



Senior High Notes Friday 19th June

Dear Parents

In my assembly today, I shared two quotations with students.

The first was from Sir Francis Bacon:

"Knowledge itself is power."

The second was a more light-hearted observation:

"Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad."

As we approach the end of another academic year, I have found myself reflecting on the distinction between the two.

Schools, quite rightly, place a great emphasis on knowledge. Over the course of this year, our students have learnt an enormous amount. They have developed new skills, deepened their understanding of subjects and, for many, recent examinations have provided an opportunity to demonstrate just how much progress they have made. Their exam results will, I hope, reflect the knowledge they have gained.

However, education has always been about more than knowledge alone. It is also about wisdom: the ability to make good decisions, to act with kindness, to show judgement and to understand the impact of our actions on others.

As the summer term progresses and examinations draw to a close, students are understandably tired. Routines begin to change, energy levels fluctuate and the finish line comes into sight. It is often at this point in the year that friendships can become strained, patience can wear thin and small moments of poor judgement can have a disproportionate impact. A comment that might otherwise have gone unsaid is spoken. A joke goes too far. A thoughtless action affects somebody else's day.

This is precisely where wisdom matters.

At Derby High, we speak often about the culture of our school. The warmth, kindness and sense of community that visitors frequently comment upon have not appeared by accident. They are the result of thousands of daily choices made by students who choose to treat one another with respect, take pride in their surroundings and understand that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

As we move through these final weeks of term, I have encouraged students to think not only about what they know, but also about how they choose to act. To continue showing kindness when they are tired. To continue demonstrating respect when excitement levels are high. To continue taking pride in their school and in the way they treat those around them.

The overwhelming majority of our students do this exceptionally well every day. My challenge to them was simple: to continue being guardians of the culture that makes Derby High such a special place to learn and grow.

It is hard to believe that there are now just three weeks remaining of the academic year. Whilst much of the formal examination season has now concluded, school life remains as busy as ever, with concerts, sports fixtures, trips and activities still to come. These final weeks are an important part of the school year. They provide an opportunity for students to enjoy time with their friends, celebrate their achievements and finish the year positively, whilst continuing to demonstrate the values and standards that make our community so special. A reminder that the Summer Term will end at 12 noon on Friday 10th July.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 12 Geography Field Trip to Yorkshire

Report by Jack D, Year 12

We started the day with a nice early start at school. After many hours on the bus, with a sufficient amount of 80's house music and a much-needed stop at services, we arrived at Flamborough Head. Here, we completed the first section of our fieldwork by creating field sketches of the erosional landforms we saw, looking down into Selwick's bay which was populated by a surprisingly large amount of seals.

We then made our way down the coast to the town of Hornsea, where we conducted the second section of our investigation, looking at beach slope angle and sediment size. This enabled us to create some strong conclusions about the impact of longshore drift – a process we were all very familiar with as we were quite literally wearing it on our matching bucket hats. We then analysed the various coastal defences in place here. After conducting our fieldwork we were able to get a much needed ice cream.

The journey home was filled with even more 80's club music, meaning we were well energised to get back and analyse our fieldwork results.



Year 9 French Display

Year 9 students created an engaging French display entitled “*D’où vient la classe de Year 9 ?*” to explore and celebrate their heritage. Each student produced a piece of work in French describing their background, family origins, and personal identity. These were then linked to a large world map, showing the diverse range of countries connected to the class.

This project not only developed students’ language skills but also gave them the opportunity to take pride in their own stories while learning about others. The display highlights the rich cultural diversity within the school community and promotes inclusion, respect, and understanding. By sharing their heritage, students have helped to create a vibrant visual reminder that diversity is a strength that enriches our community.



Year 7 Quad Athletics

On Tuesday, a group of Year 7 pupils travelled to West Park school to participate in the Derby County Community Trust Quad Athletics event. Students all took part in a 100m, 800m, howler throw and long jump, with points awarded for their distances and times rather than their fielding positions. All pupils demonstrated fantastic effort in all events.



Year 10 and Year 12 Tennis at Repton School

On Thursday, the Year 12 boys and Year 10 girls travelled to Repton for a tennis fixture. All matches saw some fantastic rallies and some really close games. The highlight of the boys' match was Sam and Max winning their doubles 7–6 in a closely contested battle. In the girls' fixture, Harriet and Phoebe H played some excellent tennis to win all three of their matches. Olivia, Charlotte, Matti and Aoibh all demonstrated some excellent shots and were on top for periods of their matches; they should feel confident going into future matches that the results will go their way.

Library News

The Day - WINNER!

A huge congratulations is in order for Lara, Year 8, for being one of 5 winners selected for The Day's student voice competition. Her article **Doomscrolling is stealing our attention** was selected by the editorial team who were "impressed by Lara's eloquence and passion" and you can read her article here: [Doomscrolling is stealing our attention \(Reading Level 4\) - The Day!](#)

Lots of our year 8's wrote articles for this competition as part of their library lesson last term. They were encouraged to use research and citation methods to ensure they were producing enjoyable and factual pieces but were given a choice of any topic that interested them. Their work covered a range of subjects from football to social media, the environment to air cadets, fast fashion to video games. It was a pleasure to read about the passions, interests and concerns of our young people, and celebrate their bravery to enter the competition.

House Reading - WINNER! St. David is this year's House Reading winner. Thank you to all those who participated and engaged in this little bit of house pride. Your individual house points have been awarded for all of your entries.

Student Librarians. Applications to be a student librarian are still open. Please collect a form from Miss Ridley in the library.

Textbook Returns. The deadline for Year 11 and Year 13 to return their textbooks is next week (Friday 26 June). Please contact Miss Ridley if you have any questions about this. If you have any textbooks unreturned after this deadline these will incur a charge.

New Books. Our library is continuing to expand and diversify, thanks to the suggestions from our student librarians and a concerted effort to respond to our school's borrowing trends. Thank you, Emily L (Year 10), for her beautiful display of these books.



PE Uniform Reminder

In preparation for the new academic year, please ensure your child attends PE in suitable footwear. Our guidance states that PE footwear should be trainers with non-marking soles and suitable for sports, providing proper support for the foot, rather than fashion trainers.

Uniform Next Week

The weather next week is set to be very warm. Therefore, students may choose to wear PE kit all week, if they wish. If they are in standard uniform: no blazers or ties are required (shirts must be tucked in, in the building).

If students are in PE kit, there is no need to wear tracksuit bottoms over or leggings under shorts between now and next, Friday 26th June.

Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast, Episode 71 - In2 Ofcom's Report Into Social Media

In this week's podcast Mrs Bellman and Mrs McBride discuss Ofcom's report on social media apps and safety provision for children, outlining that Ofcom has stated that many apps are "not safe for children". To listen, please [click here](#)

For further information and an updated report on this very topical issue please visit Ofcom's website by clicking here. [Keep underage children off your platforms, Ofcom tells tech firms](#)



Dates For Your Diary

Monday 22nd June – ABRSM Exams

Tuesday 23rd June – ABRSM Exams

Tuesday 23rd June – Year 12 Geography field work trip to Birmingham

Wednesday 24th June – LAMDA Exams

Wednesday 24th June – Senior Summer Concert 6pm – 7:30pm

Thursday 25th June – Dance Show, 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Friday 26th June – Senior Sports Day

Friday 3rd July – Senior Celebration Assembly

Saturday 4th July – Sunday 5th July – Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Monday 6th July – Thursday 9th July – Gold Duke of Edinburgh

Monday 6th July – Year 10 Work Experience Week Begins

Friday 10th July – End of Term 12pm Midday