



Senior High Notes Friday 5th June

Dear Parents

There is always something rather special about the final half term of the academic year. Whilst September is full of new beginnings, June is often a time for reflection. It is the point at which we begin to look back and realise just how much has been achieved, how much has been learned and, perhaps most importantly, how much our young people have grown.

For our Year 7, 8 and 9 students, examinations are now behind them. I hope they have taken the opportunity not simply to think about the grades they receive, but to reflect on the habits, resilience and determination they have developed through the process. Learning how to prepare, persevere and recover from setbacks are lessons that will serve them long after individual test scores have faded from memory.

For our Year 11 and Year 13 students, the finish line is now in sight. I continue to be immensely proud of the calm, mature and thoughtful way they have approached this important period. Whatever the outcome, they should know that success is measured not only by results, but by the character they have shown along the way.

The weeks ahead also remind us that school life is about so much more than examinations. Sports Day is fast approaching, and we look forward to welcoming families to what is always one of the highlights of the year on Friday 26th June. There are concerts, performances, celebrations and many other opportunities for our students to showcase their talents, support one another and enjoy being part of our community.

In many ways, this final half term brings together everything that Derby High seeks to be. There is academic challenge, certainly, but there is also creativity, teamwork, friendship and kindness. As one chapter of the year draws to a close, there is still so much to enjoy together.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 9 Engineers

On Wednesday, our Year 9 engineers journeyed to the headquarters of West Midlands Railway, in Birmingham, to present their final report on the redevelopment of Snow Hill station at their celebration day.

The celebration day is the culmination of 5 months' work, both individually and in mentored lunchtime sessions, including station visits to both Snow Hill and the award-winning University Stations. Armed with a £4,000,000 budget, the three teams were tasked with improving the environment of the station for both employees and passengers alike. They discussed the progress of their project, including their team roles, throughout the day with many diverse employees from West Midlands Railways. As always, they were all super ambassadors for Derby High school!

Many thanks go to the STEM for schools' team at West Midlands Railway for their invaluable support throughout the project.

The teams:

Steve the Steam Engine: Kara, Charlotte, Sophie, Evie, Harry, Zoe

Thomas the Tank Engine: Finian, Jack, Henry, Trisha, Elise, Aarav

Smoking Steam Engines: Eesha, Roshni, Damla, Jakey, Lucy



Year 9 Rounders Tournament Report

The Year 9 girls competed enthusiastically in a rounder's tournament, showing determination and teamwork throughout the afternoon.

In the opening match against Chellaston, the team faced a strong opposition and were defeated 5½ rounders to 9. Despite the result, there were some excellent individual performances and positive fielding moments.

The second game saw a much-improved performance against Woodlands. The team batted confidently, scoring an impressive 8½ rounders while restricting their opponents to 4½. Strong decision-making on the field and consistent batting secured a well-deserved victory.

In the final match against West Park, the girls battled hard but were unable to maintain their momentum, losing 1½ rounders to 3½. The team continued to work hard in the field and supported one another throughout the game.



Student Librarian News

Congratulations to Summer, Ishika and Sophie (Year 8) for completing their Student Librarian training and creating a fabulous 'Summer Reads' display! They have been an asset to the team this year and are all around excellent librarians.

House Competitions

Our library-based house competitions are progressing very nicely. Please use this weekend and next as your final opportunity to submit a piece of writing for our house creative writing competition and get reading to submit a quote slip for house reading!

Applications and Reapplications Open

Applications are now open to be a Student Librarian next academic year!

Please collect an application from Miss Ridley in the Library and return it to her by Friday 26th June 2026. This is a wonderful opportunity open to Year 8 upwards (current Year 7's can apply ready for next year). You will receive training on everything you need to know about being a student librarian as well as a selection of tasks to complete throughout the year. You'll earn a badge to wear with pride and a special prize when you finish your training. If you have any questions before you apply, please ask Miss Ridley.

Miss Ridley also has reapplication forms for those who wish to be part of the team again next year and have finished their training this year.

Equestrian Success for Derby High School

The bank holiday weekend saw Tabitha (Year 7), Jessica (Year 8) and their ponies make the long journey down to the The All England Jumping Course, Hickstead in West Sussex to represent Derby High School at the National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) National Inter County Championships.

Despite the weather being extremely hot, both girls and ponies were brilliant against some very good competition in huge classes. They did Derby High proud and were in the top 8 prize giving in almost all their classes: Jessica placing 6th in her showjumping class and Tabitha gaining a 2nd and 8th in the showjumping and 8th in the dressage. It was a fantastic experience for them against the top school equestrian teams in the country and they hope to qualify and compete there again next year.



Visit to Kiwi House

Residents and staff at Kiwi House Care Home were delighted to welcome Miss Ridley for a special visit. The home's poetry club, which has been running successfully for four years, celebrated the publication of its first book at Christmas, featuring 40 poems written by past and present residents with support and encouragement from their families and staff.

During her visit, Miss Ridley shared some of her poetry, inspiring residents and sparking lively discussions. Residents were especially thrilled when she encouraged them to write poems inspired by the fascinating artwork created by Derby High Students, copies of which she had brought along to share with the group.



Evelyn's Success

Evelyn, Year 8, has been accepted onto a course with The John Locke Institute at Oxford. She will be spending 10 days over the summer in Oxford exploring an introduction to Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Here's some details from the website

A comprehensive introduction to philosophy, politics, and economics. Students cover ethics, epistemology, political philosophy, political economy, microeconomics, game theory, and the history of political thought. This interdisciplinary programme develops analytical skills and intellectual confidence through engaging with fundamental questions about knowledge, justice, and human behaviour.

Well done, Evelyn!

Individual Portrait Photos

If you ordered a portrait photograph before the deadline, these are now available for collection from Student Reception. Please encourage your child to collect their photograph at their earliest convenience.

Senior School Assembly

This week in assembly, students have watched a video by the musician Jacob Collier, improvising a performance in San Francisco. The video can be found here: [Jacob Collier Improvises With Orchestra \(Live in San Francisco\)](#)

Mrs Bellman asked the students to think about why she wanted to share this with them and what the 'message' might be. Mrs Bellman was so impressed by the thoughtful and considered responses from our students regarding teamwork, kindness and diversity.

What a wonderful community we have here at Derby High!

Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast: In2 – Misogynistic Phrases

In this week's podcast Mrs Bellman (Deputy Head – Pastoral) and Mrs Ley (Head of Year 8) discuss misogynistic phrases parents should be aware of and to look out for. To listen, please [Click Here](#)



**Safeguarding Podcast: In2 –
Misogynistic Phrases**
Derby High School Podcasts

 Spotify

Episode • 2m 38s

For more information on this topic please see the links below.

[The 'toxic' manosphere terms every parent should know | Metro News](#)

[The 'misogynistic' phrases every parent needs to look out for — especially if you have a boy | Metro News](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 8th June – Year 10 Sixth Form Taster Day

Wednesday 10th June – Year 12 JCB Presentation trip to JCB HQ

Friday 12th June – Year 7 Trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Saturday 13th June – Alumni Summer Get – Together

Monday 15th June – Year 12 Geography Field Work Trip

Tuesday 16th June - Senior School Experience day for Year 5

Tuesday 16th June – Year 12 Learning Reviews (In Person)

Thursday 18th June – Eco Club Talk from Derby Council Recycling Team

Friday 19th – Sunday 21ST June – Silver Duke of Edinburgh Qualifier

Useful Links