



# Parent Bulletin

## Message from the Headteacher

We have enjoyed a brilliant start to the new academic year and are incredibly proud of our students who arrive at school every day 'Ready' to learn.

Already this term, we have welcomed in visiting performance groups, held a highly successful Open Evening and enjoyed a raft of wins in our sports fixtures with other schools.

Thank you to all of our families for their continued support, communication between school and home is key. Although the vast majority of Da Vinci families support the school, occasionally, a parent/carer gets it wrong and can be confrontational and at times abusive towards our staff. This is something that will not be tolerated as we all work hard to get the best for our most important asset, our amazing students. Please follow the link below to view our Parent/Carer Code of Conduct:

<https://www.davinciacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/DVA-Parent-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

As we look forward to the half term break, we encourage all of our students to continue to work hard in all of their lessons – there are still many A points, praise postcards and golden tickets to be gained!

## Achievement Team Staffing

### Update:

**Y7** – Miss Whitby and  
Miss Wilmot

**Y8** – Miss Seals and Mr  
Thompson

**Y9** – Miss Burton and Mr  
Thompson

**Y10** – Mrs Lockton and  
Miss Bradshaw

**Y11** – Miss Whitfield  
and Miss Bradshaw

Please be reminded  
that our school meal  
deals now cost **£2.50**.

Please ensure you  
are topping up your  
child's account with  
the correct amount.  
Thank You.

## Key dates

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October**  
– Trip to Wembley

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October –  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October –**  
Y7 Condoover Trip

**27<sup>th</sup> October** – Last  
day of term

**6<sup>th</sup> November** – Return  
to school

**1<sup>st</sup> December** – INSET  
Day

**22<sup>nd</sup> December** – Last  
day of term



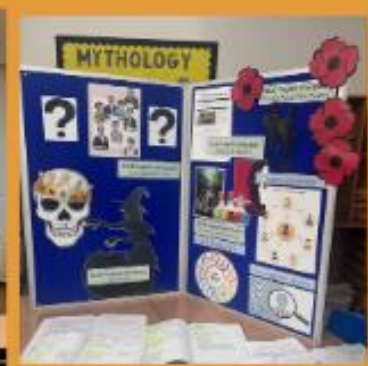
We had an amazing turn out for our Open Evening, we had lots of positive feedback and lots of smiling faces. Our departments worked hard to showcase their subjects with interactive and interesting activities for children and their families.



  
**Open Evening**  
**2023**



Our new Head who will be joining us in January also came along on the night to meet and greet and gave 3 inspiring talks about her vision for the school.



We couldn't have done it without the help of our amazing students who did us proud on the night by giving tours, sharing their experiences of what they love about learning at Da Vinci. The evening was topped off by a visit from the Ice Cream van!





Da Vinci Academy  
A L.E.A.D. Academy

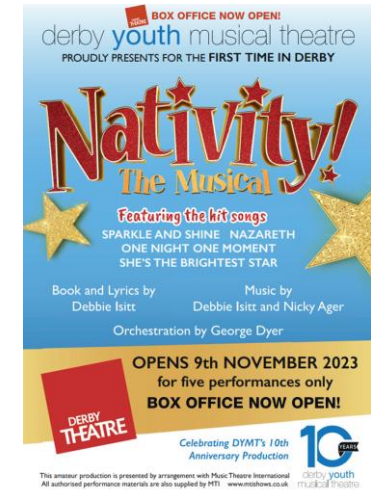
# Student Successes



Caleb M in Y9 was seen unicycling to school by Radio Derby presenter Ian Skye. Ian explained to listeners that the student he saw looked really happy, so the research team looked up school uniforms online and narrowed it down and Caleb was found. The radio interview can be listened to here:



Owain in Y9 will be starring in Derby Youth Musical Theatre's production of *Nativity!* 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Well Done, Owain!



Congratulations to Kieran, Year 10 Music student, who has successfully auditioned to be part of the Youth Chorus in the Derby Theatre production of *Cinderella* "Break a leg" as he starts rehearsals on 24th October! Performances throughout the festive period from 24th November to 31st December.



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# PE and Sport Updates

Students have made a fantastic start in PE this term. We have introduced many new activities and extra-curricular opportunities both recreationally and on a competitive basis.

