High Notes

Senior High Notes Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents

It has been an absolute joy to welcome our senior school pupils back this week. As we begin a new academic year, there is a palpable sense of energy, anticipation, and possibility in the corridors.

On Thursday, I had the pleasure of leading my first assembly of the year, focused on a theme that resonates deeply both in school and beyond: **high performance and non-negotiables**. My assembly was inspired by a podcast I regularly listen to, called High Performance, which I find both fascinating and thought-provoking. Each episode features conversations with people at the top of their field, from athletes and artists to business leaders, exploring the choices, habits, and standards that drive their success. I wanted to share some of these ideas with the students because they illustrate in a very tangible way what it means to set personal standards that you will not compromise, and how these standards connect to ambition, resilience, and personal growth. Through examples from the podcast, we reflected on the importance of identifying our own non-negotiables, the personal habits and values that we commit to following every day, and thinking about how these choices shape the year ahead.

As part of the assembly, our Head Prefects read Robert Frost's poem, "The Road Not Taken", which reinforced the idea that choosing the harder, less obvious path often leads to growth, learning, and meaningful achievement.

I encourage you as parents to continue this conversation at home. We value the role parents play in supporting the conversations we start at school. By discussing what matters most to your child this year, you help them reflect on the choices they make and work in partnership with the school to achieve their best.

We also marked the start of the year with our procession of the school banners, led by our Head Prefects and House Captains. This is a wonderful way to begin the academic year, bringing the school together and setting the tone for the months ahead.

Earlier in August, we shared the Head of Year videos for each year group. We hope that you found these helpful in supporting a positive start to the school year. We have been very pleased with the level of engagement, and it has been encouraging to see so many families taking the time to watch and reflect on the guidance provided. I do hope that you will also be able to join us for one of our parent breakfasts, which provide a valuable opportunity to ask questions, share thoughts, and reconnect with staff and the wider school community.

I am excited to see how each student will define and achieve their own high performance this year, and the choices they will make along the "road less travelled" that Frost so beautifully describes.

Here's to a year of growth, courage, and meaningful achievement.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

LAMDA Results

Before the summer holidays, our LAMDA students sat their examinations, and we are delighted to share that several achieved a distinction. Congratulations to Santhosh (Year 7), Eesher (Year 8), Simren (Year 9), Zach (Year 9), and Atri (Year 13). A fantastic achievement—well done to you all!

Parents' Breakfast

Over the coming week, we are pleased to invite parents to join us for breakfast in The Refectory as we celebrate the start of the new academic year. This will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parents and extend a warm welcome to those new to Derby High.

All parents will have received a copy of a High Post with further details.

Congratulations Harley!

Harley (Year 8) is celebrating an incredible milestone — he has officially signed with Burton FC! This is a huge achievement and an amazing opportunity for Harley. Well done, Harley!

Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast; In2 Keeping Children Safe in Education

In our first podcast of this academic year, Mrs. Bellman (Deputy Head - Pastoral & DLS) and Miss Jordan (Senior Deputy Head) discuss this year's update to KCSiE - Keeping Children Safe in Education.

To listen to the podcast please click here.

Below is the link Mrs. Bellman refers to in the podcast;

How to Review Information Before You Share It

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 11th September – KS4 and KS5 Parents' Breakfast

Friday 12th September – KS3 Parents' Breakfast

Friday 12th September – Derby Community Musical Festival

Friday 12th September – House Netball Year 7-10