



Derby
Grammar
School

Where you belong

DERBY GRAMMAR GAZETTE



The articles in this edition of the Gazette testify to the huge levels of energy shown by pupils and staff (and parents!) to help us all get through the longest term.

Other activities that could have been reported might include pupils winning a trophy and individual medals in the ISA National Rugby 7's Ball Winners Competition - well done to all involved! A group of pupils are building a third Formula 24 racing car, while other pupils have started rehearsing for the spring drama production.

Year 9 and 11 are off to the theatre next week and musicians are preparing for end of term examinations and the Cathedral Carol Service. Each moment of the week is busy! So next Thursday (Staff INSET day) and Friday (Founders' Day) certainly come at the right time, allowing pupils to recharge before the hectic final two weeks of term. I hope it's a happy and useful few days, whatever you are doing. Maybe your son or daughter is finishing that overdue essay, while as a family you might be visiting relatives, or climbing a mountain? However you choose to spend your long weekend, I hope it's enjoyable.

Best wishes,

Paul Hilliam
Acting Head

INSPIRING OUR A LEVEL CHEMISTRY STUDENTS

A-Level Chemistry Students Inspired at Warwick University

Our A-Level Chemistry students had an exciting opportunity on Tuesday to attend **Chemistry in Action** at Warwick University. The event featured a series of engaging lectures led by renowned experts in the field, offering valuable insights into the latest developments and applications of chemistry in the modern world.

From exploring cutting-edge research to understanding real-world chemical challenges, the day was both educational and inspiring. Our students gained a deeper appreciation for the subject and its relevance to solving global issues.

A big thank you to Warwick University for hosting such an enriching event—and to our students for their enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day! Here are some snapshots from the trip.



Year 5/6 Explore Mindfulness and Wisdom at the Tara Buddhist Centre

On Monday 18th November, our Year 5 and 6 students visited the Tara Buddhist Centre as part of their curriculum studies on Buddhism. The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to deepen their understanding of Buddhist beliefs, practices, and culture in a tranquil and inspiring setting.

The children represented Derby Grammar School brilliantly, demonstrating impeccable behaviour,

respect, and a genuine curiosity about the teachings they encountered. Their thoughtful and insightful questions impressed the Centre's staff so much that they remarked we were the best school group they've hosted in years!

Well done DGS, for embodying our school values and making this such a memorable learning experience.



FIREWORKS SPARK JOY ONCE AGAIN!



On Sunday 5th November, Derby Grammar School hosted its much-anticipated PTA Fireworks Spectacular, and what an amazing event it was! The evening brought together nearly 2,000 people from our school and the wider community for an unforgettable celebration.

The fireworks displays lit up the night sky, dazzling all generations, while the aroma of burgers and hot dogs sizzling on the BBQ filled the air. Hundreds were served, fuelling the excitement and energy of the event.

Smiles were everywhere—on children's faces as they 'oohed and ahhed' at the night sky, and on adults who revelled in the warm, friendly atmosphere.

This brilliant community event has truly become a hallmark occasion in the area, drawing people together to celebrate Bonfire Night in style. Most importantly, all proceeds from the evening will go towards supporting the school and enhancing opportunities for our students.

A huge thank you to the PTA, staff, volunteers, and everyone who attended for making the night such a resounding success. We can't wait to see you all again next year for another unforgettable evening!

Hello from the PTA!

We hope those of you who attended our annual Fireworks Spectacular enjoyed the evening. Another hugely successful year welcoming nearly 2,000 people to our school!

I have to mention a huge thanks to the following people, without whom, we wouldn't be able to pull off such a wonderful event!

Thanks to Mr Hilliam for being my other half and getting school ready, to all the staff that volunteer and give their time—it is much appreciated, to Andy and staff at Wilson Vale for organising the food and their help on the night, to the 6th Formers - what fabulous pupils we have (and

Caleb who must have been back and forth numerous times to the Co-op to keep us stocked up!), members of the PTA team - every single person is valued and integral to making the event the success it is, and the pyrotechnic team who put on a wonderful show - or so I'm told!

