

# Welcome to Derby Grammar School



Derby  
Grammar  
School

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Where you belong

# Welcome

from Mr Hilliam, Head of Derby Grammar School

At Derby Grammar School you will find a vibrant, purposeful atmosphere that enables all members of our community to fulfil their potential.



At Derby Grammar School we aim to fulfill the potential of all our pupils by providing an exciting and stimulating environment, both in the classroom and in the many co-curricular activities pupils enjoy.

"Our ethos is Excellence, Encouragement and Enrichment".

The curriculum we offer provides stretch and challenge for all our pupils, from Primary to Sixth Form, while small class sizes of 20 pupils or fewer ensures support is always available and personalised.

Dedicated staff bring education to life, allowing pupils of all ages to

grow in confidence and excel academically. With a wide choice of GCSE and A Level subjects and outstanding examination results, pupils are well prepared for the next steps in their educational journey, whether that be going to university, taking up an apprenticeship or entering the world of work.

This is a school that goes over and above. We have an annual foreign exchange programme alongside a choice of foreign languages. We teach computing in addition to IT skills and offer robotics and engineering technology as part of our co-curricular programme. Our pupils excel in national sports competitions, music, drama and art.

Visitors often comment on the friendly, family feel at Derby Grammar School. Strong pastoral care in a safe, nurturing environment is an absolute priority.

Perhaps, most importantly our pupils leave as caring, well rounded individuals, ready to take their place in the world.

Visit and see for yourself.



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# Our heritage



The story of Derby Grammar School, as we know it today, began in 1992 when founder John Blackton formed a charitable company called The Derby Grammar School Trust Limited with a desire to create a new independent school for boys seeking a traditional grammar education. Two years later in 1994, Blackton purchased our current school grounds in Littleover which, at the time, was the location of the old Rykneld Hospital. Having adapted the buildings to accommodate the needs of a school, Derby Grammar opened its doors to 21 pupils on 5th September 1995.

As admissions increased, so did the need for additional teaching spaces. In 1998, the 11th Duke of Devonshire laid the foundation stone for the Dorothy Bagshaw building which was designed to house the Mathematics and Humanities departments as well as the Primary School.

Over the two decades that followed, the site continued to evolve and expand welcoming new annexes equipped with modern facilities.

Up until 2022, Derby Grammar School was exclusively for boys with girls being accepted into Sixth Form. However, under the directive of our Head, the decision was taken for our Primary School to go co-educational from September 2022 and for our Senior School to follow in the next academic year, making the whole school co-educational from September 2023.

The decision was taken in response to societal changes and our desire to meet the needs of modern family life.

Today, Derby Grammar School stands as one of the leading independent schools in the East Midlands and upholds its long-standing reputation for delivering an exceptional educational experience.

# Excellence



We are positioned as a first-class education provider and that means our pupils are learning from the best.

There are many reasons why Derby Grammar School is a special place to be, but it is our family feel coupled with teaching excellence that really gives us our edge. We are positioned as a first-class education provider and that means our pupils are learning from the best.

We are committed to recruiting outstanding teaching staff and academic mentors who bring knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to the classroom. Lessons are carefully planned to ensure all aspects of the curriculum are covered and that pupils gain a thorough understanding of each subject.

Our small community enables teachers and mentors to get to know each child – their strengths, potential areas for improvement and learning preferences. This information is shared between tutors to support a smooth and seamless journey through school.

Derby Grammar School's teaching team go above and beyond to bring education to life for all pupils using a range of inclusive methods and techniques. This dedication, combined with our positive learning culture, firmly puts all pupils on the path to success.

# Encouragement



We believe that no two children are the same, nor should they be treated as such. That is why our pastoral support system is designed to flex to the needs of each and every child who attends Derby Grammar School.

One of our main strengths is undoubtedly our small class sizes and therefore our ability to offer individual attention to pupils. We see the profound impact that both positive and negative mind sets can have on academic achievement and so we invest heavily

in building pupils' confidence and resilience from the moment they join us.

We see it as essential that our support provision extends beyond the classroom. Teachers at Derby Grammar School care about pupils' home life and are dedicated to working with families, where appropriate, to ensure each child has a robust support network in place.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Karen Stebbings, holds fantastic

relationships with pupils and parents alike and is always on hand to assist with any concerns. With over 30 years' experience working in a school setting, parents can rest assured that their child is in very safe hands. The same can be said for all staff – teachers, supportive mentors and those in professional service who are trained in child protection. This means any adult your child comes into contact with is fully equipped to provide suitable care and guidance.

In addition to professional pastoral support, Prefects are appointed in the Primary School and in the Sixth Form at the start of each academic year to play an essential role in school life. Prefects look out for the welfare of their peers and act as the nominated liaison between pupils and staff to facilitate the flow of vital information.

Our greatest priority is, and always will be, ensuring that pupils are safe, happy and healthy whilst in our care. We pledge to provide stability and to nurture all pupils and in return, we have the pleasure of watching them grow into responsible young adults who are ready to take on every next chapter they face.



