



Senior High Notes Friday 24th April

Dear Parents

It has been a pleasure to welcome our students back this week, greeted by sunshine and a real sense of energy across the school. There is something about brighter mornings and lighter evenings that lifts the mood, and that positivity has been reflected in the purposeful start to term we have seen in classrooms and corridors alike.

This week has marked an important milestone, with our first formal examinations now underway. Our Modern Foreign Language oral examinations have begun, and it has been impressive to see the calm focus and quiet confidence with which students have approached them. These early assessments set the tone for the weeks ahead, and there is a strong sense that our students are well-prepared, organised and ready for the challenge. Over the next two weeks, Art and Design examinations will take place alongside the continuation of language orals. These experiences will stand them in good stead as we move towards the first written examinations in early May.

This weekend, a number of our students will be taking part in their Duke of Edinburgh Silver practice expedition, with such glorious weather forecast, it promises to be a memorable and rewarding experience. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is about far more than simply completing a challenge; it is a powerful vehicle for developing independence, resilience, teamwork and leadership. It asks students to step beyond their comfort zones, to problem-solve in real contexts, and to rely on one another in meaningful ways. Importantly, experiences such as this do not sit apart from academic learning but actively enhance it. There is a growing body of research showing that time spent outdoors can improve concentration, reduce stress and support cognitive function. Physical activity in natural environments has also been linked to improved attention and memory. In this way, DofE represents the very best of education beyond the classroom: time away from screens, navigating unfamiliar environments, and working collaboratively towards a shared goal all contribute to the development of confident, capable and well-rounded young people.

Following constructive discussions through the Student Council, we have also introduced a small but meaningful change to our uniform expectations: students are now able to wear their PE kit on days when they have PE lessons or are attending a sports club. This change responds directly to student voice and reflects our commitment to listening thoughtfully and acting where it supports the student experience. It also allows students to use their time more effectively across the day, removing the

need to change and ensuring they can move seamlessly between lessons and co-curricular activities, making the most of every opportunity available to them.

Finally, as shared towards the end of last term, our mobile phone policy remains an important focus. Recent guidance from the Department for Education has now come into force, and this has been reflected in national coverage this week as the government looks to strengthen expectations further. We would greatly appreciate the support of parents in reinforcing this at home, ensuring that students only bring mobile phones into school where they are absolutely necessary for travel to and from school.

We wish all of our students the very best as they continue through this busy and important period, whether in the examination hall, the art studio, or out on expedition.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Ski Trip to Austria

During the first week of the Easter break, 45 students from Year 8 to Year 12, accompanied by six staff members, set off on an exciting ski adventure to Salzburger Sportwelt in Austria.

The group enjoyed a fantastic week on the slopes, supported by excellent fresh snow throughout their stay. It was especially impressive to see our beginners quickly progressing to confident, controlled turns on the nursery slopes, while our more experienced skiers explored a wide range of runs across the resort.

Evenings were just as enjoyable, with a varied programme of activities that gave students the chance to relax, socialise and make the most of their time together beyond the slopes.

Trips like this provide invaluable opportunities for students to develop confidence, independence and teamwork, while building friendships and creating memories that will last well beyond their school years.

A huge thank you to the staff who supported the trip and helped make it such a success and well done to all the students for their enthusiasm, resilience and excellent company throughout the week!





Junior House Maths Relay

Friday lunch time played host to the annual Junior Maths Relay Race, now in its second year. Spectators were cheering along participants as they watched the chaos of mathematical minds sprinting around after maths problems in battle for their house.

A big thank you to our Sixth Form adjudicators who did some incredible problem solving. And most importantly well done to our budding KS3 mathematicians who fought it out till the end.

1st St. Andrew

2nd St. George

Joint 3rd St. Patrick and St. David



U13 A Cricket Team

U13A faced a strong Repton Prep side in an engaging contest, with plenty of positives to take despite the result.

