

5 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we head into the final week of a very unusual half term, I would just like to thank all of the pupils, parents, staff and Governors for the great sense of community and working together that I believe we have all continued to display. Our work has continued - our timetabled lessons, our pastoral work, our assembly programme and our extra and co-curricula work and I am very much looking forward to seeing the completed virtual dance show. Staff have worked very hard to produce valuable and engaging recorded lessons and pupils have responded fantastically. The addition of live tutorials this week for Years 10 and 11 is working well and allowing for direct contact between pupils and their teachers. We are looking at the possibility of extending some live opportunities for Key Stage 3 in the near future. The weekly tutor calls have been invaluable for us staying in touch with all pupils and families. As ever, I encourage all parents to get in touch with your son/daughter's form tutor, the main office 01773 832331 or info@davidnieper.academy if you would like to discuss any aspects of your son/daughter's work or wellbeing.

It was lovely to be able to meet with our Sixth Form students and parents at our virtual parents evening this week. All Year 13s who are applying to university have now submitted their UCAS applications, and students are starting to receive offers for places for September. In addition, a number of Year 13 students are applying for higher apprenticeships and employment and we wish them all the best in their applications.

We break up for February half-term at 2.50pm on Friday 12th February. School will reopen for pupils attending school (pupils invited and Key worker children) at 8.30am with remote lessons starting for all pupils at 8.50am.

Thank you for the many positive comments we have received from parents over the half term about our work and the support provided by staff. Such comments have meant a lot to all of us.

Year 10 & 11 Live Tutorials

We have been very pleased with the start of our live tutorials this week. Please can we ask all parents to encourage Year 10 and 11 pupils to look ahead for the week and to note down in their planner when they have a live tutorial each day, to ensure that they don't miss this very valuable contact, teaching and support. If anyone has any technical difficulties either prior to or on the day of a live tutorial, please immediately call reception 01773 832331 and a member of the admin team will aim to provide immediate support to resolve any issues.

Year 11 Mock Exams – change of date

The final set of mock exams for Year 11 are going to be a very important part of the ongoing teacher assessment and evidence that we have to show progression and current understanding of the subject content when we calculate Centre Assessed Grades this year. Due to the uncertainty about the return arrangements for Year 11 for face-to-face teaching (possibly March 8th but as yet unconfirmed by the Government) we know that pupils do need some clarity and time to prepare thoroughly for these mocks. We have therefore decided to move the Year 11 mock exams to **Monday 22nd March to Thursday 1st April**. A full timetable and revision schedule will be issued to all pupils straight after half term. Pupils should continue to complete all of the course content, any coursework and begin their revision. Please encourage your son/daughter to speak to their subject teachers next week if they would like any clarification about the mocks or the work they currently need to be doing and what would be beneficial to complete over half-term.

Lockdown rules

It is vital that we all continue to play our part in keeping ourselves and others safe during the current national lockdown. We have unfortunately been informed that some of our pupils who are working remotely have been congregating on the local park. Pupils should be accessing their usual timetable during the school day and any time spent outside of home should only be within the current lockdown rules and guidance.

Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening – Thursday 11th February 2021, 3.30pm – 6.30pm

We are looking forward to meeting with all parents of pupils in Year 8 next week. Full details of how to book appointments have been sent to parents. If you have not yet booked any appointments, please do so as soon as possible. If you need any help navigating the booking system or help on the evening please do not hesitate to contact the school office 01773 832331 or info@davidnieper.academy and a member of staff will be happy to assist.

Symptoms of Covid-19

Please can I take the opportunity to remind all parents of pupils attending school at the current time that pupils should not come to school if they or any member of the household or support bubble have any of the Covid-19 symptoms. If symptoms are developed, then the household and support bubble must isolate pending the outcome of a Covid-19 test. It is very important that we are informed promptly of the outcome of any tests so that we can trace any potential close contacts within the academy and ask them to self-isolate. We are working very hard to ensure that the academy is safe and feels safe for pupils, staff and families and we do need your continued support in this matter.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (Covid-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop Covid-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with Covid-19.

