



Senior High Notes Friday 1st May 2026

Dear Parents

It really has been a beautiful week at Derby High, with the sunshine matched by a genuine sense of warmth and positivity across the school. Weeks like this remind us just how special this community is.

Today, we turned our attention to Year 11 as they prepare to head off on study leave. It was a joyful and reflective occasion, giving us the opportunity to recognise them as a year group and to mark this important moment in their journey through the school. They are a cohort defined by their steadiness and their sense of community. They support one another, they approach school life with good humour, and they contribute in ways that are both meaningful and lasting. They have been a positive presence within the school and have much to be proud of as they now move into this next phase.

As is tradition, the day also included their much-anticipated Top of the Pops performance at lunch time. As ever, it was full of energy, creativity and laughter, and it was wonderful to see them come together in this way.

We also had the privilege of hearing from our Year 13 students, who delivered their final assembly ahead of beginning their study leave next week. It was a thoughtful, humorous and moving reflection on their time at Derby High, full of memories, gratitude and a clear sense of how much the school, and the people within it, have meant to them. It served as a powerful reminder of the journey they have each been on.

As Year 11 now move into their examination period, we wish them every success. They are well prepared, and we hope they approach the weeks ahead with confidence, resilience and a belief in their own abilities.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Good Luck Year 11

Today was the final day of school for Year 11 before they head off on study leave; GCSE exams begin next week. The students put on their annual Top of the Pops show at lunchtime and there were some excellent lip sync/dance performances, with a few guest appearances thrown in!

To reward the students for their hard work in and out of the classroom these past couple of years, we invited the ice-cream van into the crescent outside school for a break time treat. In the afternoon, the year group came together for an assembly where each of our students were individually celebrated; this was all rounded off by cake in the Refectory.

We wish all our Year 11 students the very best for their examinations.



Silver Duke of Edinburgh

The Silver Duke of Edinburgh group of 21 Year 11s headed out into the Peak District last Friday for their practice expedition in fine and sunny weather. Over the weekend they hiked around the White Peak, visiting Monyash, Lathkill Dale, Elton and Winster. They worked well on problem solving within their group, with some revision thrown in along the route!

They all demonstrated resilience and great teamwork skills. We are looking forward to supporting them on their Qualifying Expedition after their GCSEs.



Year 10 Geography field trip to Shropshire

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, our Year 10 Geographers travelled to Shropshire to conduct field work for their GCSE Geography course. Working with FSC Preston Montford, on the Tuesday we travelled into Shrewsbury to assess how effectively the town's park and ride scheme was tackling congestion on the roads. This involved collecting a variety of data including questionnaires with members of public, vehicle mobility unit surveys and assessing the occupancy levels of park and ride sites. In the evening students enjoyed a spot of orienteering around the grounds of the centre.

On Wednesday we headed into rural Shropshire to collect physical Geography data on the Ash Brook River. Students were measuring the width, depth and velocity of the river in order to calculate the discharge, to see whether the changes downstream followed those predicted by the Bradshaw model. Thankfully the weather was kind, and we had a full day of sunshine for this. There was just about time for an ice cream at the end of the work before getting on the coach back to DHS!





Student Librarians

More congratulations are in order for the student librarian team!

Lydia, Year 10, Ishika, Year 8 and Sophie, Year 8 have all earned their librarian badges.

Well done also to Matti (Year 10) and Lilah (Year 8) for completing their student librarian Bingo sheets and earning their prizes. There are plenty more members of the student librarian team making great progress to finishing by the end of the year!

The Carnegie Awards



There is still time to take part in the 'Carnegies go Co-Curricular' shadowing group! Our first meeting is scheduled for next week.

Even if you didn't manage to pick up a copy of the book before, this year's shortlisted books are all available to read (and some to listen to) on the Sora by Overdrive reading app. This can be accessed by downloading the app on a mobile device or opening the platform in a web browser.

Your login details are below:

FREE EBOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS!

