



High Notes

Dear Parents

As we move through the heart of the summer term, there is a wonderful blend of activity in the air. The sunshine has brought plenty of opportunities for students to enjoy being outside - whether that is on the sports fields with cricket, tennis and athletics, or simply appreciating time together in the open air. Alongside this, a more focused rhythm has taken hold as exam season begins. This week marked the start of the GCSE written examinations, with A Level exams beginning on Monday. For the rest of the school, internal assessments are scheduled either side of half term, and students will now have received their timetables from Mr Maddox. While exams can bring a sense of pressure, they are really about much more than grades. They offer students a chance to reflect on what they have learned, understand how they learn best, and identify next steps. It is a valuable opportunity to build confidence and take ownership of their progress.

This week, I have been away from school leading an Independent Schools Inspectorate inspection. It is a privilege to support the wider sector in this way, and every visit offers valuable perspective. That said, it is always a pleasure to return to Derby High and be reminded of the warmth and energy of our own community.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 10 Geography Field Trip

This Tuesday, Year 10 Geographers headed for Shropshire to conduct fieldwork for their GCSE course. With bright and sunny weather making for perfect conditions, we first ventured into Shrewsbury town centre where students assessed how effectively the park and ride scheme was working to reduce congestion on the roads. After some data presentation and analysis at the Field Study Centre we then enjoyed a low ropes/obstacle course in the evening. After a full English breakfast on Wednesday, we took the coach south to Carding Mill Valley where we measured the width, depth and velocity of the Ash Brook River to judge how closely it fitted the Bradshaw Model. All students worked superbly well in small teams and fully deserved the ice creams they had before we headed back to school!



Derby High School Marks 80th Anniversary of VE Day

On Thursday, Derby High School joined the nation in commemorating the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day with a two-minute silence. This moment of quiet reflection allowed our school community to honour the significance of this historic occasion and remember those who contributed to peace in Europe.

To mark the day, our wonderful catering team prepared a special lunchtime menu, featuring a favourite main dish selected by our Year 13 students, along with an array of traditional cakes and



desserts. Our sincere thanks go to the team for their creativity and effort in making the celebration so enjoyable.

VE Day Celebrations in the Library

To commemorate VE day the library is displaying a range of books which give insight into different aspects of the war and the individuals within it. This is through poetry, prose fiction, illustrated histories, diary and non-fiction.

Thank you to Carol Draper (Daughter of Frederick) for kindly donating a copy of *A Private War* to our school's library.

This book was partly transcribed and entirely proofread by Miss Ridley and it all started from Frederick's handwritten diaries!



Derby High School House Share Competition Final Results

Mr King was delighted to announce the House Share winners today. This year's winner is St. George with a total return of £167,896.

House	Total Return
St George	£ 167,896.70
St Andrew	£ 137,998.97
St Patrick	£ 124,173.57
St David	£ 91,327.36
No House	£ 11,000.01

The year's results are as follows:

Year 7 - Eve 7.3

Year 8 - Elise 8.2

Year 9 - Charlotte 9.2

Year 10 - Angel 10.3

Year 11 - Will 11.3

Year 12 - Manroop

Year 13 - Oliver

Staff - Mrs Peake

Congratulations to Oliver, Year 13, who is this 2025 Investor of the Year with a lead of just £105! He chose to go all in on Rolls-Royce and it paid off with nearly a 50% return.

For the subject departments, it has not been a good year for Languages but an excellent one for the Support Staff!

Subject	Average Return
Support Staff	26%
Social Science	25%
Geography	20%
Maths	16%
Science	16%
English	7%
PE	4%
Languages	0%

Thank you and well done to you all for entering again this year. If you're towards the loss-making end of the table - better luck next year.

Thank you to Mr King for running this great house competition and for keeping everyone updated on a Friday morning with the progress on their investment.

Top of the Pops Fundraising

Last Friday Year 11 put on their annual Top of the Pops show at lunchtime. The theme this year was "The Grammys" and there were some excellent lip sync/dance performances from the students, with a few guest appearances from staff thrown in.

A packed hall created a fantastic atmosphere and helped to raise over £650 for Cancer Research UK.



Best of Luck to Year 13

We wish Y13 the very best of luck in their upcoming exams and then their lives beyond Derby High School. They have been a truly incredible year group who deserve every success. We hope that everyone has enjoyed their fancy dress efforts this week!

