



Dear Parents/Carers,

MARCH UPDATES

I hope this March letter finds you well and excited about the start of Spring.

Ramadan

Monday was the first day of Ramadan, a Holy month for Muslims, and an important time in the lives of our students who practice the Islamic faith.

HAF Holiday Activities

HAF holiday activities will be taking place during the school Easter break across Bury. These holiday clubs are free to children who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals to enable them to access a nutritious meal and free holiday activities during the school holidays. Over the Easter holidays, eligible children can book up to four four-hour sessions. To find out more about this offer please go via this link [Information for parents and carers - Bury Council](#)

Important Reminders

Dropping off and collecting by car

Unfortunately, a small minority of our parents/carers have continued to drive onto school property without a pass at the start or end of the school day and they have been rude when challenged by our staff. The school site is NOT public property. We have informed the police and letters banning parents/carers from the school site have been issued.

Please remember that students need to be dropped off outside school grounds and away from the crossing patrol and zig zagged area at the front of school. Only vehicles with student drive passes clearly displayed on dashboards are permitted to drive onto school grounds to drop off or collect their children at the start or end of the school day. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Homework

Please continue to support your child with their homework. All subjects set homework regularly and record the task and due date with Satchel. All parents/carers have access to Satchel and should use this to monitor upcoming deadlines, supporting their child with outstanding work wherever necessary. Please contact the office if you need a parent code for Satchel; bear in mind that you will need to reset your password for yourself (through the Satchel website or app) if you have already used the code to set up your account.

Key Information

Curriculum & Assessment

Year 7-9:

We would appreciate your views and feedback on the KS3 assessment and reporting process. Please share your views using the questionnaire by clicking the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/qgyq4Fbk2s>

Year 11:

Year 11 students have completed their final round of mock examinations. Results will be shared with students in a results assembly on the final Thursday of the half term. Selected parents will be invited into school to discuss their child's progress early in the Summer term.



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Parent/Carer Survey

I really value your support for our school. Next week I will be sending out our annual parent/carers survey and would ask that you take part and share what you believe is going well and what you would like us to improve as we begin our plans for school development over the next three years.

Working with Parents of SEND

We are setting up our own SEND steering group at The Derby High School. We would like to work with you to ensure our offer for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) enables everyone to thrive and have equal opportunities. We would like to meet with a group of representatives once a term. This is not an opportunity to discuss individual needs but is to ensure the provision is moving forward effectively. If you are interested, please contact Hayley Jackson on hjackson@thederbyhighschool.co.uk, who will email you with further information next half term.

Annual Health Check

Did you know that every person in Bury aged 14+ with a learning disability is entitled to an annual health check at their GP Practice? An annual health check gives you an opportunity to talk to a doctor or nurse about your health and finding any problems early, so they can be managed and treated in good time. If you would like any further information, please contact your GP surgery (or Miss Jackson on hjackson@thederbyhighschool.co.uk, for an easy read document).

Negative Social Media Use Outside of School During Evenings, Weekends and School Breaks

Nationally schools are increasingly being asked by parents/carers to deal with issues regarding the misuse of social media outside of school during evenings and weekends. This has included both sharing unkind comments about pupils and sharing unkind images or memes of the pupils. This is leading to a lot of upset and polarisation of some pupils within school and is not in line with our ethos or values. These investigations can also take up many hours of work and once dealt with will often resurface again a few weeks later.

While we will always do what we can to support parents/carers in these situations we do also need parents/carers to be vigilant and aware of what their children are doing and accessing whether on mobile phones, tablets, gaming systems, computers etc

Most Social media apps are for pupils 13 years and over. **(Since May 2018 WhatsApp minimum age is 16)**. If you do allow your child to access social media, we ask for your vigilance. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support.

What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring their phones for the apps that are downloaded
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles
- Reviewing the messages, they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine
- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices (many of the screenshots we have been given show that some young people are using these apps throughout the night into the early hours of the morning)
- Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing.



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We are asking for your partnership in dealing with this, as this is happening outside of school time. As a school we teach about the potential issues associated with social media through Computing and R TIME (PSCHE) lessons and in Assemblies as well as in 1:1 conversations and other teaching opportunities as they arise. We have also previously run a 'Working with Parents' event which was just on this topic and will offer these again in the near future. The links below are also recommended reads.

[What age can my child start social networking? - Internet Matters](#)

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#)

[Online and mobile safety | Childline](#)

[Parents guide on Snapchat, Instagram and more by Family Lives | Family Lives](#)

The Derby Diploma

Enrichment activities are a vital part of our school day extending the range of educational experiences, broadening horizons and helping discover hidden talents by trying new things. They will also support your child's future applications to college and for a job.

We expect your child to participate in at least one weekly enrichment activity. Please take the time to discuss your child's participation in The Derby Diploma Programme. We have a huge offer, and I would be surprised if they do not find something to take part in. Visit: <https://thederbyhighschool.co.uk/enrichment-timetable/>

Every Year 9 student will need to evidence that they have attended weekly skills sessions, participated in a physical activity and contributed to work in their community to achieve their DofE Bronze Award.

The benefits of achieving a DofE Award are endless. DofE is about helping your child along the path to a productive and prosperous future.

Achieving an Award will give your child skills, confidence and an edge over others when they apply for college, university or a job. Beyond your child's academic achievements, universities want to see evidence of so called 'soft skills' that they have developed through extra-curricular activities, such as communication, commitment, leadership and teamwork. The DofE Award is a fantastic way to demonstrate and evidence these skills in practice.

Through The Derby Diploma and the DofE Award our students also make a difference to other people's lives and their community, they are fitter and healthier, make new friends and have memories to last them a lifetime. The DofE gives young people character traits like confidence and resilience, that can boost their mental health and wellbeing and help them face and overcome personal challenges.

School calendar

20.03.2024 - Trip to Holy Cross to watch 'Oliver'

21.03.2024 - Year 8 Parents Evening

21.03.2024 - Royal Ballet Dance Trip

25.03.2024 - Year 11 Intervention Evening

26.03.2024 - Theatre visit to watch 'Sister Act'



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Friends of The Derby

The next Friends of The Derby Meeting will be on Tuesday 16th April 2024 6-7pm in the Inspire building. You are all warmly invited to join us to support current and future developments of our school.

Successes ★★

Our school is through to the next round of The Goldsmiths Community Award for Community Engagement which recognises and celebrates the extracurricular efforts that the schools across the UK make to support their local communities through volunteer work and charitable initiatives.

We are incredibly proud of all our young chefs who entered the Rotary Young Chef competition last week. Congratulations to Alaa, Nathan and Mandy who are through to round two of the competition.

Follow us @derbyhighbury to see more.

Staff News

Mr Holt (as conductor), Mr Ridgley and Miss Hurst (brass players/ band members) are through to the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain after performing in the regional qualifier at Blackpool Winter Gardens. We wish them well and will keep you updated on their progress.

Kind regards,

Ms C H Hubert

Headteacher



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