



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



**Headteacher:** Mrs. Katie Roberts

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

**Telephone:** 01332 831515

**www.davinci.derby.sch.uk**  
**office@davinciacademy.co.uk**

July 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

### **Important information for all - Da Vinci Academy Standards and Expectations 2020-21**

I am writing to thank you for your ongoing support towards Da Vinci Academy and especially during the challenging circumstances that have faced everyone over the last few months. In line with current government guidance, my staff and I are looking forward to seeing everyone back at school in September. Please note this return to school is 'mandatory' for all children.

To this effect, it is important that we return as we mean to go on and with the highest of standards from the very first day of term. This **letter is sent as a reminder of our ambition and expectations**. As a school, we are proud of our progress and achievements to date, which have been recognised by both external inspection validation and in numerous feedback from yourselves.

Please also see the separate communication (on coloured paper) with regards our specific **COVID-19 plans** for returning to school taking all DfE government and Trust guidance into account. The safety of our students and staff remains our number one priority. This includes school day and lesson timings from September 2020 adjusted until further notice in light of COVID-19 guidance.

In addition, the enclosed **summer newsletter has more detailed information** and an update on the term's events:

- 2020-21 term dates
- Consent information and actions
- Free School Meals information
- Gateway portal access and set up

We are always striving to improve further to become an outstanding school and help your children gain even higher/better qualifications and the best possible experiences during their education. In moving the school forward, I have worked with staff and students alike to embed a clear vision supported by a relentless drive for a 'culture of kindness'. This is for the benefit of everyone.

Our mission	"One team, changing worlds"
Our purpose	A school where all "aspire, believe, learn and achieve"
Our values	L.E.A.D Lead Empower Achieve Drive
Our rules	3 Rs: Ready, Respectful, Responsible

This whole school ethos permeates throughout everything we do and is a shared purpose that every member of the school community can buy into. **We will insist on the very highest standards for all of the students in our care at all times as we prepare them for future careers and success.**

There are a number of aspects that I would therefore like to draw your attention to in preparation for the next academic year.



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



**Headteacher:** Mrs. Katie Roberts

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

**Telephone:** 01332 831515

**www.davinci.derby.sch.uk**  
**office@davinciacademy.co.uk**

### ATTENDANCE

School Attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life and is proven to be the single most important factor in achieving good grades.

Every student at this academy, in line with the Government's expectations, is expected to maintain an attendance level of at least 96%. While it is appreciated that children are unwell from time to time and there can be exceptional circumstances for absences, please think carefully about taking your child out of school as persistent absence is proven to have a significant impact upon a child's educational attainment.

Examples of how your child's attendance can be affected include:

- 90% attendance = 4 whole weeks off school in one year
- 90% attendance in years 7 – 11 means half a year off school throughout Year 7-11

### TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

Since September 2013 holidays in term time have no longer been authorised unless they are for exceptional circumstances. This is now government law in partnership with the DFE. As you can understand this hinders progress of students due to the time missed from lessons. Please do not ask as a refusal only offends.

### SCHOOL DAY TIMINGS

Details of the timings for the school day are confirmed in the COVID Parent Guidance. **Students must be in school by the time stated for their year group** and arrival after will incur a late mark.

UNIFORM - see detail in the **attached leaflet**, which may also be found on our website.

At Da Vinci we pride ourselves on being prepared for school and looking extremely smart and ready to learn. It is paramount that your son/daughter comes to school in the correct uniform. Failure to wear the correct uniform may result in students being out of normal circulation.

Grey blazer with school badge

Plain white shirt with buttoned collar

**Plain black tailored trousers** or **regulation school checked skirt**

School tie (no pulled threads or graffiti)

Boys: black socks

Girls: black socks or tights

**Plain black** shoes (no boots, trainers or 'trainer look' shoes – no logo, colours or gold trim)

Jewellery: 1 pair of stud earrings and 1 watch only

No facial or tongue piercings are allowed

**No extreme hairstyles** – this includes **cut, colour and shaved** head. Natural hair colour only.

**No nail varnish or false nails/ eyelashes**

### EQUIPMENT

All students must have the correct equipment so they can learn. Our minimum expectation is that all students will always have a **pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener**. I am delighted to confirm that a fully funded set of equipment will be provided for all students in September. Lost or misplaced items thereafter will require



replacement by the student. Please note that replacement equipment sets are available in the school library for £1.00.

We also require all pupils to have their own scientific calculators for use in lessons. In order to support this, school will provide students in all year groups with an Aurora AX-595 scientific calculator. As with equipment, students will be expected to replace their calculator at their own expense if they lose the one given to them. The ideal calculator for students to use is either the Aurora AX-595 or the Casio FX-83GTX.

