



DERBY GRAMMAR GAZETTE



This latest edition of the Derby Grammar Gazette includes news stories featuring pupils from Reception through to Year 13. It's been a very busy half term for everyone!

As we look ahead to the next half term and the spring it may be that you can help by bringing your expertise into school. Mr Gibbons, our new Head of Sixth Form is putting together a series of careers talks given by visiting speakers. Does the business or company you work for have a careers department that would like to visit DGS? Or maybe this is something you feel you can offer? We are lining up former pupils, universities and a number of professions that regularly visit schools so get in touch if you feel you can help too. We look forward to hearing from you and meanwhile wish you all a happy half term holiday.

With thanks and best wishes,

Mr Hilliam

Acting Head

SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM REVEAL



Last week, the Marketing and Site teams took on their very own 'Changing Rooms' challenge, transforming one of the school's more 'underappreciated' spaces into a stylish and contemporary common room for our Sixth Form students.

In just five days, this room was completely revamped, going from concept to completion in record time.

The new space, designed with both form and function in mind, offers a modern and grown-up environment that empowers our Sixth Form students to make their own choices and manage their time effectively. Whether it's for breaks, group collaboration, or simply unwinding during down times, the common room is now a vibrant hub tailored to meet the needs of our older students.

The Sixth Formers were thrilled with the results, and the positive feedback has been overwhelming. We're excited to see how this new environment will support them as they navigate the demands of their studies and prepare for life beyond school. Be sure to stop by and take a look the next time you're in school—it's a transformation we're all very proud of!



WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY...

The room is awesome! There is such a nice friendly atmosphere - Jay

It's a real privilege to have, we are really grateful - Ed

Great space & love that it is only available for the 6th form - Roj

Amazing space for us 6th formers to relax in when we're not in lessons, it truly makes DGS feel like home - Kavi



RECEPTION CLASS

**WALK WITH THE ANIMALS.
TALK TO THE ANIMALS.
GRUNT, SQUEAK & SQUAWK WITH THE ANIMALS.**



Last week, our Reception children had the exciting opportunity to spend a day at the farm. Often, it's said that one should never work with children or animals, but on this occasion, both proved to be wonderfully engaging and beautifully behaved!

The children met an array of friendly animals, including sheep, goats, and bunnies. A highlight of the day was feeding an enormous Highland Cow, which sparked awe and delight among the little ones. This hands-on experience allowed them to connect with nature and learn about different farm animals in a fun, interactive way.

We met a bunny called Salt. ”



Dressed warmly for the chilly weather, the children also had the chance to drive mini tractors and even participated in a friendly race, which brought out their competitive spirits and lots of laughter. The day was not just about play; it was filled with learning opportunities as well. Each activity was designed to foster curiosity and encourage the children to ask questions about the animals and their environment.

Packed lunches were the order of the day, providing a perfect break to refuel before more adventures. The combination of learning and fun made this trip a memorable experience for everyone involved.

Overall, the day at the farm was a resounding success, showcasing the joy of exploring the great outdoors and the wonders of the animal kingdom. We look forward to many more adventures that blend education and excitement for our young learners!





SIXTH FORM BIOLOGISTS BRAVE THE ELEMENTS AT CRANEDALE CENTRE

Our Sixth Form Biologists recently embarked on an unforgettable three-day residential trip to the Cranedale Centre in North Yorkshire.

Despite facing some of the most extreme weather conditions Mrs. Ellis and Mrs. Walker-Nixon have ever experienced in their years of teaching—including relentless torrential rain—the students pushed through with enthusiasm and determination.

This trip offered a unique and essential opportunity to gain hands-on experience in ecology within real-world ecosystems. The students engaged in a variety of practical activities, including tracking snails, examining owl pellets, and even studying crayfish in their natural habitats.

These activities allowed them to directly apply classroom knowledge to the field, deepening their understanding of biodiversity,

adaptation, and species interaction.

Not only did they complete several of the required practical activities for their A-level studies, but they also developed resilience and problem-solving skills as they navigated the challenging weather conditions.

The experience taught them how to work collaboratively in tough environments, further honing their ecological skills and preparing them for future scientific endeavors.

This trip was a true test of perseverance, and we couldn't be prouder of the dedication our students displayed in making the most of this invaluable learning experience.

The process by which an ecosystem changes over time is called succession. Sand dunes are formed when bare sand starts to be colonised by plants. Over time, the sand builds up into dunes, raising the height of the ground above sea level.



MEET DGS'S FIRST DRAMA SCHOLAR

As we launch this year's scholarship programmes, we are excited to introduce Charlie Brooks-Hulme, Derby Grammar School's very first Drama Scholar. Charlie's exceptional talent has earned him this prestigious position with us, as well as a role with the Derby Theatre Company in their upcoming performance of A Christmas Carol.

Being the Drama Scholar is a real honour, and I love working with Mrs. Simpson to help promote and grow drama at Derby Grammar School.

