



Friday 9th May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

The beginning of the external GCSE exams is finally upon our Year 11 students and external exams have taken place for our vocational subjects already. Next week brings a full exam week for all our students testing their knowledge and skills from the past five years. We will be providing after school revision sessions (3-4pm) the school day before the exam and pre-exam focus sessions before each exam either 8-8.30am or 11.10am-12.05pm. Please do encourage your child to take full advantage of this specialist support for the final preparation and get in contact if you require any further support. We wish all our Year 11 students the best of luck in their forthcoming exams.

Year 10 Parents evening

Thank you to all our Year 10 parents/carers that attend the annual parents evening on Thursday 1st May. The attendance at the evening was 65%, which was lower than we had hoped for, but I do appreciate everyone who took the time to attend. Face to face meetings with subject teachers are crucial to understand the progress your child and has made and more importantly their next steps. Teachers are also able to inform parents and carers on how best to support their child outside of school to continue their learning using our online homework system Class Charts.

Future Leaders University Trip

Last week six year 10 students took part in the first day of the Future Leaders' Programme run by DANCOP and Derby University. The three-day programme is an opportunity for year 10 learners of Black heritage in Derbyshire to embark in a range of activities, from building resilience and confidence to raising aspirations and so much more.



During the day students had an interactive tour of the Markeaton Campus, where they spoke to lecturers and gained an understanding of the courses on offer which included motorsports, textile design, construction and engineering.

Nathan Addai, who has won BBC animation awards, delivered the workshop which bridges the worlds of visual arts, the mental health sector and education, to bring hope to ethnically diverse youth.



Our students engaged with the lecturers during the tour and performed well when taken out of their comfort zone as they had to deliver a presentation which could be used in the community to help young black people grow in confidence and support their mental well-being. Students enjoyed day one and are looking forward to the next event.

EFD Year 8 tournament

As part of the EFD Secondary Schools Partner - Annual Tournament, we took a team of Year 8 students to compete in a 6-a-side football tournament at Moorways Sports Village. Due to the randomised league format, we faced some new opponent schools from Sheffield, Rotherham, Nottingham and Burton. The team represented our academy extremely well and upheld the DVA values throughout the day.

Inspiring Experiences and Professional Insights

Year 9 students recently participated in a session with the Prime Law Group, where lawyers from London law firms shared their career journeys and explained the process of becoming a qualified solicitor. Students also had the chance to prepare and present legal arguments, debating the classic legal conundrum: Jaffa Cakes – cake or biscuit?

Marks & Spencer's opticians delivered a presentation in the Atrium, offering guidance on eye health. Year 10 students also gained insights into careers with M&S and other opportunities in the medical field.

The Army visited the Academy to deliver an assembly for Year 9 and 10 students, outlining a wide range of career opportunities within the armed forces and the application process for post-16 entry. Additionally, a number of Year 10 students will experience life in the Army firsthand during work experience in July.

The local Police Force engaged Year 7 and 8 students with a presentation about careers in policing, including Forensic Science, Detective roles, and Community Policing.

Year 10 Exam Ready

A reminder that we are holding an Exam Ready evening next Thursday 15th May and would ask that Year 10 parents/carers attend with their child so that we are able to share top tips for supporting your child to be ready for their forthcoming mocks examinations. If you are attending, please click the link to register https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HCBDF7GBoEOqWbJW_OwBUSC6E-xLGGRHrglg-47gBblUNjITQ0tCNE1TRVJFOTNUVFRUWkM1QJIUC4u



Headteachers Clinic

Should anyone parent or carer wish to raise a concern or speak with me regarding any matters relating to the education and welfare of their child then please do not hesitate to get in touch. 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 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

Thursday 22 nd May	Year 7 Parents Evening (4-7pm)
Friday 23 rd May	Break up for half term
Monday 2 nd June	School re-opens for final summer term
Monday 2 nd -Friday 13 th June	Year 10 Progress Meetings
Monday 16 th June	Year 10 Art mock exam 5 hours
Thursday 19 th June	Y11 Leavers assembly
Thursday 19 th June	Celebration of Achievement evening
Friday 27th June	INSET day – school closed to students
Friday 27 th June	Y11 prom evening
Monday 23 rd June-Friday 3 rd July	Year 10 mock exams
Monday 14-Friday 18 th July	Year 10 work experience
Thursday 24 th July	Break up for summer holidays