We expect equipment, calculator and a **reading book** to be carried in an appropriate **school bag** at all times and by all students.

May I also remind you that it is school policy that, at all times **mobile phones are not visible or used** whilst on school grounds. If a student has a phone out in school without staff permission, then the phone will be confiscated and kept at reception until a parent/ designated person can come to school and collect it. Please be aware that the use of mobile phones continues to be monitored and ongoing disruption caused by mobile phones will lead to a school wide process whereby student phones are handed in upon arrival at school, securely stored and returned at the end of the school day.

#### HOMEWORK

Homework is an important aspect of academic learning and progress. In line with best practice, all Da Vinci students will be set a self-quizzing homework each evening with a specific focus from their knowledge organiser. Further homework may be set alongside this in KS3 (Years 7-9) and additional activities will be set in KS4 (Years 10 and 11). Self-quizzing is a minimum expectation across all year groups. All homework will be set via Go4Schools, which students and parents can access via the app. Please support us by ensuring that your child has a suitable place to work and encourage them to complete all tasks set.

#### RSE CURRIUCLUM

The new relationships, sex and health education (RSE) curriculum is a compulsory requirement for all schools from September 2020. Da Vinci Academy will be building components of this curriculum into "At My Best" lessons in year 7 and 8, period 5 tutor time lessons, assemblies, some curriculum subjects and inspiration days. This will ensure that all students receive this arguably essential information prior to leaving school in year 11. The programme is designed to be both appropriate and differentiated to meet the needs of all our students. For more detailed information please see our website; if you have any further questions about the programme or concerns about the content, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Mather, Designated Safeguarding Leader via email: keir.mather@davinciacademy.co.uk

#### ACHIEVEMENT AND BEHAVIOUR

Da Vinci Academy's emphasis is always 'reward'. Students are recognised daily for their hard work and engagement in lessons with '**A**' points, these points are collected throughout the year and exchanged for rewards. Behaviour points 'B' points are issued for serious incidents in school, a text message will be sent home to inform parents that a B point has been issued and a detention will be issued from that member of staff for period 7 of that same day i.e. after school until 4.15pm.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to reinforce the importance of our **close working relationship with our local police team**. Developing positive community links which support our students to be at their best



both inside and outside of school will always be important to us. We actively welcome the local police team in our school and we truly value this important partnership in support of our young people.

#### ACHIEVEMENT TEAMS

Year groups are led by a teaching achievement leader and supported by a non-teaching assistant achievement leader (previously a pastoral leader) as below. Together with their form tutor, these roles will support your child with all aspects of their education including their safety, wellbeing and educational progress.

Year group	Achievement Leader	Assistant Achievement Leader	SLT link
7	Miss Jandu	Mr N Mather	Mr K Mather
8	Mrs Sisson	Miss Wilmott	Mr Wiles
9	Miss Bradshaw	Miss Wilmott	Mrs McKenzie
10	Miss Reay	Mr Needham	Mr Blake
11	Miss Quinn	Mr Needham	Mr Blake

#### Key dates for September 2020

Key dates are published on our website and further dates specific to year groups will be presented at our "Welcome to year group" evenings or if these do not take place due to COVID-19 restrictions then via remote communication at the time. These evening sessions as below are for parents and students to support a flying start to our new academic year. Please put the relevant session(s) in your diary and we will update you on plans nearer the time.

Date	Event	Timing
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Welcome to year 11	6.30 - 7.15pm
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Welcome to year 10	5.30 – 6.15pm
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Welcome to year 9	6.30 – 7.15pm
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Welcome to year 8	5.30 - 6.15pm
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Welcome to year 7	6.00 - 6.45pm

I know that most of you agree that the school is evolving and improving in all areas. If we can continue to develop as above we feel students will go on to do even better at Da Vinci in the coming years and we want you, as parents/carers, to work alongside us in securing the best futures possible for your children.

If you feel that there is anything further we can do to help you or your child, or you would like to discuss any of these matters further please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor, their achievement leader, assistant achievement leader, Miss Tyers, the SLT year group link or myself regarding these matters.

I remain as proud as ever to be Headteacher of this local school with its big heart and ambitious plans. However, my team cannot achieve what we want to alone and I therefore thank you in anticipation of your vital support. We want to achieve another ground breaking year in 2020-21 at Da Vinci Academy by working together in a truly caring and high achieving school with a strong and positive parent/ carer partnership.



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



**Headteacher:** Mrs. Katie Roberts

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

**Telephone:** 01332 831515

**www.davinci.derby.sch.uk**  
**office@davinciacademy.co.uk**

With all best wishes for a safe and happy summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Katie Roberts  
Headteacher