Repton Prep, batting first, posted a competitive total of 157–6. Our bowlers worked hard throughout, with Dhyan leading the attack impressively and claiming several key wickets to keep the scoring in check. He was well supported by Autumn, who delivered an excellent spell and picked up two important wickets, helping to apply pressure during the middle overs.

In reply, U14A showed determination but were unable to build the partnerships needed to chase down the target, finishing on 104–7. There were moments of promise with the bat, but Repton Prep's disciplined bowling and fielding made scoring difficult.

Overall, it was a good, competitive game played in the right spirit. Plenty to learn from, and the team now looks ahead with confidence to the next match.



U13 B Cricket Team

The Derby High Under 13B Cricket team put in a spirited performance in their opening match of the term against Repton Prep, despite falling just short in the final reckoning.

Repton won the toss and elected to bat first, making steady progress throughout their innings to finish on 128–4 from their 20 overs. Derby High’s bowlers worked hard and showed plenty of promise, with all those who bowled contributing positively. Benjamin was particularly effective, claiming two wickets in a sharp two-over spell. Arya, Sufyaan and Salar each delivered disciplined four-over spells, conceding 19 runs apiece and helping to keep the scoring under control.

In the field, Tom and Yedidia produced good catches in the latter stages of the innings, maintaining pressure on the Repton batsmen and preventing the total from climbing even higher.

Chasing 129, Derby High opened with Seth and Yedidia, who batted with composure and purpose. Although the pair were slightly behind the required run rate in the early stages, they built a solid platform and kept the team in contention. As the innings progressed, both batsmen began to accelerate, giving Derby High a genuine chance of pulling off the chase.

Seth was eventually dismissed in the 18th over for a well-made 41, while Yedidia carried his bat through most of the innings before being out on the final ball for an impressive 39. Their efforts guided Derby High to 116–3, a competitive total but just 12 runs short of the target.

While the result did not go their way, there were many positives to take from the performance, particularly in the bowling discipline, and the resilience shown in the run chase. A promising start to the term that the team can build on in the matches ahead.



LAMDA Results

Last term, a group of our students took part in their LAMDA examinations. They demonstrated incredible dedication throughout their preparation, and their performances on the day were truly outstanding.

We are delighted to share that 8 students achieved a Distinction and 5 were awarded a Merit. Congratulations to everyone who took part — you should be immensely proud of your achievements!

LAMDA

Parent Reminder: Absence from School

Please be reminded that school should be informed of all instances or requests for absence by emailing either absence@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk (senior school students) or ringing and speaking to Student Reception.

The email message should include the student's name, the student's tutor group, the dates and the reason for absence. Please note, that the email must come from the address parents have previously registered on ISAMs (school database).

If the absence is unplanned and parents/guardians are notifying school on the first day of absence, they must contact school before 8.30am in the morning. This is when we run our absence reports and are required to contact parents about any unexplained absences.

This applies from Year 7 to Year 13.

Safeguarding Corner

Exam Season

With the onset of spring and summer, we not only see longer days and more sunshine, but also exam season hurtling towards us! With this in mind, Mrs Bellman wanted to share a couple of useful links that you and your children may find useful.

The first is a PowerPoint presentation you could work through with your child in preparation for the exam period, and the second is a video containing several examples of strategies to help us regulate if we are feeling anxious.

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

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

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 27th April – GCSE Art and Design Examination

Tuesday 28th April - GCSE Art and Design Examination

Tuesday 28th April – Year 10 Geography Field trip to Preston Mount – Departs

Wednesday 29th April – Year 10 Geography Field trip to Preston Mount – Returns

Thursday 20th April – Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

Friday 1st May – Year 11 Top of the Pops and Last day before study leave

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 – First GCSE exam

Thursday 7th May – Year 13 Leavers' evening

Friday 8th May – A Level Art Exam

Friday 8th May – Breakfast for Year 13 & Last day before study leave

Useful Links