

PARENT/CARER NEWSLETTER – March 2025

จดหมายข่าวผู้ปกครอง

With just over three months until the International Changemakers jet off to Thailand we head into an important planning and preparation phase.

Fundraising Update

We are currently about £600 short of the funding target with the Quiz Night arranged by Freya Lomax's family on 4th April. We hope you are in a position to support this event and help us reach that final figure.

Thailand Charity Quiz Night

Fri 4 Apr 2025 6:30 PM - 11:00 PM



At Elton All Saints Cricket Club

A dedicated group of The Derby High School students are raising funds to support their upcoming sustainability trip to Thailand in Summer 2025 where they will make a positive impact on local communities.

We invite you to bring teams of **4 or 6** players to an action packed night including, pie and peas supper, fun quiz and silent auction generously donated by a number of local businesses.

Quiz starts at 7:15pm. Doors open 6:30pm.

Food served approx' 8pm.

Full service bar with snacks and range of drinks available for purchase.

Tickets available from:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thailandquiznightproceeds/1532121>

Car Wash – 14th March

A massive thank you to Mrs Poxton for arranging for some of the Bury Council team to support the car wash on Friday 14th March. Students washed 22 cars in 2 hours – earning over £200 for the fund!



Bury FC partnership – 8th March

On Saturday 8th March The Derby High School were represented at Gigg Lane in a range of different guises – from opposition player (Mr Ormrod) to flag-bearers (girls football team) to supporters.



As part of the match against Barnoldswick Town Ms Provoost shared with the club the International Changemakers programme and how we aim to support both the communities of Bury and Radcliffe in the UK, and Khao Lak in Thailand.

Century Changemakers – App Competition

As part of the application process the students were asked to design an app to support sustainability, focusing on the United Nation's 17 Sustainability Development Goals.

Five of these designs were refined and entered into an international competition. Three of our International Changemaker entries were Highly Commended, with the winning entry also coming from The Derby High School.



To receive their awards the team were invited to London, where they were presented with their prizes by Baroness Floella Benjamin OBE, a representative in the House of Lords for women's rights, children's education and inclusion. Or for the slightly older amongst us – the presenter of Play School in the 1980s!

The students also received a tour of the Houses of Parliament, meeting James Frith, the MP for Bury North.

We are also delighted to share that Century have provided FREE OF CHARGE a full online learning package to our partner school, FED ULC. This will provide over 600 young people aged 4-19 with a tailored learning experience that will support their new curriculum.

The Century package uses AI technology to evaluate student responses and adapt the online learning to the needs of the child. For a small charity like FED this is a massive boost in their aim to provide a strong educational platform for the migrant Burmese children.



Clothing for Thailand

I have previously provided a kit list for the visit. Included on the list were three items provided as part of the visit. These were given to students this week and include a hoodie (needed when travelling from Manchester to Phuket).

Please check there are no defects – any issues please let Mr Hardacre know by Friday 28th March.

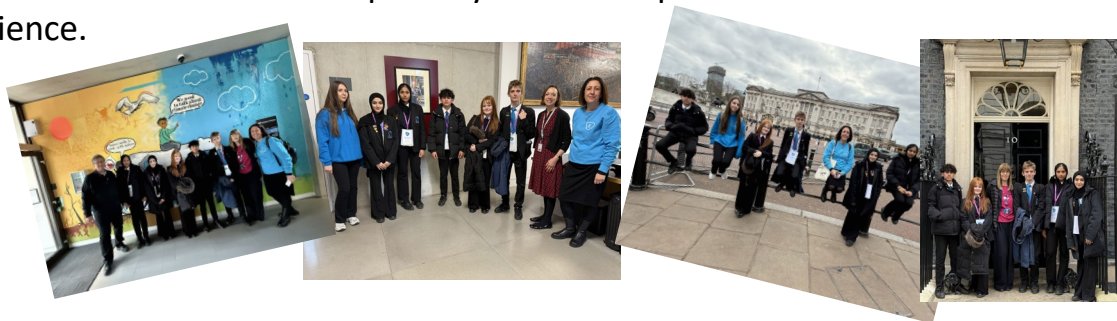


The Great Shout Out for Science

As part of our partnership with The Great Science Share for Schools the International Changemakers team have been heavily involved in preparing to teach Science at FED Unified Learning Centre in Khao Lak, and supporting high-quality Science in the UK.



In the UK, five of the team travelled to London with The Great Science Share for Schools to present over 1000 letters to 10 Downing Street outlining the importance of excellence in Science at primary schools as part of the Great Shout Out for Science.



During the visit they were also able to visit the Houses of Parliament, the Institute of Physics and The Thai Embassy. In addition, the students took part in discussions at the British Science Association.

We are all very proud of their contributions to the day!



The group have also been preparing for the teaching in Khao Lak with a introductory session by Frances Hunt from The Great Science Share. The first set of experiments focuses on the Great Ocean Share, with three investigations covering KS1, KS2 and KS3 age groups. Students will be using future sessions to refine their teaching and create additional communication resources.



Radio

Listen out on Wednesday 26th March to Roch Valley Radio as the International Changemakers take over the airways. Two or three of the group will be interviewed about the project and the impact we hope to have both in the UK and in Thailand.



Confident Communication with Amplify

The International Changemakers are delighted to be able to work with 'Amplify', who specialise in developing communication skills. They have previously worked with Google, Microsoft, Arsenal FC and Siemens.

