright Star Sports Badminton Tournament Opportunity



Please note; this tournament is not ran by Derby High School.

Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast Episode 38, In2: Community

In this week's podcast Mrs Bellman and Mr Thornton discuss how important communities are and how belonging to a community can benefit your mental health.

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



For further information on this topic please see the following link;

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/mental-health-awareness-week/how-community-benefits-your-mental-health>

Sextortion

Financially motivated extortion (FMSE) is on the increase worldwide, so it's important that parents have the knowledge and tools to be able to talk to their children about this. Internet Matters have an excellent guide for parents which can be found [HERE](#). There is also a sophisticated phishing scam doing the rounds at the moment, which is masquerading as FMSE. There is a useful article here:

[‘Hello pervert’: the sextortion scam claiming to have videoed you | Money | The Guardian](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 19th May – Key Stage 3 Exam Week

Monday 19th May- Year 10 Exam Week (1 of 2)

Tuesday 20th May – Year 12 Business trip to Mini Oxford

Friday 23rd May – Year 7 trip to Conkers

Friday 23rd May – End of Half Term

Useful Links