

Ref: KHO/053/20-21

15 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your continued support for the new way of working that is now in place at the academy. At the current time remote learning is likely to continue to at least February half-term and possibly beyond for some year groups. We believe that we do have a robust plan in place to continue with high quality teaching and learning and we will be ensuring that ongoing assessment can take place so that future lessons can build on the needs of the pupils.

I am very grateful to all of the staff at David Nieper Academy who have worked so hard and so quickly to ensure that our plans have been able to adapt. Staff will continue to produce high quality recorded lessons and will be maintaining weekly contact with all pupils.

Well done to all pupils for coping so well with the remote learning this week. The percentage of pupils who have engaged with our recorded lessons continues to improve every day. Please do continue to check that your son/daughter is accessing and completing all of the set work on Show My Homework, including quizzes for each of the 6 lessons every day. If you have any questions or comments please email your son/daughter's Form Tutor or [info@davidnieper.academy](mailto:info@davidnieper.academy) and a member of staff will get in touch with you.

### **Remote teaching & learning**

Following our usual timetable for **pupils in Years 7-13**. Lessons will start at 8.50am and finish at 2.50pm each day.

### **Face-to-face lessons**

Are taking place for invited pupils (predominately those with EHCPs) and the children of Key/Critical Workers. If you wish to discuss if your son/daughter is able to access face-to-face learning then please contact us via [info@davidnieper.academy](mailto:info@davidnieper.academy) and a member of staff will be in touch with you.

All pupils in school will follow our usual timetable but with the day finishing at 2.50pm; the school buses have been informed.

Please note that the building will continue to be kept well ventilated throughout the day and all break and lunch times will be spent outdoors. It is vital therefore, that all pupils attending the academy have warm and suitable outdoor clothing.

No pupils should attend the academy if they have any of the Covid-19 symptoms. Please contact [info@davidnieper.academy](mailto:info@davidnieper.academy) as soon as possible and book a test immediately, keeping us informed of the outcome.

### **IT equipment and internet access**

We believe that we have spoken to all pupils who have requested the loan of IT equipment or who have let us know of any internet issues. If you have not yet contacted us or issues still remain please encourage your son/daughter to speak to their Form Tutor immediately or email them or contact Mr Endacott [cendacott@davidnieper.academy](mailto:cendacott@davidnieper.academy)

We would ask that all academy equipment is looked after and kept safely, and any problems reported immediately. While we know that accidents can happen, some accidents can also be prevented. We do expect pupils to take responsibility and care for any academy equipment that they have borrowed.

**4G Data additions** - As we mentioned last week, the Government has announced that it is working with mobile phone networks to ensure that all pupils do have sufficient 4G data to access schoolwork. If you feel that your son/daughter requires additional data that cannot be accessed in any other way, then please let us know via contact with your son/daughter's Form Tutor. Any such additional data requests will need to be made by the academy directly to the mobile network providers on behalf of the individual pupil.

### **Year 11 & Year 13**

We have been in touch with Year 11 and Year 13 pupils and they are all aware that all work to complete their qualifications is to continue. We will share all updates as we get further information about the format that any externally set, such as classroom based, assessments will take. At the current time we are continuing to work towards our next mock examination window for Year 11 of 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### **Sixth Form**

Well done to all of our Sixth Form students who completed external BTEC examinations over the last two weeks. We will continue to keep you updated on the BTEC requirements as we get more information. All remaining content will need to be completed as will all outstanding portfolios so it is very important that all Year 13 and Year 12 students continue to access all lessons and complete and submit all assessment tasks.

### **Sixth Form Virtual Parents evening**

We have rescheduled the Sixth Form Virtual Parents' consultation evening for Wednesday 3rd February 3-5pm. Full details about booking will be sent to parents shortly.

### **Alfreton Town Council and Alfreton Town FC working together to keep schools safe**

As part of an annual sponsorship of the football club, the town council have donated 300 Alfreton Town FC face masks to 4 local schools in Alfreton, The David Nieper Academy, Christ the King Academy, Woodbridge Junior School and Leys Junior School.

The masks were delivered to the schools by CEO of the Football Club, Michael Bradley and Deputy Mayor Steve Marshall-Clarke of the Alfreton Town Council.

Richard White, Deputy Headteacher of the David Nieper Academy said "National lockdown obviously means that many children are working hard at home on the remote learning set by our teachers. However, we still have over children learning in the academy each day and face masks are a really important part of keeping children safe in school. So, on behalf of the academy, I would like to thank the Town Council for their donation of the Alfreton Town FC face masks. We strongly encourage our pupils to take pride in their local community, so I know that they will be pleased to receive them".



60

### **Free School Meals**

The Academy will be providing free school meal hampers again next week. An email will be sent on Monday 18 January with details of when to collect. Please note that some of the produce in the hampers is perishable so please do try to collect on the notified days if possible. From the 25th January 2021 we will be reverting to the national free school voucher system until the Academy opens for all pupils. A weekly voucher for £15 will be emailed to you to redeem at your preferred supermarket. Please make sure that the Academy has your correct email address to ensure you receive the voucher.

### **Covid-19 testing in the academy**

We are very pleased that our Covid-19 testing centre is up and running. All staff have now been tested along with all pupils who are attending the academy for face-to-face teaching & learning. Staff will continue to receive weekly tests and we will put plans in place to test all other pupils as they return to school. A full letter explaining the Covid-19 testing programme, along with some FAQs and an electronic consent form, has been sent out to all parents this week. Many thanks to all who have returned the consent form so promptly.

If you have not yet returned the consent form please can you do so as soon as possible [Asymptomatic testing consent form](#) If you would like any further information please contact [info@davidnieper.academy](mailto:info@davidnieper.academy) and a member of staff will come back to you.

I am very grateful to Mr White and the staff in the testing team for taking on this role and the required training. I hope that you saw our images on Twitter @nieperacademy as they highlight what a very professional system has been put in place.



### Brilliant club

While a number of our events and activities have had to be postponed we are looking for as many ways as possible to continue with our extra and co-curricular activities. This week a group of 12 Year 9 pupils have started The Scholars Programme working with Mr Burns and pupils at a number of other schools.

This programme will encourage students to develop their academic skills, including critical thinking through a series of University style tutorials, led by a PhD tutor who is a specialist in their field. Over the coming weeks and months, students will then be producing an essay titled 'Is there a gold mine in electronic waste.'



We will keep you updated on the progress of this project and of the many other additional aspects to our work that continue to be offered. Please encourage your son/daughter to look out for invites to additional opportunities.

### Dates for the diary

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January onwards

- Face-to-face learning for invited and Key Worker pupils only. Finish time 2.50pm daily.
- Remote learning for majority of pupils.
- Sixth Form Virtual Parents Evening (rescheduled) - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 3-5pm

If you do have any queries please contact us via [info@davidnieper.academy](mailto:info@davidnieper.academy) and a member of staff will get in touch

Have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr K Hobbs".

Dr K Hobbs  
Headteacher