



Friday 24th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to share with you that Da Vinci's whole school attendance was above the secondary school national average figure at the end of the Autumn term. This is a fantastic achievement, and I would like to thank parents/carers for your support and the part you play in ensuring your child attends regularly.

### **Year 9 Options and Parents Evening**

Thank you to all the Year 9 parents/carers and students that attended our GCSE options and parents evening last night. It was a huge success with 88% of parents attending the evening. The next step for students is to complete their options forms with their top 6 preferred choices in rank order (1=being first choice option) and return this to Mr Gregory by the deadline of Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. If any student requires further support and/or discussion related to this, please speak with Mr Gregory in the first instance.

### **Year 11 Revision Support**

This week we launched our weekly online newsletter for Year 11 parents/carers and students called the 'Revision Roadmap'. In the newsletter you can find a countdown to the GCSE examinations, direct links to core subject revision, top tips for effective revision and maintaining good well-being as well as our comprehensive offer of after-school revision support. We have also supplied all students with an English Language Beast (revision guide) and the literature version will follow next week. We are supporting our students by providing them with planned weekly revision topics for their core subjects aiding them in their revision practice. The direct link to the newsletter is below and this is being shared via Class Charts.  
<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/1h27EUHB2EP6hwBf?ref=email>

### **Supporting Beaufort Primary School**

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January, Mr. Heneghan, Music teacher and 6 students embarked on a trip to Beaufort Primary School where they were kick starting the primary school's music week with an assembly of performances, followed by percussion workshops for Year's 1 & 2.

As the assembly was coming to an end, Mr Heneghan gave a short speech on the importance of music in our lives and showcased his own talents on his sampler (a Roland SP-404) and it ended with a whole school singalong of Pharell's famous song Happy.

Following the assembly a percussion workshop was carried out with Year 1 pupils where they played along to some famous tunes with a visual aid to prompt them where to play their instrument. At first, Year 1 mastered the '4-count' and then with the help of the DVA students they were able to play their



part in time, turning the whole class into their own ensemble. The primary pupils were brilliant, the DVA students really showed great leadership skills and overall, it was a great trip.

### **Year 8 Science Faraday Challenge**

On Thursday 23rd of January 6 Year 8 students competed in The Faraday Challenge at Noel Baker Academy. The challenge was to design, build and test a motorised device which could be used to aid a disabled person.

Our students designed a wheeled caterpillar toy/walking aid. The caterpillar was designed to help develop and promote walking in children with motorised wheels and colours. They presented and pitched this idea alongside 6 other schools. Unfortunately, we did not win but we are so proud of our amazing students!

### **Year 11 University Visit**

Yesterday, 8 year 11 students, who have been part of the Access to Sheffield programme over the last two years, had their final experience day at the University of Sheffield. During the day students attended a mini lecture delivered by a university lecturer. They also took part in a subject taster session, where they could choose between 'Discover data Science' or 'Lawyers vs Philosophers'. They also had the opportunity to develop their revision techniques, note-taking and study skills through a Meta Method workshop, which is great preparation for their upcoming exams. Chloe said, " I found Sheffield University exciting, with lots of new experiences and a chance to make some new friends. The experience has made me more confident, and I find it easier to talk to new people." Yesterday Jack also won a Star Student award for his notetaking.

### **INSET Day**

Please can I politely remind parents/carers that we have an upcoming INSET teacher training day on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January and the school will be closed to all 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](mailto:emma.graham@davinciacademy.co.uk) to make a booking.

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



# Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Yours faithfully,

Miss Jayne Scattergood  
Headteacher

## Key Dates

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 3.05pm

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

**INSET day – school closed to students**

Year 11 mock examinations begin

Year 11 mock examinations finish

Students break up for half term

Year 11 Parents Evening 2 (4-7pm)

Year 8 Parents Evening

