



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

# Newsletter

## Message from the Headteacher

Belated new year greetings to you all!

We have had a great start to 2019. Students are engaged and positive. Lessons are focused and progress is being made. We all continue to work hard to uphold our high standards and ensure that we are the best school that our students so deserve.



Our partnership with our families and carers as part of our community is very important to us. I am therefore delighted to take the opportunity to highlight the work around family engagement which will be led by Mrs Helen Rollinson. This is a new part time funded post and we are very excited about its potential. We will be developing different ways of working with you to share views and build our partnership together. Please note the invitation to our first coffee morning where we hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

In the meantime, school is as busy as ever with Year 9 Pathways in full swing as well as a Year 11 English trip to Poetry Live, our new STEAM club and many other exciting activities.

As always, thank you for all of your positive feedback about the improvements that you are seeing and the progress being made. We look forward to continuing to work with you for the benefit of your children - one team, changing worlds!

Mrs Roberts

## Dates for your Diary

January	Y9 Pathways Evening
<b>30</b>	
February	E Safety Workshop
<b>05</b>	
February	Y10 Parents Evening
<b>13</b>	
February	Last day of half term 3
<b>15</b>	
February	First day of half term 4
<b>25</b>	
February	Y8 Parents Evening
<b>26</b>	

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



**Come and join us on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am**

coffeemorning

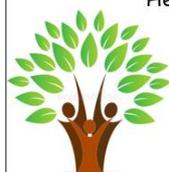


## Coffee Morning

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.



has time to listen, make home visits or who can be an advocate for them to navigate the education system, fill in forms and mediate between school and home is hard to find. That's where I come in. Using funding from DANCOP and The Opportunities Fund I am released from teaching to be able to support and help our families in whatever way they need.

We also want to be an open school and actively encourage parents and the wider community to be involved in the decision making process to make out school the best it can be.

Once a month there will be an open coffee morning for parents and families to meet together, share ideas and see what a day in the life of DVA is like. Events and opportunities for parents and families to come and see what happens in the activities that our young people take part in from the Prince William Award to Inspiration Days and beyond. And I will be supporting the transition process from primary to secondary involving the families and encouraging them to be part of our school.

Our young people and their families are important to us and by working together we can help our young people become successful and fulfilled adults.

## Family Engagement at Da Vinci Academy

At DVA we believe that as one team we can change worlds and that as a community we are strong when we work together. Being a parent of young adults can at times be challenging emotionally, financially and physically and as a school we want to invest in our families time and support to help them help their young adults to achieve their very best.

Sometimes however knowing where to get support, find someone who

## Year 11 Food Exam

Next week on Thursday 31st January and Friday 1st February, Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition students have their practical exam. This will be a practical exam where students will be required to cook, prepare and present 3 dishes of their choice, which meet the requirements of the examination brief.

Please take some time to reiterate with your son/daughter that this is an exam which goes towards 50% of their final NEA2 (coursework 2) level. They must be prepared with their time plan and be fully prepared with all the ingredients that they need for the dishes they have chosen to make and any presentation plates they wish to use. I would advise they also bring a clear plastic bottle of water to have during the practical exam.

Thank you, Miss Quinn



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!

Look out for our Year Group tweets coming soon!

## Y11 Period 6

There has been **63%** attendance to Period 6! **Well done Year 11's**, keep up the great work!

**Attendance to Period 6 = Grades**



## Y9 Pathway's Evening

On the **30th January**, the Year 9 students are invited to our Pathways Evening. The evening is an ideal opportunity for students and their parents/carers to discuss with staff the subject choices that they are considering to take for their GCSEs/BTECs. The choices that the students will be taking will impact their post-16 options and future careers, so the evening is a pivotal part of the pathways process that the Year 9 students will be undertaking over the coming weeks.



The evening will be led by Mr Rollins (Deputy Headteacher) and Miss Quinn (Achievement Leader). We look forward to a healthy turnout for what will be a great opportunity to find out the range of courses that the students will be able to choose from.

## Snow Alert!

Please note that in the event of bad weather/snow, **school is open** unless the **website** says otherwise.



