



Derby
Grammar
School

Where you belong

Primary Newsletter

2nd May 2025

Message from Mr Bond

One of the many hugely rewarding aspects of my 'job' is visiting classrooms and having conversations with our pupils. Wandering into our Reception class and being offered a 'hot chocolate' from the home corner whilst simultaneously being told about all of the words they can think of using their sound of the week was a highlight.

The excitement as various year groups made their way to the Forest School area for a true explore and creation of art was tangible.

I also enjoyed receiving an extremely well composed and constructed letter regarding the environmental audit conducted by our highly articulate Y5 and Y6 pupils. Any letter that contains such descriptive language as 'flabbergasted' and connectives such as 'furthermore' as well as recommending addressing the energy consumption and the planting of more trees will always get my attention. I have already written my reply to them and we will be working closely to ensure their ideas will be acted upon.

I do hope that the confidence with which the children approached me is shared with you all. We are a fabulous school and I feel very much at home.

I hope that whether it is at the school gate or at any of the coffee mornings or events we have coming up that you too will find me approachable and keen to make our super school even better.

Alistair Bond
Headmaster



MAY

- 5 Bank Holiday – School Closed
- 12 U11/10 Cricket v Nottingham High School, 2pm Start at Rykneld
- 23 Break Up for Half Term

JUNE

- 7 Whole School Open Day
- 13 U11 ISA Midlands Kwik Cricket Competition, All Day at Duffield CC.
- 18 Primary School Sports Day, 2:00pm till 3:30pm at Rykneld Sports Centre.
- 23 Y6 – Y7 Induction Day

MESSAGE FROM MRS GENDERS

Welcome back to the Summer term! It has been fantastic to have the sun shining and the children have made the most of playing on the beautiful grounds.

I still have a lot of uniform left from the spring term which is either not named or has a past pupil's name in. It makes it very hard to return! If you have lost an item of kit, please let me know or I will donate what is left over to the second-hand uniform shop.

The sponsored swim took place last term for juniors. Please could you send in your sponsor money as soon as possible? All the money raised will go to the Tanzania project. Thank you again for your support. £10 would buy exercise books and pens for 4 students for a year. Currently many students are at school with nothing to write on or with.

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Those of you have been part of the DGS family for a while will know how special it is when the Cherry Blossom blooms on our grounds, and these past weeks at school have given us simply magical views to look out on each day. Sadly, they are starting to fall now, but we wanted to share with you a few of the beautiful photos we have taken over the past few weeks.

Cherry Blossoms are life's beautiful reminder that good things come to those who wait.



SUNNY DAYS

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle and summer hat to school. Summer hats must be DGS caps or plain navy/ black (with no logo). Please apply an all-day sunscreen to children at home in the mornings as teachers are unfortunately unable to apply this.

Junior school pupils are welcome to bring their own if they are able to independently apply it. Summer uniform can also now be worn (shorts for boys). There is always the option to sit/ play in the shade under the beautiful trees in our grounds.

A reminder that children need an old pair of trainers or similar in school (not their PE trainers) in a carrier bag so that they can change their shoes when going onto the field.





ROCK BOTTOM

THE PREHISTORICAL
HYSTERICAL
STONE AGE
ROCK MUSICAL

ROCK BOTTOM!

Year 5/6 have started rehearsals for our summer production of Rock Bottom. Mrs Genders, Mrs Cooper and Mrs Simpson were very impressed that some pupils had already learned their lines for the very first rehearsal. Year 3/4 will be joining us for rehearsals now that their parts have been cast. Parents, we would be very grateful if you could help the children to learn their lines. In addition, all the songs are on the Google classroom so remember to keep practising!

ADVANCE NOTICE

Wednesday 2nd July - Rock Bottom 7pm Hall - All Key Stage 2 are expected to attend as they will all be performing in the show.

WISE PAY/BOOKING FOR BREAKFAST CLUB

Before the Easter holiday there was an email sent out about your WisePay account. This is used to collect payment for school trips.

We also ask that you use WisePay to book your child into the breakfast club. Please be assured that there is no charge for breakfast in primary but it is for us to ensure we cater for the correct numbers of children.

It is also the same for after-care, we ask that you book in but we can still add people in on the day if there are last minute changes in your routine. If you are having problems logging in, please contact Miss Stebbings:

stebbing.k@derbygrammar.org

A reminder that breakfast club starts at 7.30am. Please do not leave your child unsupervised until Mrs Dileep has arrived.





CLUBS

Our new clubs have started and the children are loving them! Unfortunately, a couple were oversubscribed, but please do not worry if your child didn't make it on this time, they will be prioritised next term.

SEWING CLUB

Sewing Club got off to a fabulous start on Wednesday! We're putting our brand-new machines to good use by creating colourful windsocks - and they're already looking amazing! Huge thanks to our wonderful PTA for the machines, and to the brilliant Mrs Renshaw for joining us and lending a helping hand!



