



# Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

**Headteacher:** Miss Jayne Scattergood

**Address:** St Andrew's View  
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Friday 10th January

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to be writing my first Headteacher's update letter of 2025 and wish every one of you a very Happy New Year. We have had an excellent start to the new year, with our students wearing their uniforms proudly and upholding our high standards as part of the Da Vinci Way.

At the end of last term, we said goodbye to a few staff as they moved on to pastures new. Mr Grimmatt left to become the lead teacher of Physics at Anthony Gell school, Mr Carrington-Roberts moved onto another local secondary school – The Chellaston Academy - whilst Mrs Stead gained her dream job working at the Derby UTC, Miss Diadia left to pursue a career outside of teaching and Miss Bay has returned to her roots as an illustrator. We thank them for their contributions to DVA and wish them every success in their new roles moving forward.

At the start of this term, we welcomed some new staff into our DVA family, and these are

- Mrs Cooksey, Year 11 Achievement Leader and Teacher of Science
- Mrs Barker, Lead Teacher of Biology
- Mr Smith, Lead Teacher of Physics
- Miss Platts, Acting Assistant Curriculum of English
- Mr Henegan, Teacher of Music (maternity cover for Mrs Cathcart).

For those of you who have spoken with me personally, will know that I am fully committed to ensuring that we recruit the very best teachers for our students who will enable them to achieve their academic potential and improve their life chances.

## Core Values

In my students' assemblies this week, I have spoken about the three core values of the Academy and their importance in creating a supportive, inclusive and nurturing learning environment.

We believe that when **respect** is prioritised, it fosters a culture of understanding and empathy that allows students and staff to feel safe and valued. By instilling respect as a core value, we promote healthy relationships, reduce conflict, and cultivate an environment where everyone can thrive and succeed. Ultimately, respect lays the foundation for a supportive learning environment that prepares students to engage positively in society.





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**Kindness** is an essential core value in a nurturing and caring school community, and it encourages students to treat one and other with compassion and understanding, fostering a sense of community and belonging. When kindness is emphasised, students learn the importance of empathy, helping them to recognise and respond to the feelings and needs of others, creating a positive atmosphere and reducing instances of bullying and conflict.

**Responsibility** as a school value is crucial in preparing students for success both within and beyond the Academy setting. It encompasses a range of important traits, including self-discipline, personal accountability, and the ability to make informed decisions. When responsibility is emphasised, students learn to take ownership of their actions, commitments and consequences that come with them. Beyond the classroom, the value of responsibility prepares students for the demands of the real world as they transition into higher education, or the workforce, better equipped to positively contribute to their communities.

## Year 9 Options

The Year 9 Options Evening at Da Vinci Academy, being held on Tuesday, 23rd January, promises to be an exciting and informative event for parents and students alike. This important evening marks a key milestone in your child's educational journey, offering a chance to explore the subjects and pathways that will shape their future studies and career aspirations. The event will take place from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

During the evening, parents will have the opportunity to meet with subject specialists who will be available to discuss the content, structure, and benefits of the courses offered in Key Stage 4. There will also be a presentation by senior staff outlining the options process, key dates, and guidance on how to support your child in making well-informed choices. This is an excellent chance to ask questions, gain clarity, and ensure that you and your child feel confident about their next steps.

We strongly encourage all Year 9 parents and students to attend this event, as it plays a vital role in planning for a successful and fulfilling Key Stage 4 experience. At Da Vinci Academy, we are committed to helping every student reach their potential by offering a broad and balanced curriculum which is tailored to individual needs and aspirations. Our options booklet for 2025 has been emailed to parents and students will receive a hard copy on the evening. We look forward to seeing you on 23rd January and working together to make this an exciting new chapter in your child's education.

## Attendance

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.





### Term Dates 2025-26

We have now finalised the school term dates for the academic year 2025-26 and these can be found on our website by following this link [Term Dates - Da Vinci Academy](#) . I hope that by giving parents/carers plenty of advance notice, you will be able to book your holidays when your child is not expected at school.

### 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).

Yours faithfully,

Miss Jayne Scattergood  
Headteacher

### Key Dates

Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Year 9 parents and options evening
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>INSET day – school closed to students</b>
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> /Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Year 11 GCSE Food practical exams take place
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 11 mock examinations begin
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 mock examinations finish
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 3.05pm	Students break up for half term
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11 Parents Evening 2 (4-7pm)