



Derby
Grammar
School

Where you belong

DERBY GRAMMAR GAZETTE



It's now a year since Derby Grammar School became part of ILG (Inspired Learning Group), so it's a good time to reflect on all that has been achieved. We've been able to refurbish the School buildings, create a new Sixth Form Common Room, reorganise school transport with three more minibuses, restructure our curriculum and timetable and introduce new subjects including drama and new co-curricular opportunities including a French exchange. We have also embedded new systems (the latest being WisePay) and appointed an Operations Manager and staff to head up marketing and admissions. It's been a busy year!

Looking forward we will be opening our new Nursery in the summer term and our intake of pupils for September includes a particularly healthy cohort in Year 7 and more girls, especially in Year 12.

I step down today as Acting Head and having thanked all our staff I'd also like to thank all parents too for your ongoing support. I'm looking forward to picking up my role as Director of Co-Curriculum and we are all looking forward to welcoming Mr Bond next term as our new Head. There are exciting times ahead!

May I wish you all a happy holiday meanwhile.

All best wishes,
Paul Hilliam
Acting Head

PTA - EASY FUNDRAISING!

Our fabulous PTA has teamed up with the brilliant company STIKINS, a brand that manufactures amazing, no-fuss school labels—simply stick them onto your child's clothing and you're done! No sewing, no ironing, just quick and easy labeling that lasts.

The best part? Every purchase using our unique DGS code - 35859 - helps support the school, as we receive a percentage of the sale! That means every time you order, you're not only getting a great product but also helping the PTA fund exciting projects and resources to benefit our students.

So why not give them a try? Pop over to www.stikins.co.uk, enter the DGS code (35859) at checkout, and enjoy hassle-free labeling while supporting the school. It's a win-win for everyone!

HOUSE STANDINGS

House Music:

1st Blackton
2nd Bemrose
3rd Derby
4th Atkinson

House Drama:

1st Derby
2nd Bemrose
3rd Atkinson
4th Derby

House Hockey:

1st Bemrose
2nd Derby
3rd Atkinson
4th Blackton

Current Overall Scores:

1st Bemrose on 420 points
2nd Derby on 330 points
3rd Atkinson on 290 points
4th Blackton on 270 points



DIARY DATES

MARCH

29 31st DofE Silver Expedition

31 Start of Holiday

Yorkshire 3 Peaks Tanzania Training

APRIL

22

Start of Summer Term

Start of Y10 & Y12 Exams



A FRENCH ADVENTURE

FROM BRISSAC-QUINCÉ TO A UXB!

This month, a group of our pupils embarked on a truly unforgettable journey as they took part in the much-anticipated French Exchange. Hosted in the picturesque village of Brissac-Quincé, located just south of Angers, the trip offered our students the chance to immerse themselves in French culture, experience life in a French collège, and explore some of the most beautiful sights the Loire Valley has to offer.

One of the highlights of their stay was a visit to the magnificent Château de Brissac, the tallest château in France. Towering above the surrounding vineyards and countryside, this awe-inspiring structure boasts seven floors, opulent interiors, and a fascinating history stretching back to the 11th century. Our students were captivated by its grandeur, from the stunning ceiling frescoes to the whispers of ghostly legends that linger in its halls.

Beyond the château, they enjoyed excursions to other local sights, soaking in the charm of this historic region with its rolling vineyards, bustling markets, and warm hospitality from their exchange partners and families. However, what was set to be a smooth return journey turned into an unexpected adventure - one that would see our students spending an unplanned but magical extra day in none other than Paris itself.

As the group made their way to the Gare du Nord for their return trip, news broke that a Second World War bomb had been discovered during construction work near the station. Authorities immediately evacuated the area, and all outbound international trains were cancelled, sending thousands of travellers into chaos. Our students found themselves caught up in the unfolding drama, stranded in the heart of Paris with no way to leave the country until the following day.

Rather than panic, they seized the opportunity to make the most of their unexpected stay in the City of Light - and what an adventure it turned out to be!



... AND PARISIENNE STOPOVER!



Paris, a city steeped in history, art, and romance, proved to be the perfect setting for an unscheduled adventure. Their first stop was the newly reopened Notre-Dame Cathedral, where they marvelled at the ongoing restoration efforts following the devastating fire of 2019.

The sight of the iconic structure standing tall once again, its intricate gothic architecture restored with breathtaking detail, left a lasting impression.

With no time to spare, they made their way along the Seine, pausing to admire the booksellers' stalls and the grand façades of the Louvre and Musée d'Orsay. As evening fell, the group gathered to watch the Eiffel Tower sparkle against the night sky - a truly unforgettable moment that turned what could have been a stressful ordeal into a magical travel experience.

