



Derby
Grammar
School

Where you belong

DERBY GRAMMAR GAZETTE



It is a peculiarity of school life that you can't help but be reminded of your own schooling and education. Whilst the nerves were indeed evident at the early round of examinations last week and the sense of anticipation palpable as we raised our glasses to the Y13 students on Friday afternoon you reflect on your own experiences and pose yourself the inevitable question of what if you had your own time again?

The advice I dared to offer to those assembled? First and foremost every teacher and adult in that room wouldn't hesitate to swap places with any one of the students. I have no regrets but perhaps I would be more confident and more determined to seize absolutely every opportunity presented to me. So that was my advice. Go for it, as you just don't know what opportunities will arise as a result. Sound advice at and for any age.

Best wishes

Alistair Bond
Headmaster

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 Football:

1st Bemrose
2nd Atkinson, Blackton & Derby

House Debating:

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

Overall Scores:

1st Bemrose 470 points
2nd Derby 420 points
3rd Atkinson 400 points
4th Blackton 320 points

Just two more senior House events left this term - Cricket & Sports Day. Can Bemrose hold onto that lead?



DIARY DATES

MAY

- 13 Primary School Bikeability
U15 Cricket V Stafford Grammar (A)
- 15 Leicester Tigers U14 Touch Rugby -
Welford Road
- 19 Primary School Assessment Week
- 21 PTA Meeting 7.30pm - 9.00pm Library
- 25 Greenpower Heat at Lotus Hethel

JUNE

- 1 Greenpower Heat at Castle Combe
- 4 U10/11 Cricket v Nottingham (H)
- 8 Greenpower Great at Bedford
- 12 U12/13 Cricket Dixie Grammar (A)
- 13 U11 ISA Midlands Kwik Cricket
Competition (A)
- 17 Y4/5 Music Trip to Manchester
- 18 Primary School Sports Day - Rykneld

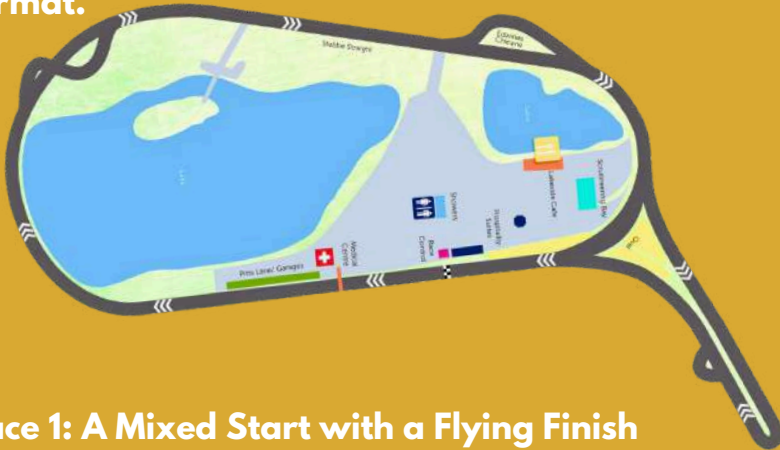


MALLORY PARK F24

Greenpower Glory and Grit: DGS Takes on Mallory Park!

Derby Grammar School roared into action on Wednesday as our brilliant F24 Greenpower racing teams competed at the iconic Mallory Park in Leicestershire. Representing the school with pride, DGS1 and DGS2 took to the track in what turned out to be a thrilling, unpredictable, and educational day of high-speed electric racing.

Set against the backdrop of Mallory Park's historic 1.35-mile circuit – renowned for its sweeping curves and fast straights – the atmosphere was electric (quite literally!) as over 40 schools and organisations lined up to compete in the two-race format.



Race 1: A Mixed Start with a Flying Finish

The morning race got off to a challenging start for DGS1, as unexpected electronics issues saw the car forced off the track for emergency repairs. But true to form, our team of students, supported by the ever-resourceful Mr Lakritz, leapt into action to diagnose and resolve the fault with determination and teamwork.

