



"One Team, Changing Worlds"



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

Newsletter



Message from the Headteacher

Christmas greetings to all our students and their families

As my first year at Da Vinci Academy draws to a close, I remain as committed as ever to our young people and this very special academy. It remains my 'dream job in my dream school'. As 'one team' including yourselves we have made great progress that all can be proud of. I am still yet to find a reason why we cannot be the best school in the country!

Highlights are many and include our first inspiration day involving Year 7 visits to universities, the launch of the Prince William Award for all Year 8s, appointment of two new parent governors, selection as the show case school for the new Teach First film and a fabulous Christmas music evening with performances from across all year groups.

However, I am most proud of the academic progress made by students in lessons as we aim to raise outcomes of all our students and become the school of choice in our community. This progress has come from our relentless focus on our academy purpose of being a school where all aspire, believe, learn and achieve. This commitment is underpinned by our LEAD values and is demonstrated with the highest expectations by all of us in all that we do.

To this effect, I would like to take this opportunity to reinforce some key basic principles:

Attendance

Put simply, we cannot raise standards and help your child achieve if they are not in school. Attendance remains a key focus and I make no apologies for doing everything we can to reach national levels of 95% for the first time in the school's history. We are currently at 93%. Please help us to help your child make progress by doing all you can to ensure that they are in school every day and arrive on time. Under DfE guidelines, I cannot give permission for time off in term time so please do not ask as a refusal only offends.

Uniform

The best schools have strict standards in their dress code as this is indicative of an energy for high expectations in all aspects of school life.

Key reminders for every student:

- Blazers and clean, unmarked ties every day
- Tailored trousers and no leggings or jean styles
- Plain black polishable shoes – strictly no trainers, boots, or trainer style shoes
- **Knee length** plain black skirts
- 1 watch and 2 plain stud earrings only - no other jewellery including rings and chains

Looking ahead

In response to parent feedback and in our efforts to ensure appropriate dress by all, we are introducing a regulation **school skirt from September 2019**. There will be a choice of two styles and our student council will be involved with selecting the final styles. Please be prepared and plan any new skirt purchase accordingly!

Hair and nails

Sensible styles only and **strictly no shaved heads, patterns or non natural colour dyed hair**

Natural nails – **no nail polish or false nails**

Mobile phones

Simple rule – this a safeguarding requirement and phones must not be out or in use on school premises unless under specific instruction by a teacher for use in a lesson. From **January 2019, any phone confiscated will require collection by an adult family member from school reception.** Students can obviously use a school phone to call home in an emergency.

Feedback and complaints

Thank you to everyone who has given us positive feedback on all aspects of school life. My staff team and I work tirelessly to make DVA a great place to be a student and **positive feedback or a word of thanks can truly make our day!**

We also understand that there will be times where something might not go as well as it could and we ask that in the first instance you try to sort out any issues with the member of staff concerned. If for any reason this is not possible then please refer to our complaints policy which can be found on the website. I will **not tolerate any abuse towards our staff** including in reception or over the phone and this will be followed up by myself and if necessary the police and Trust if this occurs. In addition, please may I also remind students and parents that inappropriate use of social media to voice concerns is not acceptable.

Please help us to create a positive culture both in and outside of school most importantly for the benefit of our young people. We want you and them to be proud of our school and all that we are working to achieve.

Contacting school

We are working hard to make it easier for you to get in touch with school. Reception is now open from 8am through to 5pm. Telephones are answered wherever possible and any messages are picked up quickly and passed to the relevant member of staff. Please remember that staff can often be teaching all day and after school so it may not be possible to get back to you immediately. In addition, I am pleased to confirm that we have now put **email addresses for staff on the website.** This should also help if you need to make contact.

Your support at home remains critical to our progress and I sincerely thank you for your help with every aspect of school life including focus areas as above. We could not achieve all that we are without your reinforcement of our high standards and your positive support.

