



Da Vinci Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy

Newsletter

Dear DVA Family

As another half term draws to a close, I wanted to inform you of some important areas of progress and plans for the future.

We are really **proud of the improvements that we are making as an academy** as a whole and most importantly that of our students in their own individual school journeys. Your support is critical and thank you to all of those parents who have joined us at parents evenings, our first family coffee morning as well as your support to ensure that your child turns up to school in the correct uniform and on time. We really do appreciate it!

Feedback from yourselves is overwhelmingly positive. Highlights include your appreciation of our **extended reception hours to 5pm** each day and the **addition of email addresses to our website** which has helped with ensuring good communication between yourselves and our staff. We are also delighted that your feedback and that of our students around our **new catering provision** is so good. Students (and staff!) are loving the tastier and healthier menu options.

Going forward, I would like to highlight our continued areas of focus:

Attendance – please do everything possible to ensure that your child attends school. If they are not in lesson, we cannot help them to do well

Uniform – students must wear school shoes (not trainers), adhere to our jewellery policy (one watch and two plain stud earrings only), and not wear false nails

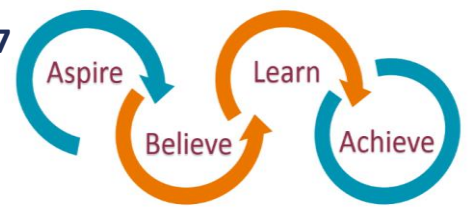
Academic progress – positive attitudes to learning, bring equipment and complete homework

Looking ahead and in response to feedback, we are introducing a regulation **school skirt from September 2019**. Students from across all year groups were given options from a selection of grey, black and checked skirts. The girls all chose the checked skirt so this will be a requirement from September. Please be assured that girls can still wear **TAILORED** black trousers (no leggings or jeans) if they wish to. More details will follow with regards to ordering but I wanted to give you as much notice as possible so that you can time your purchase of any new skirts accordingly and perhaps save a little each month ahead of the autumn term. The skirts are priced at £18 and we are assured that the high quality will mean that they last and are cost effective.

In addition, we are looking to improve the **outside facilities** for break times including a **covered area and seating for students**. There will also be an outside catering 'pod' serving food to ease congestion and ensure timely provision of food. A further improvement which has been requested by yourselves is a **cashless payment system** allowing parents/ carers to charge student accounts electronically. Information will be sent out over the coming weeks and we will have an introduction period. Watch this space!

Finally and as always, **thank you for your positive support and constructive feedback**. As our vision states, we are 'one team, changing worlds'. You are a critical part of our 'one team' and we love working with you all. Have a great half term!

Mrs Roberts



"One Team, Changing Worlds"



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Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

Half term greetings to all!

Please see my **covering letter** for important information including the announcement of our new school skirt from September 2019.

Have a great week and keep safe. We look forward to seeing everyone back and on time to school on Monday 25th February 2019.

Mrs Roberts



Dates for your Diary

- February 15 Last day of half term 3
- February 25 First day of half term 4
- February 25 Y11 Mock Exams Start
- February 26 Y8 Parents Evening
- February 28 Y9 Teenage Booster and Meningitis ACWY vaccines
- March 20 Y11 Parents Evening

Please keep in touch with us via twitter and our website!

Year 8 Artwork...

Year 8 have produced some really good pieces of work outlining the dangers of plastic in the ocean. Well done!

Year 9 Pathway's hand in date was this Wednesday, please hand your booklet into Miss Quinn or Miss Wilmot if you haven't already done so...



"One of the things I love about the school is the amount of opportunities that are available to the students there."

Attendance

Whole School Attendance (Year to Date) = **93.79%**
Attendance remains a key focus.

"attendance = achievement in school"

Congratulations to the following year groups who are getting closer to the national average of 95% - Keep up the great work!

Year 7 – 94.75%

Year 10 – 94.51%

Keep improving your attendance Year 8, Year 9 and Year 11 – you're improving!

Year 8 – 92.99%

Year 9 – 93.07%

Year 11 – 93.47%



Safeguarding

Emergency contacts

Please can parents/carers ensure we have at least three emergency contacts for your child.

Youth Worker & School Nurse Drop-in Wednesday Lunchtimes

The drop-in sessions provide an opportunity for students to get advice and guidance on a range of social, emotional and health issues.

Safeguarding Team



Mr Keir Mather
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Ms Karen Thompson
Deputy DSL/Attendance
Support



Mrs Sophie McKenzie
Assistant Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Person

Additional safeguarding information can be found on our website including:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Out of Hours Contact Details
- Parental Guidance
- Local Safeguarding Procedures

More About ...

Mr Needham

Teaching Assistant & Y10 Tutor

Previous Da Vinci student!

What motivates you to work hard?