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# Enrichment



Derby Grammar School brings education to life in more ways than one, offering a fantastic co-curricular programme which underpins the academic syllabus. It also provides opportunities for enriching life experiences where children can learn and explore outside of the classroom and as far afield as Tanzania and Sri Lanka.

## Sport

Sport is a predominant feature of school life with our specialist sports being rugby, hockey and cricket. From recreational clubs to inter-house competitions and elite matches, we provide opportunities suitable for all ages and abilities.

Our day-to-day sports provision is extremely inclusive and promotes gender equality. We position ourselves as forward-thinkers and do not believe in any particular stereotypes. This is pertinent in the sporting arena. Our aim is to reflect sport in the modern world and we want to inspire boys and girls to be open-minded and to get involved in a range of different activities. In doing so, pupils develop important skills such as teamwork, respect and empathy.

Our sports colleagues are experts in their chosen field and are willing to work with excellent pupils who are interested in taking their talent to the next level. Under their supervision and coaching, pupils are encouraged to push boundaries, challenge their abilities and display sportsmanship when competing with other schools.

Pupils with a natural sporting gift in either rugby, hockey or cricket may then be selected to represent Derby Grammar School at larger scale competitions and events, including the Sri Lankan Cricket Tour.

Derby Grammar School has also forged links with the Derbyshire Institute of Sport who host a webinar each term looking at important aspects that help and hinder sports performance. Open to all, these interactive sessions allow pupils to deepen their understanding of a curriculum topic, supporting their academic and personal development goals.

Thanks to the superb coaching and facilities that we have available, we have the unique ability to adapt our sporting programme to meet the ever-changing needs and demands of our pupil population.





Pupils can express their creative selves through choral or instrumental means and show off their skills during live performances and concerts.

### Music and Drama

Music and Drama also take centre stage in our extra-curricular provision. Pupils can express their creative selves through choral or instrumental means and show off their skills during live performances and concerts.

We have specialist peripatetic teachers who offer additional lessons to help pupils turn their interests into real talent (charges apply). Completely optional and ranging from acting to singing, our experts coach pupils through one-to-

one rehearsals in readiness for their co-curricular exams – the results of which will enhance their future prospects. For example, those who undertake Music or Drama related activities will have the chance to work towards a nationally recognised London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) qualification. Our peripatetic team also look at public speaking which equips pupils with essential communication skills that are needed for all aspects of their later life, whether that be university or employment.

There are many dimensions to our music offering and on top of our association with LAMDA, we feel privileged to be the home of Hot House Music; an award-winning music school providing unparalleled opportunities for budding musicians in the East Midlands. Hot House Music relish in the top-class facilities we have here on-site and occasionally use our venue to perform their concerts.

### Charitable activities

Arguably the most prudent and wholesome aspect of school life which we strongly encourage among pupils is charitable volunteering and fundraising. We believe that from an early age, it is healthy for children to gain an awareness of the world around them as it puts their own fortunate position into clearer context.

Since 2013, Derby Grammar School has held a valuable relationship with Gedeli B School in Mwanza, Tanzania. Each summer, our Year 12 pupils fly out to teach the children and to donate much-needed equipment for building projects that aim to improve their learning facilities. This life-changing trip benefits both the children at Gedeli B and our Year 12 pupils who leave with a real sense of fulfilment and pride.

Closer to home, we support YMCA Derbyshire with an annual Christmas

shoe box appeal and the Sixth Formers host a 'Charities Week' each November to raise vital funds for other deserving local charities.

### Formula 24 and 24+

Formula 24 and 24+ is our co-curricular activity set up to support our budding engineers. Open to Year 7 and above, this sees pupils getting involved in all aspects of motorsports from the designing and building stage through to racing and maintenance. The school has two teams who compete in the Greenpower racing series with their very own race car nicknamed The Stag. The opportunity to race at renowned tracks across the country is an exhilarating experience not to be missed for those interested in STEM subjects.

The teams will develop practical and theoretical engineering skills as well as learning about team work and responsibility – all of which serve to support pupils' academic studies.



DofE is renowned for helping to improve participants' self-esteem and confidence, as well as building up transferable skills like communication and problem-solving.

## Duke of Edinburgh

Full of adventure, empowerment and exhilaration, Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) sees pupils embark on a life-changing journey of self-discovery. The school supports all pupils aged 14+ in achieving their Bronze award – the first of three progressive levels, with the Silver and Gold being completely optional.

Pupils benefit from character building activities such as volunteering in the local community, helping the environment and developing new skills. It can also include planning, training for and completing an outdoor expedition such as climbing a mountain.

The programme is recognised and respected by employers and is a fantastic addition to any CV or university application.





# Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

At Derby Grammar School, we understand that children develop at different rates and have designed an inclusive curriculum which looks to encourage independence, resilience and interpersonal skills.

