

January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year! I hope you have enjoyed a good break over the festive period and that 2025 brings you lots of joy and happiness. There are lots of exciting events and opportunities taking place over the next two terms so please do encourage your child/ children to take part.

Parent/Carer Voice

We work hard to engage with all parents and carers and have several forums that you can use to communicate with the school including Friends of The Derby and The Derby FaceBook: www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofthederby. We really value your opinions and each year we send out a survey to find out your views and thoughts about our school. The link to our 2025 survey will follow in a text message and I would ask that you please take part so we can continue to develop our practice.

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.



New Staff

I would like to welcome Mrs Gallagher, our new School Business Manager, to The Derby High School.

Rewards

A reminder that there will be another rewards trip at the end of this term. Students with the highest number of achievement points and ATL Grade 4s during this term will be invited to attend on Wednesday 26th March from 3pm.

Ms Johnston will also soon be giving out letters for the Year 11 Blackpool Trip and the 'Class of 2025 Prom'. Again, students must ensure they have met the criteria to be able to attend these celebratory events. Only those students who are working towards our standards will receive a letter.

Study Support

We continue to offer quiet workspaces to support student study both before and after school, as well as at social times. The Library is available for all students during breaktime and lunchtime, as well as before and after school; please note that students can access the Library from 8am each morning and should do so through the main office entrance. We also offer Brain Buffet (Year 11) and morning Homework Club in A15. Both clubs run from 8am every day and access the school through the fire exit doors facing the tennis courts. A15 is also used after school (until 4pm) as our evening Homework Club. All students are welcome to attend, and the room contains computers which can be used to access Satchel and complete any work involving technology which students may not have available to them at home. Please also note that relevant staff (often Heads of Year or Form Tutors) might direct



your child to attend Homework Club before and/or after school if they consistently fail to complete homework to the required standard or by agreed deadlines.

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 our Include provision. If you would like to be part of this group, please contact Miss Jackson on hjackson@thederbyhighschool.co.uk

Behaviour

We currently have 955 students at The Derby High School, so it is vital that all in our school community abide by the expectations we have around behaviour. The Expectations and Consequences document, the 7 Rs and the Attitude to learning criteria can be found on our school website but I also want to highlight some key parts below and would ask for your support in maintaining the high standards of behaviour by reinforcing our expectations with your child.

Expectations and Consequences

We sent a reminder of these at the start of the year (as we do every year) and you can read the full documents here [Expectations | \(thederbyhighschool.co.uk\)](https://www.thederbyhighschool.co.uk/expectations)

Detentions

While we will always do our best to give notice of detentions, please note that schools are not required to do so. We will always consider how the young person can get home safely if they are detained with 'same day' or 'no notice' detentions.

Uniform and Equipment

We began 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 and thank parents/carers for their ongoing support for these basic expectations.

Uniform /Equipment Reminders:

- A reminder that makeup (including false eyelashes and false nails) is prohibited as are piercings of any kind
- Unnatural hair colours are not permitted – this includes extensions in those colours
- Hoodies are not permitted in any part of the school/school grounds
- Outdoor coats must not be worn in the building
- Your child must have a school bag
- They must have a pen (blue or black), a green pen, a sharpener, a pencil, a ruler, a rubber, a scientific calculator and a reading book each day



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Our main equipment issues centre around green pens, scientific calculators and a reading book. All these are essential items and will hold your child back if not brought each day. Please ensure your child has the required equipment.

Dropping off and collecting by car

A reminder that the school drive cannot be used to drop off or pick up your child. Passes have been given to a very limited number of parents/carers who need this access. They must be always displayed clearly on the dashboard. This is to ensure the safety of students and staff.

A plea to parents/carers for consideration when dropping off and collecting their child. We have a small number who are putting their own and other children at risk by parking at the front of school – often blocking the sight of vision for the school crossing patrol and neighbouring driveways. Please only park in areas where it is safe to do so.

Student Services

Our 'Student Services' team has relocated and now have their own designated entrance for students arriving late or needing to be collected from school before the end of the school day. The entrance is located at the left-hand side of the main school building.

The Derby App

The Derby App is the online application that we use for communication with parents/carers and is also an easy way to make payments online for school trips etc. If you haven't already done so we would encourage you to download the app as soon as possible. We are moving towards being a cashless school and eventually all payments will be made via our online system. If you have any questions or need any support in setting this up, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Curriculum and Assessment

All students have now completed their first summative assessments; Year 11 parents received their reports on Parents' Evening, Year 9 parents will receive theirs on Options Evening (Thursday 6th February) and Year 7, 8 and 10 parents will receive assessment data in the coming weeks. To find out more about what your child is studying this term, please visit the Curriculum page on our website; your support with their out-of-class learning will be vital in securing their continued success.

