



Da Vinci Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy

Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

Hello everyone

We have already come to the end of an action packed half term, time is truly flying by.

I cannot thank everyone enough for their support, from parents reinforcing uniform rules at home to staff working above and beyond and finally to our fantastic students who have adjusted to a new school year with lots of excitement and change.

Highlights for me include the appointment of our new prefects, head boy and head girl roles and our welcome to year group evenings with such positive feedback from our families about our plans for our school and our aspirations for our students.

In addition, I am proud of our Year 8's and how they have embraced the challenges of the Prince William Award and our anti bullying ambassadors from across all school year groups who represented us so well as part of the Diana Award. We also have successful sports teams and our Year 7's are definitely a year group to watch out for in the future.

Half term is now a good chance to have a rest but don't forget to keep on top of that homework!

Most importantly, keep safe and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 5th November 2018.

Mrs Roberts
Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

| | | |
|----------|----|--------------------------------------|
| October | 29 | Half Term |
| November | 12 | Y11 Mock Exams start |
| November | 14 | 2017/2018 Y11 Leavers Awards Evening |
| November | 16 | Photographs |
| November | 26 | INSET Day |
| December | 06 | Y10 and Y11 Post 16 Evening |

Please keep in touch with us via our website



Session 6 of the PWA continued on the "Leadership Theme". Students worked on leadership qualities and worked together to improve on an activity which they had tried during week 2.

Additionally they had to display trust, problem solving, caring and teamwork in order to move a "highly important" item from one team to another. Great thought and appreciation for others was plain to see and really good results achieved.

Session 7 focussed on mindfulness skills. Students were challenged to engage their minds and bodies during the session, understanding how mindfulness helps look after their mental health and wellbeing.

Another good few weeks for Year 8's, well done!



Lost Property

We have several coats in lost property. Please check your child has their coat and if not, please send them to check at reception.



Inspiration Day

We were delighted to be joined by our local police officers during our Year 8 inspiration day. The year 8 students spent the whole morning rotating around the 'Spectrum of Hate' workshops. This included a 10 minute speech/interaction with eight different speakers around Hate Crime and their experiences of it. The whole morning was such an engaging way to help our students understand Hate Crime. This has only run in a selection of schools over Derbyshire so we are extremely lucky to have had this experience.

In addition to this we had an extra special guest speaker- A holocaust survivor who spoke to the year group for over an hour. They were so engaged in his stories you could hear a pin drop.

During the afternoon we were joined by the RAF and Royal Navy Forces who ran a session called 'Its a Numbers Game'. Throughout the show students were introduced to a series of fun and fascinating ways in which maths is used in everyday life, including examples of practical application of maths techniques within BAE systems, the RAF and the Royal Navy. After school we had a group of over 15 students who stayed behind as they were so engaged in the show.



Our Year 10's and some of our Year 11 students took part in our Key Stage 4 Inspiration Day. During the day, students learnt how to use the platform, Unifrog. This is a wonderful application which can be used to access post 16 providers. It details colleges and universities across the country and their course specifications and the GCSE requirements for each course.

All students on the day had access to an external provider, Dancop, who provided workshops on post 16 choices and employability skills. The workshops provided by all were invaluable to the students and as a school we provided additional workshops such as, personal finance and CV writing which gave students an opportunity to prepare themselves for when they need to apply for jobs or college courses.

A special thanks goes to Miss Bowstead who organised providers and workshops for such an inspirational day!



We value **your voice** and would like you to join us on our journey of improvement.

Safeguarding

KEEP IT SWITCHED ON

Please see below a link for a Fortnite online safety song for parents which you find useful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j150BqInjnY>

Emergency contacts

Please can parents/carers ensure we have at least three emergency contacts for your child.

Youth Worker & School Nurse Drop-in Wednesday Lunchtimes

The drop-in sessions provide an opportunity for students to get advice and guidance on a range of social, emotional and health issues.

Safeguarding Team



Mr Keir Mather
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Ms Karen Thompson
Deputy DSL/Attendance
Support



Mrs Sophie McKenzie
Assistant Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Person

Additional safeguarding information can be found on our website including:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Out of Hours Contact Details
- Parental Guidance
- Local Safeguarding Procedures.

Poppy Appeal

Poppy's will be available at Da Vinci Academy and donations can be made from Monday 5 November 2018.



Thank you.

Anti-Bullying from The Diana Award

We take the happiness and safety of our students extremely seriously, we therefore strive to continue to find ways to improve the support we offer to them.

Earlier this month 12 of our students from across the year groups as well as Miss Quinn (Achievement Leader for Years 8 & 9) and Karen Thompson (Deputy DSL) received training through The Diana Award and are now officially Anti-Bullying Ambassadors!