And of course parents, pupils and their families and friends who contribute with all profits going towards improving and enhancing our children's school experience.

So thank you - same time next year?

**Fiona
Chair PTA**



FOREST SCHOOL ADVENTURING



Forest School Adventures for Our Younger Children

This week, our younger children embraced the outdoors with exciting sessions in Forest School!

These hands-on experiences combined fun and learning, as the children explored nature and engaged in activities linked to their curriculum.

From observing seasonal changes to developing teamwork skills, the sessions provide countless opportunities for discovery and creativity.

A highlight of the week was the imaginative and relaxing 'leaf spa,' where the children enjoyed connecting with nature in a playful and sensory way.

Spending time in Forest School offers numerous benefits for children, supporting their physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development and continues to be a fantastic way for our pupils to learn, grow, and make memories in the great outdoors!



Why Forest School?

- Enhances learning through experience
- Supports emotional well-being
- Develops social skills
- Encourages physical activity
- Sparks creativity and imagination
- Fosters a connectivity with nature

Forest School is a holistic approach to education that nurtures the whole child while instilling a love for learning and nature. By integrating Forest School into the curriculum, schools enhance traditional education with experiences that develop practical skills, resilience, and a deeper understanding of the natural world. These are key elements in preparing pupils for our ever changing environment.



BIENVENUE AU DERBY!



We've certainly put on a show - merci Dame Nature pour la neige!

This week, we have had the pleasure of welcoming our French exchange visitors from Angers, in the beautiful Loire region of France. Their visit has been packed with exciting activities, offering a wonderful blend of cultural exchange, education, and adventure.

The group joined our students in lessons on Monday afternoon, experiencing life in the classroom at Derby Grammar School, followed by lunch in our canteen.

They then embarked on a series of fascinating trips, starting with a tour of Derby Football Stadium, where they learned about the city's proud sporting heritage.

On Tuesday, they explored Nottingham Castle and traced the legendary footsteps of Robin Hood, discovering the rich history and folklore of the area.

Yesterday, both our students and their French peers enjoyed a joint trip to the Black Country Living Museum, stepping back in time to experience life in the industrial heart of England.

The French students have been warmly welcomed and are being wonderfully cared for by our DGS families, who have ensured they feel right at home. The week has been filled with laughter, learning and new friendships, all in

the spirit of international exchange.

We are delighted to see everyone having such a fantastic time and look forward to strengthening our connections with Angers in the future. Merci beaucoup to everyone who has made this exchange so memorable!



CHARITIES WEEK ROUND UP

Kickstarting the fundraising for our Tanzania Project

Charities Week is a long-standing and cherished tradition at Derby Grammar School and this year, it has been as vibrant and impactful as ever. At the heart of this initiative is our commitment to supporting a community in East Africa, a cause the school has championed for many years.

Once again this academic year, we are thrilled to be working towards an extraordinary goal: sending a group of Sixth Form students to East Africa to assist with projects that would otherwise be out of reach for the local school and community.

These projects will make a tangible difference, improving education and infrastructure and fostering strong ties between our students and the community they support.

Last week's Charities Week was full of energy, fun, and generosity!

Pupils and staff alike joined in activities that ranged from cake sales and VR experiences to eating competitions and quizzes. A touch of friendly mischief added to the excitement, with donations flooding in to nominate a member of staff to be "gunged" at the end of the week. Miss Stebbings was the brave volunteer (or target!), but it was all in good humour!

The week was a resounding success, raising a fantastic sum of money to kickstart fundraising for the Tanzania Project. This is just the beginning - keep your eyes peeled for more fundraising events throughout the year, as we aim to achieve something truly special for our friends in East Africa.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, participated, and cheered us on. Together, we're making a real difference, one step at a time.



