



December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the term, I am writing with some updates of events this term and details of plans for the last week and our return in January 2025.

Top of the Bury GCSE Performance League Tables

The Department for Education have finally published the 2024 performance tables for GCSE results, and I am delighted to share that The Derby High School is once again the highest performing school in Bury for student progress. This reflects the hard work of our Class of 2024 alongside the commitment of staff and parents/carers to support our young people. Students from The Derby High School are well set up for the next stage of their educational journey.

End of Term Arrangements

The students in the school are currently engaged with 'Challenge December'. Those students who meet the challenge of 100% attendance, no late marks and no ATL Grade 1s will be rewarded with a non-uniform day and 'The Great Derby Quiz' on the last day of term. Those students who are eligible will be given a letter to take home on Thursday 19th December.

As in previous years the school will close early on the last day of term at 12.30 pm. The school bus company has been contacted and will be here to take your children home.

Student Services/late procedures for school

Please be reminded that all our students need to be on the school premises for 8.35am. Students who are not sat in their form room for 8.40am are classed as late to school. Late students will now be directed to our new Student Services area where they will sign in via a new entrance and given a late mark. Any student who arrives to school late for any reason (including due to medical appointments) must use this entrance. Any parents picking their child up from school for any reason will also use this entrance to school moving forward.

Student Services is located to the left of the school building opposite the 'Caretaker's House'.

Uniform and Equipment

We will begin our Spring Term ensuring that our high standards for uniform and equipment are adhered to. I would like to recognise the huge numbers of our students who follow our expectations and wear their uniform with pride each day. A reminder that makeup (including false eyelashes) is prohibited as are piercings of any kind. It is also essential that students are fully equipped for school each day. Your child should bring in a school bag: -

Pen (blue or black), green pen, sharpener pencil, ruler, rubber, scientific calculator, reading book and school planner.



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Year 9

Next term your students in Year 9 will decide which GCSE/ BTEC subjects they would like to study in Years 10 and 11. Year 9 Options Evening will be held on **Thursday 6th February** 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm or 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm and is the first step in supporting your child to make the best choices.

The evening will be a valuable opportunity for you to collect all the information you need to support your child in making the right choices for their next step. As we have a broad and balanced curriculum, there are many subject options available to students as they move into Key Stage 4. To be successful by the end of Year 11 and beyond, it is important they make the right choices, supported by their family and teachers. There will also be careers advice available on the night to support students to also consider their post-16 steps

Year 11

Year 11 students are working hard and demonstrating a determination to succeed. All Year 11 students have now received their mock examination results and should have a revision plan in place to address any underperformance. In order to be prepared for the rigour of these examinations, Year 11 students should be working at home for a minimum of two hours every evening, and attending intervention sessions at the end of each day, as outlined below. Intervention sessions are an important tool for staff and students to focus revision on key areas of need identified through mock examinations and classroom assessment. As such, all Year 11 students should attend compulsory sessions and those they have been invited to. The duration of their independent revision should increase at weekends and holiday periods and should last for a minimum time period equivalent to a 'regular school day'.



Year 11 Intervention Timetable

2024-25

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week A	Science	Maths	French Food Computer Science IT		Expressive Arts (Dance, Drama, Art, Creative Media, Music)
Week B	English	History Geography	RE PE H&S		Technology Engineering Business

All intervention sessions begin at 3:05pm, students are expected to attend intervention for each of the subjects they are sitting



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A reminder that we will be launching Prom and our Year 11 Blackpool trip in the new year. Criteria to gain access to these events is linked to attendance to school/ intervention, good behaviour and 'Attitude to Learning' (ATL) scores.

Toilet Passes

New time out and toilet passes will be distributed in January for those that require this support. Toilet passes will only be distributed when medical evidence is provided. Please encourage your child to access the toilets during social times so as they do not miss out on key learning. Any concerns, please email Miss Jackson on hjackson@thederbyhighschool.co.uk.

Driveway Passes

To ensure the safety of students before and after school, no vehicles should be driven down the driveway to school to drop students off or collect without a driveway pass. If you are dropping your child at school and do not have a pass you must not come down the drive.

Please be aware that the school pass colour will be changing from on return to school on Tuesday 7 January 2025. You will be stopped from driving up the driveway if you do not have the correct coloured pass.

Any parent/carer who does drive their child/children to school should drop them off at a suitable and safe place outside of the school grounds.

Parents of Young People with SEND Group

We would like to relaunch our 'Working with Parents of Young People with SEND' Group. The group will meet every term to discuss the current offer at The Derby High School, and its aim is to inform the development of the Include provision. If you would like to be part of this group, please contact Miss Jackson on hjackson@thederbyhighschool.co.uk

Homework

All students receive regular homework, and this is communicated through Satchel. If you have never signed up to Satchel, please contact the office or your child's Head of Year who will be able to provide your parent code; if you have signed up and forgotten your user information, we are unable to reset this for you – please contact Satchel directly who will be able to help. Broadly speaking, all subjects set homework every second lesson (for example, English would set two pieces per week). Our key focus throughout homework is on ensuring that students remember the information they have been taught; this often happens through 'quizzing' activities or other methods of 'recall' questioning. Your child's homework diet is broad and will also include opportunities to apply in-class learning in new contexts. All homework is designed to support your child's learning and engagement with all tasks is vital to ensure that they reach their full potential during their time at The Derby High School. If your child is struggling to access online resources to complete their homework, we have facilities in school which they can use; Homework Club runs from 8 am every morning and until 4 pm every afternoon. We also have computers available in the Library at both break and lunch time.



