

Dear parent/carer,

Welcome back to the start of the Autumn Term 2026 and a special welcome to all our new parents and carers. Thank you, as always, for your support in ensuring your child has returned ready to learn.

This letter is typically long as we aim to provide as much information as possible for the year ahead- so please do read to the end!

New Staff

We have several new leadership positions to be aware of: -

Senior Leadership Team – Mrs Booth (Teaching and Learning) and Mr Holt (Assessment and Intervention)

Head of English – Mrs Kirk

Head of Year 7 – Mr Stephenson

Head of Year 8 – Mrs Parker-Carr

Head of Year 9 – Miss Rose

Head of Year 10 – Mr Murphy

Head of Year 11 – Mrs Jackson

Head of Key Stage 4 (Pastoral) – Mrs Johnson

GCSE/ BTEC Results

GCSE Results Day was another joyous occasion with so many students delighted with their performance. Our results continue to stand proud against other Bury schools with many students attaining at the highest level. These successes do not come without considerable hard work and 'Our Class of 2026' worked hard to secure their results and should feel incredibly proud of themselves. I am hugely grateful for the commitment and dedication of our staff, and the support parents/carers provide for their child and the school.



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Student Services

We have a dedicated student services entrance on the left side of the main school building. Please can you use this entrance if you need to drop anything off for your child during the school day, or collect your child for an appointment etc.

Parking, roadworks and use of the main school drive

We ask that all parents/carers park responsibly when dropping off and collecting their children either before or after school. **To ensure everyone's safety please do not park in the restricted areas at the front of school or obstruct the school crossing patrol.**

Also, please remember that students **must not** be driven down the main school driveway at the start and end of the school day. If you feel there is a specific reason why you may need to use the school drive at these times, please let the school know and a pass will be issued if required.

The nearby roadworks are making it difficult for pedestrians, including students, to navigate safely at certain points near disrupted junctions. Please remind your child to take care when travelling to and from school, especially near roadworks.

School Website

We would like to remind all parents and carers that our school website is the first port of call for all school information. It contains a wealth of useful and important information to help you stay up to date with everything happening across the school.

On the website, you will find:

- Key dates and important events throughout the school year

<https://thederbyhighschool.co.uk/Parents/Term-Dates/>

- Curriculum information and details about your child's learning

<https://thederbyhighschool.co.uk/Learning/Curriculum/>

- School policies and procedures:

<https://thederbyhighschool.co.uk/policies/>

- Information about school life, clubs and activities:

<https://thederbyhighschool.co.uk/Learning/Leading-Enriching-Lives/>

- Useful information for parents and carers: <https://thederbyhighschool.co.uk/Parents/>



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Our website is accessible on all devices, including computers, tablets and mobile phones, making it easy for you to access information wherever you are.

Keeping up to date with the website will help ensure that you have access to the latest information, dates and updates throughout the year. Please take some time to visit our school website and familiarise yourself with the information available

Uniform

Overwhelmingly, students have returned fully compliant with our uniform policy, looking smart and in the correct uniform, and with the correct equipment. Please be aware that details of our school uniform expectations can be found in our student planner and on our school website. Student planners also have a full list of equipment that students need to have with them in school each day. A reminder that we have a no make-up and no piercings policy and that students are required to have natural hair colours including on hair extensions and weaves. We ask that parents support the school in ensuring their child attends school adhering to our uniform policy.

Please be aware that where possible we will aim to rectify uniform issues in school by either providing students with the correct uniform or asking students to remove make-up/jewellery. We hope you will continue to work with us to ensure our students maintain our high expectations of uniform throughout the school year.

Mobile Phones

As you will all know, from 1st September 2026, mobile phones were legally banned during the school day in schools across England. Thank you for your continued support with our YONDR pouches. All students should have a YONDR pouch. Lost/damaged pouches can be purchased from school at the cost of £18 (new) or £5 (second hand).

Students caught with a mobile phone will now have their phone confiscated until the end of the following school day – and they will then only be returned to a parent or carer. A second infringement will lead to a 5-school day confiscation.

