



Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Headteacher: Miss Jayne Scattergood

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10th May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I write this letter our students have almost completed their first week of GCSE examinations which began on Tuesday of this week. We have a range of period 6 revision and pre-exam focus sessions planned to support our Year 11 students in their final preparation. Please can I remind you that all Year 11 students are entitled to a free breakfast 7.45-8am during the exam season. We wish all Year 11 students the best of luck for the exams that still lie ahead of them and look forward to celebrating their successes on results day, Thursday 22nd August.

On Thursday 9th May we hosted our first 'Exam Ready' evening for Year 10 students and their parents to provide detailed information on how to support your child as they prepare for their first set of GCSE mock examinations in June. We were delighted to have over 90 attendees at this event, and we have placed the presentation onto the school website so this is accessible to anyone who was unable to attend yesterday.

Last week, the Senior Leadership Team undertook the Da Vinci 'Big Ask' with all students in Years 7-10 to gain their personal feedback on a number of issues that students had raised as part of an online questionnaire undertaken in March this year. The questionnaire results were shared with students via assembly led by myself as we place great value on our students voice in the wider improvement of the school. Students were each involved in small group discussion on key topics to gain their personal experiences but also to ensure we fully understand what is good within the school and key areas for improvement. After half term, I will deliver the Da Vinci 'Big Answer' to students via assemblies but also will create a parental presentation of this to make available via our school website.

A reminder to parents that the sanction system in relation to internal truancy comes into force from Monday 13th May and Mrs Culverwell, Deputy Headteacher wrote to you on the 1st May detailing the expectations and sanctions that would follow in these instances. Students have also been fully informed and we feel that 'learning time' is so precious that it should never be missed as this is the core purpose of any school. Parents/carers will be informed by email the day before the detention to enable you to speak with your child relating to this prior to completion of the sanction. We certainly hope that no students will require a detention for this reason but would like to thank all parents for your on-going support.

This week in assembly, as part of the academy's ongoing work towards anti-bullying, students were introduced to our new anti-bullying ambassadors. A group of amazing students were trained by The Diana Award last half term ready for this role. They are currently running a drop in sessions every Thursday break time in N3 and also available around school for students to speak to for any extra advice or support. The assembly discussed bullying in detail, its effect on others and how it can be reported and prevented. Students can report this in many ways including to staff, parents, letter post boxes outside year team offices and 'report a concern' on the school website. We encourage all students to be an 'Upstander' and support and report if they see or are victim to any form of bullying.





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We have had an overwhelming response to the launch of the new student leadership programme for 2024-2025. The deadline for applications was Tuesday 30th April with multiple applicants across all positions. Next week, Tuesday 14th May is election day. Six Year 10 pupils have been shortlisted for the role of Head Student and the result of the election will be announced on Friday 17th May 2024.

The wider recruitment process is ongoing and will be complete towards the end of June 2024. Full details of the recruitment process can be found on the academy website.

We have recently reviewed our first aid practices within the Academy. Any student requiring first aid during a lesson will be sent to Student Reception at the admin office, who will have received an alert in advance. If a student is unable to get to the admin office a first aider will be deployed.

We have a member of staff as a dedicated first responder, however there are a number of staff who are Emergency First Aid and First Aid at Work trained located throughout the building, along with 10 locations for First Aid Kits and defibrillators available on both floors of the building.

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

GCSE exams continue till 20th June

Thursday 16th May – Year 8 parents evening

Friday 24th May – break up for half term

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