POETRY CLUB

Since February, Mrs Simpson has been working with Primary pupils on preparing poems for the Derby Arts Festival. We have worked on our understanding of the poems, and how to use our voices and faces to perform them. The last Poetry Club session was this week, and we took advantage of the gorgeous weather and grounds to have our final practice outside! We can't wait to perform at the Derby Arts Festival next week and will keep you updated on how it goes. If your child will be competing next week, please support them at home to learn lines and practise their performance. Good luck everyone!



LITTLE OAKS NURSERY IS OPENING SOON!



It's a truly exciting time here at Derby Grammar School as we prepare to open the doors to our brand-new Little Oaks Nursery later this month!

Inspired by the Forest School ethos, Little Oaks will offer an enriching, play-based early years experience for pre-school children, where curiosity is nurtured, imaginations are set free, and little learners are encouraged to explore the natural world around them. It's the perfect start to a lifelong love of learning – all within the supportive and welcoming DGS community.

As part of our launch, we're offering fantastic referral deals and generous sibling discounts – but places are limited, and interest is incredibly high. If you, or someone you know, is looking for exceptional early years care in a nurturing, nature-inspired setting, now is the time to get in touch!

To find out more or register your interest, **contact Mrs Lowe on admissions@derbygrammar.org or call 01332 523 027 (Option 2).**

We can't wait to welcome the very first Little Oaks into the DGS family!



IN THE CLASSROOMS

WEEKS 1 & 2

EYFS

What an exciting start to the term it's been in Reception as we kick off our brilliant new topic, Come Outside! Our classroom is buzzing with curiosity as we care for our very own live hungry caterpillars — they're munching away and growing fast!

We're eagerly watching and learning all about their life cycle, and we can't wait to see them transform into butterflies! The outdoor adventures don't stop there! We've been nature-spotting around our beautiful school grounds and have discovered Canadian geese, dragonflies, ducks, and even slippery little newts!

These hands-on experiences are sparking so many questions and helping us learn all about habitats, life cycles, and the wonders of the natural world. Outdoor learning is bringing science to life — and we're having so much fun doing it!

In maths, we are looking at numbers beyond 10, and in English, we are learning to use descriptive words to describe our minibeasts.



YEARS 1/2

What a fantastic first couple of weeks to the start of the summer term! This week the children dived into their new topic 'On the Beach'. The children have been learning how to read an atlas, and used their map reading skills to locate famous seaside towns across the UK.

English - In English the children have been writing a narrative based on the book 'The Crow's Tale'. They have been learning about similes and metaphors and using a wide range of vocabulary to include in their narrative.

Maths - This term we have started with fractions. The children have been really vocal and enthusiastic during these lessons. They have shown a great understanding already and we are only on the second week!

Outdoor Learning

The infants were very busy in their Outdoor Education lesson yesterday. We are planning to create a 'Fairy Village' in the Forest School to provide an area for bugs to live and thrive. We have each planned our own fairy house but the childrens' enthusiasm didn't stop there! Look out for a bakery, a rollercoaster and a pond! We were busy clearing the area we have chosen and started to paint some rocks to mark out the different parts. Lots of fun was had by all.





YEAR 3/4

English

This week, we've launched into an exciting new unit: crafting historical stories set in the fascinating world of Tudor England. Our focus is on developing rich, descriptive writing through the journey of our main character, Nicholas - a young village boy who sets off on an important adventure to London. Next week, we'll be writing our class version of the story, exploring the big question: Why did Nicholas need to meet Bishop Fisher? We'll be building historical context, character motivation, and narrative tension as we go!

Maths

Year 3: We're exploring the wonderful world of fractions! From recognising and making equivalent fractions to applying them in real-life contexts, pupils are developing a strong foundation in this key area of maths.

Year 4: Our deep dive into decimals continues. We're learning how to partition and compare decimal numbers with increasing confidence, using visual models and number lines to build understanding.

Science

Our scientific curiosity has been in full flow as we conclude our States of Matter unit. Through hands-on investigations, we've explored how solids, liquids, and gases behave—measuring the amount of gas in fizzy drinks and timing how quickly ice melts under different conditions. Along the way, we've learnt how to set up fair tests and identify independent and dependent variables, giving us the skills to think like real scientists!



YEAR 5/6

English

We've launched into an exciting new unit on narrative poetry, starting with the classic *The Highwayman*. The children have embraced the dramatic language and are beginning to unravel the poem's vivid characters and haunting tale.

Maths

This week, we've been exploring the connections between decimals, fractions, and percentages. Year 5 have shown great enthusiasm—many have gone above and beyond by challenging themselves with extension activities.

Science

Our new topic, *Living Things and Their Habitats*, is underway. We began by examining the different parts of a flower and learning how they contribute to plant reproduction – fascinating stuff!

Year 6

In English we have taken on the challenge of writing a balanced discussion: 'Should Primary pupils be allowed to buy from the tuck shop?' There have been some persuasive arguments on both sides, and it's sparking great classroom debate!

In Maths we've continued building our understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages, while also starting a brand-new topic focused on area, perimeter and volume. The class are showing fantastic problem-solving skills as they explore these new concepts.

