



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.davinciacademy.co.uk
office@davinciacademy.co.uk

Friday 11 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Term Arrangements

We received information from the government on Tuesday afternoon which states 'schools may wish to use Friday 18 December as an INSET day'. The stated aim of this is to reduce the duty of Head Teachers to be on call for track and trace to 23 December rather than 24 December. In order to do this, schools are required to move one of their other planned INSET days or add a day of learning elsewhere.

However, on the back of having to isolate student bubbles this term and the short notice being highly likely to cause disruption for parents and carers and our community, I have made the decision that **Da Vinci Academy will remain open to all students on Friday 18 December and students will return to school on Tuesday 5 January 2021** as planned (Monday 4 January 2021 is an inset day). This is similar to many other schools in Derby. As usual, the last day of this term will end at 1.10pm. If you need your child to remain in school until their normal home time then arrangements can be put in place for their supervision.

Please can I also take this opportunity to remind everyone of our 'wear a Christmas jumper day' on Thursday (£1 contributions which go to support the homeless via the YMCA) and our traditional combination of celebrations and learning on the Friday.

However, I would genuinely ask all our families to protect Christmas for all of our students, our staff and their families, many of whom might be vulnerable. **Please do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms that might be Covid – no matter how mild.** This is the only way to guarantee the safety of our community. It would be awful to have to phone families on 24 December telling them that their child or children have to isolate over Christmas day. To do otherwise would be putting others at risk or breaking the law.

In the unfortunate event that your child does test positive for Covid-19 over the Christmas holidays, please email us at covid@davinciacademy.co.uk adding the following information: child's name, date of birth, date last in school, date of first symptoms, date on which the positive test was taken and date test result received. Please note that this email address will be accessed between 9 – 10 am only on each day of the holidays through to and including 24th December 2020. After this date, positive cases will not require track and tracing within school before returning in January.

On behalf of all of us here at Da Vinci, please accept my sincere gratitude for the way in which our students, parents and carers have pulled together and worked with us to navigate a year like no other. So far this term, most pupils have been in school when they can be and this is where they belong.

This has only been possible because of a huge team effort by everyone including all of our students, parents and carers, our office staff, our Learning Support Centres and Success colleagues, our achievement teams who have looked after student wellbeing and managed to keep assemblies alive remotely and every form tutor who has



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started the day early and with a smile, keeping students calm and motivated. Thanks of course to all of our teachers who have had to cope with moving between classrooms all over the school, lugging equipment with them and learning to teach remotely! Everyone has simply kept calm and carried on in true Da Vinci style. I know this term has been challenging and I hope you know just how much you are appreciated. Together, you are making a huge difference.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Da Vinci community a relaxing and restorative Christmas holiday and a very happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Katie Roberts
Headteacher

