



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year and I am delighted to say there has been a very strong start for all of our students in their first full week of school. We have several new staff who have joined the school, and they have enjoyed getting to know the students this week.

I have extremely pleased to see students returning to school wearing their uniform with pride and exceeding our expectations in this regard. I appreciate that this is due to the support of parents and want to thank you all for being incredibly supportive and ensuring that they have the correct uniform and equipment daily.

The school year began with an assembly from myself setting out expectations for students to provide absolute clarity for all incorporating our new 'Da Vinci Way' as shown below.

## The Da Vinci Way

We are <b>READY</b> by being...	We are <b>RESPECTFUL</b> by being...	We are <b>RESPONSIBLE</b> by being ...
proud in our uniform	polite at all times	proud of our achievements
organised with our equipment	attentive to instructions	a student who meets expectations
a good attender	open to differences	in control of our actions
phone-free in school	considerate to our school environment	resilient when facing difficulty
on-time to school and lessons	kind to each other	an honest citizen

Inspiring Excellence	Shaping Futures	Empowering Our Community
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During the Summer term, I worked with our new student leadership team to develop our Da Vinci Way, a framework of expectations developed by students to ensure that all students are clear in understanding what we mean by being Ready, Respectful and Responsible. I hope these expectations will provide clarity for all students and will help them to achieve the very best from themselves during their journey with us.





# Da Vinci Academy

## A L.E.A.D. Academy

**Headteacher:** Miss Jayne Scattergood

**Address:** St Andrew's View  
Derby DE21 4ET

**Telephone:** 01332 831515  
[www.davinciacademy.co.uk](http://www.davinciacademy.co.uk)  
[office@davinciacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@davinciacademy.co.uk)

I also spoke with students regarding my vision for the school as we move forward, and this comprises three elements:

- Inspiring Excellence
- Shaping Futures
- Empowering Our Community.

We have extremely high expectations of ourselves and from all of our students in all aspects including their academic achievements and also their personal development, as Da Vinci is more than an exam factory. We care for and nurture our students to inspire their love of learning as much as we do but also to prepare them for life beyond school so that they can play their part in daily society in modern Britain.

It is paramount that our students can realise their lifelong dreams and ambitions and we aim to equip them with the skills, knowledge and mindset that will enable their success beyond school and into the workplace.

For us, serving our community is equally important as we endeavour to create a sense of belonging, collaboration and respect within our school and in the wider community. Students represent Da Vinci as they walk to and from school, and judgements are made based upon the image they portray. We know that the vast majority of our wonderful students represent our school with pride as they understand the importance education can play in their lives.

As always, good attendance will continue be a high priority at Da Vinci as we aim to achieve above 96% attendance for every student, and I am pleased to say that the current whole attendance figure is 96.4% to date. We will be supporting students and families to ensure that attendance is not a barrier to learning. I have given every student a target not to miss any more than 4 school days throughout the entire academic year. Research demonstrates that the more regularly a student attends school, the greater opportunities they will have to develop their knowledge, attributes, skills and experiences that will help them in adult life and ultimately achieve better GCSE grades.

As the weather has been unusually cool for the time of year and we have seen an increase in hoodies being worn to school. Please can I remind parents that hoodies are not permitted to be worn in school. Students should wear a plain black jumper under their blazer in cold weather or a coat over their blazer. Jumpers or coats are not worn alone in replacement of the blazer.

At Da Vinci we have a clear mobile phone policy that promotes responsible use. Any phone seen out on the school grounds will be confiscated and handed back to the student at the end of the school day. We understand that parents may wish for their child to have a phone for safety reasons, but we ask when safely on site they are turned off and placed into the student's bag before entering the school. This rule applies during break times and whilst walking into and out of the school.





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As part of our commitment to supporting our children and their families, the safeguarding and attendance team are holding a coffee morning on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 (10-11:30). This will be an opportunity for parents/carers to meet members of the safeguarding and attendance team and discuss any concerns you have in relation to your child and their safety, wellbeing and attendance to school. If you would like any more information in advance of the event, please contact Mr Mather - [keir.mather@davinciacademy.co.uk](mailto:keir.mather@davinciacademy.co.uk)

Finally, may I take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers that I offer a Headteacher's clinic every Thursday after school from 4.30-5.30pm, and that anyone wishing to book an appointment should contact Mrs Graham via telephone or email ([emma.graham@davinciacademy.co.uk](mailto:emma.graham@davinciacademy.co.uk)).

Yours faithfully,

Miss Jayne Scattergood  
Headteacher

## Key Dates

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 4-5pm Meeting our new SENCO, Mrs Perks

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 4-7pm Open Evening (school closes at 2.10pm)

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 4-7pm Year 7 and 10 Settling-in evening

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 3.05pm School breaks up for half term

