



Senior High Notes Friday 8th May

Dear Parents

This week has been a very special and emotional one at Derby High School as we celebrated our wonderful Year 13 students — the Class of 2026 — before they head off on study leave and begin their final examinations.

There has been such a lovely atmosphere around school all week. From the laughter and creativity of fancy dress to shared memories, final lessons and celebrations with staff and friends, Year 13 have embraced their final days at Derby High with warmth, humour and genuine appreciation for one another.

On Thursday evening, it was wonderful to welcome parents, staff and students to our Leavers' Celebration, a chance to pause together and reflect on the remarkable journey this year group has taken.

During the evening, I shared a line from Disney's Happily Ever After that has stayed with me throughout the week:

"Each of us has a dream... a heart's desire. It calls to us. And when we're brave enough to listen, and bold enough to pursue, that dream leads us on a journey to discover who we're meant to be."

Those words feel incredibly fitting for this year group. Because education is about so much more than grades, qualifications or destinations. It is about becoming. Becoming more confident, more resilient, more compassionate and more certain of who we are. Over the years, we have watched this year group grow into thoughtful, kind and impressive young adults ready to step out into the world.

For some students, their Derby High journey began in Pre-School or Reception, whilst others joined us along the way. Together, they have shaped the story of this school and, in many ways, the future of it too. This Year 13 cohort will always hold a particularly special place in Derby High history as the very first co-educational Year 7 cohort in the Senior School. They were the first group to begin this new chapter in the life of the school, arriving at a moment of change and helping to shape what Derby High would become. There was no blueprint for co-education in the Senior School. Together, they helped create the culture, warmth and sense of community that now feels such a natural part

of Derby High life. Future generations will simply see this as the way Derby High has always been, but this year group led the way with openness, kindness and maturity, helping to shape the school we are today.

As a school, we are incredibly proud of all that this year group has achieved, but much more importantly, we are proud of the people they have become.

I would also like to thank our Year 13 parents. A leavers' celebration is always a reminder of the importance of true partnership between home and school. Throughout the years, families have supported, encouraged, celebrated, worried, proofread essays, applauded from the sidelines and walked every step of this journey alongside their children. We are deeply grateful for the trust and support shown to Derby High over so many years.

One of the other lyrics from Happily Ever After says:

"Every step we take brings a new hope, a new day."

And now, a new chapter begins for the Class of 2026.

Whilst examinations are naturally the immediate focus, this is also a moment filled with excitement, possibility and adventure. University, apprenticeships, travel, new friendships and opportunities await.

And perhaps my favourite line of all from the song is this:

"It's just beginning..."

Because despite all they have already achieved, the truth is that their story is only just beginning.

We wish all our Year 13 students the very best as they begin their examinations and look ahead to the exciting journeys still to come. Derby High will always be part of their story, and they will always hold a special place in ours.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Good Luck Year 13

Last night, Year 13 students, their parents, and teaching staff came together in their finest attire to celebrate Year 13 Leavers' Night. Guests were welcomed with drinks and a buffet, all accompanied by the fantastic sounds of Mr Bournon's band, before taking their seats for an evening of speeches and prize-giving. There were plenty of laughs as memories were shared, and perhaps even a tear or two as the evening reflected on their time at school.

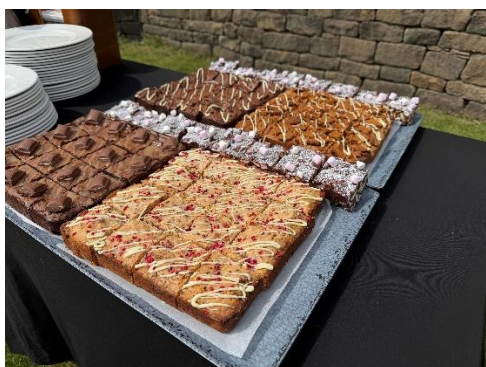


Year 13 marked their final day before study leave with a celebratory breakfast. In a nostalgic nod to their early school days, they wore their old school uniforms and attended a special assembly before lunchtime, where the entire year group received a warm round of applause from the rest of the Senior School.



The day concluded in true Derby High style, with cake on the Head's Lawn. Thank you to Mrs Knowlson for the delicious brownies!

We wish them every success in their upcoming exams and future endeavours. They have been a phenomenal year group and will be greatly missed.



House Art 2026

This year's House Art theme was 'The Sea'. Students and staff had the opportunity to showcase their creativity by producing artwork inspired by what the sea means to them. Once again, the standard of entries was exceptionally high.

Students and staff were invited to vote for their favourite pieces, and we would like to congratulate everyone who took part — you should all be very proud of your work.

The results are as follows:

- People's Choice Joint Runners-Up: Zainab, Year 13, and Niamh, Year 7
- People's Choice Winner: Ashwin, Year 9
- Art & Design Department Choice Joint Winners: Maya, Year 8, and Jasmine, Year 12

Congratulations also to Mrs Hewitt, who was the staff winner.



Derby High Share Competition - Final Results

And just like that, the competition has come to a close! It's been an exhilarating ride since November, with the leaderboard lead changing hands a staggering 16 times.

Our investors showed incredible savvy, yielding an impressive average return of £1,733. A huge well done to everyone who participated and navigated the bumpy ride of the market.

The Champions' Circle;

Congratulations to our Year Group and Category winners:

Year 7: Isabella (7.1)

Year 8: Imran (8.1)

Year 9: Aarav (9.1)

Year 10: Phoebe (10.2)

Year 11: Flynn (11.1)

Sixth Form: Zoha (U6)

Staff: Mr Wesley

Best House: St. Andrew

A special congratulations to our overall winner, Mr Wesley (now a two-time champion!), proving that it's not how you start but how you finish, he climbed from last place in Week 1 to a commanding victory. His all-in strategy on Fresno paid off handsomely, securing him the top spot with a lead of over £550.

Thank you to all who made this year's competition so competitive and unpredictable! Please check your emails to see your final position.

Senior and Sixth Form Open Evening

Our next Senior and Sixth Form Open Evening is on Wednesday 13th May, 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

Members of our Senior Leadership Team will be available throughout the evening in the Refectory to meet with families and answer any questions you may have.

Guided tours will also run regularly, offering the opportunity to explore our specialist teaching facilities and classrooms.



Uniform shop appointments

If you would like to visit the second hand uniform shop during the half term, please email Mrs Holland at uniform@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk to arrange an appointment. Thank you.

Safeguarding Corner

In this week's podcast Mrs Bellman (Deputy Head - Pastoral) and Mrs McBride (Primary Assistant Head - Pastoral) talk about next week's Mental Health Awareness Week. Hosted by the Mental

Health Foundation, the week's theme is "take action". Mrs Bellman and Mrs McBride chat through their top tips to help and support mental health.

To listen to the podcast please [click here](#).

For more information on Mental Health Awareness Week please click the following link: [Mental Health Awareness Week](#) | [Mental Health Foundation](#)



**Safeguarding Podcast Episode
68: In 2 Mental Health
Awareness Week**
Derby High School Podcasts

 Spotify

Episode • 2m 32s

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 11th May – First A Level Exam

Wednesday 13th May – Senior and Sixth Form Open Evening 5pm to 7pm

Monday 18th May – Senior School exam week (Year 7 -12)

Friday 22nd May – 3.45pm May half term week begins

Monday 1st June – Return to school after the half term break

Monday 1st June – Year 10 Summer examinations (Week 2)

Monday 1st June – Year 8 & 9 Scholars project meeting