



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



**Interim Executive Headteacher:** Mrs Ann Donaghy

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

**Telephone:** 01332 831515

**www.davinciacademy.co.uk**  
**office@davinciacademy.co.uk**

Dear Parents & Carers,

After a first half-term of settling into school, learning about the Academy's high expectations in 'The Da Vinci Way', and attending 8 weeks of industrious and powerful lessons, we are pleased to write to you regarding the Academy's new homework platform. We know that the partnership between home and the Academy is vital in ensuring students' successful start to homework as they return from the half-term break.

We are thrilled to introduce you to Carousel Learning, an innovative online platform that will be used by all subjects across the Academy to facilitate homework based upon knowledge rehearsal and retrieval practice. Students will be able to use the platform to re-visit key knowledge that they have studied in lessons, before going on to retrieve it from long-term memory in the Carousel knowledge quizzes that are set for them by their teachers. Knowledge rehearsal (i.e. revision) and retrieval are both powerful techniques for reinforcing the learning that students have undertaken in school, and each helps to promote effective retention of knowledge in the long-term memory.

Research tells us that regular, low-stakes retrieval quizzes are highly effective, both in promoting active learning and also in ensuring that the knowledge that we have learned builds over time, rather than being lost. And with no login details or passwords to remember, accessing homework couldn't be easier. If you would like to know more about the reasons for engaging in knowledge retrieval as a homework strategy, or want to know how your child can access their homework each week, you can watch a video recording of students' introduction to Carousel on the Academy website – <https://www.davinciacademy.co.uk/home-learning-2/> . An introduction to the platform for students who may have missed its launch in school today is also available at the same address.

We know that you will wish to support your child with their homework, and you can do this by encouraging them to complete their homework each day, rather than leaving it all to complete the evening before a deadline. Sitting with your child and supporting them to complete their homework can be a great way to establish routines, and you can use the 'flashcard' facility on the platform to quiz your child, too.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to achieve excellent outcomes for our students.

Yours sincerely,

Miss S. Howard

Deputy Headteacher