Finally, it simply remains for me to wish you peace and happiness over the festive season and all good wishes for the start of 2019. Talking of which, we look forward to seeing all students for a prompt start on Tuesday 8th January 2019!

Merry Christmas!

Mrs Roberts

Christmas at Da Vinci Academy



Christmas week has been celebrated in style at Da Vinci this year, from our 100% attendance and outstanding behaviour party, to our extremely festive singalong Christmas Dinner. Christmas 'Kindness; Candy Canes have been distributed and the week will culminate with a combination of our DVA Christmas Market, Christmas music, achievement and rewards assemblies. It is fantastic end to what has been a productive and engaging term for all.



Shoe Box Appeal

This appeal is to support the local YMCA Derby city charity, specifically the homeless of Derby.

We have filled the shoeboxes with toiletries as a reverse Advent scheme. So instead of opening a window and receiving a prize, the students were allocated a day each and brought in a gift to put in the box. The boxes were then wrapped in Christmas paper and were presented to representative's from the YMCA charity this morning.

This has been a fantastic appeal and we want to send a huge thanks to all of the students who have taken part.



Welcome to Mellors Catering Services Newsletter!

Dear Parent/Carer

Mellors Catering Services has been appointed to provide catering services at the Da Vinci Academy from 8th January 2019.

We are naturally delighted with this appointment and will work closely with the school, staff and pupils over the coming months to improve the quality of food and service to your child.

Who we are

Mellors Catering Services is an established, family-run contract catering company that is part of the Mellors Food Group. 2018 is our 23rd year of trading and we are growing year-on-year.

As a local business, we are able to offer a bespoke service which is why we are the first choice caterer in the North of England, the Midlands and North Wales. The hard work that our teams put in each day was rewarded with Mellors being voted Contract Caterer of the Year for 2018, something we are very proud of.

Mellors manage the catering services at many locations mainly within the primary and secondary school sector and we are committed to delivering an exciting choice of food to pupils with the help of our nutrition and food development team. We pride ourselves on using fresh, locally supplied produce.

Over next term we will be carrying out some pupil surveys and meeting with parents to identify any specific needs or special dietary requirements. We also welcome your involvement and feedback, as this will assist us in future development plans.

Great News..... school meals are now even better value!

We have worked closely with your school to ensure that you receive better value for money. Therefore your children will be enjoying a higher quality, healthier meal with more choice and **no price increases**.

Mellors are also working closely with the school management team to introduce a completely cashless catering solution, something that many parents have requested. We hope that this will be in place after the February half term.

We look forward to building a healthy school meal relationship with you all and above all, serving your child great, tasty food.

Thank you



To view the new menu and monthly nutritional factsheets, please visit our website!

Post 16 Pathway's Evening

We held a very successful **Post 16 Pathways Evening** event on 6th December. There was a real **buzz in the air** around the academy and it was a **fantastic event!**

Twenty local providers were present to help students on their next steps and **future career options** once they leave school.

There was a **fantastic turnout** from both parents and students with a very high number of Year 10 and 11 students attending the event in the Sports Hall.

Students **interacted and engaged** with staff from a wide variety of providers regarding their future pathway choices concerning Apprenticeships, Traineeships, A Levels and vocational courses. A number of local sixth form colleges and schools were present, including **Derby College**, to provide students with invaluable information and guidance.

Other key local organisations who attended were **Rolls Royce, Bombardier and Derby County FC**, who were inspiring students to become a future engineer or footballer.

Both students and parents were invited and **extremely positive feedback** was given by all. We are planning to hold the event again **next year!**



DANCOP World Challenge Morocco Trip

Fantastic news - 3 of our students have been selected to take part in the 2019 DANCOP World Challenge expedition to Morocco. Our successful students are: **Mitchell, Cerys and Nikoleta**. **We are so excited for them!**

We have already had some great feedback from DANCOP. They told us of the fantastic camping weekend they had last month and that all of the learners seemed to get on really well with each other and Mitchell, Cerys and Nikoleta set a great example of their school. We are very proud of them.