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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.

Enrichment Experiences

This term has been packed with exciting opportunities and achievements for our students:

- **Year 7 students** enjoyed their trip to Bury College's pantomime (*Oh yes they did!*), and many also participated in the Yealand Conyers residential and visited London to watch *The Royal Ballet*.
- In **PE**, we celebrated several accomplishments, including a victory at the Year 7 Inspire Football Tournament. Priscilla and Dominic were selected to represent the county after excelling at the local cross-country meet and our **Year 8 students** received medals at the Coaching and Gameplay session led by The Rugby College and hosted at Sedgley Park.
- **Year 9** have participated in their DofE Skills Workshops and many students are well underway with their Bronze Award.
- Our **Media and Computing students** joined a Pixel Art GIF workshop, and Ben Moulding won *Best Under 16 Film* at The Aldridge Film Festival.
- **Year 10 Drama students** performed and delivered a workshop at Holy Trinity Primary School.
- **Year 10 MFL students** practised their language skills with French stallholders at the Manchester Christmas Markets.
- Our **International Changemakers** and **DofE Community Volunteers** worked hard, raising funds and supporting Tesco's Food Drive.
- We celebrated **Creative Careers Week** and **Green Careers Week**
- **Year 11 students** participated in mock interviews with professionals to prepare for college applications, while Year 11 Maths students attended *Taking Maths Further* at Manchester University.
- We held an incredible **Runway Event**, organised workshops with visiting practitioners on **Culture Day**, and celebrated our **65th Alumni Celebration**.

Making a Difference in Our Community

Our students have been busy making an impact: They are creating food hampers for those in need. On Wednesday, the Grundy Day Care Centre will visit to collect hampers and participate in a 'Read and Meet' with our students. Year 5 students from St Peter's will join us to watch a preview of our *Winter Wonderland* concert.

We were delighted to attend an unforgettable celebration in London, where we proudly received the Silver Award in the **Secondary School of the Year - Making a Difference category** at the Pearson National Teaching Awards.



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Year 7 Sense of Belonging Celebration

On **Thursday, 19th December**, Year 7 students will come together at 12:00 pm for a special Sense of Belonging celebratory lunch to reflect on their first term at The Derby High School. Students may bring a packed lunch or purchase a school lunch. Those entitled to free school meals will receive their usual lunch allocation.

In the afternoon, **Year 10 Peer Mentors** will join Year 7 for a series of fun activities to conclude the term.

Makers' Market & Winter Wonderland Concert

Join us on **Wednesday, 20th December**, for our annual Makers' Market and Winter Wonderland Concert. The **Makers' Market will run 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm** and the **Winter Wonderland performance will run 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm**

We invite you to come along and support this festive event. It's sure to be a fun and entertaining evening!



The next Friends of The Derby Meeting will be on **Tuesday 21st January 2025 6 – 7 pm**. You are all warmly invited to join us to support current and future developments of our school.

Future Events

Wednesday 18 December 2024 at 6.00pm
(note: Makers' Market is open at 6.00pm - Performance starts at 7.00pm)

Friday 20th December 2024 12.30pm

Tuesday 21st January 2025 6.00pm start
Tuesday 18th March 2025 6.00pm start
Tuesday 17th June 2025 6.00pm start

Thursday 6 February 2025 - 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Wednesday 12th February – Friday 14th February 2025 School Production

Winter Wonderland Concert

End of Autumn Term

Friends of The Derby meetings

Year 9 Options Evening and launch of Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme



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Thursday 6 March 2025 – 4.00pm - 7.00pm

Y8 Parents' Evening

Thursday 27 March 2025 – 4.00pm - 7.00pm

Y10 Parents' Evening

Farewells

We say goodbye to a number of colleagues at The Derby High School this term who have significantly contributed to our educational offer and will be incredibly missed – Mr Ahmed (Head of Technologies), Miss Sixsmith (SEND Manager), Mr Parker (Science Teacher), Mr Nassau (Assistant Headteacher), Miss O'Connor (Data & Exams), Mrs Sieg-Hogg (Head of Personal Development) and Mrs Moore (School Business Manager). We are incredibly grateful for all they have done for our school and wish them well for their futures.

Return to School in January

Pupils return for the Spring Term on Tuesday 7 January 2025. Next term lots more exciting opportunities are planned. Please see the end of this letter for information regarding our International Changemakers visit to Thailand in the summer term including a request for your support to ensure we make a difference through this initiative.

It only remains for me to now wish you all well at this festive period of the year. I hope you have a truly enjoyable time with family and friends.

Yours sincerely

MS C H HUBERT
Headteacher



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Support Our Student Trip To Help Migrant Burmese Children With Educational Opportunities

Dear Parents,

A dedicated group of Derby High School students are excited to announce an upcoming trip to Thailand in June/July 2025 where our students will be volunteering with FED (Foundation for Education and Development) to make a positive impact in the community. They will also be learning about sustainability and the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals with the aim of bringing ideas back to the UK to implement in the school and local community.

We will be holding a Club Quiz night, in early April 2025 at Elton Cricket Club, including a silent auction. We invite you to contribute in any way you can – pledging to donate services, prizes, or sponsorships of any amount, even as little as £5. We already have some great pledges of donations for which we are sincerely grateful. All contributions will be used in a silent auction to help fund our trip. Your generosity will not only support our efforts but also promote your business within our community.

If you're interested in contributing or learning more about our project, please reach out to Jean Lomax by email jmlomax@btconnect.com

Thank you for your support!

Warm regards,

The Lomax family

On behalf of the volunteer student



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