



Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Headteacher: Miss Jayne Scattergood

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12th July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an exceptionally busy time at the academy as we move ever closer to the summer holidays. Last week, all Key Stage 3 students engaged in the Da Vinci Mock Election, coinciding with the general election. During this event, students attended various sessions where they delved into the actions of local MPs, studied the actual policies of major political parties, and learned about the logistics of voting and the workings of the UK's first-past-the-post system.

In the mock election, each tutor group represented one of the 650 national constituencies, giving every student the opportunity to experience democracy first-hand. They voted for one of five staff members, who took on roles as political party candidates. Throughout the week, the school was abuzz with anticipation, healthy debates, and lively discussions. This excitement culminated on election day, only to be met with the poignant question from many students: "Why can't we vote for real?"

Last week saw 85 Year 10 students embark on the world of work during Work Experience week. Students experienced working in a range of industries from education, engineering and aeronautical engineering to customer services, the beauty industry and childcare. We are proud to say that Da Vinci students represented themselves and the school impeccably. One student has been lucky enough to be offered the opportunity to complete a degree apprenticeship with the company they were placed with.

In school, students were visited by an array of guest speakers including, Severn Trent, The Police, and Derby College. Students also had the opportunity to work on a project in school with Mr Grimmett which focused on careers and making good choices for the future. We even had students working alongside staff in the kitchen, PE and DT Departments throughout the week. Overall, it was a fantastic learning experience for all.

We took over 50 students to Moorways Stadium on Wednesday 10th July to compete in the annual City Sports events. City Sports is the chance students of all ages to showcase their athletic abilities in both track and field events against the best in Derby. We had multiple podium finishes which included two Year 10 students breaking the longstanding school records and both of them picking up first place in the city. A monumental achievement and a great day had by all!

From arrivals in style to dancing the night away, the Da Vinci Academy Prom 2024 was a roaring success on Friday 5th July. Students attended wearing red carpet worthy dresses and unbelievably, all shirts were tucked in. The car park was filled with supercars and limousines, featuring the appearance of a Rolls Royce and even a tractor. It's safe to say, Da Vinci students know how to make an entrance. Thank you to all those who attended, it was a magical evening, and we are already planning for 2025.

This week Mr Morrow and Mr Bennett took six year 7 and six year 9 students to the annual YESD trip at the University of Derby. The trip was to inspire the next generation of young engineers. Manar, Maize and James built a successful vehicle using a range of materials and techniques, River, AJ and Lucas all form





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year 7, built an all-terrain vehicle that completed the course in record time and won points for their design and creativeness. Next up was Lilly-Anne, Marcell and Leyton who represented year 9 for Davinci Academy followed by Nicole, Lucy and Ryan who made DaVinci proud by building a vehicle that travelled over sand, gravel and a steep hill to complete the course.

The Teacher's had no time to rest and drink coffee and were tasked in building an aircraft that had to fly from the balcony of the University of Derby and land on a spot in the middle of their atrium! Mr Morrow set straight to work in building the most complex aircraft known to man but unfortunately, Mr Bennett's competitive edge got the better of him in addition to his childhood modelling skills, he threw an aircraft across the atrium much to the amusement of 150 pupils cheering on from schools across the midlands and won an Amazon voucher. Of course it's not all about the teaching staff, AJ also won an award called the Tony Claridge award for enthusiastic young Engineer'

We welcomed 150 new students and their families to the academy last week as part of our transition events to aid the move from primary to secondary school. The programme began with an information evening for parents and students where they got to meet key staff including their form tutor. The following three days, students took part in many different lessons, assemblies and activities to get to know the school staff and site and also make new friends ending in a graduation celebration on the final afternoon. We are incredibly excited for September when these students will officially begin their secondary school journey.

Our PE team would also like to remind our parents about voting in local Tesco stores to raise funds to refurbish our fitness suite. The voting is live now and if you shop at Tesco but not at any local shops, please could you bring your tokens to us at school so we can get them contributing to the Da Vinci Academy campaign. Please inform all of your friends and families to get them 'voting' for us to help win the full amount of funding available.

As we near the end of the school year we have planned activities for all students to take part in with Sports Day taking place on Tuesday 16th July (weather dependent) and Rewards Trip on Monday 22nd July. There will be in-school activities for any students not attending the rewards trips so full attendance is expected.

On our final morning of school, Tuesday 23rd July, students will take part in four different activities which aim to finish the academic year on a high. The final day will be a shorter school day with mornings sessions finishing at 12.10pm. Students will have access to food from the dining hall after 12.10pm before making their way home. If anyone

Finally, I would like to thank all parents/carers for their support during my first two terms as Headteacher. I feel incredibly privileged to be the Headteacher of such a wonderful school that serves this community and I look forward to driving forward further improvements in the next academic year.

I wish you and your family a safe and happy summer break to enjoy the precious family time together.





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Yours faithfully,

Miss Jayne Scattergood
Headteacher

Key Dates

Tuesday 23rd July – school finishes early at 12.10pm

Friday 6th September – Year 7 and 11 students return to school

Monday 9th September – Year 8, 9 and 10 students return to school

