



Derby
Grammar
School

Where you belong

DERBY GRAMMAR GAZETTE



WHITEMOOR MEMORIES MADE AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

As the new school year begins, Year 7 students were given the perfect opportunity to bond, grow, and create lasting memories during their three-day residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes. Nestled in the heart of Staffordshire, Whitemoor Lakes offers an ideal backdrop for students to step out of their comfort zones and make the transition into senior school with excitement and confidence.

From the moment they arrived, the students were thrust into a whirlwind of adventure. Whitemoor Lakes is known for its range of thrilling outdoor activities, and the Year 7s were not disappointed. Whether it was scaling the climbing wall, braving the Gladiator course, or testing their teamwork in the raft-building challenge, every child had the chance to try their hand at something new. The trip encouraged students to push their boundaries,

and it wasn't long before they were cheering each other on to complete daunting tasks. The water sports activities were a particular favorite, with children donning life jackets to kayak in the lake.

A definite highlight of the trip was when the group gathered around the campfire, under the stars which helped build a sense of community among the students. For many, it was a rare chance to slow down and enjoy the simplicity of being together, without the distractions of modern life. These moments around the campfire cemented friendships that are sure to last throughout their senior school years and beyond.

The residential trip wasn't just about fun and games; it was also an opportunity for students to bond with classmates they may not have known very well before. As they tackled challenges together, from solving puzzles in team-building

exercises to encouraging each other during physically demanding tasks, the students developed stronger connections.

The three-day trip to Whitemoor Lakes was more than just an adventure—it was a formative experience that gave these Year 7 students the chance to develop resilience, build teamwork skills, and create lifelong memories. As they return to the classroom, they carry with them the spirit of camaraderie and courage, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges of their new senior school journey as they graduate from Primary Forest School to the Duke of Edinburgh Award in a couple of year's time.

With countless stories to tell and friendships forged around the campfire, these students have truly begun their senior school years on a high note.



On Saturday, 31st August, Rykneld Sports Centre was alive with energy and excitement as students from Reception to Sixth Form gathered for the highly anticipated Inter House Cross Country and Tug O' War event. This marked the official launch of the new school year and the start of the Inter House Competition.

Blessed with beautiful sunny weather, the day saw children of all ages and athletic abilities come together for a fun and competitive day of sports. The cross country races were a huge success, with students from each year group showing determination and school spirit as they raced for their Houses. From the youngest Reception students to the experienced Sixth Form athletes, everyone gave their best, but it was Bemrose who took the Trophy with the majority points.

The Tug O' War competition added to the excitement, with Houses battling it out in a display of strength, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Cheered on by their peers teachers and families, the students demonstrated incredible perseverance as they fought for victory, with Atkinson securing the win.

The event was a fantastic way to kick off the school year, with a wonderful atmosphere and a great sense of camaraderie among all the students. The enthusiasm and effort shown by everyone set the tone for an exciting year ahead in the Inter House Competition.





SPEECH NIGHT RECOGNISES EFFORT AND RESILIENCE ALONGSIDE EXCELLENCE

On Friday, 6th September, Derby Grammar School hosted its annual Speech Night at the prestigious Reach Conference Centre, celebrating the outstanding achievements of its students across all areas of academic, sporting, and creative life.

The evening brought together the entire school community—from Primary pupils to Sixth Formers—and served as a proud showcase of the remarkable talent and hard work that defines Derby Grammar School.

The night began with a warm welcome to parents, students, and staff, from Acting Head Paul Hilliam and Justin Spanswick COO of ILG, setting the stage for a memorable event. The achievements of students from across the school were highlighted, with special recognition given to those who excelled in various areas. From the youngest students in Primary school, who delighted us with musical renditions from their Summer show; Pirates of the Curry Bean, to pupils who shone in both academic and extracurricular pursuits, to the impressive results in Music and LAMDA, there was much to celebrate.

Particular applause was given to those who performed brilliantly in their GCSE and A-Level exams, with many students achieving top marks.

Sporting accomplishments were also spotlighted, as Derby Grammar

continues to nurture well-rounded individuals who excel both inside and outside the classroom.

