



Senior HighNotes 1st September 2023

Dear Parents

As we usher in a new school year, I am absolutely thrilled to extend my warmest welcome to each and every one of you. It brings me immense joy to see our school buzzing with energy and enthusiasm once again. The hallways are filled with the echoes of excited chatter, the classrooms are brimming with potential, and our school is alive with the promise of another year of growth, learning, and achievement.

It was fabulous to bring the whole senior school together yesterday for our start of term assembly. We started the assembly with May (Year 7) and Jack (Year 13) reading the poem 'The Road not Taken' by Robert Frost. The beauty of this poem, lies not in the choice the traveller makes, but in the fact that they make a choice at all. They do not follow the crowd; they do not take the well-trodden path simply because it's the one most travelled. Instead, they choose the road less travelled, the one that speaks to their unique desires and aspirations. As we stand at the beginning of this new academic year, I urged everyone to embrace the spirit of individuality and uniqueness and to not be afraid to venture down the path that speaks to their heart, even if it seems less familiar or more challenging. The road less travelled may be the one that leads to their true passions and dreams. School is a place where our students have the freedom to explore their interests, to question, to create, and to innovate. It's a place where they can be themselves, where they can cultivate their own identity, and where they can make choices that align with their values and aspirations. My advice at the start of this new academic year is know yourself, back yourself, avoid the herd. If you truly know yourself, you'll make the right choices. If you ever find yourself having made the wrong choices, seek to understand yourself better. Don't be afraid to take the road less travelled, for it may lead you to extraordinary places.

In our ever-evolving digital age, staying connected with the school and being informed about the latest developments is easier than ever. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of the various ways you can keep in touch with events and updates from the school:

HighNotes: Our weekly newsletter, HighNotes, is a comprehensive source of information. It contains important announcements, news, and highlights from the school week. Look out for it in your email inbox every Friday.

Social Media: We are active on several social media platforms, including Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram. Follow us to stay updated with our school's activities, achievements, and special moments. You can follow us at:

- Facebook: @derbyhighUK
- X: @DerbyHighSchool
- Instagram: @derbyhighschooluk

Our Website: Our school's website is a treasure trove of information. It is a valuable resource for all things related to our school. Visit [Key Information - Derby High School](#) for easy access to important information.

iSams Parent Portal: This is where you can find the school calendar, keeping up to date with upcoming trips, sporting fixtures and parent events.

By staying connected through these channels, you **will** be well-informed about school events, important dates, and the amazing accomplishments of our pupils. We encourage you to engage with us, share your thoughts, and be an active part of our vibrant school community.

One piece of wonderful news from over the holiday is that our Director of Sport got married and now becomes Mrs Watkins.

You will have noticed that there has been a slight delay in the start of the building work, we expect the team to be onsite from Monday. Currently we do not expect this to delay the final completion of the whole project. Once the building work is underway, I will share further details of these new facilities and the progress of the work.

As we embark on this new academic year, I am confident that together, we will create a nurturing and inspiring environment where our pupils can thrive. Thank you for being an integral part of our school family. Here's to a year filled with growth, success, and wonderful memories!

Best wishes

Amy Chapman

Headteacher

Football Success For Barnaby

Barnaby (Year 8) has had a busy summer after joining Derby County Academy; his team had a friendly against Wimbledon and finished with a 6-4 win. He has his first game this weekend against Wolverhampton Wanderers, we wish him luck for his first game of the season and we are looking forward to hearing the result. Well done Barnaby, your hard work is paying off!



EJ becomes English National Champion

Congratulations to EJ (Year 9), who qualified for the British Swimming Championships and the English National Summer Meet, with both events taking place at the Ponds Forge International Pool in Sheffield during the summer holidays. In the British Championships, she competed in the 100m Backstroke coming 23rd in her first national level meet (at age 13 in the 13/14yrs category). Just over a week later, EJ then swam the 100m and 50m Freestyle at the English Summer Meet in the 12/13yrs age group. She managed personal best times to qualify for the finals of both events, coming 10th in the 100m and then winning the 50m Freestyle to become English National Champion. After many early mornings and long training sessions with Derby Excel and Belper Marlin swimming clubs, this is a fabulous achievement which EJ hopes to build on in the coming years. We are extremely proud of her achievements here at DHS, well done EJ!



George Swims with Olympic Champions

George (Year 8) entered a competition last Sunday called Sprint with the Stars at the London Aquatics Centre. Sprint with the Stars is an event where grassroots swimmers have the opportunity to race some of the world's best swimmers, if they reach the finals.

Congratulations to George for reaching the finals for the 50m breaststroke and 50m butterfly (12 year old boys). George swam against Adam Peaty in the breaststroke final and James Guy in the butterfly final. After achieving PBs in both finals, he finished 5th overall for the breaststroke and 9th for the butterfly. Well done, George!



Timetable Information

Please note, next week we will be on **WEEK B**.

Safeguarding Corner

Artificial Intelligence Solutions – What Are The Risks

National Online Safety have published a useful parent and carers guide called What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Artificial Intelligence Solutions. [Click here](#) to view the guide.



What do I need to know about ChatGPT?

Launched on 30th November 2022, ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence chatbot, which can be found online. Similarly, to a robotic customer service often found on the corner of a website or app, ChatGPT generates content and answers based on a user's question. Childnet have published a guide for parents and carers to help them talk to young people about how to use ChatGPT in an educational and safe way. Click the following link to read the guide: [What do I need to know about ChatGPT? A guide for parents and carers | Childnet](#)

Useful Links

- Next week's School menu - [click here](#)
- Calendar (via the Parent Portal) - <https://derbyhigh.parents.isams.cloud/>
- Virtual suggestion box for parents- <http://gateway.derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk/suggestionbox/>