The session will take place on Tuesday 25th March (9.10-12.25) in the Drama Studio and B9. The group will need to bring their Thailand clothing (t-shirt, hoodie and jacket) with them to the session, which will be led by Freddy Goymer. Freddy is also employed as an actor by the Royal Shakespear Company and he will focus on Confident Communication covering three areas – teaching in a classroom to people you have never met, presenting to your peers (e.g. in an assembly), and speaking to stakeholders (e.g. sponsors, school leadership team).

We hope these sessions will equip the group with the skills to confidently teach in Thailand, and communicate their impact when they return.



amplify

Mental Health session

Thursday 1st May (8.40-10.10am) represents a chance for the team to face any fears or anxieties head-on and further develop their resilience.

The local NHS Mental Health team will be in to support the group with everything from 'I'm worried I might forget to pack something' to 'What should I do if I feel homesick?'.



The team will receive practical advice and strategies to help with any concerns or anxieties they may have.

The 2024 cohort found this session particularly useful in preparing to travel, especially as they discovered others felt the same way.

Team-Building

Following on from the Mental Health support session the team will spend Monday 12th May (3-5pm) at Ashworth Valley, working with Matt Casey from Canopy and Campfires on team-building. As someone who has led visits for Young people to the same location Matt will also answer any Questions students might have about the region.



We will return to school for 5.20pm – consent letters will be issued after Easter.

Water safety & Sit-on-top training

Visiting Thailand offers the opportunity for the group to experience the range of marine environments. To ensure everyone's enjoyment and safety Mr Hardicre and Miss Hall will be taking part in a water safety course and training for the use of kayaks on Thursday 8th May – fingers crossed the water at Watergrove Reservoir is warmer than last year!



Cultural Exchange

As well as preparing to teach Science in Thailand the students have also been preparing for the cultural exchange. For this students will share a range of aspects of their own culture and that of the UK.

To start this process both the students from the UK and in Thailand will perform a dance linked to culture or learning.

On Monday the International Changemakers started rehearsing for their contribution (along with the staff!)



They were led by Miss Hall and the Dance Club to learn a version of 'Celebrate' as part of celebrating The Great Science Share for Schools.

Mentoring the new cohort

We have now appointed the next cohort of International Changemakers for 2026.

The current cohort will act as mentors starting after Easter and following their return as part of their legacy.

We are delighted to have been able to offer places to both the current Year 9s and current Year 10s.



Flights

There have been some minor changes to the flight times and we now depart from, and return to, **Terminal 1** at Manchester Airport

The flights are:

Thursday 26th June 2025 to Friday 27th June 2025

EY78 – Manchester (09:15) to Abu Dhabi (19:25) – 7 hours 5 mins

EY410 – Abu Dhabi (21:55) to Phuket (07:40) – 6 hours 45 mins

Tuesday 8th July 2025

EY411 – Phuket (09:10) to Abu Dhabi (12:40) – 6 hours 30 mins

EY75 – Abu Dhabi (14:00) to Manchester (18:55) – 7 hours 55 mins

Please remember students will be expected in school on Wednesday 9th July as normal.



Student Planning Sessions

During the Planning & Preparation Sessions on a Monday (3.10-4.10pm) the students have recently been focused on fundraising activities and preparing for the sessions at the school in Thailand, along with representing the school at a range of events.

Future sessions will focus on:

- Developing further teaching strategies for use in the school
- Learning some basic Burmese for use in the school
- Learning basic 1st Aid to support each other whilst in Thailand
- Developing our own risk assessments
- How to remain healthy and look after yourself
- Final preparation

Dates for your diary

Tue. 25th March – Confident Communication Coaching with [Amplify](#) (9.15am)-12.15pm

Fri. 4th April – Pub Quiz (Evening) – arranged by Freya and family

Thu. 1st May – Mental Health/Anxiety Session with NHS Mental Health Team (8.45am-10.15am)

Mon. 12th May – Teambuilding Activity at Ashworth Valley with Canopies & Campfires (3-5pm)

Mon. 19th May – Final Parental Meeting (in Inspire) (6-7.30pm)

Thu. 26th June – Flight to Thailand!

Swimming

Advance notice: All students will have access to a pool that is 1.5m deep in the resort and are expected to be safe in water if they choose to use the pool. Furthermore, students will be able to kayak and swim on Lake Ratchaprapha when we visit Khao Sok National Park. Parents/Carers will be asked to confirm that students are capable and independent swimmers in order to take part in the kayaking and swimming activities.



Social Media Update

We now have two social media channels running dedicated to The International Changemakers:

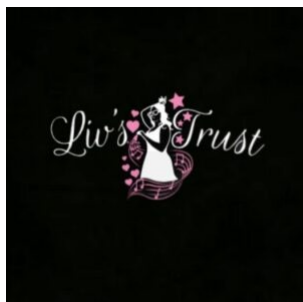
X/Twitter – @IntChangemakers

Instagram - @internationalchangemakers

The school will also post additional information and repost through the main school accounts on Facebook and X/Twitter.



Our supporters - click on the logo to support our partners



Funded by the UK's global programme to study and work abroad

Unlocking Potential



Further information please contact Mr Hardacre, Miss Hall or Ms Provoost at school:
shardacre@thederbyhighschool.co.uk



The Award for
MAKING A DIFFERENCE -
SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

SILVER AWARD