I've been involved in Speech and Drama lessons for nearly five years now, so I was thrilled when drama was introduced into the curriculum for the first time! It's a huge positive for the school, and students in Years 7, 8, and 9 have just completed their first half-term of lessons.

In our drama classes, we've covered so much already. We've learned about the key stage areas, started developing the four C's of drama (creativity, communication, commitment, and confidence), created tableaux and freeze frames, and even begun working on scenes and improvisation.

The main skills we've focused on are being confident in our abilities, staying in character, and, most importantly, having fun!

In July, I heard about auditions at Derby Theatre for their upcoming production of A Christmas Carol, and I decided to give it a go. Out of nearly 200 people, I was one of the 18 chosen to be part of the cast! I'm absolutely over the moon to be part of this professional production and can't wait to get on stage. Year 9 and Year 11 pupils from Derby Grammar will be coming to see the show in November, but there are lots

of opportunities for others to catch it too!

Another exciting date for your diaries is our very own Derby Grammar School production of Snow White, happening on **Friday 7th and Saturday 8th February.**

Rehearsals are already underway, and it's shaping up to be a show full of laughs—so be sure to mark it in your calendars and keep an eye on social media for ticket details. Our rehearsals have started during the last two weeks and the show is sure to have you rolling in the aisles! You won't want to miss it!



If you'd like to go along and support Charlie, The Derby Theatre production of A Christmas Carol, runs from: Fri 22 Nov, 2024 - Sat 4 Jan, 2025

<https://derbytheatre.co.uk/event/a-christmas-carol/>



A TEA PARTY FIT FOR A QUEEN



Year 1 & 2 spent a magical afternoon having a 'Right Royal Tea Party'



Last week, the children in Years 1 and 2 celebrated the conclusion of their learning topic with an exciting Royal Tea Party!

The event marked the end of their studies on the Great Fire of London and the completion of their English story topic, The Queen's Hat.

The children had an incredible afternoon filled with laughter, games, and, of course, delicious treats.

They enjoyed lively rounds of bingo and danced to the beat during musical statues, showing off their best freeze-frame moves.

Adding to the fun, Mrs Hardstaff even taught them the iconic dance, the Macarena, much to their delight!

It was a wonderful way to wrap up a half term full of learning and creativity, leaving everyone in high spirits as they look forward to their next adventure in the classroom.



the London Underground...

and all around...



'This picture book is hard to beat.' *The Times*

F24 AT GOODWOOD RACE CIRCUIT INTERNATIONAL FINALS

Speed and Strategy: Derby Grammar Shines at Goodwood F24 Finals

by Jack Davies Year 11

The weekend began with a particularly long drive, a drive that much to the dismay of a very small minority, was filled with music (as typical for an f24 race). The full 5 hours however lead us to greenpower HQ where our car was scrutineered to make sure the car was race ready, when the car was given the all clear, so we were campsite bound.

The team put up their tents and we were off again to Goodwood Race track to drop the trailer off and have a snoop around all of the race cars there (and of course the spittfires!) A stop off at the beach with fish and chips was also a necessity before we turned in for the night.

A very early 6:30 awakening saw the team pack away our tents, ready for an action packed day ahead. Back to Goodwood for 7:30, race day began. In practice, both Matipa Gezi and Tom Boddy went out to make sure the car was all running smoothly, then after a quick bacon

butty cooked in pits, the line up for Race 1 saw Tom Boddy, followed by Adam Walker and Tom Boddy and a result of 17th out of 85 cars on track!

Closely following was Race 2, where a grid walk allowed us to show off our incredible music taste and car to sponsors and other teams, followed by Adam Walker, Jack Davies and Matipa Gezi driving. A Derby Grammar School lap record was also set at 4:57!

Back home, tired but still in high spirits, music back on, we could dwell on our successes. Music courtesy of Tom Boddy and Jack Davies of course!

To follow more of our Goodwood International Finals journey, follow our greenpower instagram: @greenpowerdgs



LET'S TALK CAREERS...



You said...we did.

Next term, we are excited to launch a series of regular careers talks featuring inspirational professionals from various fields. In addition, we will be setting up one-on-one surgeries with our Senior School pupils. This initiative aims to provide valuable insights and support as students navigate their future career paths.

Why This Is Beneficial

These careers talks will offer students the chance to hear firsthand experiences and advice from individuals who have successfully navigated their chosen professions. Hearing about different career trajectories will help demystify various fields and inspire students to think critically about their own ambitions. Engaging with diverse professionals can also broaden

their understanding of the skills and qualifications needed in the workforce.

Support for University Choices and Work Experience

Our initiative will directly support students in making informed university choices. By learning about the educational paths and experiences of professionals, students can better understand which subjects and courses align with their career aspirations. This knowledge will empower them to make strategic decisions regarding their university applications.

Moreover, the career surgeries will provide a personalized setting where students can discuss their interests, seek advice, and ask questions.

This tailored guidance can help students identify relevant work experience opportunities, internships, and extracurricular activities that will enhance their profiles and prepare them for the competitive job market.