We are also very keen to work with parents/carers on supporting you with the wider use of smart phones outside of school hours with one of the main concerns being around the use of phones and other devices at night when children should be sleeping. Please support us with this.



Attendance & Punctuality

We ended last year with attendance above the national average and would like to thank our parents/carers for their continued support in ensuring their child attends school every day. Please note that even 97% attendance is still equivalent to 5 days absence over a year and 25 hours of missed learning. Attendance figures at 90% are the equivalent to missing approximately four weeks of your child's educational entitlement and increase the risk of them falling behind their peers. (Please see our school website for further guidance on the impact of poor attendance) Fines for poor attendance and/or taking students out of school on an unauthorised holiday/leave are £80 per parent per child, increasing to £160 for a second offence within 3 years.

As a school we will continue to support families and our students to have the highest possible attendance and will only use fixed term penalty notices as a last resort. Please ensure that you contact the school via email at attendanceoffice@thederbyhighschool.co.uk or via the school communications app if your child is absent and provide full details. School may still contact you or conduct a home visit if concerned about poor attendance. Students who arrive after registration has closed at 9.10am will incur an unauthorised absence for the morning session, so please ensure your child is arriving in school on time (8.35am for an 8.40am start). We appreciate that there are a number of road closures in the area, but as always, we ask where possible students walk to school or arrangements are made to ensure students arrive at school in good time. The building is accessible from 8am (the school library).

Good attendance and punctuality is rewarded with access to various reward trips throughout the year. At the end of every month there will be a draw for a cash prize for those students who have had 100% attendance for that month.

Curriculum & Assessment

To find out more about what your child is studying this term and throughout the year in every subject, please visit the Curriculum page on our website; your support with their out-of-class learning will be vital in securing their continued success.

It is essential that your child has excellent attendance as they will be assessed on the knowledge and skills they have learnt over the year in their summative tests. The dates for these are below:

Week beginning 30th November – Years 7 and 9 Summative Assessments

Week beginning 7th December – Years 8 and 10 Summative Assessments

Week beginning 26th April – Years 7 and 9 Summative Assessment

Week beginning 24th May – Years 8 Summative Assessments



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Weeks beginning 24th May & 7th June – Year 10 Summative Assessments

Weeks beginning 12th October and 19th October – Year 11 Mock Examination 1

Weeks beginning 1st February and 8th February – Year 11 Mock Examination 2

Please note that, before their summative assessments, Years 7 to 10 have dedicated Study Weeks where they will be explicitly taught what and how they should be revising and practising in each subject. It is important that you speak to your child about what they do in these weeks and how they are preparing for their assessments. The dates for these are below:

Week beginning 9th November – Years 7 & 9 Study Week

Week beginning 16th November – Years 8 & 10 Study Week

Week beginning 22nd March – Years 7 and 9 Study Week

Week beginning 19th April – Years 8 and 10 Study Week

Expectations of Work

This year, we are having a renewed focus on the quality of work that students are producing, both in terms of presentation and effort/ engagement in the tasks set. Students have been made clear of our expectations and our 'wRite Impression' document is displayed on the back of each book. Plastic wallets have also been purchased to ensure the books stay in a good condition so they can be used to support revision. Please support us in ensuring that any work completed at home is of the same high standards that we expect in school.

Bromcom

Following our move to Bromcom during the last academic year, we are now fully embracing Bromcom as our Management Information System (MIS). We ask all parents and carers to ensure that they are signed up to My Child at School (MCAS) and regularly check the app for important information relating to their child.

MCAS provides parents and carers with a convenient, central place to access a wide range of information and services, including attendance, timetables, behaviour, academic reports and school communications. It can also be used to top up dinner money, book places on school trips and purchase school items. Throughout the year, parents' evening appointments will also be booked through the MCAS app, so it is important that you have access and check it regularly.



Students should also be regularly accessing the Bromcom Student Portal. This provides students with important information about their timetable, homework, behaviour and other aspects of school life, helping them to take greater responsibility for keeping up to date with their learning and school commitments.

We would therefore encourage both parents/carers and students to make MCAS and the Bromcom Student Portal part of their regular routine so that everyone has access to the most up-to-date information.

