

September 2025

Dear parent/carers,

I hope you enjoyed the lovely weather over the summer break. We were delighted to welcome back all our students and meet our new Year 7 students. The start of term has gone extremely smoothly and I would like to thank our parents/carers for their support in ensuring their child has started school ready to learn.

### **New Staff**

We have several new leadership positions to be aware of: -  
Extended Leadership Team – Mrs Booth and Mr Holt  
Head of Year 7 – Mrs Dean (during maternity leave)

### **GCSE/ BTEC Results**

Once again, we were delighted with our GCSE results, with students making great progress at The Derby High School. Our results stand proud against other Bury schools with many students attaining at the highest level. These successes do not come without considerable hard work and 'Our Class of 2025' 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.

### **Parent Governor**

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Our Parent Governors are extremely valuable members of the Governing Body, acting as representative parents they bring the views of parents to discussions and school policy making. The details about applying for this position will be sent out in a separate letter.

### **School Website**

We are excited to announce that our brand-new school website will be launching very soon. Designed with parents and carers in mind, the new site will be your one-stop destination for everything you need to know about life at The Derby. From key dates and news updates to curriculum information and contact details, everything will be easily accessible in one place. An electronic link to the new website will be sent out shortly.

### **Student Services**

We have a dedicated student services entrance on the left side of the main school building. Please can you use this entrance if you need to drop anything off for your child during the school day, or collect your child for an appointment etc.



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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.

Please be aware that a uniform shop opened up over the summer at The Rock in Bury. **'SMART START SCHOOLWEAR'** has been selling 'The Derby uniform' unofficially and without any correspondence with the school. Please do not use this store to buy uniform as you may well be purchasing incorrect uniform that has not been authorised by the school.

## Mobile Phones

As you will all know we have introduced YONDR pouches to support the phone ban (which has already been in place for nearly five years). Thank you for your support with this.

We are also very keen to work with parents/carers on supporting you with the wider use of smart phones outside of school hours and we will continue to direct parents/carers to useful tools. At least one national mobile phone company has launched a child friendly sim card for parents/carers to use.

The main concern we have is the use of phones and other devices at night when children should be sleeping. We would continue to ask for your support in this.



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## **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 and 25 hours of missed learning. 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. (Please see our school website for further guidance on the impact of poor attendance) Fines for poor attendance and/or taking students out of school on an unauthorised holiday are £80 per parent per child. 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. Please ensure you contact the school via email at [attendanceoffice@thederbyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:attendanceoffice@thederbyhighschool.co.uk) or via the school communications app if your child is absent and provide full details. School may still contact you or conduct a home visit if concerned about poor attendance. 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. At the end of every month there will be a draw for a cash prize for those students who have had 100% attendance for that month.

## **Curriculum & Assessment**

To find out more about what your child is studying this term and throughout the year in every subject, please visit the Curriculum page on our website; your support with their out-of-class learning will be vital in securing their continued success.

It is essential that your child has excellent attendance as they will be assessed on the knowledge and skills they have learnt over the year in their summative tests. The dates for these are below:

- Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> December – Years 7 and 9 Summative Assessments
- Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> December – Years 8 and 10 Summative Assessments
- Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> May – Years 7 and 9 Summative Assessment
- Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June – Years 8 and 10 Summative Assessments
- Weeks beginning 7<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> October – Year 11 Mock Examination 1
- Weeks beginning 27<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Year 11 Mock Examination 2

Please note that, before their summative assessments, Years 7 to 10 have dedicated Study Weeks where they will be explicitly taught what and how they should be revising and practising in each subject. It is important that you speak to your child about what they do in these weeks and how they are preparing for their assessments. The dates for these are below:



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Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> November – Years 7-10 Study Week

Week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> March – Years 7 and 9 Study Week

Week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> April – Years 8 and 10 Study Week

### **BromCom**

After the October half term, we will be transitioning from our current school management information system, SIMS, to a new platform called BromCom. This change will enable the school to manage a range of processes more efficiently in one centralised system. As part of this transition, we will also be launching a new app for parents and carers called ***My Child At School***. Over time, this system will be used to support various functions including behaviour and achievement tracking, enrichment activities, homework and lunchtime payments, with further features to be introduced. More information will be shared with you in due course.

### **Satchel/Homework App**

Until the launch of Bromocom, we will continue to make use of Satchel to set homework for all students with the exception of Year 7. Students log-in using their school email address and password. Students also have a paper-based planner which can be used to record homework details and deadlines. Year 7 students will be told by their class teachers how they will complete homework in their subject area. When Bromcom launches, this will be our homework tool.

