



Friday 28th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the second half term of spring and it's only five school weeks until we reach the Easter holidays. It's been a busy return to school, and we have been pleased to see our students wearing their uniform with pride. Attendance this week has been 91.4%, which is lower than recent weeks, but I am aware there are still many winter illnesses around. It is essential that attendance improves next week so please can I ask parents/carers to ensure your child(ren) are attending regularly moving forward and learning time is maximised by being in school and in lessons.

Respectful Corridors

At Da Vinci, **respect** plays an integral role in fostering a positive and supportive learning environment for all our students. This week, we've been focusing on how our students can demonstrate respect in a particularly important aspect of school life: behaviour in the corridors during lesson changeover and at break/lunch times.

The corridors are often the busiest areas of the school, where students transition from one class to the next or enjoy a well-deserved break. How students conduct themselves during these times can greatly affect the overall atmosphere of the school. Respecting one another and the shared spaces is vital for creating an environment where everyone feels safe, valued, and ready to learn.

Here are a few ways our students can demonstrate respect in the corridors:

1. **Consideration for Others:** The corridors are for everyone, and it's important to be mindful of those around you. Walking calmly and quietly (on the left) ensures that all students can move from one lesson to the next without feeling rushed or overwhelmed. Running, pushing, or making loud noises can cause unnecessary stress and disruption, especially for students who may need a bit more time or space to move through.
2. **Allowing Space:** Respecting personal space is another key aspect of corridor etiquette. Students should be aware of others around them and ensure they are not blocking doorways, stairwells, or walkways. This simple act of courtesy makes it easier for everyone to navigate the school.
3. **Positive Social Interactions:** Break times and between-lesson moments offer students the opportunity to connect with their peers. We encourage students to be kind, inclusive, and respectful in their interactions with each other. Bullying, teasing, or any form of unkind behaviour has no place in our school, and we encourage students to intervene if they witness negative behaviour.
4. **Respecting the School Environment:** It's important that students treat the school building, facilities, and resources with care. Littering, damaging property, or leaving areas untidy not only disrespects the space but also creates additional work for staff who work hard to maintain a clean, welcoming environment.



5. **Mindful of Noise:** During break and lunch times, it's easy for noise levels to rise, but it's essential that students remain considerate of others. Loud conversations or excessive noise can disrupt classes or cause unnecessary distractions for students who may need a quiet moment. We ask students to be mindful of noise levels and be respectful of others' need for peace.

By maintaining these standards, we ensure that our school is a place where all students can feel comfortable and supported. The principles of respect that we instill in the corridors extend beyond school hours, influencing how our students interact in the wider community. By working together, we can help ensure that all students make the most of their education and feel supported in their learning. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Rolls Royce Visit

A group of 26 Year 9 students has the chance to visit the Rolls Royce Learning Development Centre during National Apprenticeship Week. They took part in a few activities including building model aeroplane engines, using VR to get close up with a Jet Engine and also an opportunity to look around the apprenticeship workshop and the Heritage Centre. They had a chance to speak to current apprentices about what they are learning and their experiences at Rolls Royce.

Emelia Y " We did a tour of the apprenticeship workshop, looking at all the cool machines. It was amazing and I loved it." "My favourite bit was the engine assembly session. We streamlined our production line and built 10 engines in 1:04 minutes. We learnt a lot from this trip including health and safety, teamwork, efficiency and memory. We were also given resource to investigate Rolls Royce apprenticeships if we wanted to do so in the future". One student said "It could make me want go for the Young Apprenticeship in Year 10 and then on to the next level".

Year 11 Geography Field Visit – Derby

As part of their GCSE qualification, Year 11 geographers undertook a fieldwork trip to Derby city centre on Monday 24th February. Students worked with staff to identify places in our city centre which have been improved over recent decades and rated the success of the efforts in each location. Parents of a certain age will no-doubt remember the likes of the Main Centre, the old Derby Bus Station, Debenhams building, St Peter's Street/Market Place before pedestrianisation and the infamous Derby Hole on Corporation Street.

A huge thank you to our students for representing the school so well, for completing their tasks as required, and for re-joining the group promptly when instructed. Also, thanks to the staff who accompanied the visit and supervised the students in a busy environment and helped them to complete their fieldwork activities.



Football Season

We are pleased to see the football season has started again, with many of our pupils involved in games this week. The Year 9's continued their good form following their league win before Christmas, which secured them promotion to Division 1 of the Derby City Schools football league, winning their tournament on Wednesday. Mr Needham's team remained unbeaten.

The Year 8 team lost one game and came runners-up in their event, while our Year 7 team did well to win the second half after being 4:0 down at half time. A strong Murray Park side won 5:2 in the end. All pupils conducted themselves brilliantly representing DaVinci Academy with pride.

Parent/Carer Stakeholder Survey

On an annual basis, the academy trust undertake surveys from staff, students and parents/carers to determine their viewpoints and identify areas of strength and those in need of development and improvement. Please could I kindly appeal to all parents and carers to complete the online survey using the following link by Monday 31st March. The link will take you directly to a Microsoft Forms survey page where there are 14 questions to answer.

<https://forms.office.com/e/zRjD612DXy>

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

Thursday 13 th March	Year 11 Parents Evening 2 (4-7pm)
Thursday 3 rd April	Year 8 Parents Evening (4-7pm)
Friday 4 th April	Students break up for the Easter holiday 3.05pm
Monday 7 th to Thursday 17 April	Year 11 Revision Easter classes (10am-2pm)



Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Tuesday 22 nd April	School opens at 8.05am for the summer term
Monday 28 th , Tuesday 29 th April	Year 11 GCSE Art practical exam (10 hours)
Wednesday 30 th , Thursday 1 st May	Year 11 GCSE French speaking exams
Thursday 1 st May	Year 10 Parents Evening (4-7pm)
Tuesday 6 th May	Official start day of GCSE examinations

