



Senior High Notes Friday 7th March

Dear Parents

I began this week away from school attending the Society of Heads conference, where the theme was Leading for the Future. In an ever-changing educational landscape, it is more important than ever for school leaders to collaborate, share expertise, and support one another. The challenges we face, whether in policy, wellbeing, or innovation, require forward-thinking leadership and a strong professional network. Being part of such a dynamic group ensures that we are not only responding to change but shaping the future of education for the benefit of our students. It was, therefore, a great honour to be elected to the board of the Society of Heads. This role will allow me to contribute to the wider conversation about independent education while ensuring that Derby High remains at the forefront of best practice, benefiting from and contributing to this exceptional network of schools.

Back at school, it has been a particularly busy and rewarding week. On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome so many students and parents to our Careers Fair. It was wonderful to welcome such a wide variety of employers and career opportunities, from engineering, veterinary medicine, and law to management, accountancy and medicine, along with representatives from several universities, including Exeter. Events like this provide invaluable insight and inspiration, helping students explore their future pathways. However, this is just one part of the outstanding careers provision we offer at Derby High, led by our Head of Careers, Miss Riley. I would like to thank her for organising such a brilliant and well attended evening.

Thursday evening brought another highlight of the week, the House Music Winners' Recital. This wonderful evening of music showcased the exceptional talent within our school community, and it was a joy to see students performing with such skill and passion. Music continues to be a strength of Derby High, and this recital was a fitting celebration of the dedication and hard work of our young musicians.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Senior House Music Winners' Recital

Last night's programme featured performances by winners of the various solo sections in our House Music competition. Congratulations to all of our performers and to all other students who performed in the heats and the finals. Thank you to all of our peripatetic music teachers for preparing our students and to Mrs Lesley and Mrs Storey for such a wonderful evening.



Netball Tournament

On Wednesday, an U12 netball team travelled to Repton School to play in a friendly U12/U13 Netball Tournament. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon, and there was plenty of netball. The team played 7 games of netball, each game 10 minutes one way - so plenty of running around.

Derby High had the toughest games first, playing a strong Oakham A team and also a Repton A team. Our team was made up of Year 7 students and most schools played their Year 8s in their A team, so the team should be very proud of their efforts. The first game against Oakham was a tough one, but the team never gave up and always did their best - the final score was a 16-0 win for Oakham. Against Repton A, the team had settled into the game and listened to some key feedback between the fixtures. This was a much closer game, with Imogen scoring for us, and the final score being a 6-1 win for Repton. The team took great pride in the next game, where they beat Worksop College B team 4-1 - the team moved the ball up the court with confidence and we had plenty of opportunities

to score - both Imogen and Chloe secured some great goals, well done, and Gabrielle and Lara were relentless in their improved marking in the defensive circle. The team had one other game before a break, and the girls were certainly starting to tire. However, they dug deep and really worked hard, again building on lots of feedback from the break - it was a tight game, but Oakham B's managed to win 8-2.

After a bit of a break and re-grouping in the shade, the team took on Bromsgrove, the eventual tournament winners. Plenty of movement around the court was evident, and they all did their best to defend and keep to their players. Bromsgrove secured the win, 11-0. Our penultimate game was against Repton Bs (their Year 7 team), which was a super one! The girls linked effectively together, developing more power in their passing and some improved tactical awareness, particularly in the centre court by Autumn and Jessica. The game finished a close 2-1 win for Repton. The team kept that momentum up into their final game of the afternoon, which was against Worksop College A team. Yet another tight and end-to-end game, the girls were fiercely competitive in all areas of the court. The game ended as a 3-3 draw, and a really positive end to the tournament!

After some teas, it was announced that the team finished in joint 6th place - a fantastic achievement and the team were a credit to Derby High. Always polite, sportsmanlike throughout and determined through every game! A big well done to everyone who took part - it was a fab afternoon!



House Football

Last week, the much-anticipated House Football tournament kicked off for Years 7-9, with each house fielding a squad of 10 players for fast-paced 7-a-side matches. The competition followed a round-robin format, and with the sun shining brightly, the atmosphere was electric as teams battled it out on the pitch.

The junior matches were fiercely contested, and every house showed determination and team spirit. As we head into today's senior tournament for Years 10-13, the overall winner is still up for grabs, with both junior and senior points combined to determine the final standings.

As it stands (lunchtime today):

- 1st place: St Andrew
- Joint 2nd: St George and St Patrick
- 3rd place: St David

It's all to play for today — good luck to all the teams! Who will be crowned House Football champions? Stay tuned and this will announced next week.



Good Luck, Derby High Swing Band

Our Swing Band recorded their submission for the Music for Youth Regional Festival 2025 this past Monday evening. Music for Youth celebrates the extraordinary talent of young musicians across the UK, bringing together over 30,000 young artists each year. Over the years, they have collaborated with thousands of ensembles, groups, and bands, giving many the opportunity to perform at their National Festival in internationally renowned venues. For countless groups, this experience has led to performances at the Royal Albert Hall and even opportunities to perform at events across the globe.