Study Clubs/ Revision/ Homework Club/ Library

Homework Club (8 am – 8.30 am and 3.05 pm – 4pm every day) – for all year groups in A15 (with staff supervision) (enter via the external door opposite the tennis courts)

Year 11 'Brain Buffet' (8 am – 8.30 every day) – in A15 (with staff supervision) (enter via the external door opposite the tennis courts)

Library The library is open every morning from 8.10am, lunchtimes and most evenings until 3.55 pm. On days when the library needs to be closed students will always be directed to go to the other available study rooms. In the morning, enter via the main school entrance with a pass. On Mondays and Tuesdays students in Years 7-9 can use the library for support with Sparx Reader until 3.55pm.

All these rooms give students access to computers and printers.

The Derby Diploma

The Derby Diploma allows us to credit students for the enrichment activities, clubs, and experiences they participate in. All students **must** participate in at **least one hour** of enrichment **each week**. Attendance at enrichment activities is closely monitored through students' weekly R-Time data sessions.

The Derby Diploma is an essential part of our school day. We believe that enrichment can extend the range of educational experiences for our students, broadening their horizons and helping them discover hidden talents by trying new things.

View The Derby Diploma Timetable here: <https://thederbyhighschool.co.uk/Learning/Leading-Enriching-Lives/>

The Derby Challenge (TDC)

At The Derby High School we value the academic success which our students historically experience and part of our strategy in securing these performances is a focus on the level of challenge across every classroom. These activities typically take the form of a more demanding task and we ask that you encourage your child to engage in these



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additional challenges as frequently as they feel able to. Furthermore, our new Lecture Series will continue to build on the bespoke events arranged for The Derby Challenge students outside of the classroom and more information about these will be shared by our Derby Challenge Coordinator, Miss Egan.

Medical Needs

As you may be aware, new legislation has strengthened the requirements of schools to identify, record and support students with healthcare needs. To ensure we meet these requirements and maintain accurate records for all students, we are currently reviewing and updating our healthcare information.

We would be grateful if **all parents and carers** could complete our online Healthcare Plan form, even if their child does not have any diagnosed medical needs. This allows us to confirm that the information we hold is accurate and up to date.

The form should only take a few minutes to complete and can be accessed using the link:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/wSV8q4ZTE8>

Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us to keep our students safe and well supported in school.

SEND

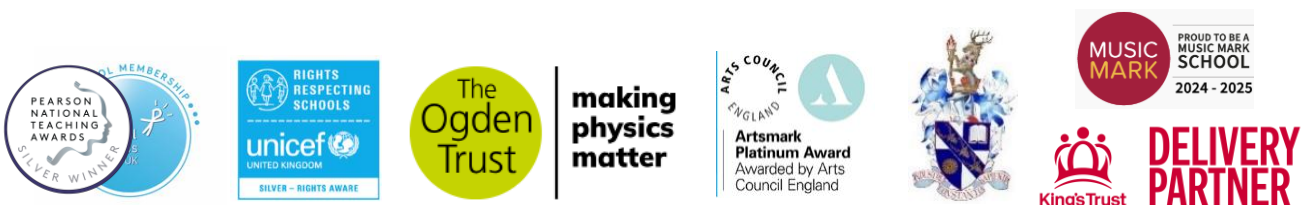
If your child has any update to their Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, please contact our acting SENDCO, A Stonebanks, on astonebanks@thederbyhighschool.co.uk

Student Leadership

At The Derby High School, students from all year groups have the opportunity to take on a variety of leadership roles. Most positions are held for the duration of the academic year, with the exception of the Student Council Year Representative role, which is a two-year commitment. All our leadership roles provide valuable opportunities for students to develop and showcase their leadership potential.

Engaging in leadership activities plays a key role in the personal growth of young people. While some roles may naturally lead to more senior positions as students progress through the school, every leadership role offers meaningful responsibility. These roles empower students to make a difference, contribute to school life, support peers and school processes, and prepare for future transitions.