Our hands-on approach to teaching means that children receive stimulating and awe-inspiring experiences that create a love of learning.

Reception will follow a progressive curriculum which reflects the seven key areas of learning and development, as identified in the national Early Years Learning Goals.

These include:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

All seven areas are interconnected and build firm foundations for pupils' future learning in Key Stage 1 and beyond.

On entry into Reception, our lead EYFS specialist and her team assess each child to gain an understanding of their school readiness, looking at any development gaps that need to be filled. This provides a starting point for learning and helps to ensure the curriculum is accessible for each



child. Their growth and attainment is then tracked and monitored against a set of baseline expectations, and this information is relayed to parents on a regular basis.

Supporting pupils' cognitive development is important to us, as is their overall well-being and happiness in school. Praise and encouragement is used in abundance and achievement is always recognised and celebrated. We are incredibly proud to have such a diverse community in our Infant School and whole-heartedly believe in creating equal opportunities for all children to succeed.

Our Reception class is based in our newest annexe along with our Nursery. The building offers calm teaching spaces with plenty of modern facilities and resources. It also benefits from a safe and secure outdoor area that is separate to the main school, where children are free to explore, be creative and play with friends.



# UCAS and Careers



Throughout their time at Derby Grammar School, we prepare pupils for post-education life and inspire them with the confidence to follow their dreams and aspirations.

Whether our pupils wish to progress into Higher Education, begin an apprenticeship or venture into employment, we have dedicated support to help them map out an exciting future.

Our Sixth Form is exposed to fantastic opportunities both inside and outside of the curriculum, all of which are designed to make our pupils stand out from the crowd in an increasingly competitive market. The Tanzania project (exclusive to Derby Grammar and Year 12), Duke of Edinburgh and LAMDA are well respected by universities and employers and are sure to boost any CV or application.

Every year, a vast proportion of our Sixth Form do decide to go to university and into a wide range of disciplines from Medicine and Law, to Politics and Civil Engineering. We have an in-house Higher Education advisor who expertly guides pupils through the UCAS process. We know what universities are looking for from applicants and use this knowledge to help pupils write outstanding personal statements. We can also support pupils through Clearing which is becoming more of an empowering route for pupils, offering them greater freedom and control over their choices.



With this said, we recognise that Higher Education is not suited to everyone and therefore provide equal support in finding apprenticeships, employment or exploring alternative options.

Derby Grammar School hosts a Next Steps Careers Fair which presents fantastic networking opportunities for our pupils and their parents. Along with top UK universities, local employers are invited to showcase their offering and talk to pupils about possible entry routes into business, including work experience, internships and apprenticeships. This well-attended event and others similar aim to help pupils make informed decisions about their future.



## Making the right decision for your family

We understand that choosing where to educate your child is a big decision, and there are many factors that need to be carefully considered. For many families, equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) are high on the agenda and as a school community, we are proud of our progress in these important areas.

We have an incredibly diverse pupil population both in terms of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. From an early age, we teach children to embrace differences and to show kindness and respect to one another. This ethos fosters a friendly and inclusive environment in which all pupils are truly accepted for who they are.

With this freedom to flourish, our teaching excellence and enriching co-curricular, we hope you find everything you are looking for at Derby Grammar School – and much more! Above all, we want you to find the perfect fit for your family's needs and if you decide that we are not currently a match, we will do all we can to offer advice and guidance to help you on your journey.

**To us, inclusion  
means no child  
has to worry  
about belonging.**

# Visit us



There is no better way to experience everything Derby Grammar School has to offer than to come and see for yourself. We have a busy and varied events calendar which runs throughout the academic year offering opportunities for families to:

- Meet with teaching staff and current pupils
- Learn about our support provisions including SEND
- Explore our stunning grounds and facilities
- Discuss funding support (bursaries and scholarships)
- Soak up the friendly atmosphere

In addition to our Open Days, we also offer taster sessions so that prospective pupils can come and experience a typical school day at Derby Grammar. Taster sessions are all about seeing whether your child enjoys being involved in our community and learning environment. They will have a school buddy and follow a timetable of lessons.

General school visits during term time are warmly welcomed. For more information or to arrange your next visit, please contact Admissions on **01332 523027** or **admissions@derbygrammar.org**

Derby Grammar School is more than just a place to study – it is a place to uncover new talents, meet lifelong friends, be creative and achieve things you never thought you could.



## Get in touch

There are lots of ways you can get in touch with us here at Derby Grammar School. To speak with a member of our team, you can:

- Call our Reception on **01332 523027**
- Email us on **enquiries@derbygrammar.org**
- Visit us at **Rykneld Road, Littleover, Derby, DE23 4BX**

Alternatively, you may wish to contact us via social media.



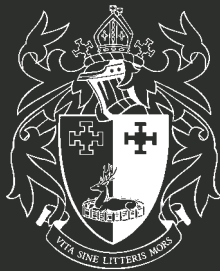
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