

22 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Despite the adverse weather over the last week our work has continued uninterrupted. All Form Tutors have been spending time contacting their tutees over the week for a catch-up conversation to discuss how things are going, to say well done for so much fantastic work and effort, and to see if there are any issues with IT equipment and/or the work which we can assist with. If there are any issues at all please let us know as soon as possible, all staff are here and are very happy to look for ways to support with any issues.

The staff at David Nieper Academy are continuing to work hard to find improved ways of delivering our teaching & learning and to support pupils. I am very grateful for the flexibility and dedication shown by all staff.

Well done to all pupils for getting into good working habits and asking for help when you need it. Please do continue to check that your son/daughter is accessing and completing all of the set work on Show My Homework (SMHW), 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.

### **Connectivity – 4G Data uplift**

Mr Endacott has put information out to all pupils via SMHW about requesting additional 4G data from the mobile networks. We have been surprised by how few requests we have received about the data uplift. If you think that your son/daughter is eligible please can I encourage you to complete the form via the link included here [Data uplift form](#)

### **Connectivity**

Some mobile providers are now offering extra data for free to children to enable them to work remotely via the 4G connection on their smartphone. They could hotspot a laptop to their phone or watch the videos on their phone.

### **Who is eligible for a 4G data uplift?**

Students who don't have a reliable, fixed broadband connection at home.

If students cannot afford the extra data needed to access lessons, resources.

If students/parents have a smartphone connected to EE, Tesco Mobile, Smarty, O2, Three or Virgin (other providers may be added in due course).

### **How do students sign-up**

Complete the form on SMHW and we submit all requests on behalf of students. These can take up to 14 days to be processed but should be quicker in most cases. [Data uplift form](#)

### **Students will need the following information**

Account holders name

The mobile number the data will be applied to

The name of the network e.g. O2

Whether the phone is on a contract or pay monthly.

## Which networks are taking part?

Network	Pay as you / Contract	Offer
EE	Both	20GB extra data per month (limited to first 60,000 requests)
Tesco Mobile	Contract only	20GB extra data per month (limited to first 1000 requests)
Smarty	Both	Unlimited data
O2	Both	40GB extra data per month
Three	Both	Unlimited data
Virgin	Contract only	20GB extra data per month

### Feedback and assessment

Some parents have contacted us to ask about the frequency of teacher feedback and comments on their son/daughter's work. The vast majority of pupils are submitting the quiz answers via SMHW after each lesson. This enables teachers to assess the learning from each lesson and plan the appropriate next steps. Teachers can also use this information to contact particular students or groups of students within the class who have done particularly well, or who may need to get more support with some aspects of the lesson. The opportunity to improve pieces of assessed work following teacher feedback will be provided within the recorded lessons. Pupils will know this activity as adding "green pen" or completing a "DIRT" activity. If a pupil sends an email or question to a member of staff we aim to get a reply back on that day or at least within 24 hours.

Clearly, in this time of home learning, feedback will not be as instantaneous or as frequent as it can be within the classroom and we are constantly looking for additional ways that we can maintain contact with pupils and provide regular ongoing feedback and guidance.

### Show My Homework – FAQs

We are continuing to use SMHW (Satchel One) as our main vehicle for communicating remote teaching and learning to all of our pupils. There is a FAQ section within SMHW which may provide some additional information or support if you have any questions about the platform. The help centre for parents on SMHW is available on the following link:

<https://help.satchelone.com/en/collections/1695420-parents>

If you do have any further queries that are not addressed in this FAQs then please contact us at [info@davidnieper.academy](mailto:info@davidnieper.academy) and a member of staff will get in touch with you.

### Push Notifications

We are aware that due to the working hours of a number of members of staff that sometimes work is being posted on to SMHW in the evening. The intention is not to disturb valuable family time and we do apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause to you or your son/daughter. Please may I suggest that you ask your son/daughter to get into a routine of turning off their push notifications at the end of the school day and to turn them on again the following morning.

### Food Hamper additions – thank you

Thank you to the staff at Glendair Dental Practice in Alfreton, who kindly donated a fantastic selection of food items to add to our Free School Meal food hampers which were given out this week. This was a lovely addition to our hampers. We are looking forward to linking with Glendair Alfreton in the future on some further collaborative projects.



### Free School Meal Vouchers from week beginning 25 January

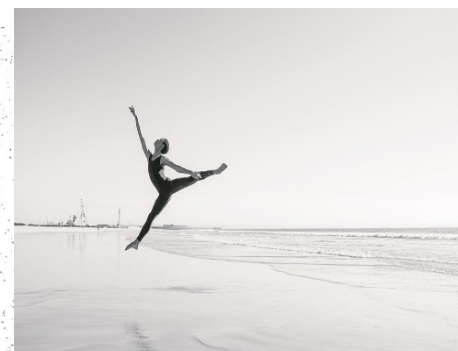
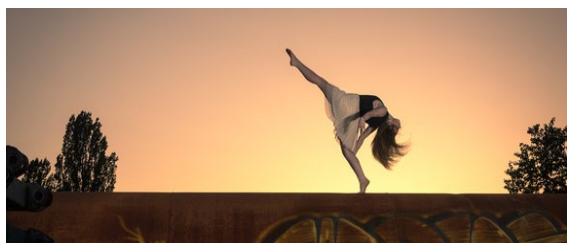
Thank you for collecting your hampers from the Academy over the past few weeks. I hope that you have found the contents helpful. From this Monday 25 January, we will be moving to using the National Food Voucher Scheme. This means that you will receive a £15 gift voucher per week per eligible child until February half term. These vouchers will be e-mailed to you directly from Edenred, the company who runs the scheme for the Government.