Meanwhile, the spotlight turned to our brand-new car, DGS2, making its debut at Mallory Park. With Oli West behind the wheel, DGS2 was flying – clinching an incredible 5th place out of 43 competitors in its very first outing! Oli also set one of the fastest laps of the day with a blistering 1 minute 54 seconds – a real testament to both the design and driving skill.



... RACE DAY!



Race 2: Heartbreak and Hard Lessons

After a sensational start in the morning, the team had high hopes for Race 2. But motorsport is never without its twists – and unfortunately, battery issues plagued our cars in the afternoon race, causing DGS2 to fall dramatically down the leaderboard.

It was a tough pill to swallow after such early success, but the experience was invaluable. The students faced the challenge head-on, working under pressure to assess the problem and adapt their strategy. The resilience, problem-solving, and engineering insight gained from this experience will only make the team stronger going forward.



Next Stop: The Legendary Lotus Hethel!

The focus now shifts to the next event in the Greenpower calendar – the Lotus Hethel Race Day on Saturday 25th May. Hosted at the Lotus Cars test track in Norfolk – the very site where the legendary manufacturer develops its world-class vehicles – this event promises another unforgettable day of racing and innovation.

With the lessons from Mallory Park under their belt, the DGS teams are already making preparations to come back stronger, faster, and more determined than ever. Bring on Hethel!

****Keep an eye on our social channels and from the pit lane and behind-the-scenes action as Derby Grammar School continues to blaze a trail in the world of Greenpower racing!**



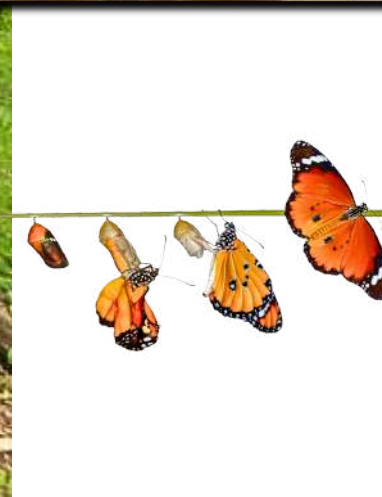
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN PRIMARY

EYFS are bursting with creativity and curiosity!

What a magical week it's been in Early Years! Not only are our caterpillars beginning to form their cocoons (we're eagerly awaiting butterflies!), but we've also completed our amazing class art project – and what a masterpiece it is!

The children had an absolute blast getting creative (and wonderfully messy!) as they worked together to design one giant artwork that showcases all the artistic techniques they've explored this year. From vibrant blow painting and detailed leaf printing, to eye-popping pop art and dramatic shadow art, our final piece is a celebration of everything we've learned – and loved – in EYFS.

Take a look at our incredible creation... we're so proud!



WEEK STARTING | 12th May

MAIN DISHES

MONDAY
Smoked Salmon, Carbonara, Focaccia & Panzanella Salad

TUESDAY
Chicken & Chorizo Paella, Nachos

WEDNESDAY
Bacon Chop, New Potatoes, Leeks & Peas, Parsley Sauce

THURSDAY
Beef Keema Pie, Bombay Potatoes & Vegetable Dhal

FRIDAY
Chicken, Katsu Sauce, 5 Spice Broccoli & Steamed Rice

VEGETARIAN

MONDAY
Quorn & Bean Taco, Steamed Rice & Peas

TUESDAY
Summer Cauliflower Cheese, Cheese & Onion Bread

WEDNESDAY
Feta Stuffed Peppers, Cous Cous & Roasted Vegetables

THURSDAY
Falafel Flatbread & Garlic Potato Wedges

FRIDAY
BBQ Aubergine Bagel Bun, Pickled Vegetables, Gochujang Mayonnaise



Derby
Grammar
School

Bringing education to life.