ON A SORA MOBILE APP (FOR READING AT HOME)

AND

WEB BROWSER WHEN AT SCHOOL

Use his link to read using a browser:
<https://soraapp.com/library/carnegies>

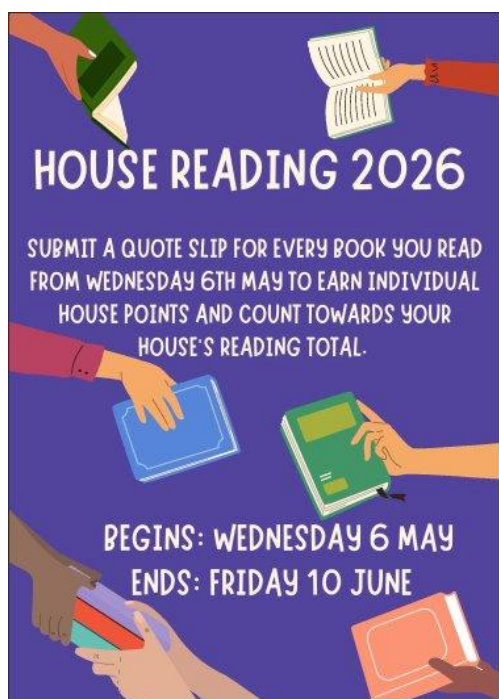


YOUR USERNAME IS: *The start of your email address e.g gridley30*

Library House Events

Coming up this term are two exciting library-based house opportunities.

House reading (starting next Wednesday!) This will follow the same format as last year. When you finish reading a book, please submit a 'quote slip'. Every entry will go towards your House's reading total, and you will also get an individual House point.



HOUSE READING 2026

SUBMIT A QUOTE SLIP FOR EVERY BOOK YOU READ FROM WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY TO EARN INDIVIDUAL HOUSE POINTS AND COUNT TOWARDS YOUR HOUSE'S READING TOTAL.

BEGINS: WEDNESDAY 6 MAY
ENDS: FRIDAY 10 JUNE



This year to secure valuable points for your house you need to identify your favourite quote from the books you've read. Some of these quotes will be displayed in the library.

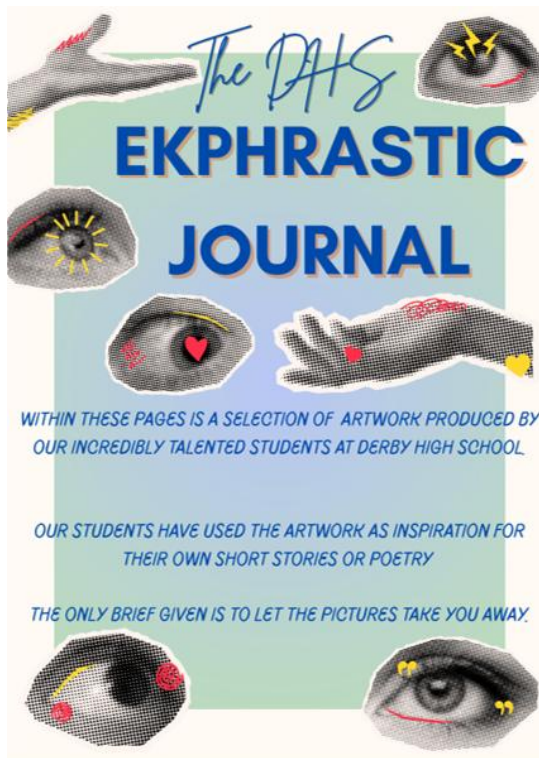
Parameters:

- You have read the book from Wednesday 6 May onwards
- You have to have read the whole book for it to count towards the challenge (only 3 per individual a week will be counted)
- You have to fully completed the "Quote slip" and handed it in in the Library (quote slips are available to collect in the library)

We will also keep track of the total number of books read by each house. The houses will be ranked by most to least books read. the house with the most books will win this challenge and earn 200 House points! the subsequent houses will win 150, 100 and 50 respectively.