@TeamDANCOP



Attendance

Attendance currently stands at 93.66%, this is low for this time of year. It is essential your child is in school, getting the education they deserve.

There is a clear link between good attendance and high level attainment. The government requests that all students have an attendance percentage of at least 95% and research has shown that anything less than this has a marked effect on the level achieved, at both the end of Key Stage 3 and in GCSE examinations.

Students can attend school with minor ailments (toothache, headache, stomach ache, colds, sore throats) and over the counter medicine should be given before school. School will contact you if they become too ill to remain in school. Your child is welcome to return to school the following day if you believe that they are well enough to attend. Remember, every day really does count in your child's education.



YOUR VOICE...

'I feel sure Da Vinci will soar upwards and make a great academy'

'97.92% of parents would recommend this school to another parent'

'Thank you for caring about our children'

Term Dates

2019 – 2020

*Staff training day. No students in school.

Term 1	
Term Starts	Term Ends
Staff INSET*	Friday 6 September 2019
Y7 and Y11 Only	Monday 9 September 2019
All Years	Tuesday 10 September 2019
Staff INSET*	Friday 4 October 2019
Holiday	Monday 28 October 2019 – Friday 1 November 2019

Term 2	
Term Starts	Term Ends
All Students	Monday 4 November 2019
Staff INSET*	Monday 2 December 2019
Holiday	Monday 23 December 2019 – Friday 3 January 2020

Term 3	
Term Starts	Term Ends
Staff INSET*	Monday 6 January 2020
All Students	Tuesday 7 January 2020
Holiday	Monday 17 February 2020 – Friday 21 February 2020

Term 4	
Term Starts	Term Ends
All Students	Monday 24 February 2020
Holiday	Monday 6 April 2020 – Friday 17 April 2020

Term 5	
Term Starts	Term Ends
All Students	Monday 20 April 2020
Holiday	Monday 25 May 2020 – Friday 29 May 2020

Term 6	
Term Starts	Term Ends
All Students	Monday 1 June 2020
Staff INSET*	Monday 29 June 2020

Dates for your Diary

December	21	Last day of term
January	07	INSET Day
January	08	Start of Spring Term for ALL Students
January	09	CEO Visit
January	16	Y9 Parents Evening
January	30	Y9 Pathways Evening

Please keep in touch with us via our website!

Competition Winners

Congratulations to more of our competition winners who have had their works recently published by 'Stranger Saga' Young Writers Company:

Lokesh
Jacob
Madison
Ruthanne
Mia
Beth

Well done!!

Goodbyes and Welcomes

On Friday we say goodbye to the following members of staff:

- Sue Adams
- Mrs Vickers
- Mr Best
- Mrs Kent
- Miss O’Horan

We wish them all the very best in their future endeavours and they will be missed.

We have the following members of staff joining us in January:

- Miss Bradshaw - English
- Miss Fox - ADT
- Mr Dziombak - Science
- Mrs Sisson – Maths and Humanities
- Mr Needham – Learning Support
- Miss Mann – Learning Support
- Mrs Hadley - Resources

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the DVA Team!

A Special Goodbye

This Christmas, we say a very special goodbye to an absolutely fantastic member of staff, as she retires after 23 years!

Sue Adams started working at Da Vinci Academy (then High View) in 1995 as a parent volunteer. Since then she has had many roles including cleaner, caretaker and parent Governor.

Sue is now retiring from her role as Reprographics Technician.

Sue, you are the kindest, most caring and generous lady we know, and you are the quickest photocopier in the galaxy!

After 23 years of being a star, without a single day’s sickness, we want to say THANK YOU.

We will miss you, your stories and your amazingly decorated room at Christmas.

Wishing you all the happiness in your retirement – from everyone at Da Vinci Academy.