As referenced above, this is a particularly important term for our Year 9 students who will be picking their Key Stage Four 'Option' subjects. There will be an opportunity for students, parents and carers to find out more about these subjects at Options Evening on Thursday 6th February. Please talk to your child about the subjects they are thinking of choosing and encourage them to begin speaking to their teachers.

Please also be aware that parents of our Year 9 'The Derby Challenge' cohort will be invited in early (4:30pm) on Options Evening for further support and guidance on how best to support their child in reaching their full potential.



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All Year 11 students have now received their examination results from Mock Window One and should have a clear revision plan in place to address any underperformance; the most obvious opportunity to address any issues will come from Monday 27th January when their second (and final) Mock Window begins. 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 each day (outlined below). The duration of their independent revision should increase at weekends and holiday period; at these points, their out-of-class study should last for a minimum period equivalent to a 'regular school day'. In the school building, intervention sessions are an important tool for staff and students to focus revision on key areas of need identified in mock examinations and classroom assessment and all students should be regularly attending these interventions in all relevant areas of study:

Week A

Monday – Science

Tuesday – Maths

Wednesday – Computer Science, Food, French and IT

Friday – Expressive Arts (Art, Creative Media, Dance, Drama, Music and Photography)

Week B

Monday – English

Tuesday – Geography and History

Wednesday – Health and Social Care, PE and RE

Friday – Business, Engineering and Technology

Attendance

We have updated our website with the Local Authority's attendance guidance for parents.

[Attendance, Punctuality & Rewards](#)

Please ensure you have read the section on 'What the new rules mean for me'.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Year 9 Students have now successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Skills Award. Our ambition is for all Year 9 and Year 10 students to complete the prestigious Bronze Award in 2025. We will be sharing more information about the next stage of the award at the Year 9 Options Evening on the 6th of February. If your child is in Year 11, please encourage them to upload all their evidence to secure their award before they leave school in the summer. DofE equips young people with skills that employer's value.

The Derby App

The Derby app is being used to provide access to parents and carers about their child, detailing information such as attendance, rewards, behaviour and much more. The app is also used as a communication tool between school and home and much of our school communication is completed via the app. Please can any parent/carers who has not accessed the app please do so by following these simple instructions:





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- Go to the app store on your mobile device and search for “The Derby High School App”
- Download this app.
- Create your user for the app, using the email address you have provided to school as your contact.
- You will then receive an email with your activation code.
- Open the app and sign in and your account will be linked to your child.
- Make sure that you allow notifications from the app so that you know when information has been sent to you.

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 our website to find out more: <https://thederbyhighschool.co.uk/about-us/curriculum/the-derby-diploma/enrichment/>

School Successes

We were delighted to receive news earlier this week that we had secured another national award. As part of the application process for the International Changemakers' Programme, we gave Year 10 students the Century Changemakers competition brief. Students were asked to design an app that would make a difference to environmental sustainability, social justice, or technological advancements. Students were required to demonstrate how their app would make a tangible difference in the world. Stephen Wood is the CENTURY Changemakers National Winner in the 'Most Inspiring' category. Stephen has been invited to receive his award in the House of Parliament on February 5th. The judges were so impressed with the standard of the submissions at The Derby High School that they extended the invitation to three more entries:-

Books For The World – Francessca Wood

Meet Up – Scarlett Poxton

Beneath Our Seas – Freya Lomax

Addams Family The Musical

The cast and production team of Addams Family are thrilled to have been nominated in four categories of The School's National Theatre Awards. We hope that you will join us for this year's production, 'The Addams Family', which will run on three consecutive nights from Wednesday the 12th to Friday the 14th of February. Tickets are now on sale at breaks and lunchtimes in the Inspire Building: Adults tickets £7, Children £5, Family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) £20



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Future Events

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

Thursday 6 March 2025 – 4.00pm - 7.00pm

Friday 14 March 2025

Thursday 27 March 2025 – 4.00pm - 7.00pm

I look forward to your continued support over the year.

With kind regards.

MS C H HUBERT
Headteacher

Friends of The Derby meetings

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

School Production

Y8 Parents' Evening

School Closed – PAD day

Y10 Parents' Evening



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