I think at the minute my motivation to work hard is the "start as I mean to go on" mentality. Da Vinci is the 4th institute I've been able to work in in 3 years and I want to be able to look back in 20 years' time wherever I may be and say that I've always been dedicated to hard work in the education sector because I want to make a difference.

What are your hobbies?

In my spare time I work on a music project I've been working on for a while with some friends, I also like to attend gigs and I'm a big film buff so the cinema home. I also like to take pictures when I go on my travels.



What was your favourite subject in school?

In school my favourite subjects were always the subjects where I got to be creative and express myself. Manufacturing with Mr Morrow was one of my most cherished subjects.

What's your favourite movie?

It's got to be Beetlejuice by Tim Burton.

What would you sing at Karaoke night?

Frank Sinatra – Luck be a Lady (Got to love old blue eyes)

SEND Coffee Afternoon

Our next SEND Coffee Afternoon will take place on 8th April, 3.30 – 5 pm. We hope to see you there!



Twitter

Please follow us on
Twitter @davincilead

We will be posting regular updates about the fantastic things going on at Da Vinci as well as information for parents/carers!

Y9 Pathway's Evening

We would like to give a huge thank you for the parents and carers who turned up to the pathways evening on 30 January. It was well-attended and the students, parents and carers made the most of the opportunity to discuss the option pathways with our dedicated staff. We are offering a breadth of subjects, which provide numerous pathways for both academic success and vocational pathways.

Pathway choices will be finalised by the week commencing 4 March, at which point letters will be sent home confirming final choices. This is an exciting stage of your child's educational journey and we really appreciate the support that you have given your child during this important phase.

Mr Rollins, Miss Quinn and Miss Wilmot



YMCA DERBYSHIRE



YMCA
SLEEP EASY



Design sponsored by:



YMCA DERBYSHIRE

YMCA Derbyshire ask you to join them for the most unusual networking event you'll attend all year!

YMCA Derbyshire's 2019 Sleep Easy event is taking place on Friday 8 March.

Will you sleep rough so that others don't have to?

What is Sleep Easy?

As a YMCA England & Wales national initiative, Sleep Easy has seen more than 6,000 people sleep rough to raise more than £1m for local YMCA services that help young people rebuild their lives. The aim is simple: spend a night challenging yourself to sleep rough, raising money to help change the lives of local people. All the money raised goes directly to YMCA Derbyshire projects, impacting your community and helping those most in need.

Where do the funds go?

As a direct result of the £40,000 raised for Sleep Easy 2018, we were able to acquire and refurbish 12 new units of accommodation, this enables us to provide safe and supportive accommodation to around 36 individuals each year. A dedicated support worker is also on hand to provide the vital support needed to ensure our residents move on to independent living. This year, we're aiming to raise £45,000.

Who can take part and how do I register?

You can take part if you're over 18, or in a group with a responsible adult if you're under 18. There is a registration fee of £10 for those in full-time employment and £5 for all others. For further details and to register, visit www.ymcaderbyshire.org.uk or email sleepeasy@ymcaderbyshire.org.uk.

"I did Sleep Easy for the first time last year. The biggest challenge was trying to stay warm. It made me appreciate how lucky I am. I'm not going to lie, I was so relieved to get home and into a nice hot bath. But for so many homeless people a safe, warm place to sleep is not their reality and it must be so difficult not to lose hope that a better future is possible." - Mary Gordon, YMCA Derbyshire Chairwoman

"Sleep Easy has a great community feel and is a lovely opportunity to meet new people and local Derby businesses. The night was great for team building, and we even constructed our very own den. It was an incredible experience knowing that our one night will make a lifetime of difference to young people, that have not been as fortunate as ourselves." - Susan Nash, Team threeguru

YMCA Derbyshire gives thanks to Derbyshire County Cricket Club for hosting the annual Sleep Easy event.

Sleep rough so others don't have to

Last year 110 people participated in our Sleep Easy event raising a staggering £40,000. This money was instrumental in enabling us to change the lives of local people.

The need for our services continues to increase and we have a target of raising £45,000 from this year's Sleep Easy. Please join us to spend one night sleeping rough so many more don't have to. Together, we can change lives.

The aim is simple: spend a night challenging yourself to sleep rough, raising money to help change lives of vulnerable young people.

When: Friday 8 March 2019
Venue: Derbyshire County Cricket Club - car park
Time: 7pm-6am

for more information:
E: sleepeasy@ymcaderbyshire.org.uk
T: 01332 579558
W: ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/support-us/events/



YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.



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Bake off!

Bake off had an amazing start last week with 10 students completing their signature dish.. something about Lots of staff tasters... This week we have bread week - bring on the challenge!



Welcome to the Achievement Team...

We would like to welcome the following members of staff to the Achievement Team:

Miss Bradshaw

I am very much looking forward to working closely with Year 8 as their new Achievement Leader. Although I am new to the school I have been made to feel very welcome by staff and students and cannot wait to get to know everyone better as the year progresses.