The following morning, they ascended the famous Montmartre steps to the stunning Sacré-Cœur Basilica, where they were rewarded with panoramic views of the sprawling city below. Wandering through the cobbled streets of Montmartre, they soaked in the artistic atmosphere, watching street artists at work and sampling authentic Parisian crêpes from charming street vendors.

After an incredible 24 hours in Paris, our students finally boarded their rescheduled train, tired but exhilarated by their unexpected adventure. While their French Exchange trip had already been a wonderful experience, their impromptu day in Paris added an extra layer of excitement and left them with memories they will cherish forever.

Sometimes, the best adventures are the ones we don't plan for - and this year's French Exchange will certainly go down as one of the most unforgettable yet!

THRILLING TEST DAY AT MALLORY PARK

Tuesday saw a promising test day for the Green Car F24 team at Mallory Park, giving some of the new team members a first taste of the exhilarating world of racing. While it was not an official race day, the event provided invaluable learning opportunities for both seasoned and new team members.

The primary focus of the day was on team organisation, understanding race regulations, managing race schedules, and fostering team cohesion - key aspects of any successful racing operation.

The day kicked off with an impressive performance from the Green Car F24 during the first session. The car handled the track with precision and power, showcasing the results of the hard work and dedication put into its preparation.

For many of the new team members, the first session provided an exciting glimpse into the high-speed world they would soon be a part of. The buzz of the race was palpable, and there was a clear sense of anticipation as everyone worked together, sharpening their focus and coordination.

However, as is often the case in motorsport, not everything went according to plan. In the second race, mechanical gremlins reared their head, and the car faced some unexpected challenges. While the issue was disappointing, it provided an important learning experience for the team.



Diagnosing and addressing mechanical problems quickly is a crucial skill in motorsport, and it offered the new members a firsthand lesson in the unpredictability of racing.

Despite the hiccups in the second race, the day was a success overall. It allowed the team to fine-tune their approach to both the car's performance and their internal dynamics.



The challenges they encountered will serve as stepping stones to better prepare the team for future races, while the camaraderie built throughout the day will only strengthen their efforts going forward.

As the team reflects on the test day, they are eager to take the lessons learned and continue to improve. There's no doubt that the Green Car F24 team is on track for even greater success as they build on this day of racing and teamwork.



PRIMARY JOURNALISM CLUB

Viraj's Book Review: The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling

Characters

Some of the main characters in the Harry Potter series include Harry, Ron, Hermione, Ginny, Dumbledore, and Voldemort. I like these characters because they take things seriously and have exciting duels using magic spells. This seeing how they acted in different situations.

Plot

The story follows Harry Potter as he grows up at Hogwarts, a school for wizards. He faces many challenges, such as surviving an attack from a werewolf at thirteen, battling a basilisk (a giant snake) at twelve, and escaping a fast-spreading fire while being chased by Voldemort's minion, Professor Quirrell. This series is a great choice if you enjoy magical adventures and want to follow the life of a teenage wizard.

My Opinion

Personally, I think this book is amazing! My favourite part is the first duel between Harry and Voldemort. I enjoyed this moment because a character turned into a ghost and gave Harry the courage to fight. The books also have some scary moments, such as Sirius Black (who is thought to be a dangerous criminal) acting violently. There are also unexpected twists—like discovering that Sirius Black is actually Harry's godfather!

Review

I highly recommend this series to anyone who enjoys adventure, magical creatures, and epic battles.

Rohan's Riddles and Questions

Can you solve this riddle?

I have keys but no locks. I have space but no room. You can enter, but you can't go outside. What am I?

Also, a fun question: What do you prefer, waffles or pancakes?

Dylan's Jokes

Q: Why did the cookie go to the doctor?

A: Because he was feeling crumbly!

Q: What is black and white and goes round and round?

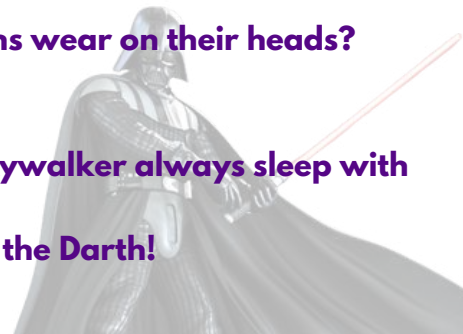
A: A penguin in a tumble dryer?

Q: What do penguins wear on their heads?

A: Ice caps!

Q: Why did Luke Skywalker always sleep with the light on?

A: He was afraid of the Darth!