CAREERS TALK

Deciding on the next steps after school is a pivotal moment for students, and attending careers talks and open days is one of the best ways to make informed decisions. These events provide invaluable insights into future education and career options, helping students understand the pathways available and empowering them to take control of their aspirations.

For Year 11 and Year 12 students, these events are opportunities to:

- **Explore Options:** Learn about university courses, apprenticeship programs, and career pathways directly from representatives.
- **Ask Questions:** Gain clarity on subjects, entry requirements, and the application process.
- **Broaden Horizons:** Discover options they might not have previously considered.
- **Get Inspired:** Hear success stories and advice from professionals and current students.

We are delighted to have secured tickets for several key events in early 2025:

What University? What Career? (Years 11&12)

NEC, Birmingham

Friday 28th February 2025

A comprehensive event showcasing top universities and career opportunities.

UK University and Apprenticeship Search (Year 12)

Edgbaston Cricket Ground, Birmingham

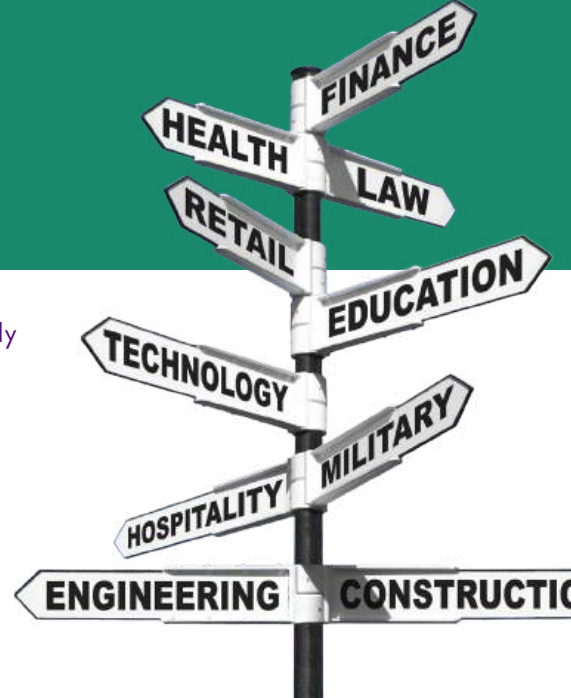
Thursday 6th March 2025

Tailored for Year 12 students, this event will guide them in exploring their options for higher education and apprenticeships.

Derby University Open Day (Year 11)

Thursday 24th April 2025.

An exciting local event designed to introduce Year 11 students to their post-GCSE options.



We strongly encourage students to take advantage of these opportunities to broaden their understanding of their future options. Parents can also play a crucial role by discussing these experiences and supporting their child's journey.

These events are not just about gathering information—they're about building confidence, inspiring ambition and paving the way for success. Let's make the most of them!

DIARY DATES

November

- 25** Year 12 Parents Evening
- Y3/4 Twycross Zoo Trip
- 26** Y1&2 Fire Station Trip
- 27** Year 7 Experience Day - Year 5 and 6 will attend.
- 28** INSET Day
- 29** Foundation Day Holiday

December

- 2** House Rugby Competition begins

- 3** Primary Christmas Show - 4-5pm
- 4** PTA Meeting - 7.30 - 9pm - School Library
- 5** Year 8 Parent's Evening
- 6** House Assemblies
- Scholarship deadline for entry into Year 7
- 10** School Carol Service Derby Cathedral
- 11** Christmas Lunch
- House Basketball Competition
- House Carol Competition
- 13** Break up for Christmas - Term ends
- Christmas Jumper Day - £1 donation

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MAKE A NOTE

A Day in the Life

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF DERBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Derby Grammar School is delighted to invite prospective students and their families to two special experience days that showcase life at our school. These events provide an opportunity for children to immerse themselves in the vibrant learning environment and welcoming community that makes DGS so unique.

