



Senior High Notes Friday 20th March

Dear Parents

There are moments in school life that quietly capture something important about who we are as a community, and last Friday was one of them.

As part of our non-uniform day, we asked pupils to bring in an Easter egg to donate to the YMCA in Derby, an organisation with which we are proud to have strong and meaningful links. These eggs will be shared with children and young people across our city who may not otherwise receive one this Easter.

What followed was quite remarkable.

Across the whole school, we collected an incredible 752 Easter eggs. It is a fantastic achievement, but more than that, it is a powerful reflection of the kindness, generosity and awareness of others that we seek to nurture in our pupils.

Giving is an interesting thing. It is often thought of in terms of what we offer materially, but its impact runs much deeper than that. In choosing to give, we are recognising others, showing empathy, and understanding that small individual actions can come together to make a very real difference.

In assembly this today, I shared three images with the pupils: the ISI logo, a picture of the Irish rugby legend Brian O'Driscoll, and, perhaps unsurprisingly, a mobile phone.

At first glance, they may seem unrelated. My aim was to draw a thread between them.

I began with the ISI inspection, focusing in particular on the feedback about our pupils. I wanted them to hear, and to reflect on, the wonderful things that were said about them. Inspectors commented on the quality of relationships, the purposeful atmosphere around the school, and the way pupils conduct themselves day to day. It was a powerful affirmation of the kind of young people they are, and the community they help to shape.

I then turned to the image of the mobile phone, using it to explore the increasing national focus on phone use in schools. The Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, has made clear that schools are expected to be mobile phone-free during the school day, with this becoming compulsory for all schools after Easter. For us, this represents a what we already do. Pupils are used to keeping phones switched off and stored in lockers, and our intention is to ensure clarity and consistency in

protecting the calm, focused environment that was recognised in the inspection feedback. I will be writing to you next week with our updated policy.

Finally, I introduced a simple idea to bring this together, sharing the line: "Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad."

School equips pupils with knowledge, but what ultimately matters, in education, in sport, and in life, is wisdom: the ability to make good decisions, to exercise judgement, and to apply what we know thoughtfully.

In this context, Brian O'Driscoll provides a powerful example. At the highest level, success is not determined simply by talent or training, but by decision-making, knowing what to do, and when to do it.

There is, therefore, a clear connection. The inspection highlighted the strength of our pupils; our approach to mobile phones helps to protect the environment in which they thrive; and the development of wisdom, in the choices they make each day, is what will enable them to flourish both within school and beyond.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming parents into school on Monday for our celebratory breakfast and afternoon tea. We do hope you are able to join us as we mark this special occasion together.

Finally, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to all members of our community celebrating Eid today. We hope it has been a joyful and special day with family and friends. Eid Mubarak.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 7 Learning Showcase and Afternoon Tea

We were delighted to welcome our Year 7 parents to Tuesday's Learning Showcase and Afternoon Tea.

It was wonderful to see so many families coming together, with students proudly sharing their favourite pieces of work from across the year so far. Our Year 7s have made an excellent start to their senior school journey, and their pride and enthusiasm truly shone through.

The showcase offered valuable insight into students' learning, progress, and strengths, while helping parents gain a deeper understanding of the curriculum and the skills being developed.

A fantastic opportunity to celebrate achievements, build confidence, and strengthen the partnership between home and school.



Easter Egg Collection for YMCA Derby

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our pupils, parents and families for your incredibly generous Easter egg donations.

Pupils came to school in their home clothes in exchange for an Easter egg, which will be donated to the YMCA in Derby. We are proud to have strong links with our local YMCA, and these eggs will be given to children and young people across Derby who may not otherwise receive one this Easter.

We are absolutely delighted to share that, across the whole school, we collected an amazing 752 Easter eggs! This is a fantastic achievement and truly reflects the kindness and community spirit of our school.

A special thank you also goes to our student charity representatives, who did a brilliant job helping to count all of the donations and load them onto the YMCA van.

Thank you once again for your continued support – it really does make a difference.



Eid Mubarak

To all members of our school community who are celebrating, we wish you a joyful, peaceful, and blessed Eid. May this special time bring happiness, reflection, and togetherness with family and friends.



Year 7 Netball

The Year 7 netball team took part in a tournament on Tuesday 17th March, putting in a determined and spirited performance across a busy evening of fixtures.

The group stage presented three challenging matches. The team began with a hard-fought draw against Noel Baker, showing great composure and teamwork throughout. They followed this with an excellent victory over Murray Park, where their growing confidence and sharp passing play were clear to see. In their final group game, they faced a strong Littleover Community School side and, despite a valiant effort, were narrowly defeated.