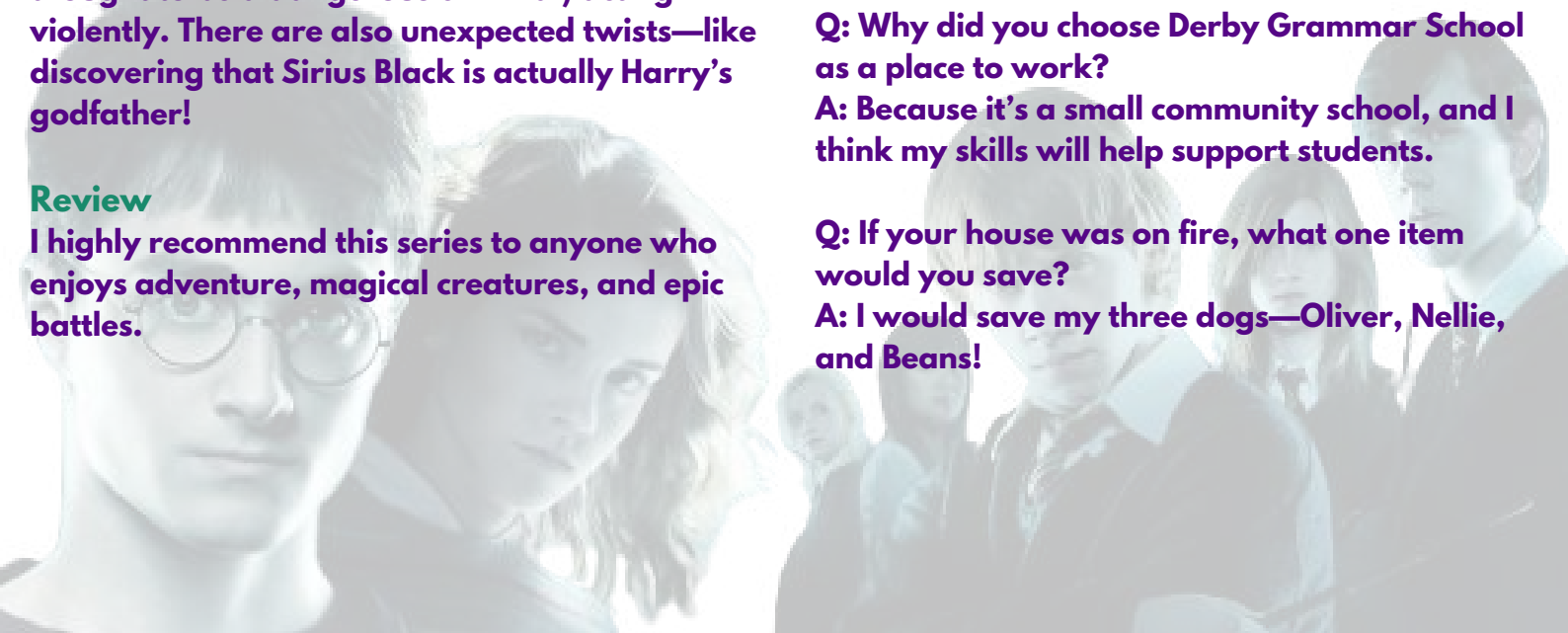
Asher and Noah's Interview with Miss Ashmole

Q: Why did you choose Derby Grammar School as a place to work?

A: Because it's a small community school, and I think my skills will help support students.

Q: If your house was on fire, what one item would you save?

A: I would save my three dogs—Oliver, Nellie, and Beans!



DGS TRIUMPHS AT FIRST TECH CHALLENGE!

Derby Grammar School has once again proven its excellence in STEM innovation, competing today in the First Tech Challenge at Sheffield Hallam University. This prestigious competition, which attracts teams from across the country, is a unique opportunity for students to develop real-world engineering, coding, and teamwork skills while tackling complex robotics challenges. The First Tech Challenge is an international STEM competition that has been running since 2005. Designed to inspire young minds, it challenges students to design, build, and program robots to complete a series of tasks.



It's more than just a robotics contest—it's a platform that nurtures problem-solving, leadership, and collaboration, preparing students for future careers in science and technology. The day started on a high note as the DGS team successfully passed the initial inspection, ensuring that their robot met all competition regulations. With some final adjustments, our students showcased incredible problem-solving and adaptability before stepping into the arena to put their creation to the test. Our students displayed outstanding technical ability, teamwork, and strategic thinking. The dedication and perseverance they showed throughout the day was nothing short of inspirational.

