

13 September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the new school year and a special welcome to all our new parents. I hope you have all enjoyed a good summer break.

I would like to begin by saying how impressed we have been with the standard of uniform ~~form~~ at the start of term from so many of our students. Many thanks for your support with this. Our students are great ambassadors for our school and we firmly believe that wearing the uniform correctly sends out a positive message about our school into the community. I am sure you will agree that the students at The Derby are amongst the smartest within the borough.

This year saw students across the country sit the new style GCSEs in English and mathematics (awarded 9 – 1 with 9 being the highest grade). Coursework is no longer available for many subjects and in the examinations questions are now considerably more demanding. It is therefore more difficult to compare schools on examination performance. However, I am delighted to report that our calculations for progress show that The Derby High School students continue to make more progress than students of a similar starting point do nationally. A number of our students also secured the highest grades across the range of subjects studied.

As a school we are continually seeking to enhance our learning environment. This summer we installed three, new, state of the art Science labs entitled 'DISCOVER'. The finished look is amazing! Our next project is to design a large learning pavilion, garden and seating area next to the INSPIRE building that will showcase our 'STEAM' (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) curriculum.

We continue to focus on developing an effective working partnership with our parents and I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all to our first **Parents' Voice Meeting** of the term. This takes place next **Monday, 18th September, at 6.30pm**. I would also like to encourage you to register on **MyEd** (see overleaf for information). This package not only improves communication between home and school but will also enable you to access valuable information about your child.

Please find attached an overview calendar of the year that you may wish to keep somewhere safe to refer to. From the calendar I would like to highlight the dates for Parents' Evenings and some additional 'Working with Parents' events that will enable you to support your child in his/her studies. I have also attached a list of the extra-curricular activities that your child can join at lunchtimes or after school. Please encourage your child to get involved.

It has come to our attention that a number of parents are concerned about the availability of buses to and from the school and we would like to follow up these concerns with the bus companies. In order to do this, we need more information on the issues our students face. I would therefore appreciate it if you could fill in and return the attached transport survey so we have a greater understanding of the situation. Forms should be returned to the main office.

Finally, can I ask the car users amongst you, now that we have settled back in, not to use the drive at the start or end of the school day or park your cars in the areas marked for the buses. It would help if you could encourage your child(ren) to walk or be dropped off away from the school. It is safer and much healthier for all concerned.

With best wishes for a successful year for your child.

MS C H HUBERT
Headteacher

MY Ed Application

MY Ed is a free parent app that gives you a multitude of communication and information features to stay in touch with what is going on at school. The app gives you direct access to your child's attendance, timetable, absence records, achievements, behaviour and much, much more.

You will see that we update and change the information in the app as the school year moves along.

We are unable to send you messages directly to the **MY Ed** app relating to important information about your child's education and to remind you of events that are taking place at school. You will receive a notification if we send you a message and there is no charge for the messages you send to us.



The **MY Ed** app is available for both Apple IOS and Android devices and can be found using your app store.

- Step 1 Go to your App Store
- Step 2 Search for MY Ed
- Step 3 Download the Free app

Once you have installed and opened **MY Ed**, search for The Derby High School and follow the simple instructions to identify yourself.

Make sure we have your current mobile number for you to allow the system to link you to your child.

KEY DATES 2017-2018 – (Dates for ‘Working with Parents’ events to be added)

Autumn

Date	Time	Meeting/Event
Wednesday 4 October 2017	6.30 pm	Open Evening at The Derby
Thursday 5 October 2017	9.30 am	Open Morning at The Derby
Wednesday 18 October 2017	All day	BSafe BCool Day for Year 9 students
Thursday 19 October 2017	4.30 pm	Year 11 Parents’ meeting
Wednesday 1 November 2017	4.30 pm	Year 7 and Form Tutors meeting
Wednesday 1 – Friday 3 November 2017	3 days	Leadership Spirit Residential
Thursday 9 November 2017	4.30 pm	Year 11 Parents’ Evening
Thursday 16 November 2017	7.00 pm	Presentation Evening at The Derby
Thursday 16 November 2017	5.30 pm	Art Exhibition
Monday 27 November 2017	Over 10 days	Mock Exams commence
Thursday 21 December 2017	To be confirmed	Winter Showcase

Spring

Date	Time	Meeting/Event
Thursday 18 January 2018	4.30 pm	Year 9 Parents’ Evening
Thursday 1 February 2018	4.30 pm	Year 10 Parents’ Evening
Monday 12 February 2018	4.30 pm	Year 7 Parents’ Evening
Wednesday 14 February 2018 Thursday 15 February 2018 Friday 16 February 2018	To be confirmed	School Production
Tuesday 27 – Friday 30 March 2018	4 days	Trip to France
Wednesday 28 March 2018	4.30 pm	Year 9 Options meeting

Summer

Date	Time	Meeting/Event
Thursday 19 April 2018	4.30 pm	Year 8 Parents’ Evening
Monday 11 June 2018	2 weeks	End of Year Exams
Friday 6 July 2018	From 6.15 pm	Leavers’ Ball
Tuesday 10 July 2018	1.30 pm	Sports Day
Thursday 12 July 2018	To be confirmed	Summer Event
Tuesday 17 July 2018	2.00 pm	Lower School Prize giving
Wednesday 18 July 2018	To be confirmed	Upper School Prize giving
Thursday 19 July 2018	All day	Experience Day
Thursday 23 August 2018	10.00 am	GCSE Results Day