The band's 10-minute performance will be submitted as part of our digital entry through the Mentor Connects programme. Their set featured a captivating blend of three pieces that highlighted their exceptional talent: *Lullaby of Birdland* by George Weiss and George Shearing (arr. Rick Stitzel), *The Nearness of You* (Flugelhorn Feature) by Hoagy Carmichael and Ned Washington (arr. Mark Taylor), and *Caravan* by Duke Ellington, Irving Mills, and Juan Tizol (arr. John Berry).

A huge congratulations to our young musicians—best of luck in the competition! We can't wait to hear how it unfolds.

To watch the full performance on [YouTube](#) please click here.



Derby High School Swing Band - Music For Youth Regional Festival 2025

Sixth Form Theatre Trip – A Street Car Named Desire

On Tuesday evening, A Level students visited The Crucible in Sheffield to see a production of Tennessee Williams' 'A Streetcar Named Desire'.

The production brought the set text to life with its clever lighting, atmospheric music, brutal symbolism and revolving stage. The stellar cast - Joanna Vanderham playing the tragic Blanche and Jake Dunn playing a menacing Stanley - created a gripping and visceral experience, which left several of us weeping tears of empathy.

A good time was had by all.



Careers Fair

On Wednesday evening, we held our biennial Careers Fair at school, which was a great success. Many students and their parents were able to engage with a variety of employers from a wide range of sectors, including accountants, solicitors, vets, engineers, data analysts, doctors and technology developers. We also had a number of universities from up and down the country supporting the event.

The evening enabled our students to explore what skills, qualifications and attributes employers are looking for and begin the journey towards their future careers. Students were able to make connections with employers to set up work experience and potentially to go on to apply for degree apprenticeships.

Many thanks to those parents who supported the event as stallholders.



World Book Day

This is always a very special week in March, both World Book Day and International Women's Day fall just a few days apart. To celebrate both of these important days in our calendar the library has focused its displays on women writers and particularly influential female characters that have stood the test of time or redefined what it is to be a heroine.

The official theme for World Book Day this year is 'read your way'. In our form time activities and in the library, students were also encouraged to engage with literature and reading in their own way. Such as through discussions and activities centred on audiobooks, finding inspiration for what to read and engaging with the creativity which reading often inspires, such as our bookmark competition.

There were also plenty of titles which were new to the library for students to browse and borrow. But we also have plenty of £1 world book day tokens in the library! So students can still come along to collect those and continue your reading journey at home with a brand-new book of your own.



Your bookmarks can be any design but should be visually appealing to a variety of students. You can draw it or design it digitally. But please no AI art.

Bookmark measurements: 5.5cm x 15.5cm

(Card bookmark guides can be collected from the library)

The winner will have their bookmark available for anyone and everyone to take. They will also get to pick a book for the library to purchase and dedicated in their honor.

We will also make the bookmarks of the two runners up available too, in smaller quantities.

The Wizard of Oz – Senior School Music Production 20th & 21st March

Tickets are now available for The Wizard of Oz on Thursday, March 20th and Friday, March 21st! Our talented students have been working incredibly hard during rehearsals, and they are eager to showcase their performances in this magical musical. Don't miss out on the chance to support them and enjoy a fantastic show. Get your tickets now from Student Reception and join us for a memorable evening of adventure down the yellow brick road! Donation suggestion for tickets; Adults are £10, 18 years and under, plus concessions are £5. A programme and refreshments will be available for guests on the night.



Easter egg Collection

We are continuing our annual tradition of collecting Easter eggs for YMCA Derby, to support those in need across Derbyshire. If you would like to contribute, please bring an Easter egg to main reception by Monday, 24th March. Last year, YMCA Derby were over the moon with the generosity of our community and our primary school children loved helping to load the mountain of eggs into the YMCA van.

Thank you in advance for your donations.



Safeguarding Corner

Episode 33; Safeguarding Podcast In2 – Ramadan

This week Mrs Saunders, Teacher of Religious Studies, brings our safeguarding podcast to us with a discussion about Ramadan, with thanks to our two of our senior students, Zainab and Ibrahim.

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



Recommended additional content on Ramadan for senior students, please follow the links below:

[Ramadan: A Journey Across Britain - ITVX](#)

Watching and Browsing Online - Internet Matters

According to Ofcom, 90% of children are watching online videos and browsing the internet regularly. Children may love to stream videos and look up information, it's a fun way to

learn and relax after all but they must be guided. The e-space is filled with inappropriate content and dangerous material. It is important that parents and even teachers, are able to steer their pupils and youngsters, towards the right places when online. Internet Matters has published a guide dedicated to supporting adults in setting digital boundaries for children, so that they can make smart choices and build healthy online habits. In the Internet Matters guide you'll find practical tips on managing content access, the use of safety controls, advice on setting boundaries and ways to educate children on how to stay secure online. If interested please follow the link below:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/watching-and-browsing-online-a-parents-guide/>

Dates For Your Diary

Sunday 9th March – Senior Production Technical rehearsal

Monday 10th March – Year 12 Geography Field trip departs

Wednesday 12th March – Year 12 Geography Field trip returns

Wednesday 12th March - Year 8 Learning Review (online)

Thursday 13th March – Year 8 Learning Review (online)

Useful Links