



THE DERBY

— HIGH SCHOOL —

Inspired to make a difference

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you enjoyed a good summer. We were delighted to welcome back all our students and meet our new Year 7 students.

The Derby High School was 65 years old at the start of term and we will be celebrating this milestone throughout the year. We will be sharing more information as the year progresses.

New Staff

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

Miss Jackson – Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion/SEND) / SENDCo

Mr Ridgley – Head of Year 10

Mr Jones – Lead Practitioner (Science)

Heads of Year

Year 7 – Ms Cogley

Year 8 – Mr Stephenson

Year 9 – Mrs Parker-Carr

Year 10 – Mr Ridgley

Year 11 – Miss Johnston

GCSE/ BTEC Results

Once again, we were really delighted with our GCSE results, with students making great progress from their start here in Year 7. We had students attaining eight Grade 9s (less than 3 in 10,000 students would be expected to achieve this) to students achieving more than 3 and 4 grades higher in their GCSEs than their SATs data would have predicted. These successes do not come without considerable hard work and 'Our Class of 2024' 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.

School Environment

Over the summer, we made significant changes to the corridors to ease some of the congestion we face during lesson changeovers. There is also new flooring on each floor. We have reconfigured some old offices opposite the side entrance to the school to become a Student Services area. We now have a medical room in this space and parents will come here to collect their child if required during the school day. More information will follow once the building work has been completed.



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Parking

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 should 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.

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.

Attendance & Punctuality

We place a huge emphasis on attending school on time every day at The Derby High School. Our attendance target for all our students is 97% attendance or above. Please note that this is still the equivalent to 5 days absence over a year. Attendance figures at 90% are the equivalent to missing approximately four weeks of your child's educational entitlement and increases the risk of them falling behind their peers. The Government has increased fines for poor attendance from £60 per parent per child to £80. 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. 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).

Rewards will be given throughout the year for students who have consistently good attendance. Good attendance and punctuality will also be rewarded with access to various reward trips throughout the year.



Satchel – Homework App

We continue to make use of Satchel to set homework for all students. Students log-in using their school email address and password and parents simply need to enter a short parental code which has been sent home with students. If you are a Year 7 parent who has not yet received this code, please contact the school office who have a copy of codes for every child. Once this code has been entered, your account will be linked to your child's account. You can access Satchel through the website <https://www.satchelone.com> or by downloading the app for various mobile devices. The Satchel Help Centre contains a wide range of tutorials and video guides, and this can be found here - <https://help.satchelone.com>. Students also have a paper-based planner which can be used to record homework details and deadlines, but they are encouraged to use Satchel as their primary tool for homework organisation. This online tool makes it easier for them (and you) to keep track of their tasks and upcoming deadlines. We often receive communication asking for 'Satchel log-in details' for students. Please remind your child that they sign in using their school email address and password, even if they are accessing Satchel from home.

- www.satchelone.com
- Click 'Student'
- Click 'Sign in with Office 365'
- Enter the school email address and school password.

Homework

At The Derby High School, we strongly believe in the value of homework; to support students in their completion of homework tasks, we provide high-effort workspaces around school for students to make use of IT facilities and/or quietly complete paper-based activities. Our Homework Clubs are a supportive environment with staff on hand to provide support and guidance, both in terms of individual tasks and with a wider focus on time management and prioritisation. Homework Club takes place in A15 before school (8am onwards) and after school (until 4pm).

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 A12 and food and drink provided (with staff supervision) (enter via the external door opposite the tennis courts)

Library (The library is open every morning from 8.10 am, 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)



Maths Sparx Club (3.05 pm – 4.00 pm every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) – in A12

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: [The Derby Diploma | \(thederbyhighschool.co.uk\)](http://thederbyhighschool.co.uk)

The Derby Challenge

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 with these additional aspects as frequently as they feel able to. Furthermore, our Scholars Program continues to build on the bespoke events arranged for The Derby Challenge students outside of the classroom and our inclusive approach to stretch and challenge means that many of these events also cater for student involvement outside of the more able cohort. We have had a recent drive on ensuring that all The Derby Challenge students (and their parents) are aware of their involvement in the cohort.

SEND and Medical Needs:

We are updating our medical needs register and sending out Health Care Plan forms for you to update. If your child has any medical needs, please make sure you complete the documentation and hand it in to the School Office as soon as possible. Please email csixsmith@thederbyhighschool.co.uk if you have any questions.

If your child has any update to their Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, please contact our SENDCO, Hayley Jackson, on hjackson@thederbyhighschool.co.uk.

Student Leadership

There are various leadership roles open to students in all years here at The Derby High School. In most cases posts run for an academic year and allow students to develop and demonstrate their leadership potential. The opportunity to participate in leadership activities is an integral part of any young person's development. Some roles, though not all, naturally lead to more senior positions higher up in the school,



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but any post allows students to take responsibility, have influence, support processes and people and support their future transition. A summary of the available positions is below:-

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

Communication

We are always looking for more effective ways to keep our parents informed and engaged in their child's learning journey and with new technology constantly being released, it is important that we provide you with the most effective, yet simple to use tools available.

Reminder that school use The Derby App as our main method of communication with parents and carers. The Derby App, is a digital communication and engagement tool that is specifically designed to improve communication between schools and parents.

If you have not already signed up, please follow the steps outlined below.

Step 1: Download The Derby App onto your phone/tablet via your relevant App store.

Step 2: Once downloaded, open the app and click the Enrol link at the bottom of the login screen.

Step 3: Enter your unique enrolment code (this has been emailed to all parents previously. However, if you require a new code please email info@thederbyhighschool.co.uk) and follow the in-app, step by step instructions to complete your registration.

Instructions for other web enabled devices:

Step 1: On an internet enabled device type the following enrolment link in your web browser. <https://app.weduc.co.uk/main/enrol/index>

Step 2: Enter the unique enrolment code and click 'Enrol'.



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- Step 3: Enter your email address and mobile phone number, then click 'Confirm'.
Step 4: An activation email was emailed to all parents. If you require a new code please email info@thederbyhighschool.co.uk. Follow the instructions within this email to activate your account and set your password.
Step 5: Log on to The Derby App using your newly created login details

Future Dates for your Diary

24/09/2024	Friends of The Derby Meeting 6-7:00pm
10/10/2024	Open Day and Evening
31/10/2024	Working with Y7 Parents (The Derby Challenge) 3.30pm – 4.00pm Y7 Form Tutor Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 6.00pm
12/12/2024	Y11 Parents' Evening
18/12/2024	Winter Wonderland Concert
14/01/2025	Friends of The Derby Meeting 6-7:00pm
21/01/2025	Y11 'Working with Parents' Evening
06/02/2025	Working With Parents: Y9 High Prior Attainers
12, 13, 14 February 2025	School Production – The Addams Family
06/03/2025	Y8 Progress Parents' Evening
18/03/2025	Friends of The Derby Meeting 6-7:00pm
27/03/2025	Y10 Progress Parents' Evening
01/05/2025	Y7 Parents' Evening
17/06/2025	Friends of The Derby Meeting 6-7:00pm
26/06/2025	Y6 Transition Day & Parents' Evening 6-8.00pm
10/07/2025	Y9 Parents' Evening
11/07/2025	Sports Day
17/07/2025	Garden Party



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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 24th 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.

Lots of exciting events are planned throughout the year and we will keep you updated with further information as the year unfolds, including a big 65th party next July!

As always, thanks for your support and encouragement. I am looking forward to working with you over the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

MS C H HUBERT