The highlight of the day came when DGS were crowned Winners of the Inspire Award – for the second year running! This is an extraordinary achievement, especially considering the high calibre of competing teams. The Inspire Award is the most prestigious award in the competition, recognising teams that truly embody the spirit of the challenge by excelling in engineering, teamwork, innovation, and outreach. Winning this award also secures DGS a coveted place in the First Tech Challenge UK Championships in London, where they will compete against the very best in the country.

Participating in the First Tech Challenge is about more than just building robots - it's about developing future leaders in STEM. The competition equips students with critical thinking skills, hands-on engineering experience, and a passion for problem-solving that will benefit them far beyond their school years. To win such a prestigious award two years in a row is a testament to the determination, skill, and dedication of our students and their mentors. It also highlights Derby Grammar School's commitment to providing students with opportunities to excel beyond the classroom.

We couldn't be prouder of our team for this incredible achievement. Their hard work, creativity, and resilience have been rewarded in the best possible way. With the UK Championships in London now on the horizon, the journey isn't over yet - but today, we're celebrating a phenomenal success! Well done, DGS!

HOUSE MUSIC & DRAMA

On Tuesday evening, Derby Grammar School was alive with creativity, passion, and electrifying performances as we hosted the finals of the highly anticipated House Music and Drama competitions. The event brought together the finest talents from across the school, as students took to the stage to showcase their exceptional skills in both disciplines.

We were honoured to welcome two esteemed judges for the evening - Chris Dickenson, a DGS alumnus with an impressive professional career in the music industry, and Alex Wrampling, a seasoned actor and highly respected drama teacher. Their expertise and keen eye for talent made for an exciting and closely contested evening.

The stage was set for an unforgettable night, and our students delivered in spectacular fashion. From spellbinding musical performances to gripping dramatic scenes, the standard was nothing short of breathtaking. Special mentions go to Ojas Ramasharan, Oliver West, Arlo Gestopa, Sofia Cornwell, Alex Dillistone, Yuyao Huang, and Alexander Kirke, who all delivered standout performances that left the audience and judges in awe.

However, every single finalist deserves immense credit for their dedication and talent, making it an incredibly tough decision for our judges.

After tallying up the scores from the previous rounds, the final results were revealed. Derby House emerged victorious in the House Drama competition, thanks to an outstanding collective effort that demonstrated both emotional depth and theatrical flair.



HOUSE MUSIC & DRAMA



In the House Music contest, Blackton House took the crown, showcasing phenomenal musical ability and stage presence. Bemrose House was hot on their heels, securing a close second place in both categories, proving just how fierce and competitive the talent pool was this year.

With GCSE Drama set to be introduced next year, the future of performing arts at DGS looks brighter than ever.

If this year's competition is anything to go by, we can expect even more exceptional performances in the years to come.

Congratulations to all involved - you have set the bar incredibly high, and we can't wait to see what's next!



THE FARADAY CHALLENGE

On Monday, six talented Year 8 students took part in the prestigious Faraday Challenge, a national STEM competition designed to inspire young minds in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Faraday Challenge Day is a highly regarded competition that sees students from across the UK tackle real-world engineering problems. Each team is given a brief on the day, requiring them to design, build, and develop a prototype that meets a specific need.

Representing DGS with enthusiasm and creativity were Manraj Budwal, Jay Lalli, Tristan James, Chukwudi Anosike, Jaiden Lalria, and Nathan Dube. Rising to the challenge, the team designed an educational game for 2-5-year-olds, incorporating electronics to make learning both fun and interactive. Once their prototype was complete, the team had to present their product to fellow competitors and teachers. They explained its purpose, construction, sustainability, and the challenges they overcame during development - an invaluable experience that honed their public speaking and critical thinking skills. Although they did not take home the winning prize, the students thoroughly enjoyed the challenge. More importantly, they developed key skills in teamwork, problem-solving, and innovation, which will undoubtedly serve them well in future STEM opportunities. A huge well done to our Year 8 Faraday Challenge team - we are incredibly proud of your effort.



RYKNELD SPORTS CENTRE 20% DISCOUNT

As the Easter break approaches, many families are looking for fun and engaging activities to enjoy together. Did you know that as members of the DGS community, you can enjoy a fantastic 20% discount at our very own Rykneld Sports Centre?

Whether you're looking to keep fit, try a new sport, or simply have some fun, Rykneld Sports Centre offers a wide range of facilities and activities suitable for all ages and abilities.

This exclusive 20% discount is available to all DGS families, so make the most of the opportunity to get active during the break. For more information on available activities and to take advantage of the discount, simply visit the Rykneld Sports Centre page on our website. Don't miss out - take a step towards a healthier and more active Easter break at Rykneld Sports Centre!

