



Senior High Notes Friday 6th February 2026

Dear Parents

I spoke in Senior School assembly today about something I am genuinely looking forward to, the Winter Olympics, which began this week. I suspect many of you are too. There is something about the Olympics that draws us in: the dedication behind the scenes, the drama of competition, and the sheer commitment it takes to perform at that level.

Rather than focusing on medals and podiums, the assembly explored one of the most memorable Olympic stories of all, Eddie the Eagle. Eddie Edwards represented Great Britain in ski jumping at the 1988 Winter Olympics with very little funding, limited training opportunities, and no expectation of success. He finished last, yet became a national hero because of his courage, perseverance, and willingness to try.

We watched the trailer for Eddie the Eagle movie, a wonderful, uplifting film and a great family watch, and used it as a way of reflecting on how success is often defined. As young people grow older, it can feel increasingly risky to attempt things they might not immediately excel at. Eddie's story reminds us that growth rarely comes from playing it safe, but from stepping beyond comfort zones and being prepared to be imperfect.

As the Winter Olympics unfold over the coming weeks, there will be extraordinary moments of sporting excellence to admire. Alongside these, we hope pupils take away a quieter but equally important message: resilience, courage, and the willingness to keep going matter just as much as winning. If you are looking for a feel-good family film to watch, Eddie the Eagle is a firm favourite and a wonderful starting point for conversations about perseverance and resilience.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Senior House Music and Senior Music Recital

The past two weeks have been exceptionally busy in the Music Department. During this time, our Senior Music teachers have listened to over 100 entries across the House Music competition categories, including vocal, instrumental, and ensemble performances, in both the Intermediate and Senior heats. The standard of performance has been outstanding, and our Senior Music teachers now face the challenging task of selecting finalists for the final, which will take place on Tuesday 3rd March.

The week concluded with our Senior Recital last night, showcasing the talents of our A Level students, Music Scholars and musicians from across the senior school. The programme featured a rich and varied selection of music and clearly reflected the dedication, discipline, and artistry of our young musicians at Derby High School.

We are extremely proud of all those who took part.



Oxford Schools' Debating Competition.

On Monday 2nd February, members of the school's Senior Debating Club took part in the Oxford Schools' Debating Competition in Birmingham. This was the team's first time debating competitively and they showed a great deal of skill when faced with some very experienced debaters.

The motions discussed focused on whether heavy topics should be included in children's media, as well as whether universities should follow a collegiate or centralised model of administration. Both teams were praised by the adjudicators for their lines of argument and ability to rebut their opponents' points. Though neither team progressed to the Finals' Day, all students gained a lot from the experience and are looking forward to building on this performance at the next competition.

If any other students would like to join the Debating Team, please do encourage them to speak to Mrs Hay.



Year 10 Netball

On Friday afternoon, our Year 10 netball team delivered a fantastic performance against Twycross House School in a friendly fixture.

The team flew out of the blocks with a powerful opening quarter, storming to a 7 - 0 lead through sharp movement, confident shooting, and relentless defensive pressure. The momentum continued into the second quarter, with Derby High controlling the game and linking play brilliantly across the court to extend the lead to 14 - 2 at half time.

The third and fourth quarters saw some positional rotations to keep the game enjoyable and give everyone opportunities to shine, but the intensity and quality never dropped. Derby High continued to dominate, leading 16 - 2 before finishing strongly to secure an impressive 23 - 9 victory.

Amelie was deservedly voted Players' Player by the opposition - a fantastic achievement. Every player contributed to what was a brilliant team performance and a well-earned win for Derby High - a big well done to everyone who played!



Please Support Mrs E - Public Voting Now Open!

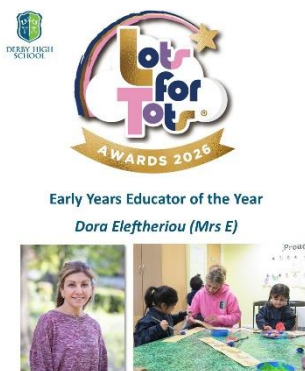
You may recall that last term we asked for your support in voting for Mrs E in the Lots for Tots Awards. We are delighted to share that she has now been shortlisted as a finalist in the category Early Years Educator of the Year.

Public voting has reopened, and every vote truly counts. If you previously voted to help Mrs E reach the shortlist, we would be very grateful for your continued support as we now aim for the final stage — winning the award.

You can view a short video explaining what this recognition would mean to Mrs E here: [CLICK HERE](#)

To vote, please select Dora Eleftheriou under Early Years Educator of the Year at the following link: [Vote - Lots for Tots](#)

Thank you for taking a moment to support Mrs E and her outstanding contribution to early years education.