Mrs Sisson

I am very excited to be working at Da Vinci Academy and to have taken on the role of Achievement Leader for Year 10. Mrs Roberts and the team are great and I have settled in quickly to Da Vinci life and look forward to the schools journey over the coming years.



Eyez Success! 🎵

Around 60 students from Y7/8/9/10 spent the afternoon on Wednesday 6 February with Eyez (a local Rap star!) and Max, his producer. They performed for the students and spent the session using Music Tech Software to write their own Grime/RnB/Dubstep tracks. Followed by a Q and A about the Music Industry and more performances... And a lot of selfies and autographs... The students had a wonderful time and the day was inspirational for them all!



Boys Reading

A great big THANK YOU to our male members of staff who showed their support regarding the 'Boys read too' campaign – leading the way to increase an interest in reading...



Year 6 Taster Afternoon...

We had a brilliant afternoon yesterday with the Year 6's from Roe Farm & Breadsall Hill Top. Excellent work from prospective students experiencing some of our lessons at Da Vinci Academy! Thank you to all staff involved and our fabulous student helpers.

Miss Jandu



Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for Exam Invigilators, please see the website for more details or contact Gemma Wilkinson

<http://www.davinci.derby.sch.uk/school/job-vacancies/support-vacancies>

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February Half Term Revision – Year 11

Your child was briefed in their assembly this morning about the revision sessions that are running at Da Vinci throughout next week's half term. Please see the table below which details the revision sessions that are running, when they are running and with which member of staff. This is a great opportunity for your child to receive revision support in the run up to the February Mock Exams and summer GCSE Exams and we hope to see as many Year 11's there as possible.

| Department | Day | Time | Staff |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Maths | Mon 18 February | 10 – 12 am | Miss Marriott (Higher) Mrs Lombardi / Ms Russell (Foundation) |
| Science | Tues 19 February | 10.15 am – 12.15 pm | Mr Dziombak |
| Art | Tues 19 February | 9 am – 2 pm | Miss Fox |
| Technology | Tues 19 February | 9 am – 2 pm | Mr Morrow |
| PE | Mon 18 February | 10 am - 2 pm | Miss Hulland |
| Travel and Tourism – For selected Students | Thurs 21 February Fri 22 February | 10 am - 3 pm | Mrs Roberts / Mr Rollins |

Coffee Morning

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our very first coffee morning at Da Vinci. It was a great success with home made cakes and lots of great conversations. We had some fantastic feedback from parents and carers about how well we look after their young people and that 'their child feels cared for and very safe'. During the morning we also had members of the Multi Agency Team and the Youth Club with us who let parents know about the amazing opportunities that our young people could take part in inside and outside of school. We look forward to our next one which will be on Wednesday 6th March at 10.30 am. All welcome.



Come and join us on
Wednesday 6th March at 10.30am

Coffee Morning

Meet the Family Engagement and Liaison team for support, guidance and encouragement.

Get to know other parents.

Help influence decisions about how our school can be the very best.



Talking home works

We would really like parents/carers to ask their young people how their day has been and what they have been learning about. These conversations help our young people to explain what they have learnt and to share with parents/carers the fabulous activities in lessons that they have taken part in.

Learning round up

Over the next few weeks your young people are going to be learning about -

Year 9- graphs (H) or equations (F)

Year 10 probability (F) statistics (H)

Year 11- bespoke teaching

We have the Strive for 5 conference and staff are attending CPD on mathematical thinking and use of manipulatives. The junior challenge is coming up for years 7/8.

Music

Year 7/8/9 - All doing Rock School Exam Syllabus, chosen an instrument of their choice (guitar, keyboard, voice or drum kit) - working towards exam grades from Debut to grade 5 depending on experience, some may take an exam in May, either way they are preparing 3 pieces for the syllabus for their in school assessment in May.

Y10 - BTEC, finished Unit 2 (Organising a concert), Unit 5 next - Preparing 2 pieces of performances that contrast, these will be recorded and represent 25% of their final mark.

MFL

Students will be able to discuss and write about the following topics in French

Y9 - healthy living

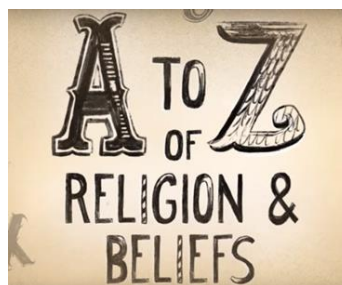
Y8 - home life

Y7 - hobbies

Y10 - describing the town you live in

Y11 - social and global issues

RE



Pupils in Key Stage 3 are working through the alphabet learning about letters A-H.

Ask your young person what each letter stands for and how it affects a persons life.

The GCSE RE class have been looking at the Buddhist concept of the 4 Noble Truths and how a person can achieve enlightenment and peace.