For more details, visit: <https://www.derbygrammar.org/rykneld-sports-centre>



JACKSON'S TIME-TRAVELLING STYLE ADVENTURE!

This week, one of our talented Year 6 students, Jackson, has taken us on a journey through time with his incredible project on fashion through the decades as part of 'Life since 1940's'.

While we can't share his video interview with his grandparents here, we do have some fantastic photos of Jackson reimagining iconic fashion trends from the 1940s to the present day -and trust us, they are amazing!

Jackson has put a huge amount of effort into this project, not only researching different styles but also trying them on himself - hairspray, safety pins, and all! Here's what he had to say about each era:

1940s – Old-Fashioned and Formal

"The 40s were very old-fashioned and formal, with lots of smart suits and dresses. It felt very different from today's comfy clothes!"

1950s – Less Formal, More Comfortable

"This decade was all about style and comfort—it's actually my mum's favourite fashion era!"

1960s – Bright, Bold, and Lots of Lipstick!

"I loved the fun colours and patterns from the 60s, but it took me ages to get the lipstick off my face!"

1970s – Punk Rock Problems!

"My Mohawk was really hard to do, and I had a safety pin stuck to my nose—ouch! the punk rock look."

1980s – The Most Comfortable Clothes Ever!

"This was my favourite because the outfits were unbelievably comfortable—and I still wear them now!"

1990s – A Throwback to My Mum's Childhood

"This is how my mum used to dress, and I even listened to the music she loved!"

2000s – Dungarees Disaster!

"I did not like wearing dungarees... they are so strange!"

2025 – Future Fashion?

"These are probably my favourites too!"

Jackson has also carefully selected a song from each era to go with his video, making this project a full sensory experience! We hope you enjoy watching it as much as he enjoyed making it—although, as he says, his hair is now very crunchy from all the hairspray! Well done, Jackson!



UPCOMING SPORTING FIXTURES

Date	Year Group	Opposition	Start	Venue
Sat 22nd March	U13, U14 & U15 Hockey	Loughborough GS	9:30am	Away
Sat 26th April	U12/13 & U14/15 Cricket	Nottingham High School	10:00am	Away
Sat 10th Mat	U12/13 & U14/15 Cricket	Trent College	2:00pm	Away
Mon 12th May	U14 Cricket	Stafford Grammar	1:30pm	Away
Tue 13th May	U15 Cricket	Stafford Grammar	1:30pm	Away
Wed 14th May	U11 Cricket	ISA Midlands Hardball Competition	All Day	Away
Thur 12th June	U12/13 Cricket	Dixie Grammar School	2:00pm	Away
Wed 18th June	Primary School Sports Day 2:00pm till 3:30pm at Rykneld Sports Centre			
Fri 20th June	Senior School Sports Day 9:00am till 12:00pm at Moorways Athletics Stadium			
Sat 21st June	U12/13 & U14/15 Cricket	Ratcliffe College	10:00am	Away
Sun 29th June	Old Derbeians Hockey Match 9:00am till 10:30am at Rykneld Sports Centre			

PRIMARY ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

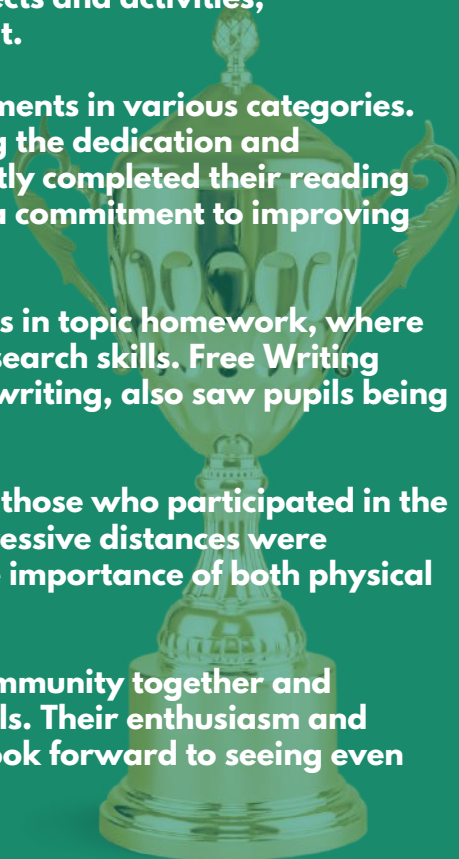
On Monday, the Primary pupils of DGS gathered for a special Achievement Assembly, celebrating their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments over the past few weeks. The assembly was an opportunity to recognise the efforts of students across a range of subjects and activities, highlighting both academic excellence and extracurricular commitment.

