



"One Team, Changing Worlds"



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

Newsletter

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2018-19!

It has been fantastic to see so many parents and families at our 'welcome to year group' evening sessions. We are delighted with the great feedback from the surveys completed at these events which wholeheartedly recognises the improvements we have made and all that we are doing to ensure a great education for your children. This is an exciting time at Da Vinci Academy and the school/parent partnership is critical to success for all. There are still two year group evenings remaining so we look forward to seeing year 10s and 9s families at these important events - see key dates.

The start of the new school year is always busy and this year is no exception. From the launch of new A (achievement) points to recognise all the positive things our students do through to Club Wednesday and year group(s) achievement teams, our staff are working tirelessly to ensure a great all round education for our students. I thank them now for all they do that makes the difference.

Finally and at the start of the year I would also like to take this opportunity to finish by welcoming all new students, families and staff. Da Vinci Academy is one team and we hope that you already feel part of this. We extend a warm welcome to you all.

Katie Roberts
Headteacher

European Languages Day

Da Vinci pupils enjoyed celebrating European Languages Day on 26th September. The MFL department ran a number of activities that pupils were invited to take part in such as tasting European foods, games of pétanque and quizzes - Miss Street, MFL



Dates for your Diary

- October 1 Welcome to Y10 and Parents Evening 4-7 pm
- October 3 Open Evening 6-8 pm
- October 9 Welcome to Y9 Evening 6.30-7.30 pm
- October 18 Inspiration Day for all Students. Activities not on normal timetable.
- October 26 Break up for October Half Term

Please keep in touch with us via our website.

PWA THE PRINCE WILLIAM AWARD

The Prince William Award helps young people build their character, resilience and confidence to empower them to "be their best". At the heart of this aspiration are the brilliant instructors, the majority of whom have served their country in the British Armed Forces. These 'heroes in schools' embody the Service values and understand the importance of teamwork, resilience and self-discipline. We are very lucky that all of our Year 8 students will be participating in this programme this year and we are pleased to report that it has



gotten off to a flying start and the students have all been brilliant!

Welcome to Da Vinci Academy!

We are very pleased to introduce the following new members of staff to Da Vinci Academy:



Miss Tyers Assistant Headteacher
Ms Roberts Achievement Leader
Ms Russell Teacher Maths
Mr Lee TA
Mr Bennett TA
Mr Darmon School Administrator



Miss Fernandes Teacher Science
Mr James Teacher Science
Ms Kay Teacher Humanities
Ms Cooper Teacher English
Miss Toner Tutor

Safeguarding Audit

On Friday 21st September a safeguarding audit was completed by Derby City Council at the request of the Trust. The outcome of the audit confirmed that safeguarding at the academy is "effective" and that the "DSL and team are high profile and they appear to be trusted by staff and students". The report also stated that staff "demonstrated a strong culture of wanting to protect children". We are delighted by the outcome, however, we will continue to review and improve policies and procedures to ensure we offer the best possible support and guidance to our students, staff and parents.

Club Wednesday

Club Wednesday was up and running this week with pupils having an extended lunchtime. This programme gives pupils the opportunity to gain additional qualifications, enrich and extend their learning as well as enjoy new activities. Clubs include badminton, football, gymnastics, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, sign language and debate club as well as many more!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We have held a Macmillan Coffee Morning in school today. The cakes made (or purchased) by both staff and students were absolutely brilliant. Miss Quinn and Miss Wilmot would like to say a HUGE thank you to all the students who have helped through the day. We have raised a brilliant £111.27 so far!



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

Rock Band and Da Vinci Voices

Rock Band and Da Vinci Voices got off to a wicked start! Da Vinci Voices have started learning music from 'The Greatest Showman' in preparation for the Christmas Showcase. It was great to see a mix of boys, girls and all year groups in rehearsals this week and last. It is not too late to join, so please feel free to come along next Wednesday lunch time. Likewise Rock Band made a great start! We have already a range of different groups preparing songs of their choice; Mr Best even joined one band! Again, Wednesday after school - feel free to come and join!

Safeguarding

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.

Important Notices

Illness at School

Should your child feel poorly whilst at the academy, they should visit the Achievement Centre and seek advice. If the Achievement Leaders feel your child should be sent home, a member of staff will telephone those on your child's contact list. If your child is deemed well enough to stay at school, the Achievement Leaders will send your child back to their class. If your child continues to feel poorly, your child should go back to the Achievement Centre. Please discuss with your child the importance of not making telephone calls home themselves as we may have parents on site or students arranging to leave the site that we are not aware of. You will appreciate how serious a safeguarding problem this could be.

Visitors to the Site

We are always very happy to meet with parents to answer individual questions which may arise from time to time. However, we do request all parents/carers telephone the academy for an appointment in the first instance. Members of staff will telephone you back as soon as possible. Please note, our teachers are unable to meet up first thing in the morning as they are with their tutor groups. They will endeavour to telephone back as soon as possible that day. Thank you for your continued understanding.

School Gates

May we confirm with parents that due to health and safety and safeguarding issues, vehicle access to the academy is not permitted between 2.45 pm and 3.45 pm. Pedestrian access is always available.

A message from Mrs Lombardi, Mathematics Curriculum Leader

I am pleased to welcome you back to the beginning of a new school year and hope that you have all had a pleasant summer. As part of the on-going strive to better your child's mathematical career at Da Vinci, our department has taken steps to ensure that we are doing our very best for all of the students.

For our KS4 students we are offering an entry level course for a few select Year 11's, statistics is now being offered as an option and we are also offering a level 2 or 3 course in algebra as an enrichment choice. A STEM Club is currently being organised and Cipher Club, a national challenge, will also continue this year.

To assist your child with their learning at home we have subscribed to several different revision websites. These include <https://trockstars.com/> to assist with the learning of timetables. Your child's maths teacher will be providing them with the log in details for this over the coming weeks. <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>, which includes videos, interactive quizzes and worksheets. The log in for this will be your child's first two initials, followed by their last name @davinci. For example Joe Bloggs would be jobloggs@davinci and all passwords are set as davinci until changed by the students.

<https://corbettmaths.com/> is an excellent and free web site which does not require a log in.

We also subscribe to the PiXL Maths App and PiXL Timestables App, <https://mathsapp.pixl.org.uk/PMA2.html> and <https://timestable.pixl.org.uk/Timestables.html> The log in will be your child's last name followed by their initial, the school ID is DV4545 Please do not hesitate to ask either myself or your child's teacher for more details, or if there is anything that we can assist you with over the course of the coming year.

Year 8 Boys Football Team

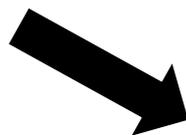
The year 8 boys football team travelled to Murray Park this week for their first football fixture this year. The first half saw the team go down 3-0 even though their was a solid performance put in by the defenders particularly Patrick Hanmore who was playing his first game.



The second half saw the Da Vinci Academy team pull it back with three goals from Preston Burton and only conceding one goal to narrowly miss out on a 4-3 loss.

Newsletter Maths Puzzle

Please take part in our Newsletter Maths Puzzle!
Answers can be emailed to helen.bowstead@davinciacademy.co.uk
A winner will be chosen at random from the correct answers received.
The winner will receive a prize and their name will be featured in the next issue of the Newsletter!



Here is an ordinary cross. You are allowed to make two straight cuts across it. How do you cut it to make the most pieces?