Unfortunately, the results meant the team just missed out on progressing to the Cup competition. However, they moved into the Plate competition with positivity and determination. Both matches in this stage were closely contested but ultimately ended in narrow defeats. Despite this, the girls demonstrated fantastic resilience and character, continuing to battle right until the final whistle in each game.

There were many standout performances across the evening. Avneet and Maryam were outstanding in defence, working tirelessly to limit the opposition's scoring opportunities with well-timed interceptions and strong marking. In centre court, Tabitha played a crucial role, linking the defensive and attacking thirds effectively and helping to maintain the team's flow.

All of the girls worked incredibly hard throughout the competition and should be proud of their efforts, teamwork, and determination.



Year 9 Football

The Year 9 football team secured a hard-fought 1–0 victory against Abbotsholme on Wednesday, in what proved to be a closely contested and physical encounter.

Both sides found it difficult to maintain possession and establish control of the game, leading to a scrappy but competitive match. Derby High, however, managed to create the better chances, and it was Zach who broke the deadlock early on with a well-taken goal. Despite continuing to generate opportunities, Derby were unable to add to their lead in the first half.

Defensively, Ben and Leo were outstanding, remaining composed and resolute to keep Abbotsholme at bay. Their organisation and determination ensured Derby maintained their advantage going into the break.

In the second half, Abbotsholme increased the pressure in search of an equaliser, but Derby continued to show resilience. The home side had a golden opportunity to extend their lead from the penalty spot, but unfortunately were unable to convert.

In midfield, Arjun delivered an exceptional performance, working tirelessly in both defensive and attacking phases of play. His effort and commitment earned him a well-deserved Man of the Match award.

Although the team at times struggled to link up play effectively, their determination and battling spirit saw them grind out a deserved 1–0 win.

Eco Club

Eco Club's attendance continues to swell and this week we were enjoying the splendid weather outside on Thursday lunchtime. Armed with a variety of different tools we have been clearing flower beds around the school and planting bulbs to encourage pollinators come the summer. We have some big plans for next term - get involved!



A Midsummers Night's Dream Premiere

On Wednesday, our Year 5, 6, 7 and 8 pupils enjoyed a wonderful treat as they attended the premiere of the Senior School's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Our talented cast has been working incredibly hard to bring Shakespeare's much-loved comedy to life and are very excited for the next performance this evening.

A full gallery of photographs will be shared with parents after tonight's performance.



ISI Report Celebration

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our parents on Monday as we come together to celebrate the outcomes of our recent ISI report. To read a summary of the report on our website [please click here](#).

It will be a wonderful opportunity to share this achievement, reflect on the hard work that led to it, and enjoy the occasion as a community.

Celebrate With Us

To **celebrate** our recent **ISI inspection report** we invite parents to join us for **breakfast or afternoon tea.**

Please refer to the **Highpost** for more information and to RSVP.





Inspection Report Celebration

MONDAY 23RD MARCH 2026

BREAKFAST
8:00am to 9:00am

AFTERNOON TEA
2:45pm to 3:45pm

REFECTORY



Thank you to our catering team for a special Piri Piri lunch time menu for our students and staff on Monday:

PIRI-PIRI FEAST

SOUP Roasted Tomato & Yellow Pepper Portuguese Rolls DELI BAR Chicken Caesar Wrap MAINS Mini Lemon & Herb Chicken Slider Flame-Grilled Lemon & Herb Chicken Burger Vegetarian Peri Wrap	SIDES Peri Twister Fries Loaded Corn on the Cob with Chilli & Lime Broccoli Macho Peas DELI BAR Chicken Caesar Wrap HOT BAGUETTE Fino Pitta (Chicken & halloumi with chilli jam)	SALAD BAR Pickled Watermelon Smashed Cucumber Mint and Peta Salad Rice and Bean Salad with Pica De Gallo Lime & Tortillas Tomato Salad DESSERT Warm Chocolate Tray Bake Pastel De Nata Pouring Cream
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'This is what Hope looks like', Bridge the Gap, Art Competition

We are delighted to share that Art Scholar Sophie Year 8 has been selected as one of 12 winners in Bridge the Gap's *"This Is What Hope Looks Like"* art competition.

Participants were invited to create a piece of art expressing what hope means to them and Sophie's contribution thoughtfully captured that vision.