If your child is in school for face-to-face learning you will not receive a voucher, as they will be able to continue to receive a free school meal at lunchtime. If you receive a voucher, and your child returns to the Academy during that week, please can you send them in with a packed lunch. We will then update the list of vouchers so you do not receive them while your child is in the Academy. For information on how the scheme works, please see the following link: [Edenred](#) Information can also be found on our website.

During February half-term the voucher will be sent directly to all eligible families from Derbyshire County Council as part of the Winter Food Scheme. Again, further details are available from the Academy website. We do not know if the National Food Voucher Scheme will be extended after half-term as it is not yet known when schools will fully reopen; we will let you know as soon as we can. If you have any queries please contact [finance@davidnieper.academy](mailto:finance@davidnieper.academy) and we will help where we can. Please note that once the vouchers have been redeemed there is nothing that the Academy can do to support you in using them; all queries need to go to either Edenred or the supermarket you have chosen.

### Virtual Dance Show - Keep on Dancing

As our talented students are unable to share our spectacular Academy stage at this current time, we have decided that 'The Show Must Go On'. This opportunity is available for all students in the Academy to help spread some cheer by showing off their creativity and their talent. We are asking students to get creative and choreograph their own movement in any style of dance that they wish. Their dance can be between 10 and 30 seconds. This can be performed anywhere, whether it be your kitchen or your local park (providing lockdown rules are abided by). We are asking students to record and send their videos to Miss Gregory by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Student videos will then be combined together to create our virtual dance show. This is a great opportunity to be a part of something together, share the virtual stage and show that even through the current times, David Nieper Academy keeps on dancing. We can't wait to see what our wonderful students come up with.



## Oak National Academy – free access library



Exciting News – Oak Academy are giving children free book access! There will be a new book each week for children to read online without needing any apps. There will be a new book each week from their Author of the Week and includes fun activities too!

Teacher Hub Lessons Menu

Visit our support pages to learn how Oak can help your remote learning planning

### Welcome to Oak

Almost 10,000 free lessons and resources. Made by teachers, for every teacher and every pupil.

Lessons Support

#### We're here to help

[Sign up for our emails](#) to be the first to access our new lessons, resources and advice or [register for our webinars for teachers](#) for direct support.

##### Virtual School Library

Visit our new [virtual school library](#), created with the National Literacy Trust, for free books, exclusive videos and activities aimed at primary school children.

Accessing is easy, simply go to <https://www.thenational.academy/> and follow the steps to the Library section. No need to sign up. Simply scroll down to read the book!

## Derbyshire library website

Pupils and families can join Derbyshire libraries online and access e-books, audiobooks and e-magazines. They allocate a temporary adult/child card that can be used straight away, then send a card out to your address.

DERBYSHIRE County Council

### Join and use your library

There's a lot more to your local library...

Share this page [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [e](#)

In line with current government guidance our libraries are only open for our [book and borrow service](#) .

Find out about [temporary changes to the library service](#).

We have a variety of free digital resources available to all customers including [eBooks](#), [eMagazines](#) , eAudiobooks and [eNewspapers](#) .

No charges will be applied to any library books currently on loan throughout this period.

For ideas on activities and reading please visit [Derbyshire Libraries on Facebook](#) and [Derbyshire](#)

## Well-being

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, supporting the well-being of your son/daughter has never been so important. Please see below a link to a free Safeguarding Children 10 Top Tips Parent Resource provided by SSS Learning. This resource is designed to offer advice on how you can safeguard your son/daughter's mental health and promote their well-being and is available as a document and short video presentation. The link to both resources is here: [Safeguarding Resource](#)

## 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.

## Covid-19 testing in the academy

We are very pleased that our Covid-19 testing centre is up and running. Thank you to all parents who have provided consent for your children to be involved in the mass testing process. Pupils who are currently attending the academy have now been tested twice using the lateral flow devices, and it is great to see that they are now becoming quite expert at the self-swabbing process! As this has been so successful, we are going to continue with weekly testing of staff and pupils, as this is an important strategy in helping to keep people safe in school and prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the wider community.

As more pupils are able to return to the academy, we would like all pupils to be involved in the mass testing process. Therefore, 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.

## Dates for the diary

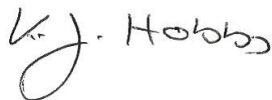
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January onwards

- 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
- Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 3.30pm-6.30pm

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



Dr K Hobbs  
Headteacher