LAMDA Results

We are delighted to announce the fantastic latest LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) results.

Congratulations to the following students:

Aavai, Year 8, Speaking in Public Grade 5, Distinction

Emilie, Year 9, Speaking in Public Grade 7, Silver Medal, Distinction

Dixie, Year 10, Verse & Prose Grade 6, Bronze Medal, Distinction



U12 Cricket

This Wednesday saw the U12 hardball cricket team play their first match of the season against Trent College, who are always a tough side to play against. That said, the team was full of enthusiasm and excited to be playing the match. This enthusiasm was clear from the start, as we managed to take some early wickets. Sufyaan, Mohammad and Arnav all taking a wicket each, with Yedidia taking a brilliant catch. All 12 members of the team bowled an over and it was great to see how accurately we bowled at experienced batters. Trent College made 154 and we were then asked to go and have a cricket tea.

It was then our turn to bat and it was fantastic to see the bravery and skills of our batters against some fast bowlers. We made 105 for 2 off our 20 overs, which was a brilliant performance. Special mentions go to Autumn (15) and Mohammad Imran (38 retired not out) who batted excellently. Although it was a defeat for the team, we took lots of positives from the match.

Hockey Successes

Oliver (Year 7), Zach (Year 8) and Jack (Year 8) proudly represented Derbyshire in the County Finals Day held on Sunday, May 4th at Stourport.

Over an intense schedule of 14 matches, the Derbyshire team displayed exceptional skill and determination, winning 11 matches and losing just 3. Their outstanding performance earned them a well-deserved second place, narrowly missing out on the top spot to Warwickshire by just a single point — 33 to 34.

All three boys played with great resilience and teamwork throughout the day, and their efforts were key to Derbyshire's success. It was a fantastic achievement, and one they should be very proud of.



Congratulations to May

We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to May (Year 8) for her success at the recent Derby Arts Festival!

Last weekend, May achieved Honours and placed 2nd in the Vocal Solo class. Following this, she went on to win the cup, earning 1st place out of 21 singers with another Honours mark in the Songs from the Shows class.

Well done, May, on your accomplishments! We are all very proud of your hard work and commitment.

Callum's Swim for Charity – Hannah's Hope

Callum, Year 12, is taking on an inspiring challenge to support Hannah's Hope, a registered charity based in Willington, Derbyshire, which provides vital respite care for teenagers and young adults facing cancer. To help raise funds, he will be completing a half-mile swimathon on the 18th May, combining his passion for swimming with a heartfelt cause. If you would like to support his efforts and contribute to this meaningful charity, donations are warmly welcomed and deeply appreciated.

[Callum Whitehead is fundraising for Hannahs Hope](#)



Safeguarding Corner

First Steps ED Visit

We were fortunate to welcome First Steps ED into school to speak with our Year 9 and 10 students about eating disorders, body image, and self-esteem topics. We work very closely with the charity, because such topics are increasingly relevant and important for young people today. Their compassionate and informative session helped raise awareness and encouraged open, supportive conversations. If you have any concerns about your child's eating, body image or self-esteem we encourage you to visit their website for further information and advice ([First Steps ED | Eating Disorder Support & Recovery Charity](#)) or reach out to your child's Head of Year or a member of our Safeguarding team for support.

The Importance of Listening

In safeguarding, we know that listening is the most powerful tool that parents and teachers can have. Here is a short Instagram post about how important this is, and some tips on how to do it.

We would also highly recommend giving 'The enlightened parent' a follow. She is a fellow DSL in a school and is full of handy, practical advice on how to keep your child safe.

[Susie | Safeguarding expert | Empowering parents and carergivers | 🌐 Sometimes the best way to safeguard your child... is to say nothing at all. 🗣️ 🗣️ Just listen 🗣️ 🗣️ When your child comes to you with a... | Instagram](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 12th May – First A Level exam

Tuesday 13th May – A Level PE Moderation Visit

Tuesday 13th May – JCB Assessment and Preparation Y12

Monday 19th May – KS3 Exam Week

Monday 19th May – Year 10 Exam Week (1 of 2)

Tuesday 20th May – Year 12 Business trip

Friday 23rd May – Year 7 Trip

Friday 23rd May - End Term