## Website Update

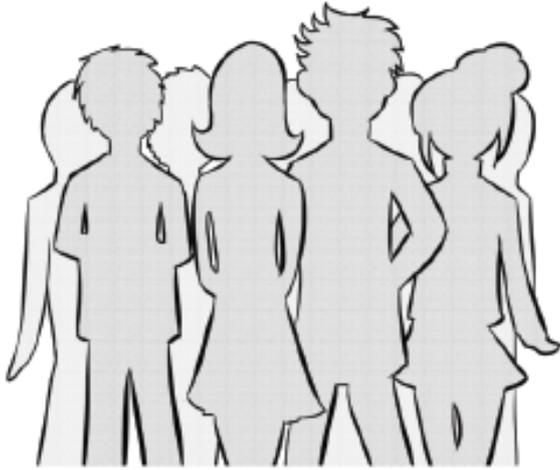
In a response to parent feedback, we have been working hard to improve the information available on our website and to make it more user friendly.

So far we have:

- updated the **Contact Us** information so you can find **email addresses** for staff from each department, as well as the Senior Leadership Team and Achievement Teams
- updated the Curriculum information
- updated the dining information
- met with our PR company regarding a complete website makeover in the future

Please bear with us whilst we make further improvements. We will keep you updated on our progress...

## Did you know?

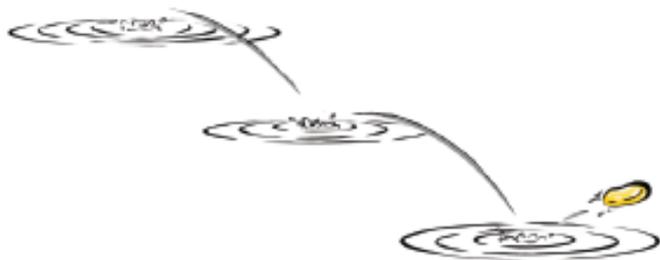


Aspirations reflect teenagers' hopes or desires to reach a particular level of education or reach a career. Studies shows that students with either high aspirations or high expectations have higher school achievement than those with both low aspirations and low expectations.

Research suggests that there is a correlation between teenage goals, aspirations and psychological wellbeing. Raising aspirations is also believed to incentivise improved attainment.

Further studies have shown that parents believe their child will find it harder to achieve their life goals than they did because there is more competition for job roles than they faced when they started their careers. According to research from the Education Endowment Foundation, most young people actually have high aspirations.

## What can you do?



Talk to your child about their career, education or life aspirations. Be positive about what their hopes and dreams are and encourage them to start to be proactive in achieving them.

Try to raise your child's aspirations by highlighting new opportunities. Develop their self-esteem, motivation and expose them to role models to look up to. Inspire your child to be excited about their future and motivate them to pursue their dreams.

Young people who take part in family time or activities with their parents are more likely to continue these, achieve in education and seek out career opportunities. Arrange to do things with your child such as theatre trips, cultural activities, concerts, museums, hobbies or exercising.

# Year 10 Parents Evening

A letter has been sent to Y10 Parents regarding Y10 Parents Evening (please see the details below).

If you haven't done so already, please can you let us know which time you wish to attend.

The times are either:

3.45 – 5.45 pm

or

5.30 – 7.30 pm

We would like to extend a warm invite to our Year 10 Parent's Evening on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, held between either 3.45 – 5.45 pm or 5.30 – 7.30 pm.

Each of the 2 sessions will start with a brief presentation for students and parents, explaining the new 1-9 GCSE grading system, your child's current working at grade and the predicted grade your child should be achieving at the end of Year 11.

This is a great opportunity to meet your child's subject teachers to discuss the progress they've made so far this year and what we can all do to further support their success for the remainder of the GCSE courses.

This year, appointment times will be arranged for you by our team, in order to help you see as many teacher's as possible. Your appointment times will be given to you when you arrive on the evening.

## Your Voice...



**"I love the positivity within the school!"**

**"I'm really impressed with the school and think the teachers work really hard"**

## Student Voice...



# More About ...

## Miss Bowstead

### Careers Leader & Teacher of Maths

#### What motivates you to work hard?

Seeing pupils' success. I worked in the Crown Prosecution Service in London for a number of years and saw large numbers of young offenders going to prison and I realised that I was making a difference too late in these children's lives and they had probably not had a great education. I re-trained as a teacher to make a difference.

