



Dear Parents/Carers,

The start of this half term has seen the introduction of a new punctuality system. We were concerned that lateness to lessons was negatively impacting on students' learning and progress. The new punctuality system is now fully underway. It is fantastic to see the corridors empty so quickly and all students now receiving the benefit of entering the classroom and completing the 'Do Now' on time. The number of minutes late have drastically reduced in the last two weeks and lesson flow and continuity have greatly benefitted from this. Students' learning will go from strength to strength. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support with this system and as always please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any issues that you would like to discuss further.

Attendance

We have seen attendance begin to dip slightly as we move into the winter months, with increasing numbers of coughs, colds and sickness bugs. However, whole-school attendance remains above national average, at 92.75%. Year 11 attendance has been the strongest this week averaging 97.5% on a daily basis – it's amazing how a week of mock exams can ensure high attendance! Please ensure that all students are attending punctually and regularly as morning registers close 30 minutes after the start of the school day. Therefore, any student who arrives after 9.10am will receive a 'U' code and this is classed as unauthorised absence and impacts negatively on your child's attendance.

Congratulations to Our Mock Exam Stars

We would like to extend a huge congratulations to all Year 11 students who recently completed their mock exams. Their dedication, focus, and commitment to preparing for these assessments has been truly commendable. Mock exams are an important opportunity to gauge your child's progress and identify areas for improvement, and we are incredibly proud of the hard work everyone has put in. Throughout this period, our students have demonstrated resilience and a strong work ethic, which are vital skills for their academic journey. Whether they found the exams challenging or straightforward, their determination to do their best has not gone unnoticed.

As we move forward into the final stages of the year, remember that these mock exams are just one step on their path to success. We will be holding a 'revision skills' evening on Thursday 28th November 6-7pm for both parents and students as part of their steps to success. Click on this [link](#) to book your place.

Remembrance Day

As part of the annual Armistice Day Children's Memorial Service, Mr Thompson took 9 Key Stage 3 students to honour the men and women of the Armed Forces who lost their lives in conflict during the First World War. It was a lovely morning where Da Vinci Academy students were assigned an Army veteran who taught them how to march correctly before they proudly paraded in the service. They then



paid further tribute, remaining in silence whilst a Naval veteran performed the Last Post using the bugle. Finally, our students laid a wreath before meeting the Mayor of Derby for an informal question and answer discussion. Our students were exceptionally well behaved and showed huge amounts of respect throughout!



In addition, we held our own remembrance event on Monday 11th November where the entire school community came together to honour those who gave their lives. It was a sombre, yet reflective moment and student behaviour was impeccable.

Loughborough University

On Wednesday 13th November, 30 Year 10 students visited Loughborough University, where they took part in both a Creative Art and Criminology taster lectures, delivered by lecturers at the university. The sessions were fun and engaging and allowed students to learn more about different university courses and related careers. The visit included a tour of the campus and some of the students spotted Olympic silver medallist, Katrina Johnson Thompson, in training. The students were a credit to the school and one of the staff delivering the event said "I was impressed with the behaviour and engagement of your students. They were lovely and asked lots of well thought-out questions about university."

Derby University

On 5th November, 60 Year 10 students visited the University of Derby where they took part in sessions to help them gain an understanding of metacognition and improve their own critical thinking, reflection and research skills. They also had an opportunity to visit different areas of the campus and learn more about university life by talking to student ambassadors, studying various courses at the university. Serena Oates said, "I was grateful to have the chance to speak to students and staff and discover their personal career experiences".



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week was a great success, bringing students and staff together to promote kindness, respect, and inclusivity. Students observed our 'choose respect' assemblies fantastically well, learning about the different ways that we can show kindness and respect others. The Da Vinci Academy community embraced the theme, and it was inspiring to see everyone working together and being kind to others throughout the week. The week ended with our 'Pudsey in Paris' challenge for Children in Need along with a cake and sweet sale in the atrium. Overall, the week was a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to create a safe and supportive environment for all.

INSET day – Friday 6th December

Please can I remind all parents/carers that staff will be taking part in a training day on Friday 6th December and the school will be closed to students on this day.

As always, I am available to meet with parents/carers on a Thursday evening at 4.30pm should you wish to book an appointment to see me. Mrs Graham holds my diary so please contact her on emma.graham@davinciacademy.co.uk to make a booking.

Thank you for your on-going support in the education of your child(ren).

Yours faithfully,

Miss Jayne Scattergood

Headteacher

Key Dates

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