You can track your house's progress in the library above the librarian's desk. The closing date for entries is Friday 10 June.

Later in the half term we will have House creative writing! More information on this one to come...
But here's a teaser!



Book Donations

Following the success of last year's book donation drive for OwnBooks we have chosen to this year support the Derby Book Festival Children's Book appeal. Please donate your lightly used children's books to this appeal from the 11th of May. You can give these straight to Miss Ridley in the library or drop them off at reception.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity to these good local causes. By sharing a love of reading with our community, you make a huge difference.



Reminder for Parents: Bank Holiday Monday

Please be reminded that school is closed on Monday 4th May for the bank holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday 5th May.

Activate Camps at Derby High School

Activate Camps are back for the summer holidays! Full details below.

For more information and to book [please click here](#).



The poster features a blue background with a grid pattern. At the top, there are several circular icons representing different sports: a crown, a tennis racket, a soccer ball, a basketball, a volleyball, and a tennis ball. Below these icons is the 'Activate Camps' logo, which consists of a large blue 'A' with a red swoosh. To the right of the logo is the 'AT' logo. Further right is the 'Derby High School' logo, which includes a shield with a cross and the text 'DERBY HIGH SCHOOL' and 'ESTABLISHED 1892'. A red banner with white text says 'ACTIVATE YOUR 2026 CAMPS!'. Below this, there are two sections for specific camps. The first section is for 'MULTI SPORT CAMP' for '5-14 year olds', with dates '27-31 JUL & 3-7 AUG & 10-14 AUG & 17-21 AUG'. It includes a small photo of a child in a red shirt. The second section is for 'NETBALL FEVER' for '7-14 year olds', with dates '4-6 AUG'. It includes a small photo of two girls in pink netball uniforms. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the text 'SPORT AND ACTIVITY HOLIDAY CAMPS AT DERBY HIGH SCHOOL, DE23 3DT' and 'PRICES FROM £39.60 PER DAY'. Below the banner, there is a footer section with the 'Activate Camps' logo, contact information (website, phone, email), and logos for 'SAFE AND APPROVED', 'PROACTIVE', 'Ofsted', and a 'FIND OUT MORE' button with a 'CLICK HERE' link.

Activate Camps

AT

DERBY HIGH SCHOOL
ESTABLISHED 1892

ACTIVATE YOUR 2026 CAMPS!

MULTI SPORT CAMP
5-14 year olds
27-31 JUL & 3-7 AUG
& 10-14 AUG & 17-21 AUG

NETBALL FEVER
7-14 year olds
4-6 AUG

**SPORT AND ACTIVITY HOLIDAY CAMPS AT
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Activate Camps

SAFE AND APPROVED
PROACTIVE
Ofsted

FIND OUT MORE
CLICK HERE

Safeguarding Corner

Derby High School Safeguarding Podcast - Episode 67, In2 Exam Season

In this week's podcast Mrs Bellman (Deputy Head - Pastoral, DSL) and Mrs Balfour (Head of Year 7) discuss their "top tips" for students as we approach our summer term exams. [Click here to listen](#).



Derby High School Safeguarding Podcast - Episode 67, In2 Exam Season

Derby High School Podcasts



Episode • 2min 40secs

For more information on this topic please click on the following links;

[KEYNOTE: EXAMS! Doing well whilst staying well \(student session\) - Dr Pooky Knightsmith](#)

[ANXIETY | 5 Simple Strategies for Managing Anxiety](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 4th May – May Bank holiday (school closed)

Tuesday 5th May – A Level Art preparation day

Wednesday 6th May – A Level Art Exam

Thursday 7th May – A Level Art Exam

Thursday 7th May – Year 13 Leavers' Evening

Friday 8th May – A Level Art Exam

Friday 8th May – Year 13 Breakfast and their last day before study leave

Friday 8th May – A Level Art Exam

Wednesday 13th May – Senior and Sixth Form School Open Evening 5pm to 7pm

Useful Links