High Notes

Senior High Notes Friday 6th June 2025

Dear Parents

One of the great strengths of our school community is the way in which parents, staff and students work together in partnership, and this has been particularly evident in your response to our recent parent survey. I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts and reflections.

The feedback we received was both heartening and insightful, with many positive comments that affirmed the work we are doing, as well as constructive suggestions that help us reflect and continue to grow. We are now carefully analysing the results and look forward to sharing a full summary with you later this month.

As we begin to turn our thoughts to the next academic year, I write to share some important staffing updates.

We will be bidding farewell to two valued colleagues at the end of this term.

Mr Jonathan Thornton, Assistant Head (Pastoral), will be returning to Loughborough Grammar School after two years at Derby High. Mr Thornton has made a significant contribution to the pastoral life of our Senior School, supporting both students and staff with care, wisdom, and consistency. We are very grateful for all that he has brought to our community and wish him every success in the next stage of his career.

Miss Mel Render will also be leaving Derby High at the end of term after an outstanding 18 years of service. Miss Render has made a lasting impact through her passionate teaching of English. Her professionalism, dedication, and unwavering care for students have shaped the experiences of so many over the years.

Looking ahead to September, we are delighted to be welcoming the following new members of staff:

Mrs Andrea Briggs – Teacher of Business (part time)

Mrs Laura Ceney – Teacher of English and Teacher in Charge of EPQ (full time)

Ms Laura Kanellis – Teacher of RS and Geography (full time)

Mr Sam Ritchie – PE Teacher (maternity cover)

Mrs Amy Thornton – Assistant Head: Behaviour and Operations (full time)

Mrs Amy Werner-Parker – Teacher of English (part time)

We look forward to introducing these new colleagues to the school community in due course and are excited for the new academic year ahead.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

U14B Cricket Match Report – vs Repton School (T20)

The U14B team faced a challenging T20 fixture against Repton School, coming away with a loss but showing moments of real promise – especially in the field.

Bowling first, we put in a spirited performance with great energy in the field. Our fielding was undoubtedly our strongest area, with several sharp catches and good communication between players. Special mention must go to Vedant, Zach, Sufyaan, Peter, and Dylan, who each claimed wickets and kept the pressure on Repton's batsmen. Despite this, too many no balls and extras gave away crucial runs, allowing Repton to reach a strong total of 127.

Finian stood out as a natural leader on the field. He took on a clear leadership role and consistently encouraged and motivated his teammates, setting a great example for the rest of the side.

Chasing 127, our batting line-up struggled to build partnerships under tight Repton bowling, and we were eventually bowled out for 58. It was a tough second innings, but the determination shown by the team was commendable.

While the result didn't go our way, there were clear positives to take forward, especially in our fielding effort and team spirit. With some focused work on our bowling discipline – especially cutting down on no balls – the team will continue to grow and improve in future fixtures.

Well done to all the players for their efforts on the day.

U13 A Team vs Repton – Match Report

The U13 A team travelled away to Repton for a closely contested match that tested the team's resilience and spirit. Batting first, we struggled to find early momentum, with several quick wickets falling and the top order unable to settle against a disciplined bowling attack.

Amid the pressure, Adi and Barney put together a determined partnership that helped stabilise the innings. They showed patience and maturity, working hard to guide the team through the remaining overs. Thanks to their efforts, we managed to reach 73 for 9 from our 20 overs — a modest total, but one that gave us something to defend.

In the field, the team responded with real energy and belief. Imran led the way with the ball, picking up key wickets and keeping the batters under pressure. The rest of the attack bowled with control and focus, and the fielders backed them up with committed efforts throughout the innings.

As wickets fell steadily, the game remained finely balanced. The boys maintained intensity right through to the 18th over, where Repton eventually reached 74 for 6 to take the win.

Final score: U13 A: 73-9 (20 overs), Repton: 74-6 (18 overs).

Although we came up just short, the match was a great example of the team's determination and fight. There were plenty of positives to take forward, and it was encouraging to see the players respond so well after a tough start.

Gold for Emily

We are thrilled to share that Emily (Year 12) won gold at the English Tumbling Championships held on Sunday, 1st June at the Telford International Centre. Competing in the Silver Grade 4 Female 15+ category, Emily delivered an outstanding performance, achieving a personal best score of 61.599 across her three runs — well above her target of 60 points.

A fantastic achievement – well done, Emily!

Congratulations to George

Following a successful season with the Derby Trailblazers U14 Boys Conference team—culminating in a Midlands League Championship win —George (Year 9) has been selected to represent the Richard Elite Team Midlands in the upcoming REBA Regional Tournament this August. His selection

came after attending the two day Richard Elite Basketball Camp over half term, where he impressed the coaches by finishing 6th on the top scorers' leader board. Well done, George!

Portrait Photos

We are delighted to confirm that the student individual portrait photos have now arrived in school.

- **Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12**: Photos have been distributed to form tutors and will be handed out during form time.
- **Year 11 and Upper Sixth**: Your photos are available for collection from **Student Reception**. Please make sure to pick them up the next time you're in school.

If you have any questions, please speak to your form tutor or visit Student Reception.

Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast, Episode 40 – Shepherds and Engineers

In this week's podcast Mr. Thornton discusses a social media post he came across over the weekend and discusses the concern of parents becoming "shepherds", rather than "engineers".

To listen to the podcast please click here.

For more information around this topic, please visit the link below.

Letting Our Children Be Who They Are Meant To Be - Cary Academy

Decoding the Online World

Here is a great link for parents - Home - For Working Parents Limited

For
Working Parents

This is a web site which provides support and resources for parents as they navigate the ups and downs of parenthood and helps guide families through the digital world.

It includes no-nonsense online safety advice for children and the option to sign up for a weekly newsletter.

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 9th June – Year 10 Sixth Form Taster Day

Thursday 19th June – L6 Learning Reviews (In Person)

Friday 20th June – Senior Sports Day

Friday 20th June – Dance Show

Wednesday 25th June – Cultural Diversity Celebration (non-uniform)

Useful Links