The evening was made even more special by guest speaker Jane Carolyn Hanson CBE, JP, FCA, BA (Hons), who delivered an empowering and inspiring speech. Her words encouraged the students to embrace their potential, think big, and continue to strive for success in all areas of their lives. Jane's speech resonated with the audience, offering valuable insights into resilience, leadership, and the pursuit of excellence.

Adding a personal touch to the night, former Head Prefects Grace Salt and Matthew Jackson also took to the stage, sharing their own experiences and reflections on their time at Derby Grammar School. Their heartfelt speeches offered a glimpse into the personal growth and friendships they developed, leaving an enduring message of gratitude and encouragement for the younger students.

The wonderful evening came to a close with applause echoing through the fabulous venue, marking a night filled with pride, joy, and optimism for the future. Speech Night 2024 was not only a celebration of past successes but also a reminder of the bright futures that lie ahead for the pupils of Derby Grammar School.



“anyone want to learn the violin?”

THE TANZANIA PROJECT

DGS'S AMAZING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GEDELI SCHOOL, TANZANIA BEGAN IN 2013 AND OVER THE PAST 11 YEARS HAS RAISED A PHENOMENAL **£103,237.71** FOR THIS WONDERFUL EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

In 2013, a group of our pupils visited the Gedeli School in Tanzania, and from that first trip, the most incredible relationship was born. Over the years, this partnership has grown into something truly special, making a profound difference in the lives of both our students and the wider Mwanza community.

The legacy of Derby Grammar School in Tanzania is truly remarkable, and it's a testament to the power of compassion and partnership. This is something that we are determined to continue to develop and nurture and we hope to take another group of sixth form pupils in July 2025. Here's to many more years of making a difference!

In 2025, Derby Grammar School's Sixth Formers will embark on a transformative trip to Tanzania to visit our partner, the Gedeli School. This isn't just another school trip—it's an opportunity for students to make a tangible difference in a developing community, while gaining invaluable life skills that will shape their futures. Over the years, Derby Grammar School has raised over £100,000 for Gedeli, funding projects such as the construction of a new classroom, the installation of a fresh water supply, special needs equipment, and electricity.

Traveling to Tanzania exposes students to a completely different way of life, giving them a deep understanding of the challenges faced by communities in the developing world. This experience broadens their perspective on global inequalities, human rights, and the importance of education for all.

Sixth Formers return home with a heightened sense of responsibility, empathy, and a desire to help those less fortunate. During their time at Gedeli School, students will actively participate in projects that directly impact the local community—whether it's helping with classroom renovations or assisting with educational activities.

These projects require teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills. Sixth Formers will understand the value of hard work and the satisfaction of seeing their efforts make a difference in real time.

Beyond the practical work, the cultural exchange aspect of the trip is equally valuable. Our students will learn from their Tanzanian counterparts, share experiences, and build friendships that transcend borders. This encourages leadership qualities as they take initiative in helping with projects, while also learning to adapt to different cultural norms and practices.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the trip is being able to witness the ongoing legacy of Derby Grammar School in Tanzania. Previous students have played a part in providing resources like electricity, clean water, and sanitary systems which have completely changed the lives of the local communities.

From this trip the pupils will gain invaluable lessons that will shape their future lives:

1. Gratitude and Perspective

Visiting a developing community like Gedeli will teach students to appreciate the things they often take for granted, like access to education, clean water, and electricity. This exposure will help them develop a deeper sense of gratitude and a more balanced perspective on their own lives.

2. Empathy and Compassion

While fundraising and hands-on work at Gedeli School helps provide essential resources, it's the personal connections formed with Tanzanian students and community members that leave a lasting impact. Sixth Formers learn to appreciate the struggles and triumphs of people from very different backgrounds. Through this, they develop a deep sense of compassion and empathy, which stays with them long after their return to the UK.

3. Resilience and Determination

Whether they're tackling challenges like climbing Mount Kilimanjaro or helping with community projects at Gedeli, students will learn resilience and determination. They'll experience firsthand how hard work and perseverance can lead to success, even in the toughest situations.