SUE ADAMS – A STAR AT DA VINCI ACADEMY!

More About ...

ELFIS School Elf



What is your favourite thing about your career?

I get an automatic spot on Santa’s nice list and get to tell the worst jokes:

Q: Why are elves so cold at Christmas?

A: Because it’s in Decembrrrrr!

What motivates you to work hard?

Nobody can ever eat too many mince pies. Also, I get to double check that all my friends are on Santa’s NICE list. Of course, I will be checking it twice.

What did you want to be when you were small?

This is the easiest question; which elf doesn’t wish he was Santa.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment is when my friends who have previously been on the naughty list turn their behaviour around and appear on the NICE list.

Who is your hero?

Santa is my hero. He is just so wonderful, and he always works so very hard, plus he gets to eat all the cookies and drink all the milk.

What are your hobbies?

I love photography, especially taking **SELFIES**.

What was your favourite subject in school?

Mathematics is my favourite, especially **trigoGNOMEtry**.

What is your favourite book?

Reading books is my passion. My favourite read is **Stuart Little**.

What’s your favourite movie?

It has got to be **GNOME ALONE**.

What would you sing at Karaoke night?

“Wrapping” music is my favourite, but I also like to sing **You will never walk a GNOME**

If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

My very favourite dinner would be anything with **shELFish** or anything **GNOME** made, preferably personally served by Mrs. Clause.

What three items would you take with you on a deserted island?

Such an easy question – **SNOW**, Santa and his reindeers.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOODNIGHT! I WILL BE BACK NEXT YEAR!

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

Shoe Drive

If you have any nearly new black school shoes with plenty of life left in them, we are collecting pairs to support other students and would welcome any donations!
Thank you.



Online Safety

In order to support you in keeping your child safe online, we want to make you aware that the app previously known as 'musical.ly' is now branded as 'Tik Tok'. This app allows users to upload short videos of them lip-syncing a song which is shared publicly. Whilst seemingly harmless in content, the app posed certain risks including; children who were posting videos of themselves in their bedrooms, trolling or bullying through the public comments made on children's videos, opportunities for private messages from strangers and the risk of grooming. As always, if you have any worries about your child and their online safety, please contact us.

Year 11 Parents Evening

A fantastic Year 11 parents evening was held on Tuesday 11th December, where students received their mock exam results and were then able to discuss them with every one of their teachers.

86% of year 11 turned out (a parents evening best!) to be met first of all by the Da Vinci choir singing Christmas carols, before Mrs Roberts and Mr Blake went through the key parts of what the evening would entail. Key messages included:

More than 95% attendance between Christmas and the exams resulted in an average of 1.7 grades improvement in each subject
More than 80% attendance to period 6 resulted in an average of 1.6 grades improvement in each subject.

100% attendance to period 6 resulted in an average of 2.1 grades improvement in each subject.

Period 6 allocations will be sent out by post by the end of this week – please keep an eye out on this.

Students and Parents were then given their times to go and see all their teachers and have a key discussion around what this mock result means, what does the student need to focus on to go up by 2 grades and how will the student be supported in school.

Following this, students and parents were invited to "How to Revise" sessions in English, Maths and Science, giving tips and guidance as to how to effectively revise these 3 core subjects.

It was a very positive evening, with a lot of good feedback to how it was set up and the meaningful conversations that were had between parents, students and teachers. The next parents evening is Wednesday 20th March – can we beat the 86% attendance we achieved this time!?

Key Year 11 Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 8th January – Period 6 begins

Thursday 10th January – Children's Play, Learning and Development Exam

Friday 11th January – Travel and Tourism Exam

Monday 25th February – Mock Exams begin for 2 weeks

Wednesday 20th March – Year 11 Mock Results and Parents Evening

Monday 13th May – Full Exams begin

Friday 28th June – Final day for exams. Leavers Assembly and Prom will be on this date