During the event students and staff improved their knowledge and skills, particularly in:

- Understanding the issue of bullying; facts, the definition and the effects of bullying
- Practical ideas, top tips and explore scenarios on bullying in groups
- Skills needed to support others and stay safe
- Online safety and approaches students and staff can take to staying safe online and educating their peers

This was an empowering event and both students and staff came back to school full of enthusiasm and ideas. Over the coming weeks and months our newly trained ambassadors will be organising a range of events and assemblies to share the knowledge they gained with other students and staff. We have no doubt that this will prove to be a successful programme and one we hope to extend further in the future.

The ambassadors along with other staff are available to support students if they are experiencing any challenges.



More About ... Mrs. Linthwaite Receptionist

What is your favourite thing about your career?

I just love my job; my very favourite thing, is that every day is different. No two days are ever the same and I love the different variety every day.

What motivates you to work hard?

I always try my very best and for me I know that our children are our future, and if I can help them in anyway, that gives me a great sense of accomplishment.

What was your favourite subject in school?

English was always my passion at school and I used to love writing essays. I had a fabulous English teacher, who inspired the whole class.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment is when I was able to see both my daughters graduate at university. I am so very proud of them.

What is your favourite book?

English was always my passion at school and I used to love writing essays. I had a fabulous English teacher, who inspired the whole class.

Who is your hero?

My parents are most definitely my heroes. They are just such wonderful parents and always worked so very hard. Another hero would have to be Mother Teresa as she dedicated her whole life to looking after others.

What are your hobbies?

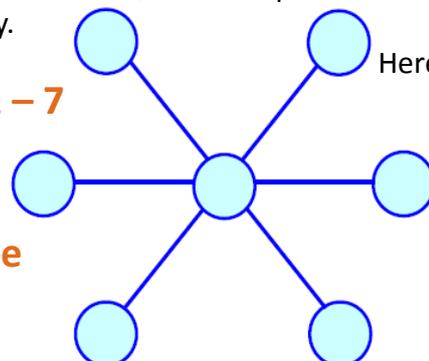
Not so much now, but previously I used to go flying in a 4-seater small aircraft (as a passenger). It was magnificent. The speed on take-off and then the Ariel views were amazing. The landing was sometimes a little rocky though!

Newsletter Maths Puzzle

Please take part in our Newsletter Maths Puzzle!

Answers can be emailed to helen.bowstead@davinciacademy.co.uk
Please include your name and who your student is at the academy.

Put the numbers 1 – 7 in the diagram so that each straight line totals the same number



Winner!

The winner of the last Newsletter Maths Puzzle was again Tracey, mother of Ashleigh of 7HD who wins a prize of a box of chocolates!

Here is her solution:

6210001000

Brecon Beacons Trip

We are very excited to tell you about our adventure trip that is running at the end of this academic year, open to all year groups. We are taking 160 students to the Brecon Beacons in Wales, attending Acorn Adventure's *Tan Troed adventure site*, where students will be sleeping in tents, staying in camp villages, and experiencing a host of different activities.

The weekend is from Friday 19th July 2019 until Monday 22nd July 2019 inclusive.

Examples of activities that will be taking place include kayaking, canoeing, raft building, abseiling, zip wires and orienteering just to name a few.

We have managed to negotiate a total price of £101. This is great value for money and includes travel, accommodation, meals and all activities. Payments can be made in instalments with the following deadlines set by Acorn Adventure:

£25 deposit paid by 5th November

£25 paid by 21st December

£51 paid by 26th April

If you have any further questions about this weekend, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Blake or Miss Parry on the school telephone number or email addresses as below:

Mr Blake Adam.Blake@davinciacademy.co.uk

Miss Parry Alice.Parry@davinciacademy.co.uk

It is going to be an amazing weekend, and we look forward to taking your son/daughter on this adventure weekend. For more information on the Adventure Weekend, please visit

<https://www.acornadventure.co.uk>

To reserve your place, please collect a letter from reception, complete the reply slip and return back to the school reception. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Photographs

A reminder that Braiswick Photographic will be at the academy on Friday 16 November to take individual photographs of students. These will be available for you to purchase in time for Christmas!



Gi Group

Over the last few years DVA has had a strong working relationship with the GI group. This year is no different and we are very excited to be working with them to start developing a program of support for our students who are interested in apprenticeships. This will start in January with a launch assembly to Year 10. Anyone interested in finding out more should speak to Miss Bowstead.



Pumpkins

This week both Year 7 and Year 8 have taken part in a Pumpkin Carving Competition. Everyone who took part were absolutely fantastic! They worked together brilliantly and the finished submissions were a true reflection of the level of team work and commitment to the task.

The winning tutor groups were 7SD and 8HR!

Congratulations!



WINNER!