Library News

A massive well done to our team of year 10's Emily L, Caitlin K, Aashi K, Lydia B and Matti W for earning their librarian badges. Miss Ridley has been so impressed with the support they have shown each other, and how they've taken to the tasks as new and returning librarians.

Tickets on Sale - A Midsummer Night's Dream

We are delighted to announce tickets are now on sale for our Senior school drama production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, a Shakespearean comedy about love, magic, and mistaken identity. The performance will be held on Friday 20th March at 6.00pm in the Senior Hall.

Set in a forest near Athens, it follows lovers and fairies whose lives are disrupted by a mischievous love potion. The play explores how unpredictable love can be and celebrates the power of imagination. Our cast of students have been working extremely hard in rehearsals and are excited about performing to their guests.

Tickets are available from senior student reception; the suggested donation is £5 per ticket. Cash only, please.

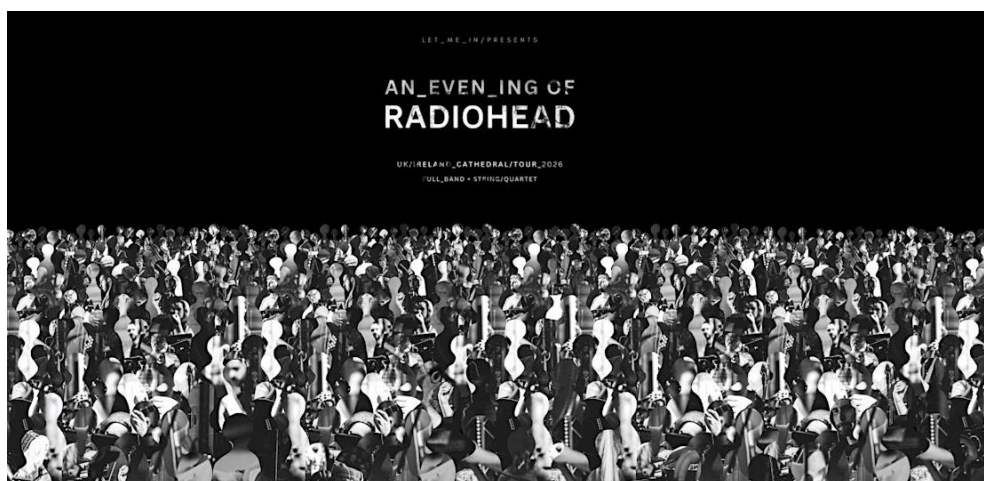
We hope you can join us for a memorable performance of this comedic tale.



An Evening of Radiohead - Performing in Midlands Cathedrals 2026

One of our talented peripatetic teachers, Mr Nowland, is performing in An Evening of Radiohead this weekend at Lichfield Cathedral and in July at Derby Cathedral. The event features a full live band, vocalists & string quartet to faithfully recreate the iconic music of Radiohead.

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



Derby Book Festival

Derby Book Festival will be hosting a 'Day of Bookish Fun' on Saturday 28th February 10am to 4am at Derby Market Hall for a day filled with free storytelling fun. For more information on this please follow <https://www.derbybookfestival.co.uk/whats-on/the-big-world-book-day-party>



Second Hand Uniform Shop

Second Hand Uniform Shop Appointments can now be made for during the February Half Term please note that the uniform shop will only be open on Monday and Tuesday of the Half Term Holiday. If you would like to book an appointment, please email Mrs Holland on, uniform@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk or call main reception on 01332 514267. Thank you

School Blazer Sale

School Blazer will be running a Spring sale from 9th to 13th February 2026. There will be up to 1/3rd off selected in-stock items online at schoolblazer.com during the sale period, while stocks last.

A red rectangular banner for the School Blazer sale. At the top, 'schoolblazer' is written in white lowercase letters. Below it, the word 'SALE' is in large, bold, white uppercase letters inside a white rectangular box. Underneath 'SALE', the text 'up to' is in small white letters, followed by '1/3rd OFF' in large, white, stylized letters. Below this, 'Selected in-stock items*' is written in small white letters. A dashed white rectangular box contains the dates '9th - 13th February 2026' in a white script font. At the very bottom, in small white text, it says 'Online only, see details here' and 'Please note that items can be exchanged at the sale price up to 28 days after the sale has ended.'

Activate Camps at Derby High School - Easter and Summer Holidays

Activate camps are returning to Derby High School during the Easter and Summer holidays.

Easter Multi Sport Camp 30th March to 2nd April (5 years to 14 years 11 months)

Summer Multi Sport Camp 27th July to 21st August (5 years to 14 years 11 months)

For more information and to book click the following link [Derby High School - Activate Camps](#)

Parents and guardians can now access our 10% Earlybird Discount when they book at least 4 weeks before the start of each camp, using code EARLY10.

Activate Camps

AT

DERBY HIGH SCHOOL

ACTIVATE YOUR 2026 CAMPS!

