



Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Headteacher: Miss Jayne Scattergood

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26th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I will be writing to you each fortnight with an update of information that will enable you to support your child in their educational journey, and also to ensure that you are fully aware of key Academy events.

Last Friday, we said goodbye to Miss Henschcliffe who worked in The Learning Hub. She leaves us to undertake her dream job of becoming a Youth Worker at the Derby Moor Spencer Academy and whilst we were very sad to see her go, we wish her every success in her role.

Assemblies this week have been on the theme of the Holocaust Remembrance Day, and our students have been able to reflect upon the past atrocities and to recognise that diversity is to be celebrated within modern society. Mr Wall spoke about our unity as a school community, about the need to work together, and about the importance of mutual respect and tolerance for the values of others. Students will continue learning on this theme in their Personal Development session on Monday.

Yesterday, we held our annual Year 9 Options and Parents evening which was hugely successful with 92% attendance. It was an ideal opportunity for students and parents to gather important information on the GCSE options process ahead, meet with English, Maths and Science teachers and discuss possible subject choices with specialist teachers. Any students requiring further advice can speak with Mr Thompson or Mr Gregory at any point, and we politely remind you that all option choice forms are required to be submitted for Friday 9th February.

In my previous letter, I mentioned that the Academy would maintain a strong focus on standards, and that attendance, punctuality and uniform would be a key focus throughout the year, as I believe that attention to the smaller issues are crucial in your child's preparation for the working world.

From my observations to date, the vast majority of students are wearing their uniform with pride on a regular basis and I thank parents for your support in achieving this. Please can I request that students are wearing their blazers on arrival to school, with their coat over the top rather than hoodies worn in replacement. If any parent/carer has issues in providing the required school uniform, please do not hesitate to contact reception who will direct your request to our Achievement Team.

During the winter months, there are many more illnesses around and we are finding this is impacting negatively on your child's attendance. The correlation between a child's attendance and the outcomes that they achieve in school is stark. For example, children who have an attendance of 95% or above are highly likely to achieve their target grades, whereas those with an attendance of 85% or less can expect to be up to two grades below their targets for all of their subjects. Simply put, children learn more and make better progress when they are in school.

Similarly, if time is lost in lessons due to children arriving late, then this also has a negative effect on their progress, which is why I have asked all children to 'be in lessons and be on time'. As I am sure you can imagine, in a school in which nearly 750 children move rooms seven times a day, lateness to lessons can





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be a problem. It is imperative that students are attending regularly and move with pace and purpose during lesson changeover times. Using the Go 4 Schools App, parents are able to track their child's attendance and punctuality in order to support our aim of excellence in this key employability skill.

May I take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers that I am offering a Headteacher's clinic on a 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) as these have been highly sought after already.

Wishing you all a very happy and restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Jayne Scattergood

Headteacher