The competition received an incredible number of inspiring entries, each offering a unique interpretation of hope. Sophie's work truly stood out during the judging process for its powerful and moving message.

As one of the winners, Sophie's artwork will be proudly showcased at Bridge the Gap's inaugural Gala Dinner on Thursday 26 March.



JCB talk to Sixth Form on Degree Apprenticeships

On Thursday, we were visited by Edward and Lewis from JCB. Edward is an alumni of Derby High School having left in 2023. Both Edward and Lewis are currently undertaking Degree Apprenticeships at JCB, Edward on the Business Management scheme and Lewis on the Engineering scheme. They spoke about what their Degree Apprenticeship journey has included so far, from the application process to leading a team of 30 staff within the first 6 months to opportunities to work abroad in the USA and Australia. More and more of our Sixth Formers are taking the option of applying for Degree Apprenticeships so it was brilliant to get the inside track.



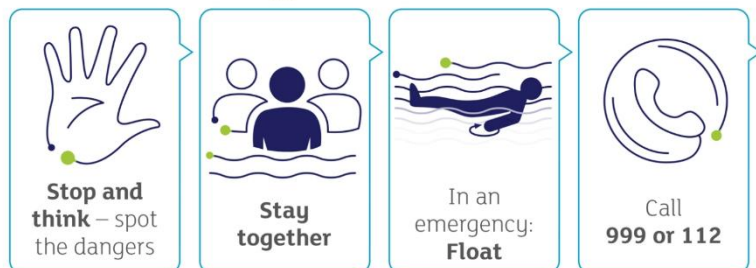
Year 13 Water safety

This week in form time, Year 13 focused on the importance of water safety. Students watched an informative video from the Canal & River Trust highlighting the tragic risks associated with open water swimming. They learned that cold water could cause shock, which is a major factor in many water-related incidents, and that strong currents can quickly disorient even confident swimmers.

Students were also given practical safety advice on how to stay safe around water. Key messages included avoiding entering the water alone, ensuring someone else is present nearby, and only

swimming where there is appropriate safety equipment available, such as a buoy or other lifesaving device.

Water Safety Code



British Schools Gymnastics Association Competition Congratulations

Congratulations to Pippy, Year 10, who competed in the British Schools Gymnastics Association last weekend. Pippy came 2nd in the girl's elite 10-14 category. Well done Pippy, a fantastic achievement!



Second Hand Uniform Shop

Second Hand Uniform Shop Appointments can now be made for during the Easter holiday. If you would like an appointment, please email Mrs Holland on, uniform@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk or call main reception on 01332 514267. Thank you

Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast – Episode 63 – Senior Student Reception

This week, Mrs Bellman, Deputy Head (Pastoral), is joined by Mrs Prime, our Student Receptionist.

Together, they discuss the central role of Student Reception as the hub of the senior school. The conversation explores how this vital area supports students in their day-to-day school life, from

providing first aid and wellbeing assistance to responding to everyday queries such as lost property and facilitating communication with home.

This episode offers an insightful look at the essential work of Student Reception and its significant contribution to the smooth running of the school and the support of our students. To listen to this episode [please click here](#).



Young people and the Manosphere

You will have undoubtedly seen the media hype around the newly released Louis Theroux documentary on Netflix, drawing attention to some of the toxic influencers who are out there targeting young people.

What you might not have seen is more of a focus on the fact that it was clear from this documentary that a lot of it is not something they actually even believe but rather rage bait, designed to get attention and re-posts. It also misses the point of view of the young people, who are on the receiving end of this content: the young people, both girls and boys, who are being bombarded with this nonsense while the influencers earn money from their engagement in the posts.

There is a great safeguarding expert on Instagram who we recommend to parents to follow called [The Enlightened Parent](#) called Susie. Susie has posted about this very subject which can be read on Instagram by [clicking here](#).

Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 21st March - Gold Duke of Edinburgh practice

Sunday 22nd March - Gold Duke of Edinburgh practice

Monday 23rd March – ISI Report Celebration Breakfast and Afternoon Tea for parents and celebration lunch for staff and students.

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 Exam Day

Wednesday 25th March – Drama Scholars, lunchtime performance

Thursday 26th March – Senior Spring Concert

Friday 27th March – House Challenge

Friday 27th March – 3.45pm End of Term, no Late Waiting

Saturday 28th March – Ski trip to Salzburger departs

Friday 3rd April – Ski trip to Salzburger returns

Monday 20th April – Staff training inset day, no pupils in school

Tuesday 21st April – Start of term for all students

Useful Links