It has been amazing to see so many pupils staying behind after school. The highlight being our Basketball club that had over 50 pupils taking part in our first 2 sessions. Thank you also to our amazing helpers who really showcased what we do during our 'Open Evening'.

Attendance and participation rates are improving rapidly, and we regularly have a positive 'buzz' in our department. Our new Year 7s have done especially well, many being confident enough to join us on our 'Wembley' trip to watch England V Italy. A trip that we could have filled twice over.

Our footballers have started the season well. We have fulfilled every fixture in Years 7 to 10, our boys and girls proving reliable and organised. We have also seen many strong performances and victories for our sides, proving that we can compete with the best schools in Derby City.

Finally, on a practical note. Pupils doing Gymnastics are allowed to wear 'grippy' socks in lessons (the type you would get when attending a trampoline park). Please could we also look at ensuring your child has shin guards for football lessons. These are very cost effective and will be used every year your child is in school. Purchasing a medium size should help protect your child during the whole time they are doing football at DaVinci Academy. Please also continue to send your child in with kit, even if not taking an active part in lessons. This has been successful in most cases enabling us to include them in a range of associated sporting activities.

Many thanks for your support and continued cooperation- The PE Department





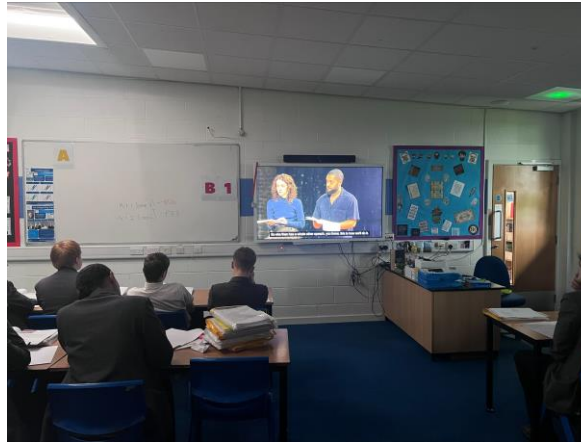
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# English

## Year 11 – Royal Shakespeare Company

On Wednesday October 12<sup>th</sup>, Year 11 students had the opportunity to take part in a live lesson run by the Royal Shakespeare Company, who discussed two key scenes from their GCSE text, Macbeth. The students got the opportunity to think about how actors and actresses interpret the scenes and the language, and what choices they make regarding the character's motivations. This was a really exciting opportunity for the students to engage with Shakespeare experts and should help them in their analysis of the play.

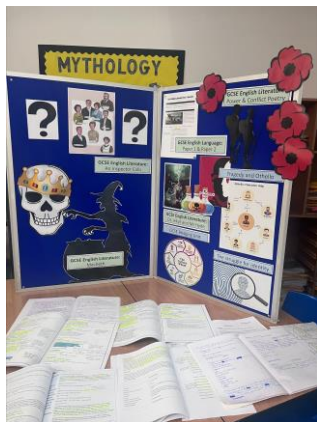


## New Library

Exciting things are unfolding at Da Vinci Academy as we prepare to re-open our school library! The library had to close during Covid, but we have spent the last six months investing in this great resource, and spending a lot of money on brand new books, in order to re-open the library this term. The new books have arrived and are being put on shelves by our wonderful librarian, Mrs Atkinson. Year 11s are already beginning to use the library for personal study and we cannot wait to open the library fully for KS3 students before Christmas. Watch this space!

## Open Evening

Open evening was a great success in the English department. Year 6 students were writing spells and sneaking treats out of our witches' cauldron and sticking suffixes on our "Etymolo-tree". We also had books hidden all around school and many Year 6s were lucky enough to find one, much to the fury of our student tour guides who wanted to keep the books for themselves! The Scholastic Book Fair was also a great hit and it was amazing to see so many of our current students, and prospective students, buying new books.





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# The Mercians band

Students in all year groups have been treated to a live music performance with up and coming Indie band, The Mercians. The Leicester-based band are currently touring UK schools to promote their music and raise awareness of mental health issues and the importance of looking after yourself.

