

Ref: KHO/065/20-21

12 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we go into half term, I do hope that you are all able to find some time as families to rest and relax. I know that the high COVID-19 rate and the current lockdown restrictions are impacting on everyone in many different ways. We will continue to offer as much help and support to all of our pupils, families, staff and community. If you do need to get in touch with us over half term, we will be monitoring info@davidnieper.academy and we will aim to come back to you as soon as possible.

Today we break up for February half-term, with the academy reopening on Monday 22nd February for pupils attending school (pupils invited and Key worker children) at 8.30am with remote lessons starting for all other pupils at 8.50am. I am anticipating that on the 22nd February we will be given clearer guidance about the planned re-opening of schools. We will share information with you as soon as we possibly can.

Virtual Dance Showcase

Our talented pupils have kept on dancing and we are now able to share with you our compilation of their wonderful performances which they have recorded from home, dancing in their kitchens and gardens!

Well done to everyone who took part. Particular thanks to Miss Gregory who has organised and coordinated this lovely end to our half term

Please visit YouTube

<https://youtu.be/C71piRf7Xqs>



Success Beyond School: Parent Events

InvestIN Education run a series of termly events which are designed to give parents insider knowledge about the industries young people aspire to break into as a career. They are running online parent events, which are free of charge and will be delivered by zoom, which you may find of interest. Visit <https://investin.org/> for more information.

- The Skills Surgery - Wednesday 24 February, 7-8pm.
- The Power of Networks – Wednesday 3 March, 7-8pm.

Newsletter

The latest edition of our academy Newsletter is now available to download from our website. We hope you enjoy reading about all of the fantastic activities our pupils are involved in, together with their remote learning achievements
<https://davidnieper.academy/news/newsletters/>

The Academy

David Nieper
ACADEMY

Edition No.21 – February 2021



February half-term

As I wrote the introduction for the Christmas newsletter little did I realise that we would be moving back into remote learning for the majority of pupils for this half-term and on into next. While the speed of many of the announcements may have meant that we were not able to meet with pupils face-to-face to discuss the next steps, we were able to put arrangements in place very quickly for our remote learning and ongoing tutor, pastoral and learning support.

Well done to all of the pupils who have worked so well with us and stayed in frequent touch with staff over this half-term. This newsletter highlights some of the many pieces of fantastic work that you have been doing – you should be rightly very proud. We have also worked very hard to keep all the additional parts of our curriculum and academy life going and even extending our offer where possible. This newsletter has a strong focus on our employability and careers work as well as some of the extra curricular activities that we have continued to offer and even some new activities and opportunities that we have been able to offer. I am very grateful to all staff who have ensured that our co-curricular work does not diminish during the current time.

Staff at David Nieper Academy have stepped into a whole variety of different roles this half-term to support our work. Eleven members of our staff trained to set up, manage and lead our testing centre at exceptionally short notice. The work that they continue to do is providing a huge support in our constant work to keep the academy safe for all pupils, staff and our families. Many thanks to Mr. White who has led our work in this area and the testing team. In addition, this newsletter highlights the work of staff around the initial Free School Meal hamper distribution along with our admin team who have been the first port of call for many parents and pupils.

I would also like to add my thanks to the IT, Catering, Site and Cleaning teams who have all ensured that our face-to-face work can continue whilst supporting our remote work. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the very important work of our Pastoral and Learning Support Teams, they have ensured that all pupils and families have had access to ongoing support and guidance.

I am very proud to work with all of the staff at David Nieper Academy, the teamwork, flexibility and above all care for our pupils and each other has been very evident throughout this last year but particularly this last half-term. Thank you.

I am hoping that as we return after half-term that we will have some clearer guidance on the possible return date for either year groups or the whole academy and further information for our Year 11 and 13 students as they approach the final term of their GCSE, BTEC and A level courses. We will of course keep you up to date with information as it becomes available.

Stay safe and have a restful half-term.

Dr Kathryn Hobbs



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Covid-19 testing in the academy

After half-term we will be continuing with our weekly asymptomatic testing within the academy.

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 and a member of staff will come back to you.

Free School Meal Vouchers

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. 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 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.

Dates for the diary

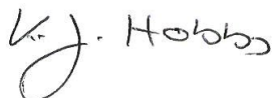
Monday 22nd February onwards

- Face-to-face learning for invited and Key Worker pupils only. Finish time 2.50pm daily.
- Remote learning for majority of pupils.
- Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening – Thursday 4th March, 3.30-6.30pm
- Year 11 Mock Exams – Monday 22nd March – Thursday 1st April 2021

If you do have any queries, please contact us via info@davidnieper.academy and a member of staff will get in touch

Enjoy the half-term break.

Yours faithfully



Dr K Hobbs
Headteacher