#### Who is your hero?

My Granny's were my hero's, and if I can be half the person either of them were I'll be happy. One was a nurse at St Thomas's Hospital in London during the blitz and regularly put her life at risk to save others. The other was Norwegian and was a gun runner for the resistance in WW2, skiing over mountains with anti aircraft gun parts down her trousers to fight the Nazi's. She was 14 years old!

#### What are your hobbies?

Anyone who has been to the last couple of concerts will have seen me play trombone in the staff band. I play it every week at Matlock Town Band, I also play Bassoon and allegedly can sing!

#### What is your favourite book?

The Grand Sophy by Georgette Heyer and Alex's Adventures in Numberland by Alex Bellos.

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

Ham, Potatoes and Peas followed by Rice Pudding!

## Attendance

Whole School Attendance (Year to Date) = **93.63%**  
Congratulations to the following year groups who have attendance as good as the national average of 95% - Keep up the great work!

**Year 7 – 94.58%**

**Year 10 – 94.38%**

Keep improving your attendance Year 8, Year 9 and Year 11 – You're almost there!

**Year 8 – 92.71%**

**Year 9 – 92.93%**

**Year 11 – 93.43%**



# 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.



# E Safety Show and Workshop - Y8 & Y9

We are delighted to be one of the schools within Derby City that will be able to show two of our years groups a production called **Escape K3.4** brought to us by the Saltmines Trust.

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, all students in Years 8 and 9 will be able to watch the production and take part in a 45 minute workshop.

## What is the production and workshop about?

*What is sent in a second can be remembered forever. For Will, Sarah and Tom the use of social media, online gaming and the internet as a whole has a damaging effect on their lives. Escape K3.4 tells the story of what unravels when the lines are blurred between the internet and real life, when you are forced to cross your own boundaries, and when life becomes dependent on your next internet hit.*

*Escape K3.4 and its accompanying interactive workshop addresses the negative issues that surround the internet, social media and the impact they can have on individuals. Online bullying, internet dependence, compulsive online gaming and pornography addiction are some of the issues highlighted in a safe, secure and respectful manner.*

*We are sure that all students will find both the production and workshop extremely useful.*

## Learning Support Information

We offer a homework club after school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until 4.15pm in the Learning Centre, for children identified as SEN.

## Upcoming Events:

**SEND Coffee Afternoon**  
**Wednesday 6th February 3.25pm-5pm**

Remember, we are always available at parents evening.

From Mrs McKenzie (SENDCo) and Mrs Britton (Deputy SENDCo)

# School Trips!

## Please read.....

Residential trips organised by the school provide a great opportunity and students benefit enormously from the experience, both educationally and socially. The following trips are planned:

This summer the **MFL and Food and Nutrition departments are running a trip to Northern France**. The trip will run between 21st and 23rd of July 2019. The focus will be French language, culture and cuisine and will be beneficial to students studying the French or Food and Nutrition GCSE courses. During our stay in France we will be visiting a traditional French bakery, a chocolate workshop and a snail farm. **The trip was very popular this year and is currently full**, therefore we hope to run a similar trip next year for students who did not get the opportunity to go this year.

The trip to the **Brecon Beacons Wales Acorn Adventure will take place from the 19th to the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019**. We will be staying in a camp site and students will take part in a variety of activities from kayaking, canoeing, raft building, abseiling, zip wiring and orienteering. Our first two payments have now been made, taking 73 students from years 7-10. You can find out more about this adventure camp on: [www.acornadventure.co.uk](http://www.acornadventure.co.uk). We currently have **one space still available** due to a cancellation.



**15th-22nd February 2020 students at DVA have an amazing opportunity to go skiing to Austria**. It is a fabulous opportunity to take part in a sport which many of us would love to try. The price is extremely competitive for a ski trip which includes everything, all travel, all day ski lessons from a trained instructor, all ski hire, all food and drink and insurance.

I feel certain that the trip we have chosen for 2020 will prove to be both enjoyable and very worthwhile. The resort we have chosen is Axamer Lizum (host of the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympics), which has unprecedented après ski opportunities; swimming, tobogganing, possible ice hockey visit etc.

**There are a number of places still left on the trip, a monthly payment plan can be organised to help budget for the trip to ensure as many students who would like to go, can. If you would like a letter and more information please contact Miss Tyers.**

