



Senior High Notes Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents

As we reach the end of our first week back at school, winter decided to make its presence felt with a blanket of snow this morning. Snow always brings excitement, but it also brings with it some very careful decision-making. Decisions about opening the school in adverse weather are never straightforward and are always taken with pupil, staff and parent safety at the very forefront of our minds.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful Maintenance team, who were on site before 6am ensuring the school was safe, clearing snow and gritting pathways. Thank you also to a number of teaching staff who rolled up their sleeves to help – a real team effort and a reminder of what a supportive community we are.

Thank you too to parents for your patience, flexibility and good humour this morning. We know snowy mornings can add an extra layer of challenge to already busy routines, and we really appreciate your support.

Once safely on site, the school day settled quickly and there was plenty of excitement as pupils enjoyed the wintery atmosphere (and the views from the classroom windows!). Snow may cause disruption, but it also brings moments of joy, togetherness and childhood wonder, and those are always worth pausing for.

Here's hoping it is the last snow of the season... but if not, please be reassured that we will always communicate clearly and make decisions with care, calm and safety at heart.

And while this week has reminded us of the importance of care, teamwork and community, it has also given us a lovely opportunity to pause and celebrate the exceptional work taking place across our school.

We are pleased to share that we have once again been nominated for the Lots for Tots Awards. This year, we are honoured to have received three nominations:

- **Preschool Education Provider of the Year** – Selected private or mainstream education providers serving preschool-aged pupils in Derbyshire.

- **Primary Age Education Provider of the Year** – Selected private or mainstream education providers serving primary-aged pupils in Derbyshire.

- **Early Years Educator of the Year: Dora Eleftheriou** – This category includes nominated individuals working in early years settings (Nursery to Key Stage 1) across Derbyshire. Nominations have been submitted by members of the public, employers, or sector professionals. This category is determined entirely by public vote, with no influence from the judging panel. We are delighted Mrs E has been nominated!

We are proud to be recognised in these categories as a leading provider of education for children in Derbyshire.

Public voting is now open, and we would greatly appreciate your support. Voting closes on 21 January at 9:00 a.m., with finalists announced on 28 January. Judging decisions will be confirmed in March.

Please cast your vote by [clicking here](#).

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 8 Winner of DCCT Futsal Competition

Before the Christmas break, Derby High School's A team enjoyed an outstanding tournament, remaining undefeated throughout the Derbyshire County Community Trust competition. They secured impressive victories over Derby Moor Spencer Academy and The Bemrose School, with most players getting on the scoresheet, showing the team's strength and balance in attack. A hard-fought draw with Noel-Baker Academy rounded off their group-stage success.

Derby High School's B team also performed brilliantly, finishing second overall and contributing to a superb day for the school.



Lamda Results

Before the Christmas holidays, our LAMDA students sat their examinations, and we are delighted to share that several achieved a Distinction or Merit.

Congratulations to Bareen (Year 10) Emily (Year 10) Annabelle (Year 12) Saachi (Year 12) and Alana (Year 13). A fantastic achievement - well done to you all!

LAMDA

Silver for Sam at the County Cross-Country Champs!

Congratulations to Sam, Year 12, for claiming silver at the county cross-country championships on the 3rd January. After a fantastic battle, Sam claimed silver on the line with a 6k run - achieving an amazing time of 20.18.

Sam has now qualified to represent Derbyshire at the UK Inter Counties at Wollaton Park on 7th March and is looking forward to the Derbyshire Schools race on the 16th.



Library News

We have had two successful firsts in the library for our first week of term!

The 'our library in-forms' initiative launched this week, seeing a Year 10 form group come to the library during form time, they were given a re-introduction to the library and then had prime time to browse and use the space. All other forms will have this opportunity in due course as part of the form schedule; Miss Ridley can't wait to welcome you all!

Also, the inaugural session of 'serial at lunch' took place this week during Thursday Lunch time. A huge thank you to Mrs Davies for her incredible reading of the first chapter of Howl's Moving Castle. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast; In, 2 Courage, Kindness and Curiosity

Our first podcast of the year features Mrs Bellman and Mr Wood discussing our whole school values and how these relate to the start of the year for our students.

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



Advice on Your Teen's TikTok Feed

Culture Reframed has posted a useful article about Tik Tok and how its algorithm can quickly push sexualized content toward young users.

It explains why and how this happens and offers advice to parents on what they can do about it.

To read the article please [click here](#).

Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 14th January – End of Year 13 Mocks

Wednesday 14th January – Year 12 JCB Engineering Challenge

Thursday 15th January – Year 12 JCB Engineering Challenge

Friday 16th January – House Chess KS3

Monday 19th January – Parent Information Briefing for Ski trip to Salzburger Sportwelt, Austria (online)

Tuesday 20th January – ARTiculation Reginal Final

Wednesday 21st January – End of Year 11 Mocks

Wednesday 21st January – Year 11 Megazone trip

Friday 23rd January – House Football

Useful Links