



Monday 17th March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week we have been raising awareness of International Women's Day that took place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Mrs Park, English Curriculum Leader, has led our assemblies this week exploring the theme of 'Accelerate Action,' focusing on the importance of driving progress towards gender equality. Students reflected on the achievements of trailblazing women, the challenges that remain, and how they can take meaningful steps to create a more inclusive future.

### **Year 11 Parents evening 2**

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March we held our second parents evening of the academic year for our Year 11 students and their parents. It was a vital last opportunity to meet with subject teachers prior to the start of the GCSE exams in May. The attendance at the evening was very good at 73% and we wanted to thank everyone who was able to attend. Mr Gregory informed us all that it is less than 50 days now until the start of the official exam season and that students really do need to make the most of every revision opportunity now to maximise their results.

### **Punctuality**

Good attendance and punctuality underpin good education; if students are not at school or miss parts of lessons, they cannot successfully access the curriculum. The start of our school day focusses on clear routines and reading to develop their vocabulary skills. Students who arrive on time to school regularly are less likely to have negative behaviour incidents logged as these clear routines support their daily success.

When a student arrives late to a lesson, they miss out on essential instructions and the 'Do Now' task given at the beginning of the lesson which is focussed on the retrieval of prior knowledge and therefore acts as revision. Establishing good time-keeping habits early in life is also good preparation for adulthood when we are increasingly responsible for our own timekeeping.

We are noticing recently that some students are regularly not arriving on time for the start of the school day which is 8.30am. It is essential that parents/carers support your child(ren) in developing and maintaining good habits in the morning to ensure they have plenty of time to arrive at school before 8.30am. We offer a free breakfast (bagels and cereals) to all our students as part of the National Breakfast programme regardless of whether they are eligible for free school meals or not.

Miss Bradshaw, Assistant Headteacher, is currently tracking students who are regularly arriving late to school as we have changed Class Charts so that parents are also able to see when their child has arrived late to school as this will need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.



Please could parents/carers who are noticing a regular pattern of poor punctuality take the time to discuss this with their child and support them in developing morning routines that will improve this before persistent lateness becomes a habit.

### **Ramadan**

During the Islamic month of Ramadan, we are supporting students in school by offering them a space to pray and raising awareness of the importance this month holds for Muslims. We asked parents to make us aware of any students who are fasting and praying to enable us to organise facilities in school. There are numerous students across all year groups accessing the prayer room each day. Assemblies are being held with all year groups to spread awareness of the importance this month holds to Muslims around the world. We would like to take this opportunity to say, Ramadan Kareem, to all those participating in Ramadan.

### **Science Week**

This week, Year 7,8 and 9 students have been exploring how we can *Adapt and Change* as part of British Science Week. Students debated whether the UK should ban single-use plastics, discussing their impact on the environment. Then, they tackled a STEM challenge, using plastic waste to create floating gardens—small, eco-friendly structures that could grow crops on flooded land. These activities helped students think about how we can solve real-world problems and ensure food security for a growing global population.

### **Year 8 Football Season**

Over the last 3 weeks the Year 8 football team have taken part in an 8-a-side tournament at Leesbrook. The tournament included the following teams: Leesbrook, West Park, Ecclesbourne, Landau Forte, Noel Baker, Alvaston Moor and St. Benedicts.

Mr Thompson, Year 8 Achievement Leader, was delighted to inform me that they won the whole tournament over the 3 weeks! Played 15, won 10, drew 4, lost 1! Congratulations to the following students; George B, Vincent D, Eathan V, Brandon W, Harley B, Riley B, Blayke H, Brody W, Lewis G and Kia G.

### **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 31<sup>st</sup> 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>



# Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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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 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11 final school photos
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Year 8 Parents Evening (4-7pm)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Students break up for the Easter holiday 3.05pm
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 11 Revision Easter classes (10am-2pm)
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	School opens at 8.05am for the summer term
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 11 GCSE Art practical exam (10 hours)
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 11 GCSE French speaking exams
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 10 Parents Evening (4-7pm)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Official start day of GCSE examinations