The ceremony saw pupils being awarded certificates for their achievements in various categories. Commendations were given for outstanding academic work, reflecting the dedication and enthusiasm that students bring to their studies. Those who had diligently completed their reading diaries were also celebrated, demonstrating a love for literature and a commitment to improving their literacy skills.

In addition to academic success, pupils were recognised for their efforts in topic homework, where they explored subjects in depth and showcased their creativity and research skills. Free Writing Friday, an initiative designed to inspire independent and imaginative writing, also saw pupils being rewarded for their expressive and original compositions.

A particularly exciting moment in the assembly was the recognition of those who participated in the Sponsored Swim. Pupils who had challenged themselves to swim impressive distances were acknowledged for their determination and perseverance, showing the importance of both physical fitness and a positive mindset.

The Achievement Assembly was a fantastic way to bring the school community together and celebrate the diverse talents of Derby Grammar School's Primary pupils. Their enthusiasm and dedication continue to inspire both their peers and teachers, and we look forward to seeing even more incredible achievements in the future!



TANZANIA FUNDRAISING

How you can still help...

On behalf of the Tanzania team here at Derby Grammar School, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the parents, staff, and pupils who have contributed to our Tanzania Fundraising. Your generosity and enthusiasm have been truly inspiring, and your support will make a significant difference to the children and communities we will be visiting.

This week, we have seen incredible participation in our Easter popcorn bags, sponsored swimming, and Rabbit Raffle, all of which have helped raise vital funds. These donations will go directly towards providing essential resources for schools and children in Tanzania, ensuring they have better access to learning materials, equipment, and support.

As we prepare for our upcoming Tanzania Trek, we are also looking for physical donations that will directly benefit the communities we visit. If you have any of the following items that you no longer need, we would be incredibly grateful for your support:

- Working Laptops – Even older models can be used in classrooms to enhance learning opportunities.
- Suitcases with Wheels – These will help us transport the donated supplies safely and efficiently to the schools and communities.

If you have any of these items and would like to contribute, please get in touch with us or bring them into school.

Coming Soon: Our Amazon Wishlist

Many families have asked how they can help further, so after Easter, we will be launching an Amazon Wishlist with affordable, high-impact items that will make a real difference. These will include:

- Skipping ropes – Great for play and physical education.
- Deflated footballs and rugby balls – Easier to transport - Sports bring communities together and inspire young people.
- Stationery supplies – Pens, pencils, and notebooks are vital for education.
- Cricket sets - easier for all the children to enjoy together.

By purchasing from the wishlist, you can ensure that the right supplies reach those who need them most.

Every contribution, big or small, plays a part in improving the lives of children in Tanzania, and we are incredibly grateful for your help.



THANK YOU MR HILLIAM



As we approach the end of the Spring Term, we take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to Paul Hilliam for his leadership as Acting Head over the past 12 months.

Paul has guided Derby Grammar School through a significant period of transition, including the school's change in ownership to Inspired Learning Group, with his characteristic wisdom, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the DGS community.

Paul has been an integral part of Derby Grammar School since its very beginning. A founder member of staff, he has played a pivotal role in shaping the school over the past 30 years. Prior to this, he was also a founder member of Northamptonshire Independent Grammar School for Boys.

His passion for education has been evident in his work as Director of Co-Curriculum and Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager, as well as in the classroom, where he has particularly enjoyed teaching Religious Studies and Ethics.

Beyond his contributions to education, Paul's background is as rich as it is diverse. After studying at London University, he pursued a career as an oboist and conductor, performing across Europe and America. He is also the author of four history textbooks and an avid traveller and walker.

Paul's connection to DGS extends beyond his professional role - his two sons have both been pupils here, and he is truly part of the school's fabric. Highly regarded by staff and students alike, Paul's presence, wisdom, and humour will be greatly missed in his current role.

As he steps aside, we extend our warmest thanks for all he has done for DGS. His legacy will undoubtedly live on, and we look forward to continuing to see him around school in the years to come.

After the Easter Break, we welcome Alistair Bond as our new Head, and Mr Hilliam takes up the position of Senior Deputy Head. Thank you for everything, Paul.

HOUSE HOCKEY

BEMROSE REIGNS SUPREME IN SHOWDOWN

This Wednesday afternoon, the Titans of our school houses clashed in an electrifying display of skill, determination, and sheer competitive spirit as they battled for glory in the annual House Hockey Championship.

With teams primed and ready, the stage was set for an afternoon of fierce competition, and the players did not disappoint. Right from the first whistle, it was clear that this would be a closely contested affair. Each house brought their A-game, showcasing sharp passing, impressive stick work, and tactical brilliance.

