



# Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

**Headteacher:** Miss Jayne Scattergood

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1 March, 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new half term. We are moving quickly towards Easter which is surprisingly early this year.

I was extremely pleased to see students returning to school wearing their uniform with pride and exceeding daily expectations.

Our Year 11 students begin their final mock examinations this week and we wish them every success. It is essential students use this final opportunity wisely to determine the grade they are currently working at and to identify revision priorities before the GCSE examinations begin in May.

I have been leading assemblies this week to students, to highlight all I have seen and experienced in the Academy over the past six weeks. There are many excellent features of Da Vinci; from the respectful and hardworking students to the committed staff body which makes the Academy a happy place. There are, of course, aspects which I have seen which need improving and these will be my focus moving forward.

My initial area of focus is developing and embedding a culture of mutual trust and respect within the school community and encouraging our students to focus on taking personal responsibility for their choices and actions. I firmly believe that students should 'live the values' of the Academy and take responsibility for meeting these expectations in all aspects of school life.

At Da Vinci Academy, we recognise the crucial role that careers education has on the future of our students. We want all our students to be well educated in the local job market and highly aspirational when thinking about their post-16 options and beyond.

Next week is National Careers Week, and we will be celebrating this with our students in their Personal Development lessons and elsewhere around the Academy. Students will get a chance to learn about our staff's previous careers, outside of teaching, and see the qualifications and experience needed for these roles. In Personal Development lessons, Year 7 and 8 will be learning about what it means to have a successful career. Year 9 will be researching different careers using Unifrog software and Year 10 will be learning about the job market, in particular which jobs are experiencing growth/shrinkage and which jobs are environmentally friendly.

Year 9 will also be involved in a special assembly, where we are welcoming architects and builders from Pierre Angulaire, to talk about the different jobs involved in the construction of the Becketwell





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Performance Venue in Derby. Please make sure that you check the Da Vinci Academy X (Twitter) or Instagram throughout the week for links to online careers events which are taking place virtually.

This year, we celebrate World Book Day on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and we plan as an Academy to enthuse and entertain our students with a Staff Dress Up Day where students will be able to guess who we are all meant to be, as well as, take part in exciting competitions in our newly stocked library!

World Book Day was created on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1995 and was first celebrated in the UK in 1997. Since this time, we have seen many young people and families across the country and our school celebrating this day. Did you know that World Book Day is celebrated in over 100 countries around the globe? Its main aim was to promote reading for pleasure and improve life chances for young people as they develop their literacy skills. For further information about World Book Day, please go to: [www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com)

A polite reminder if you have not yet completed the parental questionnaire, please could I kindly ask that you complete this questionnaire, which only takes a few minutes. 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>

Finally, 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)).

Yours faithfully,

Miss Jayne Scattergood  
Headteacher

## Key Dates

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March - Year 11 mock examination fortnight

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Staff training day (school closed to students)

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – school closes for Easter holiday

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – school re-opens for the Summer term