Encouraging Exploration and Growth

Overall, this initiative aims to foster a culture of exploration and personal growth within our Senior School. By connecting students with professionals and providing tailored support, we hope to equip them with the confidence and knowledge needed to pursue their passions and make impactful choices for their futures. We look forward to seeing how this program enriches our students' educational journey and prepares them for the world beyond school.

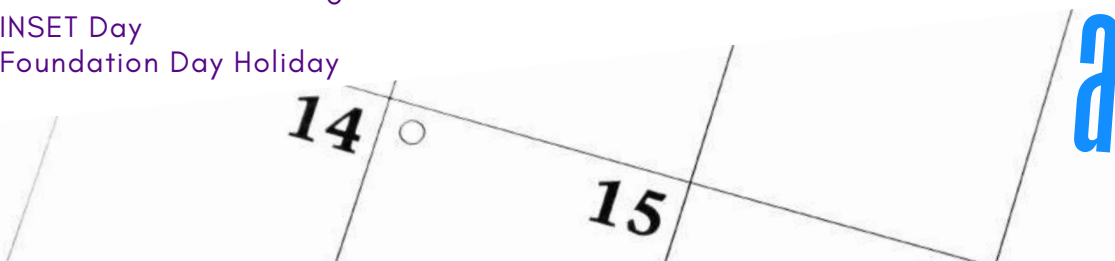
DIARY DATES

November

- 4 Return to school
- 5 Fireworks Spectacular 6pm
- 7 6th Form Experience Day
- 8 House Assemblies
- 11 Charities week begins
Remembrance Day Service
- 12 Parent meetings with new DGS Head - Mr Bond
- 17 French Exchange students arrive
- 25 Year 12 Parents Evening
- 28 INSET Day
- 29 Foundation Day Holiday

December

- 2 House Rugby Competition begins
- 4 PTA Meeting 7.30 - 9pm School Library
- 5 Year 8 Parent's Evening
- 6 House Assemblies
- 10 School Carol Service Derby Cathedral
- 11 Christmas Lunch
House Basketball Competition
- 13 House Carol Competition
Break up for Christmas



Water, water everywhere.

PRIMARY SCHOOL LEARNS VALUABLE LESSONS IN WATER CONSERVATION WITH SEVERN TRENT

This week, the Primary School pupils gathered for an insightful assembly led by Severn Trent Water. The focus was on the essential work the company does to provide clean water and how we can all play a part in conserving this precious resource.

During the assembly, the children learned about the process of cleaning water, from filtration to purification, making it safe for drinking. The interactive session also highlighted practical tips for saving water in everyday life, such as turning off taps when brushing teeth and using water-saving devices at home.

The students were fascinated by the journey water takes before reaching their homes and left with a greater understanding of the importance of conserving water for future generations. It was an engaging and informative session, encouraging everyone to take small steps to make a big difference.



DOGGY ADVENT CALENDARS ARE BACK TO SUPPORT THE TANZANIA PROJECT!

We're excited to announce that Mrs. Mannion has kindly offered to sell her popular doggy advent calendars once again this year, with all proceeds going toward our Tanzania project. These fun and festive calendars, priced at just £12, are the perfect treat for your four-legged friends during the holiday season.

If you'd like to purchase one, simply send cash in a named envelope and hand it in to Mrs. Genders. Last year's calendars were a big hit, as you can see from the photos, and we're sure they'll be just as popular this time around! Thank you for supporting this great cause and spreading some holiday cheer to our furry companions!



FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

Derby Grammar School is all set to host its highly anticipated Fireworks Spectacular on Tuesday, 5th November, and this year's display promises to outshine them all!

A cherished tradition, the event attracts large crowds from the local community and beyond.

For just £5 per ticket this fun-filled evening is open to everyone, offering two stunning fireworks displays that will light up the night sky.

Whether you're attending with friends or family, it's bound to be a memorable night for all.

To grab your tickets, simply scan the QR code and follow the link to purchase. Don't miss out on one of Derby's most exciting events of the year—save the date and get ready for an unforgettable evening!



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

7'S & UNDER FREE OF CHARGE !



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

are

OPEN

UNTIL FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER

*could you be a
DGS Scholar?*

Derby Grammar School offers a range of Scholarships to recognise students with outstanding achievement, talent and perhaps above all, potential. They are available to pupils entering Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and Sixth Form. Scholarships recognise pupils' contribution of talent, excellence and commitment to the school in a range of disciplines.

We offer scholarships in the following disciplines: Academic, Art and Design, Drama, Music and Sport.

A scholarship award will usually bring with it a fee remission. More importantly scholarships are given with a commitment from us to develop and extend each scholar's talents. In turn, our scholars are required to contribute positively to the life of the school and set a good example to others.

Scholarships awarded in the Senior School do not automatically continue to the Sixth Form and therefore a re-application must be made for the award to continue.

All application forms are available to download from our website and should be returned to Admissions (admissions@derbygrammar.org) by Friday 6 December 2024.