Derby House, determined to make their mark, fought valiantly throughout the tournament, displaying tenacity and teamwork that kept them firmly in the running for the title. Their attacking play was relentless, their defensive line held strong, and their teamwork was second to none.

But in the end, there could only be one winner – and once again, it was Bemrose House who rose to the occasion. With swift counterattacks, precision finishes, and unbreakable defensive resilience, they managed to edge out the competition, securing the title of House Hockey Champions. Their well-drilled strategy and relentless energy proved unstoppable, sealing yet another triumphant moment for the house.

While Bemrose may have claimed the top spot, every team played with heart, proving that House spirit at Derby Grammar School is alive and well. A huge congratulations to all players for an afternoon of exceptional hockey – and to Bemrose, the undisputed champions of the pitch! Who will rise to challenge them next year? Only time will tell!



THE MAGIC FLUTE

Last week, our pupils had the incredible opportunity to visit the Theatre Royal in Nottingham to watch a performance of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, brought to life by the renowned Opera North. It was an unforgettable experience, blending world-class music, stunning visuals, and an enchanting storyline that left a lasting impression on all who attended.

The Theatre Royal itself provided the perfect setting for such a prestigious performance. With its grand architecture and rich history dating back to 1865, the venue has long been a cornerstone of Nottingham's cultural scene. Stepping inside, pupils were met with the opulence of its Victorian design, plush seating, and the warm glow of the grand chandeliers, all contributing to the anticipation of the evening ahead.

Opera North, one of the UK's leading opera companies, is celebrated for its innovative and accessible productions. Based in Leeds, the company has a reputation for making opera engaging for audiences of all backgrounds, and their interpretation of *The Magic Flute* was no exception. Their dynamic staging, imaginative costumes, and breathtaking vocal performances captivated everyone in the audience, ensuring that even those new to opera found themselves immersed in the spectacle.

The Magic Flute, one of Mozart's most famous operas, is a story filled with adventure, magic, and powerful themes of love, truth, and courage. The performance masterfully balanced comedy and drama, with the beloved character Papageno providing light-hearted moments, while the soaring arias of the Queen of the Night showcased the extraordinary talent of the cast. The live orchestra added an extra layer of magic, bringing Mozart's timeless score to life with breathtaking precision and emotion.



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For many of our pupils, this was their first experience of a live opera performance, and it was a truly eye-opening occasion. The combination of music, drama, and stagecraft highlighted the power of the performing arts and demonstrated why opera remains such a celebrated art form.

Opportunities like this enrich our pupils' cultural education, inspire creativity, and encourage a deeper appreciation for the arts. We look forward to many more experiences like this in the future!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN EYFS?

After weeks of dedication and hard work, our Sealife Silhouette Art is finally complete! The journey from initial sketches to the final masterpiece has been one of patience, creativity, and attention to detail.

Inspired by the wonders of the ocean, each piece beautifully captures the essence of marine life through striking silhouettes and vibrant backgrounds. The results are nothing short of breathtaking - each artwork tells a unique story of the sea, brought to life by our talented students.

We are incredibly proud of their efforts, and we hope you agree that the final pieces look absolutely stunning.



In maths, the children have been delving into the world of 3D shapes, developing their understanding through engaging, practical activities.

One of the highlights of the week was building our very own 3D structures. The children started by copying existing models, carefully observing the different shapes and how they fit together. As their confidence grew, they moved on to designing and constructing their own buildings - challenging their friends to recreate them!

This activity required patience, persistence, and teamwork, but the results were fantastic. After plenty of trial and error, the children were thrilled to see their 3D creations standing independently. It was a wonderful way to reinforce their learning while encouraging problem-solving and fine motor skills.



PRIMARY UPDATES

YEAR 1 & 2

This week, the Year 1/2 pupils have been enjoying a fun and creative journey into the spirit of Easter. The children took part in a series of Easter-themed crafts, inspired by the story of Easter and the vibrant creativity that the season brings. The children settled down together to watch the Easter story.

It was a wonderful moment for them to reflect on the significance of the holiday and its deeper meaning. The children were fully engaged as they listened to the narrative, showing great curiosity and interest as they learned about the key events of Easter.

With the story fresh in their minds, they were tasked with creating their own Easter gardens, drawing inspiration from the story they had just watched.



YEAR 3 & 4

The Year 3/4 pupils have been busy working on an exciting and hands-on Design and Technology (DT) project this week. As part of their studies, the children are designing and making their own gas masks and accompanying gas mask boxes, providing them with the perfect opportunity to use their creativity and problem-solving skills.

