



# Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

**Headteacher:** Miss Jayne Scattergood

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

**Telephone:** 01332 831515  
[www.davinciacademy.co.uk](http://www.davinciacademy.co.uk)  
[office@davinciacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@davinciacademy.co.uk)

9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy fortnight in the Academy since I last wrote to you and the final week of the half term will entail all students taking part in an off-timetable event on Tuesday.

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February we were very lucky to welcome David Binns, UK Operations Director for Sanaco into our school. Sanaco is a Finnish company that sells technology all over the world and David came to speak to year 9 students about how important it is to study a foreign language. Our Year 9 students behaved impeccably while David explained how his business (and others around the world) will always prefer candidates with a good GCSE language grade over those without one. Let's hope our Year 9 students remember this as they submit their GCSE options. A reminder that today is the deadline for submitting any final forms to Mr Gregory.

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February we will be hosting our first 'Inspiration Day' of this school year. Inspiration Days are an opportunity for students to experience and explore activities that we may not be able to facilitate during a normal school day.

The focus for Year Seven students will be supporting healthy bodies and minds, preparing them to cope for the challenges they will face in the coming years. Year Eight will be taking part in a business challenge, working with Derby Education Business Partnership, which should inspire future entrepreneurs. The focus for Year Nine will be in depth science investigations and experiments, with the Science team and developing their oracy skills with the English team. These will develop students' confidence when speaking in public and support them with future GCSE requirements.

Our Year 10 students will be visiting either Derby University, or the University of Nottingham, where they will gain an insight into the academic courses available to them in the future, and more importantly the further education opportunities on our doorstep, they will get to see both the academic and social side of university life.

Year 11 Geographers will be completing their fieldwork in the Derby community, investigating changes in Derby Centre over the last 30 years and our Historians will be completing an investigation into Drake and his circumnavigation of the world. In preparation of post 16 life, our year 11 Learning Hub students have the opportunity to look around the Derby College site.

As part of our on-going evaluation into the viewpoints of parents/carers, LEAD Academy Trust is undertaking a parental questionnaire using Microsoft Forms which can be accessed by the link below. Please could I kindly ask that you complete this questionnaire, which only takes a few minutes, as this will be extremely helpful to both the Trust and myself to help determine improvement priorities within the school. Questionnaire link: <https://forms.office.com/e/zRjD612DXy>

I am delighted to advise you that we are currently advertising for catering assistants to work within our Academy. Two permanent part-time (term-time only) posts are available, and all information and





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application forms are available on our website. Please be aware that the Academy adopts a rigorous Safer Recruitment Policy which is followed for every appointment, and this requires completed electronic application forms must be submitted. The closing date for applications is 27 February 2024 and these posts will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

We are encouraging parents/carers to check to see if your child(ren) are eligible to receive free school meals, please click on the link below and we will be able to check on your behalf and support with the application. Please use the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/P28JJNXgFj>

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll also qualify for the Holiday Activity and Food Programme. Food vouchers may also be available through the Household Support Fund.

Further information is available via the Derby City Council website [Free school meals - Derby City Council](#)

May I take this opportunity 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](mailto:emma.graham@davinciacademy.co.uk)).

Wishing you all a very happy and restful weekend and a final reminder that the Academy's final day of the half term is Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Jayne Scattergood

Headteacher

