



# Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

**Headteacher:** Miss Jayne Scattergood

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to another half term. I was delighted to see our students returning to school wearing their uniform with pride following the half term break. As the weather begins to decline, many students are now wearing coats to school but please can I remind parents that hoodies are not a coat and should not be worn to school in place of a coat. Plain black jumpers (without logos) can be worn under the blazer to keep students warm or a plain white t-shirt under their shirt in colder weather. However, jumpers are not in replacement of the blazers, and these are a compulsory part of school uniform.

## Attendance

Attendance continues to remain strong with whole school attendance at 93.2% which remains above the national average. It is essential that attendance remains as high as possible as we know that any time missed from school impacts on a child's academic outcomes as they progress through school. Please can I remind parents that term time holidays will not be approved unless there are exceptional circumstances, and it is likely that a penalty notice will be issued by Derby City Council for term time holidays. Where possible we kindly request that routine appointments such as dentist and doctor as also made outside of the school day.

## Inspiration Day

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October all students took part in the first Inspiration Day of the school year. Year 7 students focused on Mental Health and Wellbeing. Specialist teaching staff delivered sessions on brain food for breakfast and the benefits of fitness, yoga and relaxation. In Science the focus was hygiene, hormonal changes and puberty. Students also learned how Music and Art can support their wellbeing. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and gained many different strategies to help support their transition into secondary school.

'I enjoyed using the fitness suite to create a gym session' Jaiden K

'My favourite session was the brain food; I liked that we had the chance to try different smoothies and create our own breakfast yogurt' Byron F

'It was nice to speak to all the Year 7 girls around puberty and hormonal changes, it was a sensitive topic, and they all responded very well. It was a great chance for the girls to ask questions in a safe environment' Miss Hayter.

The Year 8 cohort spent the morning in an exciting Young Enterprise session. They investigated future careers, earnings and lifestyle choices. Understanding the importance of wages and lifestyle choices in relation to government tax and much more. During the afternoon STEM activities challenged students planning and creative abilities as they built structures with limited resources, a real opportunity to practice their teamwork and problem-solving skills.

The Year 9's had a careers packed day with external visitors discussing future prospects. A range of different representatives from Rolls Royce and DEP B discussed their day-to-day life within their roles and their career





journeys. It was a hugely successful day for Year 9's, opening up new, exciting ideas and opportunities for them in their journey to adult life.

Year 10 students split into three groups for this year's Inspiration Day. The Geographers visited the urban landscape of Derby City as the first aspect of their Geography fieldwork. Students then returned to school to write up their findings. A second group of students participated in a workshop run by Zebra Red which focused on 'Lessons in Hate' and the prevention of hate crime.

15 students visited the Silverstone Museum as part of the Silverstone #GIRLSWILL campaign to inspire girls into motorsport. Students explored the history of Silverstone and British motorsport and had the opportunity to race cars around a model track of Silverstone on a Scalextric track. In the museum interactive activities gave opportunities to land a Wellington Bomber, design race cars, and work in motorsport related television and media. A bonus was viewing memorabilia including historic F1 cars.

Year 11 students participated in a day of Maths and English exam preparation. Students were all involved in Walking Talking Mocks as well as an English inspired escape room activity. Students ended their day with an English quiz in the Hall which was excellent preparation for their forthcoming mock exams.

### Careers Mark

This term, Da Vinci was successful in achieving the National Quality in Careers Standard Award. This award recognises the fantastic work that Da Vinci has been carrying out over the last few years. The careers team spent the whole day meeting with an assessor, who also spoke to learners of all year groups. They were greatly impressed with the quality of the careers development program, the knowledge and dedication of the careers team and how enthusiastically the students spoke about their academy. We are all incredibly proud to achieve this award and will use the suggestions of the assessor to further develop the program in the future.

### Condover

On Friday 11th of October 85 of our Year 7 students embarked on a weekend residential to Condover Hall in Shropshire. The weekend was full of adventurous activities such as aerial trek, abseiling, climbing and the gladiator wall. It was a great opportunity to support our Year 7 students' transition, to build upon their bonds with their form tutors and other Da Vinci staff members whilst also building new or stronger bonds with peers within their tutor groups. Students continued to follow the 3Rs, in particular developing their own responsibility. Students had to set their own alarm, get themselves ready by 8am each morning and maintain clean and tidy dorm rooms. It was great to see our students gain skills outside of the classroom, observe new friendships as they began to blossom and see each child's confidence bloom throughout the weekend.



Y11 core mocks

A reminder that Year 11 students embark on their core mock examinations week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> November. These exams will focus on English, Maths and Science and will give our students another opportunity to experience exam conditions and test their knowledge to date. We wish our students the best of luck for these but know that there is no substitute for revision, hard work and determination.

As always, I am available to meet with parents/carers on a Thursday evening at 4.30pm should you wish to book an appointment to see me. Mrs Graham holds my diary so please contact her on [emma.graham@davinciacademy.co.uk](mailto:emma.graham@davinciacademy.co.uk) to make a booking.

Thank you for your on-going support in the education of your child(ren).

Yours faithfully,

Miss Jayne Scattergood  
Headteacher

**Key Dates**

Monday 11 to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November Year 11 core mock exams

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November School photographs

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November Flu immunisations and Year 11 Revision Skills evening

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December Year 11 Progress meetings

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December INSET day – school closed to students**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December Year 11 parents evening 1

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December Break up for Christmas 12.30pm