Throughout the project, the students have been learning about the history and significance of gas masks, gaining a deeper understanding of how they were used and the role they played during significant historical events.

The process has been both challenging and rewarding, as pupils have had to think critically and solve problems at every step. From deciding on the best materials to use to ensuring the gas masks and boxes are functional and sturdy, each student has been applying their problem-solving skills in creative ways.



PRIMARY UPDATES

YEAR 5 & 6

Exciting Week for Year 5/6: Auditions, Biographies, and Fun with Maths!

This week has been packed with excitement for the Year 5/6 class at Derby Grammar School as they took part in auditions for the upcoming summer production, *Rock Bottom*. The students were buzzing with energy as they auditioned for their roles, and now, with main parts awarded, the preparations are in full swing!

A big congratulations to those who have secured their roles, and we encourage them to start learning their lines over the holidays. It's going to be a fantastic production, and we can't wait to see it all come together.

Don't worry, Year 3/4 – there will be plenty of opportunities for you too! Auditions for your roles will take place after the Easter holidays, so get ready to shine!

Year 5 students have been busy researching and writing biographies about a person of their choice. This has been a fantastic opportunity for them to dive deep into the life stories of individuals they admire or find interesting. The students have been working hard to gather information and present it in a clear and engaging way, developing both their writing and research skills. We're looking forward to reading their finished pieces

In Year 5 Maths, the class has had a great time exploring statistics, focusing on creating and interpreting two-way tables. This hands-on approach has allowed students to apply their knowledge of data collection and organization in a fun and interactive way. It's been exciting to see them develop their understanding of how to represent data and make meaningful conclusions based on their findings.



In Year 6, students wrapped up their discussion text on the topic: *Is Screen Use Making Children Lazy?* This thought-provoking debate encouraged the students to consider both sides of the argument and present their opinions in a clear and structured manner.

It's been wonderful to see how the students have developed their critical thinking and persuasive writing skills as they explored such an important and timely issue.

In Maths, Year 6 completed their topic on decimals. They worked on understanding the relationships between decimals, percentages, and fractions, mastering key concepts that will serve them well in future lessons.

Looking ahead to next term, they will be diving into more advanced topics, including percentages, decimals, and fractions, building on their knowledge and preparing for the challenges of the coming terms.

It's been an exciting and productive week for Year 5/6, filled with creativity, learning, and plenty of preparation for what's to come.

We can't wait to see how the students continue to develop their skills and talents as the year progresses. Thank you for a great term, you've all been amazing!

BATTLE OF THE BANDS ROCKS DGS!



The stage was set, the amps were cranked up, and the excitement was electric as Year 9 took centre stage for Derby Grammar School's highly anticipated annual Battle of the Bands. In what proved to be a spectacular showcase of musical talent, creativity, and showmanship, students formed their own bands, developed their identities, and put on a performance to remember in front of an enthusiastic Lower School audience.

This year's competition saw an impressive lineup of seven unique bands, each bringing their own flair and musical style to the event. The groups – Ice Boyz, Monster Legends, Pigeon Religion, Summer Boys, The Musketeers, The Nut Crackers, and The Peatles – didn't just play music; they became their bands. From designing logos and coordinating outfits to developing their own marketing campaigns, each group took ownership of their brand, ensuring they stood out both visually and musically.

The concert itself was an exhilarating blend of popular culture and an eclectic mix of songs, with powerful renditions of Believer and Wrecking Ball, alongside some legendary rock and pop hits. The energy in the room was contagious as the bands gave it their all, bringing their own creative twists to familiar tunes. Among the many incredible performances, some standout moments included Hugo's masterful drumming, Tom's impressive skills on the keyboard, and Arlo who shared his skills around several of the bands! The vocalists also shone, delivering everything from heartfelt ballads to powerhouse rock anthems in a mash-up of musical excellence.

After an afternoon of high-energy performances, the judges – alongside the cheering crowd – had the difficult task of selecting a winner. In the end, it was The Nut Crackers who emerged victorious, wowing the audience with their impressive covers of Mr. Brightside, Just the Two of Us, and Sweet Caroline. Their stage presence, musicality, and sheer enthusiasm set them apart, earning them the coveted title of Battle of the Bands Champions 2025!

While The Nut Crackers took home the top prize, every single participant deserves huge congratulations for their commitment, creativity, and courage in stepping onto the stage. The event wasn't just about winning – it was a celebration of teamwork, confidence-building, and the joy of music.

A massive well done to all the Year 9 students who took part – you embodied the true spirit of Battle of the Bands, and your performances were nothing short of brilliant. We can't wait to see what next year's competition will bring!