4. Problem-Solving and Teamwork

Working on projects like classroom renovations or supporting local initiatives will teach the students how to collaborate effectively. They will learn the importance of teamwork, communication, and problem-solving—skills they can apply to their studies and future careers.

5. Global Awareness and Social Responsibility

This trip offers a unique opportunity for students to see the global impact of inequality and the role they can play in addressing it. They will learn about the importance of social responsibility and how they, as individuals, can make a difference in communities around the world.

6. Cultural Understanding and Adaptability

Interacting with Tanzanian students and community members will give our Sixth Formers a chance to learn about a different culture, traditions, and way of life. This will teach them how to be open-minded, adaptable, and respectful of diverse perspectives—key skills in an increasingly globalized world.

7. Leadership and Initiative

Taking on active roles in fundraising efforts and hands-on projects at Gedeli School will allow students to develop leadership skills. They will learn how to take initiative, make decisions, and inspire others to work toward a common goal.

8. The Value of Giving Back

Above all, this trip will teach students the true meaning of giving back. They will see how their fundraising efforts—whether providing water, electricity, or school supplies—directly benefit a community. They will learn the joy and fulfillment that comes from helping others and making a lasting impact.

THE TANZANIA PROJECT



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE EXPEDITION?



NEXT STEPS

If you are a current Year 12 or 13 pupil, you are eligible for the 2025 trip to Tanzania.

We will be speaking to the current 6th Form about the trip to determine how many students are interested and planning will commence from that point.

We will then hold an evening with interested pupils and their parents to explain the details of the trip and what it involves.

We will also be speaking to the current Year 11 pupils who are expressing an interest in staying on with us into 6th form and wanting to take advantage of this wonderful experience, so that their fundraising activities can commence as soon as possible!



DIARY DATES for the coming weeks

September

23 Year 11 Parents' Evening 5-7pm

25-27 A Level Biology Field Trip

27 MacMillan Coffee Morning in Hall 9.30 - 11.30am

5 Open Day - 10.00am to 1.00pm

8 Y13 Parents' Evening - 5-7pm

9 PTA AGM and Meeting - 7pm

October

1 School Photo Day 8.30 - 11am

3 Year 7 Parents' Evening with Tutors- 5-7pm

4 Harvest Festival Assembly

10 Primary Parents' Evening - 4.30 - 6.30

14 Primary School Achievement Assembly - 3.15 - 3.45pm

14 Sixth Form Open Evening - 6 - 8.30pm



Select tickets – Fireworks Display – Derby Grammar School

Derby Grammar School are pleased to again be hosting their magnificent Fireworks Spectacular on bonfire night, Tuesday 5th Nove...

 tickettailor

REMEMBER, REMEMBER!

DGS is set to host its highly anticipated Fireworks Spectacular on Tuesday, 5th November, and this year promises to be more dazzling than ever! This event has become a beloved tradition, drawing huge crowds from the local community and beyond.

For just £5 per ticket, this family-friendly evening is open to the public, offering a thrilling display of fireworks lighting up the night sky. Whether you're attending with friends or family, it's sure to be an unforgettable experience.

To secure your tickets, simply scan the QR code and follow the ticket link to make your purchase. Don't miss out on one of Derby's most popular events of the year! Mark your calendars and get ready for a night of excitement!



7'S & UNDER FREE OF CHARGE !

On Friday 27th September we will be holding a Coffee & Cake morning to support Macmillan Cancer Support.

We all know cancer affects millions of people globally, and the funds raised during coffee mornings go directly toward providing essential services. These include nursing care, financial assistance, and emotional support for cancer patients and their families. Every pound raised helps.

By joining in a Macmillan Coffee Morning, you can enjoy a good brew while making a tangible difference in the fight against cancer.

Join us in the school hall from 9.30 - 11.30am.

Coffee
CAKE
for cancer's sake...

join us on
FRIDAY 27th SEPT
9.30^{am} - 11.30^{am}

in the school hall to raise funds for the amazing Macmillan Cancer Support through the medium of cake!

Supporting

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

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Where you belong

