



Monday 2nd December, 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

The last fortnight has been extremely busy with plenty taking place both in and out of the Academy. We would like to thank the parents and students who joined us on Thursday 28th November for the Year 11 revision skills evening, where key staff shared top tips for revision for their GCSE preparation.

Most significantly we said goodbye to two long-standing members of staff on Friday 29th November, Mr Mather and Miss Wilmot. Miss Wilmot leaves to become Assistant SENCO at John Port Spencer Academy and Mr Mather has secured a promoted post at the Holgate Academy in Hucknall. We thank them for their contributions to DVA and wish them every success in their new roles moving forward.

Miss Bradshaw, Assistant Headteacher, will become the new Attendance and Safeguarding Lead for the Academy, and Dr Wilson will join DVA on Monday 9th December as the new Year 7 Assistant Achievement Leader. We look forward to welcoming Dr Wilson to Da Vinci next Monday.

Attendance

Whole-school attendance continues to remain steady at 92.7% which is good at this time of year. We are hoping that the 'flu immunisations that took place last Thursday will help to keep students and their families safe and well during the flu season.

Derby County Star Inspires GCSE PE Students

We were thrilled to welcome Derby County midfielder Ben Osborn to our school as part of an exciting session with our GCSE PE students. Ben, who has had a successful career playing at the professional level, shared valuable insights into the dedication, discipline, and resilience required to excel in football. Students had the unique opportunity to hear firsthand about the demands of professional sport, from rigorous training schedules to the mental strength needed to overcome challenges both on and off the pitch.

The session wasn't just about listening—it was interactive and inspiring. Ben engaged with students through a Q&A, where they asked about his journey, match-day preparation, and tips for improving their own performance. He emphasised the importance of





balancing physical fitness with mental well-being and encouraged students to pursue their goals with passion and perseverance. The visit was an unforgettable experience, and we're grateful to Ben for taking the time to motivate and mentor our young athletes.

Good Food Show trip

On Friday 22nd November, Miss Quinn and Miss Drury took our Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition students, along with Year 8 and 9 students interested in selecting food at GCSE, to the BBC Good Food Show at the NEC Birmingham. The day began with a live cooking session with Italian chef Gennaro Contolito in 'The Big Kitchen' theatre. Students watched Gennaro make a selection of dishes showing how to cook with artichoke, and a Christmas-inspired French toast. Our students then had the opportunity to explore the food hall, with over 100 food and drink stalls, more opportunities to watch live cooking sessions with a variety of chefs, and free food samples on almost every stall. Students thoroughly enjoyed exploring, many sampled foods they had never tried before and some even purchased extras to take home. The trip was finished by receiving a huge goody bag with over 10 full-size food samples in for all to enjoy. A great day had by all!

Year 9 Football Team Success

Our Year 9 football team, managed and coached by Mr Needham, have finished their league games against schools from Derby. This season Da Vinci Academy Year 9 boys played at home and away managing to win 4 games and draw 1 which means they had an invincible season.

11 - 4 (H) Derby Moor Spencer Academy

3 - 3 (A) Lees Brook Academy

5 - 0 (A) Saint Benedict Academy

3 - 2 (A) Ecclesbourne School

2 - 0 (H) Noel Baker Academy

With such a fantastic run of results, this means Da Vinci Year 9 boys have won the league.

Our Year 9 boys team consisted of Deon M, Jude G, Diesel B, Riley B, Jake-Junior M, Connor O, Abdelaziz A, Luke G, Riley W, Jack P, Elliot M, Joe B, Freddie B, Gustas K, Louis L, Liam S, Enoch O, Jeremy A and a last game step in superstar performance from Mason E in between the sticks.

"I am so proud to call these boys my team. Watching them represent the school and themselves in such high regard is something as important as their ability on the pitch to me and they never let me down. From



Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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away games singing Adele on the way home, to final game knee slides against our rival academy school, it makes it all worth it on those chilly late nights" - Mr Needham

Sparx Maths

We have recently launched Sparx Maths as our online homework platform for Maths. Sparx Maths is a tool designed to help students improve their maths skills. It uses smart technology to create practice questions that match each student's level, so the work is challenging but not too difficult. Sparx Maths also tracks progress and provides feedback, helping teachers see how students are doing and where they might need extra help. This makes learning maths more engaging and helps students build confidence in their abilities.

If students are struggling to understand the content or don't have access to a device, we offer support after school. Key stage 4 (Year 10/11) on Tuesdays and Key Stage 3 (Year 7/8/9) on Wednesdays.

Post 16 preparation

Mr Wiles has been busy ensuring our Year 11 students are getting access to many different opportunities related to their post-16 options. Heanor Gate Spencer Academy came to talk to students about their Sixth Form provision offer on Thursday 28th November and some students visited Lees Brook Academy Sixth Form during the afternoon of Wednesday 27th November. In addition, Learning Curve Group came into the academy on Wednesday to speak with students interested in the provision they offer. All Year 11 students should be in the process of visiting post-16 providers and making their applications presently to ensure they secure a place for next September.

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
Head Teacher





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Key Dates

Monday 2nd to Friday 13th December Year 11 Progress meetings

Friday 6th December

INSET Day – school closed to students

Thursday 12th December

Year 11 parents evening 1

Wednesday 18th December

Jingle Jam concert

Friday 20th December

Break up for Christmas 12.30pm

Monday 6th January

Students return to school

Thursday 23rd January

Year 9 parents and options evening

