



Dear Parents/Carers,

Our students are continuing to wear their uniform with pride, and we are very pleased to see the high standards being maintained well into the term. As the weather begins to decline, many students are now wearing coats to school but please can I remind parents that hoodies are not a coat and should not be worn to school in place of a coat. Plain black jumpers (without logos) can be worn under the blazer to keep students warm or a plain white t-shirt under their shirt in colder weather. However, jumpers are not in replacement of the blazers, and these are a compulsory part of school uniform.

Attendance

Attendance continues to remain strong with whole school attendance at 93.2% which remains above the national average. It is essential that attendance remains as high as possible as we know that any time missed from school impacts on a child's academic outcomes as they progress through school. Please can I remind parents that term time holidays will not be approved unless there are exceptional circumstances as it is likely that a penalty notice will be issued by Derby City Council for term time holidays.

Settling In Evening

Last night, we held our Year 7 and 10 settling-in evening event which was well attended, and parents were able to speak to form tutors about their child's progress since September using feedback from their subject teachers. We also held important workshops on emotional and mental health, the use of Class Charts, work experience and the importance of reading. Thank you to all those parents who attended the event.

Class Charts

The immediate feedback from parents to date is that they are enjoying Class Charts and feel it provides detailed and real time information on their child's attendance, punctuality, behaviour, rewards, detentions and homework. Please can we encourage all parents and students to download the app and use the personalised access code to log into your account. This is now the only means of communicating detentions with parents, so it is vital that we gain 100% access for all parents. Students have reported that they also like the app and we are encouraging students to take personal responsibility for the decisions they make and any subsequent consequences such as detentions.

Post 16

Many of our older students are now beginning their planning for post 16 and deciding whether to attend college, sixth form, gain an apprenticeship or a job with training. We are hosting a Post 16 options evening at Da Vinci on Thursday 24th October between 4-6pm where we have a wide range of post 16 providers and employers joining us and would encourage all Year 10 and 11 parents and students to come along and gather further information regarding course, jobs and apprenticeships of interest. It never is too early to begin to plan for the future and our current Year 11 students should aim to submit their applications before Christmas this year. This year in Derby City, we have all sixth forms and colleges reaching full capacity very quickly and this has left a few students unable to pursue their planned course.





We are keen to ensure that our students are not in this position moving forward so suggest early applications are required.

Self-study

At Da Vinci Academy, we believe passionately that students are entitled to the very best provision in relation to their academic studies. It is therefore vital that we support our students to embed and maintain knowledge in their long-term memory. Self-study (i.e. 'homework') is a vital addition to the learning which occurs in school, and getting into good habits of personal study sets students up for success as they reach Key Stage 4 and begin to prepare for public examinations. Engaging with self-study will help our students to develop responsibility for their own learning, improve their recall of important classwork and give them the opportunity to develop their skills and expertise. Additionally, it provides parents, carers and families with the opportunity to be involved in their child's learning.

You will be aware we have recently invested in ClassCharts, a vital tool in supporting our students and being able to communicate with you to support your child. From the **14th October**, ClassCharts will be used by every subject area to set regular self-study for all students in the school. This information will be visible to both your child on their app, and also to you as a parent.

All students in years 7-11 are set two types of tasks.

1. Self-study tasks which require students to rehearse (practise/revise) and retrieve (i.e. recall) knowledge previously studied.
2. Self-study tasks which require students to apply their knowledge to an extended series of questions, longer essay-writing tasks, or examination paper questions.

The specifics of self-study tasks will vary across subjects, with different specialisms requiring different styles of tasks. On the next page you can find a brief outline of the types of tasks each subject will set for students, along with a guide to the frequency and duration of self-study tasks.

Please encourage your child to develop good self-study routines at home and also be aware that there are self-study clubs running in school to support any student who is struggling to complete work at home. We will be operating a rewards-based approach to homework and rewarding students who complete this will achievement points.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support in encouraging your child to make the most of the self-study opportunities being provided to them. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the relevant department area.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Jayne Scattergood

Headteacher



Key Dates

Thursday 24 th October 4-6pm	Post 16 evening (Year 10/11 students and parents)
Friday 25 th October 3.05pm	School breaks up for half term
Monday 4 th November 8am	School reopens for half term 2
Monday 11 to Friday 15 th November	Year 11 core mock exams
Tuesday 26 th November	School photographs
Thursday 28 th November	Flu immunisations and Year 11 Revision Skills evening
Monday 2 nd to Friday 13 th December	Year 11 Progress meetings
Friday 6th December	INSET day – school closed to students
Thursday 12 th December	Year 11 parents evening 1
Friday 20 th December	Break up for Christmas 12.30pm

SELF-STUDY EXPECTATIONS

Subject & Indicative Tasks	KS3 Frequency (Years 7, 8, & 9)	KS3 Duration	KS4 Frequency (Years 10 & 11)	KS4 Duration
English	Weekly	20-30 minutes	Weekly for	30-50 minutes
Maths - Sparks online platform	Weekly	20 – 30 minutes		30-40 minutes
Science	Weekly	20 minutes	Weekly	20 mins Biology 20 mins Chemistry 20 mins Physics





Humanities (History, Geography, RS) Knowledge activities will be set to consolidate class learning.	Students will be set knowledge activities once per week and quizzed on this understanding in lesson every four weeks.	Equivalent to 15 minutes per week per humanities subject	As a minimum, fortnightly revision tasks will be set. Additional self-study tasks, for example past papers and essay questions, will be set where relevant.	Equivalent to approximately 20 minutes per week plus additional self-study tasks
French	Weekly	15 minutes	Weekly	30 minutes
Art - Sketching techniques and drawing tasks Design & Technology - Quiz Food and Nutrition - Quiz or research task	Fortnightly in line with theory lessons Fortnightly in line with theory lessons Fortnightly in line with theory lessons	20 minutes 20 minutes 20 minutes	Weekly – Extended Portfolio activities Weekly – Exam styled questions and research tasks. Weekly	30 mins 30 mins 30 mins
Music Self-study menu with tasks to be completed.	Twice per half-term	30 minutes per task (2 per half-term to be completed)	Weekly expectation – instrumental practice should be completed on a regular basis at home.	20-30 minutes
PE	N/A	N/A	Fortnightly	30 minutes
Computing	Every two weeks	15 minutes	Every week	15 minutes
Vocational – Health & Social Care, Child Development,			Every week	20-30 minutes



Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Sport (Year 11 Only)				
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