Year 5 and 6 Experience Day

On Wednesday 27th November, we are opening our doors to pupils currently in Year 5 and Year 6 to join us for a full day, offering an authentic glimpse into life as a Year 7 student. From engaging lessons and interactive activities to the chance to explore our state-of-the-art facilities, children will get to enjoy a typical day at DGS. This day is designed to provide insight into our dynamic curriculum, nurturing approach and the warm atmosphere that supports every pupil's growth.

Reception Winter Wonderland Stay and Play

For our younger visitors, we invite children aged 3 and 4, along with their parents or carers, to our Reception Winter Wonderland Stay and Play morning on Friday 6th December from 9am to 11am.

This festive-themed event promises an enchanting experience filled with playful activities, exploration, and a taste of the Early Years experience at Derby Grammar School. The Stay and Play morning is the perfect way for little ones and their families to connect with our caring Reception staff and become familiar with the nurturing environment that helps lay the foundation for lifelong learning.

Both days will be filled with a variety of fun and educational activities, offering an authentic representation of the enriching and supportive experiences we offer at Derby Grammar School. We look forward to welcoming prospective pupils and their families to share in the joy and excitement of learning at DGS!

To reserve a place for the Year 5 and 6 Experience Day or the Reception Winter Wonderland Stay and Play morning, please contact our admissions team or visit our website for further details. Don't miss this opportunity to discover the exceptional educational journey that awaits at Derby Grammar School!



Derby Grammar School
Where you belong

YEAR 7

Experience Day

Pupils from school Years 5 & 6 are invited to join us on Wednesday 27th November to experience 'A Day in the Life' at Derby Grammar School.

please register your interest at:
www.derbygrammar.org/admissions/open-days-and-events



RECEPTION CLASS WINTER WONDERLAND STAY & PLAY!

If your child is aged 3 or 4, we would love to invite you to spend the morning with us at Derby Grammar School, to enjoy a taster session in our Reception Class.

6TH DECEMBER 9AM - 11AM

To register please follow the link to our admissions page on the DGS website:

www.derbygrammar.org/admissions/open-days-and-events

INSPIRING VISIT FROM FORMER PUPIL JAMES GARSIDE

Last week, we were delighted to welcome back former pupil James Garside, who is now in his final year at Imperial College London studying Design Engineering.

James, who studied Maths, Physics, and Product Design at A-level here at Derby Grammar, took time out of his busy schedule to reconnect with his former teachers and share his inspiring journey with us.

James spoke warmly about his time at DGS, highlighting the pivotal role of Mr. Lakritz, his Design Technology teacher, in sparking his passion for product design. Mr. Penny also made a lasting impression, broadening James's perspective through thought-provoking reading recommendations that continue to influence him today.

Now living in Ravenscourt Park, Hammersmith, James reflects on the challenges of moving to London, including his initial fear of getting lost on the tube. He has since embraced the city and its opportunities, specialising in product design with a focus on creating socially impactful and ethical solutions. James offered valuable advice to our current students:

"Be proud of the work that you do beyond the grades. When you're studying, it becomes all about achieving A's, and talent isn't celebrated as much as it should be. That's really sad."

Through his degree, James has discovered a love for "designing for good" and his course has allowed him to explore different aspects of engineering before narrowing his focus.



Outside of his studies, James is also a passionate musician, playing in an alternative rock band called Goo. Keep an eye out for them, we're sure they will be hitting your socials very soon!

We asked James what's next on his journey, and he shared his exciting aspirations. **"Plan A is to work in Product Design for Spotify. What could be a better way to earn a living than the gift of sharing music with other people?"**

With his passion for design and music, coupled with his commitment to creating social impact, we have no doubt James will continue to achieve great things. He really is an inspiration, showing how combining talent, hard work and ambition can lead to a fulfilling and meaningful career.

Thank you, James, for returning to share your story—we'll be following your journey closely and cheering you on every step of the way!