Menu Staples

Jacket Potato Station
With Hot & Cold Fillings,
The Pasta Station,
Graze Plates, Salad Bar,
Fresh Fruit, Homemade
Flavoured Yoghurts &
Chilled Desserts

DESSERTS

Monday Apple Flapjack & Custard
Tuesday Raspberry Ripple Cheesecake
Wednesday Malteser Muffin
Thursday Carrot Cake
Friday Assorted Puddings

THIS WEEK'S LUNCH MENU

OUR TAKE ON THE TUDORS



Year 3 & 4 have stepped back in time this term, fully immersing themselves in the fascinating world of the Tudors. The topic has sparked lively discussions and creative learning, with pupils particularly intrigued by the unique – and often uncomfortable – clothing styles of the era, including the restrictive corsets worn by Tudor women.

In Art, pupils have been exploring Tudor portraiture, carefully studying the techniques and symbolism used in the 16th century. As part of their work, the children are creating their own portraits, capturing the grandeur and detail of the period.

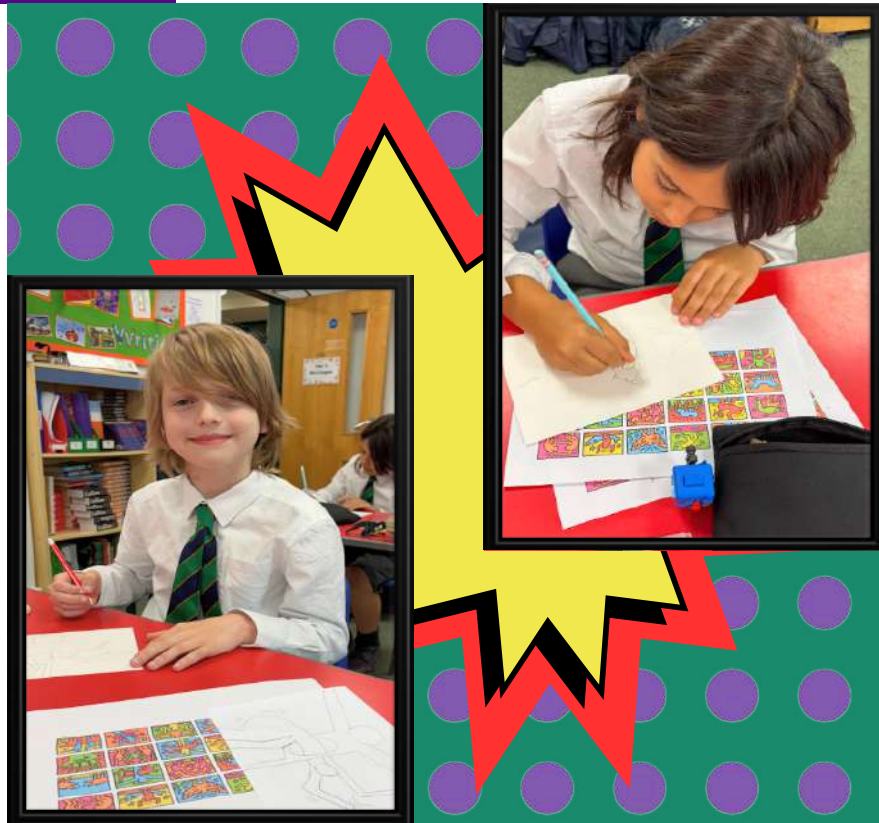
Adding a modern twist, the class is also busy producing a special A2 pointillism piece dedicated to Mr. Bond. Combining everything they've learned about Tudor imagery with contemporary artistic technique, the project is coming together beautifully and promises to be a real showstopper.

Keep an eye out for photos of the finished piece – we can't wait to share it with you!

As part of their topic Britain Since 1940, pupils in Years 5 and 6 have been diving into the bold and colourful world of Pop Art. Inspired by iconic artists such as Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein, the children are exploring how art reflected the cultural shifts of post-war Britain.

Using vibrant colours, repeated imagery and eye-catching designs, they are now creating their own Pop Art pieces that celebrate the era's unique style.

