

Dear Parents/Carers

We have now had confirmation that the academy will remain closed for the majority of pupils until March 8<sup>th</sup> at the earliest. We will of course continue to let you know as we receive further information about the reopening plans.

Our remote teaching & learning offer will continue with the majority of lessons being recorded and assessed via the SMHW quizzes. We are continuing to run live tutorials for the Sixth Form and are starting to run live tutorials for Year 10 & 11 pupils from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February. This will be an important addition to our offer and will allow teachers to address any misconceptions and to plan future lessons more precisely to meet the needs of the class. As we embed the live tutorials, we are hoping to extend these into Keys Stage 3 and our tutorial support.

Thank you for the many positive comments we have received from parents about our work and the support provided by staff. As the length of time we are all apart extends, it is even more important that we continue to have close contact with pupils and parents. 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.

### House Enrichment

Miss Perry, House coordinator and Head of Derwent House, has put together a number of optional House tasks that pupils can access whilst working remotely. These include creative writing, STEM tasks, Physical Education and Geography. We want to keep the competitive House spirit going, so are encouraging pupils to participate in activities to earn House points, even in lockdown! Heads of House are really excited to see what pupils can come up with and look forward to adding on the points. All activities have been posted on SMHW.



**TASK 1- STEM,  
Balloon Rocket Car**

**You will need,**

- A balloon
- Something round for wheels
- A straw or tube
- Sticky tape
- Cocktail skewers or something similar
- Some cardboard or a plastic bottle
- A tape measure
- A smart phone to record

## Live Tutorials for Year 10 & Year 11

Thank you to all Parents/Carers who have provided consent for pupils to attend our live tutorials for Year 10 & 11 which commence on Monday 1 February. Without consent pupils will be unable to access this really valuable aspect of our current teaching & learning. Please reply using the Live tutorial consent form [Live tutorials consent form](#)

## UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge



We are delighted that even with the current situation the UK Maths Challenge is still going ahead using an online format. Twenty-five of our top Mathematicians in Year 9 and 10 will be taking part in the Intermediate challenge on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February starting at 11.50am. All pupils involved are aware of this date and time and we are looking forward to seeing if any of our pupils are invited to progress to the next stage.

## Year 11 DANCOP Programme

On Thursday 28th January, 17 Year 11 pupils took part in the next instalment of the DANCOP Programme from 2.50pm-3.35pm. This third session was on 'What is higher education?' which enabled pupils to have a good awareness of higher education and its opportunities, as well as its benefits. The next session of the Year 11 DANCOP Programme is on 'Pupil life' and will take place from 2.50pm-3.35pm on Thursday 11th February to which virtual invites will be sent out to those pupils who are involved in due course. This session will enable pupils to reflect on the options which may best suit them by learning about life at university outside the lecture theatre. The final session will take place on Thursday 4th March at 2.50pm-3.35pm. This session is on 'Becoming an independent learner' which will inform pupils of how to develop time management, note taking and revision skills. Any pupils who have been invited to these virtual sessions and are unable to attend are to contact Miss Brindley via [vbrindley@davidnieper.academy](mailto:vbrindley@davidnieper.academy) so that they can be sent the recording of the session(s).

## Connectivity – free 4G Data uplift

Mr Endacott has put information out to all pupils via SMHW about requesting additional free 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](#). All requests so far made to the academy have been granted by the mobile networks.

## 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.

## Free School Meal Vouchers

Next week a £30 gift voucher per week per eligible child will be e-mailed to you directly from Edenred, the company who runs the scheme for the Government. This is to cover the 2 weeks up until half term.

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 before half term, please can you send them in with a packed lunch or put some money on your ParentPay account to cover a hot meal. We will then update the list of vouchers so you do not receive them in the future. 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.

The National Food Voucher Scheme will now be extended after half-term until at least 8 March 2021. We will keep you updated for any changes to this date.

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 Edened or the supermarket you have chosen.

### **Sixth Form Virtual Parents Evening - Wednesday 3rd February 3-5pm.**

Full details about booking appointments have been sent to parents. If you have not yet booked your appointments please can you do so, as staff are very keen to have this opportunity to talk to parents and students at this important stage of the year.

### **Virtual Dance Show - Keep on Dancing**

As our talented pupils 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 pupils in the Academy to help spread some cheer by showing off their creativity and their talent. We are asking pupils 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 pupils to record and send their videos to Miss Gregory by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Pupil 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 pupils come up with.



### **Twitter**

We do have a number of twitter accounts linked to the academy and staff are using these to highlight some of our ongoing work. Please do have a look

David Nieper Academy @nieperacademy  
David Nieper Academy Careers @DNA\_Careers  
David Nieper Academy Alumni @Nieperalumni  
D&T/Art at DNA @MrsEThorpe  
Library - Mrs Mann @MrsMann\_DNA  
DNA Math @DnaMaths  
DNA\_PEPA @dna\_pe  
David Nieper Academy Sixth Form @DavidSixth



### **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**

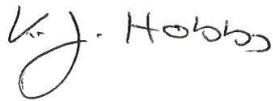
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February onwards

- 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Hobbs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr K Hobbs  
Headteacher