



Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Headteacher: Miss Jayne Scattergood

Address: St Andrew's View
Derby DE21 4ET

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26th April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I begin my second term of Headship, there have been some key changes within the Academy to improve daily life for all students. Mrs Culverwell, Deputy Headteacher, wrote to you at the start of the term informing you of the introduction of a centralised after-school detention system from Monday 22nd April, to avoid students missing out on valuable learning time from lessons. We took on board feedback and are now issuing parents with 24 hours' notice of any detentions. Thank you to all parents and carers for your full support with this change as we move to a system that addresses poor behaviour but does not negatively impact on lesson time.

The Student Leadership model for 2024-2025 has been launched during assemblies over the last two weeks. As part of our ambition to take the Academy forward, we see the Student Leadership Team as fundamental in ensuring that our students have their voices heard and suggestions acted upon. All students are now aware of the positions that are available to them, and the deadline to apply is Tuesday, 30th April 2024. Full details of the process and roles available are documented on the Academy website - [Student Leadership at Da Vinci Academy - Da Vinci Academy — Da Vinci Academy](#) . Please encourage your child to apply and take part in this exciting opportunity.

Next term, Year 10 students have the opportunity to complete a week of work experience, (1st July – 5th July). This is a vital opportunity for students to learn about the world of work and to see what it is like to work in a certain industry. Students can use this experience to influence future career plans, improve their employability skills, and make contacts for the future. In previous years, a number of our students went on to secure permanent positions at their placements after leaving school, and we know that students who complete work experience will have more details to add to their CV and talk about in future interviews.

Whilst we strive to bring as many employers and providers into the Academy as possible to talk to our students, there is no substitute to work experience for getting students ready for the world of work. As a school, we are contacting businesses who have taken students previously, and have already offered out some placements for Rolls Royce and other establishments. We will keep students, and yourselves, updated about any other opportunities but ask that you also help your child to contact local businesses and help them secure a placement, even if it is not for the whole week. Any experience, from small to large businesses, is invaluable so please call on friends or relatives to help to secure your child's placement.

On Wednesday 17th April, Year 10 Construction pupils were taken to West Notts College to attend an event run by Action For Construction. Pupils were greeted by members of the CITB and had the chance to meet employers from the construction industry who had given up their time to inspire the next generation of builders. Our pupils were provided with a unique opportunity to use a state of the art 'mini digger' simulator to move and crush concrete, before driving a real 30-tonne, 360° excavator! They then took part in building tetrahedrons, which involved lots of team work, before learning about joinery and roofing. The pupils behaved impeccably and were part of a group with 10 other schools from across the county. As a thank you for their participation, each received a medal and a goody bag to take home.

Eight of our Year 10 students are part of the Access to Sheffield programme where they will visit the University of Sheffield for 6 days over the next two years. On Thursday 18th April, they had their second experience day, joining lots of other schools at the University and came away buzzing with enthusiasm. During the day they learned about the real cost of studying at university and help available through bursaries and loans, heard from current students about managing a student budget, took part in fun team challenges and experienced taster lecture sessions including urban planning, creative writing and paleobiology. The organisers had nothing but praise for our students, and three of our students received Star Student awards - Latae, Cameron and Jack. They were all really excited about receiving this award and we were super proud of them all – they are a real asset to the school. Some of the comments from the students attending were:

"My favourite parts of the experience were getting the chance to meet new people, and the Creative Writing Workshop where we could be both creative and have fun with our team".





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"One thing I really enjoyed was that I had the opportunity to go into an actual university science lab, where we looked at and learned more about fossils. The university ambassadors also provided lots of support by sharing their university life experiences".

"My favourite part about the trip was the group activities and meeting students from other schools. We were all a bit nervous to start with, but we all got along well in the end".

Finally, I would also like 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).

Yours faithfully,

Miss Jayne Scattergood
Headteacher

Key Dates

Monday 6th May – May Day bank holiday (school is closed)

Thursday 9th May – Year 10 Exam Ready evening 6-7pm

Friday 10th May – First GCSE examination takes place

Thursday 16th May – Year 8 parents evening

Friday 24th May – break up for half term

Monday 3rd June – school re-opens after half term





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