It's a fantastic way to link history and creativity, and the results are already looking spectacular! Keep an eye out for their finished masterpieces.



WRITING, REASONING & REAL-WORLD MATHS!

It's been a dynamic and engaging few weeks in Years 5 and 6, with pupils diving deep into rich texts, lively debates, and hands-on mathematical learning.

In Year 5 English, pupils have been captivated by Alfred Noyes' thrilling narrative poem The Highwayman. Drawing on the drama and tension of the story, they have been creating imaginative wanted posters and developing detailed character descriptions, bringing the bold and mysterious figures of the poem to life through their writing.

In Maths, Year 5 have just completed a comprehensive unit on fractions, decimals and percentages, consolidating their understanding through real-world applications and problem-solving tasks. They are now turning their attention to geometry, starting with an exploration of angles – naming, measuring and identifying them in different contexts.

In Year 6, English lessons have taken a persuasive turn as pupils begin crafting their own discussion texts. With topics such as “Who is the best footballer – Messi or Ronaldo?”, “Should Year 6 have a class pet?”, and “Should DGS allow packed lunches?”, the children are researching arguments on both sides, preparing to write balanced, thought-provoking pieces next week.

In Maths, Year 6 are concluding their work on area, perimeter and volume, applying their knowledge to a range of practical challenges. Next, they'll be moving into the world of statistics, learning to interpret and present data with accuracy and confidence.

Across Upper Key Stage 2, it's been fantastic to see pupils demonstrating creativity, curiosity and growing independence as they tackle new concepts and express their ideas both numerically and in writing.



AN INSPECTOR CALLS YEAR 10

This week, our impeccably behaved Year 10 cohort had the exciting opportunity to visit the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham to see their GCSE play, J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*, come to life on stage. The production is renowned for its exceptional staging, and our students were treated to a performance that truly brought the themes of the play to life in a fresh and engaging way.



The set design was particularly striking, with elements that literally fell apart during the performance, symbolising the collapse of the capitalist values explored in Priestley's work. Adam described how "the set came to life in front of us, falling apart like the capitalist view in the book, with shards of glass flying from the upper class, symbolising the fall the upper classes took." The use of special effects further enhanced the experience, with Gabriel commenting on the "incredible stage" and praising the "special and practical effects" that added so much depth to the performance.

The pupils were fully engaged throughout the production, and it certainly gave them a deeper understanding of the text and its themes. The overall feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with students noting how the performance stayed largely faithful to the text. Akim remarked, "The play was mainly text-accurate, with very few occurrences where the lines of characters changed." He also appreciated the clarity of the actors' delivery.

Some students reflected on the modernised adaptation of the play. Mekaal enjoyed how the inclusion of "violence, sarcasm, and humour" made it much more relatable for a teenage audience, while Dominic found the portrayal of Sheila's character interesting but noted that she wasn't as serious and political as in the original text.

It's wonderful to see such thoughtful engagement from our students, and we are incredibly proud of the way they represented Derby Grammar School. Thank you, Year 10, for your insightful reviews and impeccable behaviour throughout the trip!



DERBY ARTS FESTIVAL

After a six-year absence, pupils from Derby Grammar Primary School made a triumphant return to the Speech and Drama section of the prestigious Derby Arts Festival this week. The reintroduction of the school to this longstanding cultural event marks an exciting chapter in the Primary School's co-curricular journey and highlights a growing focus on the expressive arts within the curriculum.

Over the past two months, 12 pupils from Years 3 to 6 have been diligently preparing for the competition during weekly Poetry Club sessions. Led by Mrs. Simpson with her infectious passion for performance and language, the club has become a vibrant space for creativity, self-expression, and confidence-building. Pupils selected and rehearsed a variety of poems, focusing on tone, articulation, rhythm, and presence—key components performance.

The hard work paid off as each of the young competitors took to the stage in front of an audience of peers, parents, and adjudicators. For many, this was their first experience of performing in a competitive setting outside of school, and they did so with poise and professionalism well beyond their years.