MULTI SPORT CAMP

30 MAR-2 APR
& 27-31 JUL & 3-7 AUG
& 10-14 AUG & 17-21 AUG

NETBALL FEVER

4-6 AUG

SPORT AND ACTIVITY HOLIDAY CAMPS AT
DERBY HIGH SCHOOL, DE23 3DT

Activate Camps

www.activatecamps.co.uk
0121 227 4385
info@activatecamps.co.uk

SAFE AND APPROVED
PROACTIVE
Ofsted

FIND OUT MORE

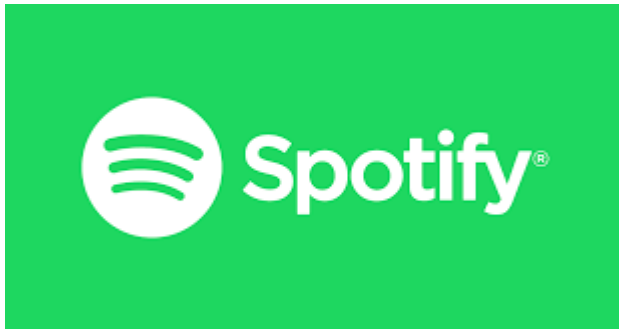
Safeguarding Corner

Follow us on Spotify for Our Weekly Safeguarding Podcasts

We are delighted to announce that all our previous safeguarding podcasts are now on Spotify. We launched our safeguarding podcast in Summer 2024 and since then we have recorded almost 60 episodes!

We will now be posting our weekly podcasts on Spotify so please do follow for regular new weekly podcasts on a variety of safeguarding topics.

To follow Derby High School on Spotify please [click here](#).



Episode 58 - Children's Mental Health Week

This week in our podcast Mrs McBride is joined by two Year 6 pupils to discuss Children's Mental Health Week. The discussion includes the importance of sleep and what we will be doing in the Primary next Friday to mark this important week.

To listen to this week's podcast please **click here**.

For more information on Children's Mental Health Week please visit the following website. [Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week - Official site](#)

Safeguarding Podcast – Sextortion

This week we are re sharing our seventh recorded episode which focuses on Sextortion. Recorded in May 2024, and led by our Deputy Head - Pastoral, Mrs Claire Bellman.

To listen to this week's podcast on Spotify please [click here](#).

If you would like to more information on this topic, please follow this link;

https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/globalassets/professional/guidance/nca_financially_motivated_sexual_extortion_alert_education_eng.pdf

Parent Webinars on County Lines and Criminal Exploitation (Iverson Trust)

The Iverson Trust (formerly Pace) is a national charity working to keep children safe from exploitation by supporting parents, disrupting exploiters, and working in partnership with police and family services. Their work is grounded in a trauma-informed, family-centred approach.

During March 2026, the Iverson Trust is delivering a series of live webinars for parents and carers focused on county lines and criminal exploitation. The sessions help parents understand how exploitation happens, how children are groomed, what warning signs to look out for, and where to access advice and support. Each webinar includes local context, time for questions, and input from a parent with lived experience.

More information and booking details are available at:

<https://iversontrust.org.uk/webinars/>

A note on Whatsapp (age rating of 13+)

Unkind and harmful participation in Whatsapp groups continues to be a problem for young people across the world. Often these young people are under the minimum age allowed to use the app worldwide, which is 13.

We continue to reinforce messages of digital etiquette in school, and we would appreciate if you took the time as parents to have a conversation with your child about their use of Whatsapp in particular (if indeed they have it) and to talk through some of the conversations they are having in these groups, especially those that are 'locked'. Online disinhibition means that young people can be tempted to say and post things that they would not do 'in real life' and this can then cause harm to others in their communities. This is particularly important if the messages sent break the Equalities Act or Malicious Communications Act.

There are two key messages to reinforce:

1. Once you've posted it, you have lost control of it
2. If you wouldn't want your family or teachers to see it, don't post it

More information can be found here: [What is WhatsApp? A safety guide for parents | Internet Matters](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 9th February – Week A

Monday 9th February - A Level Options Application forms sent out to Year 11

Monday 9th February – Year 8 trip to the Open Centre

Tuesday 10th February – Year 9 West Midlands Train Project

Wednesday 11th February – Year 9 Learning Reviews (Online)

Wednesday 11th February - Year 12 University of Derby Degree Apprenticeships Fair

Wednesday 11th February - Year 8 Symphony Hall trip

Thursday 12th February – Year 9 Learning Reviews (Online)

Thursday 12th February – Franklins Accountancy Careers Talk

Thursday 12th February – Year 11 Drama GCSE Performance

Friday 13th February – Non School Uniform to mark Childrens Mental Health Week

Friday 13th February – Last Day of Half Term – February Half Term Break Begins

Useful Links