



4th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been a very busy time in school since the last time I wrote to you with our Year 10 students undertaking their first set of mock exams, Year 11 students attending their final leavers assembly and prom, a summer celebration evening and three days of transition for our new Year 7 students this week. There are plenty more events to come as well for the final three weeks of term!

Year 10 mock exams

As I write to you, our Year 10 students are completing their final mock examination of the fortnight. It is important to remember that these students did not undertake their SAT exams in Year 6 and that this is their first experience in preparing for their external exams. I am delighted to inform you that our students have risen to this challenge and their behaviour has been impeccable over the fortnight whilst they got to grips with JCQ exam regulations and expectations. We place great importance on our students experiencing these mocks in the same conditions they will do their real GCSE exams, so they are fully prepared for next summer.



Future Leaders 2025

A group of year 10 students had a fantastic day at Derby University where they took part in day 3 of the Future leader's programme - 'Looking to the Future'. They learnt more about pathways into higher education, heard from Pamela Cookey (Former England netball captain, and Sky sports broadcaster) about her career journey, and took part in a goal setting activity. In the afternoon they had opportunity to ask questions during a panel discussion. The day concluded with a celebration event, where one of our students Peniel K, was presented with a special award, recognising her input with all the activities over the three days.

Summer Celebration Evening

On Thursday 19th June we welcomed students, parents and carers to the academy to celebrate their child's achievement over the academic year. The evening began with a welcome reception where students served our guests with canapes that had been prepared and cooked by our Year 10 GCSE Food and Nutrition students. Over 60 students were recognised with faculty and pastoral awards for their outstanding achievement and effort during this academic year. Parents, students and staff were delighted



to welcome Ben Osborn, professional footballer, who gave an inspirational speech on resilience and perseverance. Well done to all our winners! #proudtobeDVA

Year 9 GCSE Options

Year 9 students will be issued with a letter at the end of the day finalising their GCSE option choices for the next academic year. If there are any concerns regarding your child's allocated GCSE option courses, please do contact Mr Gregory as detailed in the letter.

Rolls Royce International Women into Engineering Event

A group of our Year 10 students attended an International Women in Engineering event at the Rolls Royce Learning Development Centre. The event highlighted the brilliant career opportunities available here in the midlands, and helped students see how Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), could shape their future ambition and success. There were stalls focusing on how Rolls Royce design, develop, manufacture and service their products, as well as showcasing some of the exciting technology opportunities for the future. Students thoroughly enjoyed participating in the STEM challenges, talking to employees about their careers and learning about the history of Rolls Royce at the heritage centre.



"The memory challenge encouraged us to be confident and engage with our peers. The VR headset was amazing and gave the impression of inspecting a real aircraft. Overall, it was an inspirational and entertaining experience." - Nushrath.

Welcoming new Year 7 students

Da Vinci Academy welcomed our new year 7 students this week during three common transfer days. Year 6 visited the academy and experienced what life will be like for them in Year 7. Students spent time with their new form tutors, experienced lessons including English, maths, science and PE, and spent time getting to know the school and their new teachers. The students who visited us were a credit to their families and we cannot wait to welcome our new students and parents/carers in to the Da Vinci family.

Wear Your Colours Day

On Friday 11th July, students and staff are encouraged to 'wear their colours' to celebrate Diversity Week and show pride in their identity and heritage. This could include traditional dress, national colours, or clothing that reflects your cultural heritage, identity, or community. Alternatively, wear rainbow colours to show your support for inclusivity, pride, and unity across all communities.

I would also like 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).



Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Finally, a polite reminder that the final day of the summer term will be Thursday 24th July and students will leave site at 1pm.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Jayne Scattergood

Headteacher

Key Dates

Monday 7-11th July

Thursday 10th July

Friday 11th July

Monday 14-Friday 18th July

Tuesday 22nd July

Wednesday 23rd July

Thursday 24th July

Diversity week

Year 10 mock interviews day

Wear Your Colours Day (not non-uniform)

Year 10 work experience week

Sports Day

Activities Day

1pm Break up for summer holidays