The Derby Arts Festival, renowned for celebrating local talent across music, speech, drama, and dance, provided a perfect platform for these young performers to shine. Competing in two categories—Year 4 and under, and Year 6 and under—the pupils delivered their chosen poems with passion and skill, earning praise from judges and fellow participants alike.

Among the standout performances were those of Dileep G, who achieved third place, and Asher B-S, who secured a well-deserved second place in the Year 4 and under category. In the Year 6 and under class, Dylan L was awarded third place, while Rohan M impressed the judges and claimed second place.

Mrs. Genders, expressed immense pride in the pupils' accomplishments:

"To see our children step onto a public stage and perform with such confidence was genuinely moving. This reaffirms how powerful the arts can be in nurturing resilience, empathy, and creativity. We're incredibly proud of every single pupil who took part."

The school's return to the festival has sparked excitement among both staff and students, with plans already in motion to further develop performance opportunities. Poetry Club continues to flourish, and its success at the festival has served as a catalyst for broader interest in public speaking and drama.

In a world where communication skills are more vital than ever, Derby Grammar Primary's participation in the Derby Arts Festival is more than just a celebration of poetry—it's a testament to the school's commitment to holistic education and the nurturing of well-rounded, confident



FOND FAREWELL TO Y13



Friday marked a significant moment at DGS as we said goodbye (for now!) to our incredible Year 13s, who began their study leave ahead of the upcoming exam season. The afternoon began with a fantastic lunch in the Library, where students joined the Senior Leadership Team for a feast of delicious street food-style burgers and all the trimmings, followed by an indulgent chocolate decadence dessert, delivered to our SLT meeting by Nathaniel!

The proceedings took a more energetic turn as the group headed out to the Lawn for a spirited – if slightly chaotic – session of Zorb football. While some mastered the technique, for others it quickly turned into a game of human skittles. The sounds of hilarity and competition echoed across the grounds – a fitting celebration of the fun and camaraderie these pupils have brought to school life.

We concluded the afternoon back in the Library with a few sage words of encouragement, and a champagne toast to honour their hard work, resilience, and the incredible contribution they've made to DGS. Whether supporting events, mentoring younger pupils, or simply being the first to lend a hand when needed, this group has been amazing.

To our Year 13s: thank you for everything you've brought to the school community. You've been role models, leaders, and friends – and we will miss each and every one of you. Good luck in the weeks ahead.

You've got this – just take it in your stride, as you always do.



PRIMARY ECO-AUDIT

Following the announcement in last week's newsletter, pupils in Years 5 and 6 have taken their Earth Day celebrations to inspiring new heights. As part of their commitment to environmental awareness, the children planned and conducted a self-designed eco audit of the school, identifying areas for improvement and sustainability.

Their findings didn't stop at observation. Determined to make a real difference, the pupils organised a school litter pick, penned persuasive letters to Mr Bond and Mr Rhead, and are now preparing an assembly to present their findings and ideas to the rest of the primary school next week.

The responses to their letters were met with great excitement, as both Mr Bond and Mr Rhead not only praised their initiative but also set them a series of meaningful challenges. These include designing a package-free snack menu for the tuck shop, drafting questions to ask an energy company, and developing plans for a new discovery garden.

This thoughtful and proactive approach has sparked a wave of enthusiasm across the primary school, and we eagerly await the next steps in this eco-journey. With such motivated young leaders at the helm, the future is looking a little greener already!



OPENING EVENT FOR OUR BRAND NEW NURSERY

We're so excited to announce that Little Oaks Day Nursery will be holding a special Opening Event on Wednesday 21 May – and we'd love to see you there!

Come along, book a session, and explore our beautiful, Forest School-inspired setting, designed to spark imagination, nurture curiosity, and give children the best possible start to their learning journey.

We're also pleased to offer sibling discounts, and places are filling fast – so reserve your spot today to avoid disappointment!