### **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 A15 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. On Mondays and Tuesdays students in Years 7-9 can use the library for support with Sparx Reader until 3.55pm.

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.



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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:

<https://thederbyhighschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2025/09/Derby-Diploma-Timetable-2025-2026.pdf>

### **The Derby Challenge (TDC)**

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. This year, every faculty will be providing at least one enrichment opportunity directly targeting our new Year 7 TDC cohort.

### **SEND and Medical Needs**

We are updating our medical needs register. If your child has any new medical needs, please email [cbriggs@thederbyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:cbriggs@thederbyhighschool.co.uk) and complete a new Health Care Plan document (HCP) as soon as possible.

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

### **Student Leadership**

At The Derby High School, students from all year groups have the opportunity to take on a variety of leadership roles. Most positions are held for the duration of the academic year, with the exception of the Student Council Year Representative role, which is a two-year commitment. All our leadership roles provide valuable opportunities for students to develop and showcase their leadership potential.

Engaging in leadership activities plays a key role in the personal growth of young people. While some roles may naturally lead to more senior positions as students progress through the school, every leadership role offers meaningful responsibility. These roles empower students to make a difference, contribute to school life, support peers and school processes, and prepare for future transitions.

Below is a summary of the leadership positions currently available:



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Leadership Role	Available to students in...
Library Assistant / Student Librarian	Y7-9 / Y10
Tech Leaders	Y7-10
Well-being Ambassador	Y7-10
School Council	Y7-11
Ethos Charity Group	Y7-11
Buddies	Y8
Subject Ambassadors	Y9
Peer Mentors/ Reading Mentors	Y10
BTEC Leaders	Y10-11
International Changemakers	Y10-11
Prefects	Y10 into Y11
Senior Student Team	Y10 into Y11

## **Communication**

We are always seeking more effective ways to keep parents informed and engaged in their child's learning journey. With new technologies constantly emerging, it's important that we offer tools that are both efficient and easy to use.

As explained, from the end of October, we will be transitioning to 'My Child at School' as our main communication tool. Until then, we will continue to use The Derby App to communicate with parents and carers of students in Years 8–11. The Derby App is a digital communication and engagement platform designed to strengthen the connection between schools and families.

For parents of our Year 7 students, we will continue to share updates via email and text messages.

Additionally, do not forget about our website: <https://thederbyhighschool.co.uk> and social media platforms, including the Friends of The Derby Facebook group; a space where parents can ask questions, share experiences, and access key information.

## **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 30<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:00pm**. Please email [provoost@thederbyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:provoost@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](https://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.



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### **Future Dates for your Diary**

30/09/2025	Friends of The Derby Meeting 6-7:00pm
09/10/2025	Open Day and Evening
06/11/2025	Working with Y7 Parents (The Derby Challenge) 3.30pm – 4.00pm Y7 Form Tutor Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 6.00pm
09/12/2025	Friends of The Derby Meeting 6-7:00pm
11/12/2025	Y11 'Working with Parents' Evening
17/12/2025	Winter Wonderland Concert
03/02/2026	Friends of The Derby Meeting 6-7:00pm
05/02/2026	Y9 Options Evening
11, 12, 13, February 2026	School Production – Legally Blonde
24/03/2026	Working With Parents' Y11: Ready for GCSEs
26/03/2026	Y8 Progress Parents' Evening
23/04/2026	Y10 Progress Parents' Evening
19/05/2026	Friends of The Derby Meeting 6-7:00pm
18/06/2026	Y7 Parents' Evening
25/06/2026	Y6 Transition Day & Parents' Evening 6-8.00pm
09/07/2026	Y9 Parents' Evening
10/07/2026	Sports Day
16/07/2026	Garden Party

As you can see we have a busy and exciting year ahead and we are all looking forward to working with you to ensure your child has a happy and successful time at The Derby High School.

Yours sincerely,

MS C H HUBERT

Headteacher



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## Join Friends of the Derby!



### **Help Your Child Succeed**

Involved parents = thriving students.

### **Be a Role Model**

Show the value of education by getting involved.

### **Build Community**

Connect with other parents and teachers.

### **Make a Difference**

Help create positive changes at our school.

[iprovoost@thederbyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:iprovoost@thederbyhighschool.co.uk)

[alumni@thederbyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:alumni@thederbyhighschool.co.uk)

[facebook.com/groups/friendsofthederby](https://facebook.com/groups/friendsofthederby)



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