Below is a summary of the leadership positions currently available:





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Leadership Role	Available to students in...
Library Assistant / Student Librarian	Y7-9 / Y10
Tech Leaders	Y7-10
Well-being Ambassador	Y7-10
School Council	Y7-11
Ethos Charity Group	Y7-11
Buddies	Y8
Subject Ambassadors	Y9
Peer Mentors/ Reading Mentors	Y10
BTEC Leaders	Y10-11
International Changemakers	Y10-11
Prefects	Y10 into Y11
Senior Student Team	Y10 into Y11

Friends of The Derby

'Friends of The Derby', is an organisation made up of parents, governors, teachers, alumni and local partners. We would be delighted if you had the time to join us at our next meeting on **September 29th 6:00-7:00pm**. Please email lprovoost@thederbyhighschool.co.uk for more information.

If you are unable to attend meetings but you are keen to stay in touch, you can participate as a satellite member by joining Friends of The Derby Social Media Hub.

www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofthederby This private Facebook group allows you to keep in touch with other parents and be the first to find out about our future events and new initiatives. Please remember to answer the membership questions.

Join Friends of the Derby!



lprovoost@thederbyhighschool.co.uk alumni@thederbyhighschool.co.uk
facebook.com/groups/friendsofthederby

Help Your Child Succeed
Involved parents = thriving students.

Be a Role Model
Show the value of education by getting involved.

Build Community
Connect with other parents and teachers.

Make a Difference
Help create positive changes at our school.



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Easyfundraising App

Turn your everyday online shopping into incredible opportunities for our students at absolutely no extra cost to you. In just six months, with only 70 members we have raised an amazing £1,220.65 using the [Easyfundraising App](#), proving that small actions lead to massive rewards. Now, imagine the impact we could make if all 2,000 members of our school community signed up; we could easily unlock tens of thousands of pounds to directly fund vital materials for our enrichment programme and unforgettable student experiences. Every time you buy groceries, book a holiday, or shop online, brands donate a percentage directly to our cause, meaning you can transform our children's educational journeys without spending a single penny of your own money. Please download the app and join today to help us turn everyday shopping into extraordinary experiences.

easyfundraising

Could you do something special for the pupils at The Derby High School, Bury this summer? It will only take a few minutes and won't cost you anything.

All you need to do is install the easyfundraising app and join as a support of The Derby High School, Bury. The school will receive a £3 donation for every individual who signs up. And then shop online as normal and school will receive a cashback donation at no cost to you.

All donations will go to support the funding of The Derby Diploma – the enrichment programme here at The Derby High School.

1 Open your phone's camera
2 Scan the QR Code
3 Get the app

Then choose The Derby High School, Bury as your cause.

Lots of exciting experiences and opportunities are planned for the year ahead, and we are all looking forward to working with you to ensure your child has a happy and successful time at The Derby High School.

Future dates for your diary are featured on the last page.

Yours sincerely,

MS C H HUBERT
Headteacher



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Future Dates for your Diary

29/09/2026	Friends of The Derby Meeting 6-7:00pm
08/10/2026	Open Day and Evening 6-8.00pm
15/10/2026	Working with Y7 Parents (The Derby Challenge) 3.30pm – 4.00pm Y7 Form Tutor Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 6.00pm
08/12/2026	Friends of The Derby Meeting 6-7:00pm
10/12/2026	Y11 Parents' Evening 4-7.00pm
16/12/2026	Winter Wonderland Concert 7.00pm
27, 28, 29, January 2027	School Production – Frozen - The Musical 7.00pm
04/02/2027	Y9 Options Evening 6.30-7.30pm
02/03/2027	Friends of The Derby Meeting 6-7:00pm
18/03/2027	Y8 Progress Parents' Evening 4-7.00pm
22/04/2027	Y10 Progress Parents' Evening 4-7.00pm
03/05/2027	Start of GCSE period – ends 23/06/2027
18/05/2027	Friends of The Derby Meeting 6-7:00pm
17/06/2027	Y7 Parents' Evening 4-7.00pm
24/06/2027	Y6 Transition Day & Parents' Evening 6-8.00pm
08/07/2027	Y9 Parents' Evening 4-7.00pm
09/07/2027	Sports Day - pm
15/07/2027	Garden Party 5-7.30pm



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