We can't wait to welcome you to Little Oaks!

admissions@derbygrammar.org
01332 523027 (option 2)

Grand Opening

Wednesday **21st**
May

Appointments are available between 9am -10.30am or 11am - 12.30 pm, call to reserve your place



Y11 HEAD OFF TO REVISE!



Wednesday marked a bittersweet milestone as we waved goodbye to our incredible Year 11 cohort, who have now begun their study leave in preparation for their GCSEs. Their last day was filled with laughter, memories, and of course, the time-honoured tradition of signing shirts.

The Hall echoed with good wishes, funny notes, and messages of support from friends and staff alike - each student proudly walking away wearing their very own piece of Year 11 history.

The final double Games lesson at Rykneld was no less special. A spirited game of football brought the year group together one last time on the pitch, showcasing the camaraderie, teamwork, and energy that have defined

and energy that have defined them throughout, graffitied shirts flapping in the breeze and smiles all around, it was the perfect send-off.

Today, they faced their GCSE English Literature - and we could not be prouder of how they've handled themselves. With focus, resilience, and determination, they've taken this next step towards their futures with real maturity.

To all of Year 11: we believe in you, we are proud of you, and we wish you so much luck for the journey ahead. You've got this!



MUSICIANS SHINE AT CATHEDRAL RECITAL



Derby Grammar School's talented young musicians took to the stage last week in the stunning setting of Derby Cathedral, performing as part of the prestigious 2025 Lunchtime Concert Series.

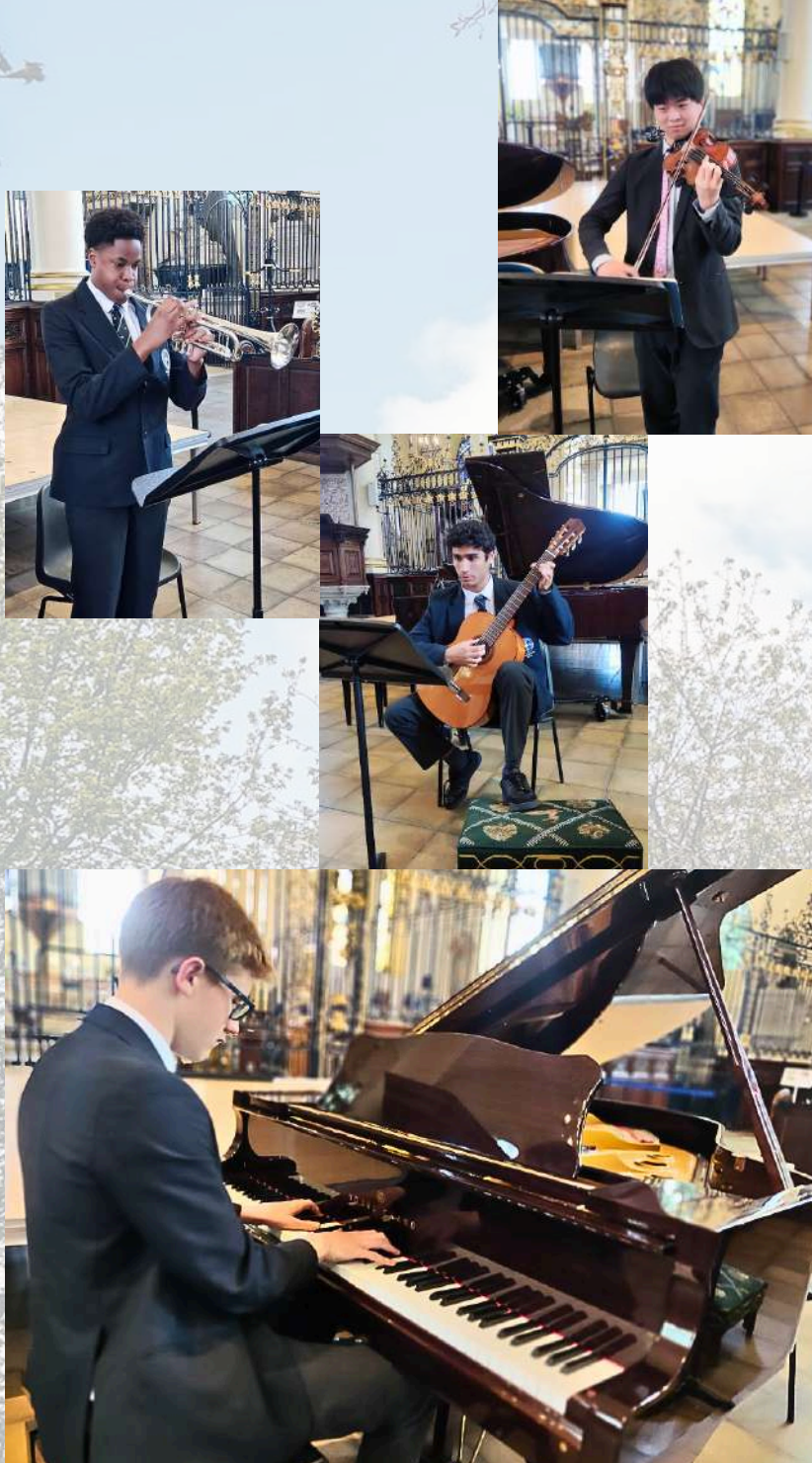
The event was a resounding success, with pupils delivering an exceptional programme that captivated the audience and showcased the remarkable standard of musical talent within the school.

Performing in such a historic and atmospheric venue is always an honour for our pupils. The grandeur of Derby Cathedral – with its soaring arches, intricate stonework, and serene acoustics – provided the perfect backdrop for an afternoon of live music. The setting inspired performers and audience alike, creating a sense of occasion that made the concert particularly memorable.

From powerful solo performances to finely balanced ensembles, the pupils rose to the challenge with confidence, maturity, and musical flair. Each piece was performed with sensitivity and expression, reflecting the hard work and dedication of both the students and the music department.

This special occasion not only gave our musicians the chance to perform in one of Derby's most iconic cultural spaces, but it also reinforced the role of music as a vital part of life at Derby Grammar School. We are immensely proud of all those who took part – their poise, talent, and professionalism were a credit to the school.

We thank Derby Cathedral for once again welcoming our pupils to be part of this inspiring series. It remains a highlight of our musical calendar and a treasured opportunity for our young performers to share their gifts with the wider community.



RYKNELD SPORTS CENTRE 20% DISCOUNT

As the Summer 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>



SUMMER CAMPS AT DGS

We're thrilled to announce that DGS will be launching its very first on-site Summer Camp this year – and it's set to be a season full of adventure, creativity and non-stop fun!

Running from 7 July to 22 August, our action-packed camp is open to all children from Reception through to Year 8 – and you don't need to be a DGS pupil to join in the fun!

Whether your child loves outdoor exploration, sports, crafts, games or making new friends, our Summer Camp promises something for everyone. With a warm, friendly atmosphere and access to our beautiful grounds and facilities, children will have the chance to try new things and lots of engaging activities. There will be early bird offers, sibling discounts, and weekly booking discounts available – so it's the perfect time to plan ahead and secure your place.

- ◆ Children will need to bring a packed lunch
- ◆ Flexible booking options available
- ◆ Open to all, not just DGS families

More details coming soon – watch this space!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH ADVENTURE



Last week, our Year 9 pupils took to the hills of the Peak District for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice expedition.

For many, this was their first experience of outdoor expedition life—from packing their own rucksack and navigating using a map, to setting up camp and cooking meals under the open sky.



It was a challenging few days, but also a fantastic opportunity for pupils to build resilience, develop leadership, and grow in independence. We saw teamwork in action, determination in abundance, and some very impressive problem-solving! In July, the group will return to the Peak District for their qualifying expedition, where they'll be putting all the skills and lessons from this experience into practice.



We're proud of their effort and enthusiasm—and can't wait to see them succeed in the next stage of their DofE journey.