Do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Covid-19 testing in the academy

We are 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.

Bereavement Counselling

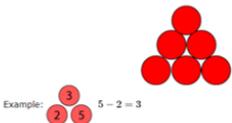
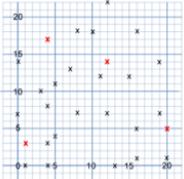
We know that a number of children and families are sadly experiencing bereavement at the current time. Please do speak to your son/daughter's form tutor if you feel that we can be of support at this time or in the future, we do have a number of resources that we can draw upon to ensure that we can provide or signpost pupils to appropriate support.

'Hope Again' is the youth website of Cruse Bereavement Care, which has been created for young people, by young people. They offer support, advice and a signposting service, solely online to children and young people who have lost loved ones. Their website is

<https://www.hopeagain.org.uk/>

Maths Problem of the Week

Each week the Maths faculty produce a Maths problem of the week which is made available on SMHW. All pupils are encouraged to attempt the puzzle. House points are awarded for winning entries. Please encourage your son/daughter to submit their entry each week.

Mild	Spicy	Hot
<p data-bbox="347 663 571 689">Find The Difference</p> <p data-bbox="347 696 592 875">Place the numbers 1 to 6 in the circles so that each number is the difference between the two numbers just below it.</p>  <p data-bbox="336 1010 480 1032">Example: $3 - 2 = 1$ $5 - 4 = 1$</p> <p data-bbox="347 1111 571 1133">https://nrich.maths.org/6227</p>	<p data-bbox="667 651 928 678">Eight Hidden Squares</p> <p data-bbox="608 689 987 712">On the graph below there are 28 marked points.</p>  <p data-bbox="608 902 967 947">These points all mark the vertices (corners) of eight hidden squares.</p> <p data-bbox="608 954 967 999">Each of the 4 red points is a vertex shared by two squares.</p> <p data-bbox="608 1005 967 1050">The other 24 points are each a vertex of just one square.</p> <p data-bbox="608 1057 967 1102">All of the squares share just one vertex with another square.</p> <p data-bbox="608 1108 967 1153">All the squares are different sizes.</p> <p data-bbox="608 1160 967 1205">There are no marked points on the sides of any square, only at the vertices.</p> <p data-bbox="608 1189 919 1234">Can you find the eight hidden squares? https://nrich.maths.org/6280</p>	<p data-bbox="1086 618 1278 645">Sticky Numbers</p> <p data-bbox="1002 707 1345 730">Look at the following row of numbers:</p> <p data-bbox="1050 768 1313 795">10 15 21 4 5</p> <p data-bbox="1002 824 1358 902">They are arranged so that each pair of adjacent numbers adds up to a square number:</p> <p data-bbox="1134 925 1238 947">$10+15=25$</p> <p data-bbox="1134 954 1238 976">$15+21=36$</p> <p data-bbox="1134 983 1238 1005">$21+4=25$</p> <p data-bbox="1150 1012 1222 1034">$4+5=9$</p> <p data-bbox="1002 1064 1358 1164">Can you arrange the numbers 1 to 17 in a row in the same way, so that each adjacent pair adds up to a square number?</p> <p data-bbox="1050 1187 1321 1209">https://nrich.maths.org/6571</p>

Year 9 Options

We will be sending out full information to all parents of Year 9 pupils next week regarding our GCSE options process and timeline.

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. 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.

If you do need any support or information about IT or connectivity issues then please do contact us via info@davidnieper.academy

Free School Meal Vouchers

Last week you will have received a £30 gift voucher per eligible child directly from Edenred, the company who runs the scheme for the Government. This was 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 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

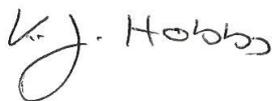
Monday 8th February onwards

- Face-to-face learning for invited and Key Worker pupils only. Finish time 2.50pm daily.
- Remote learning for majority of pupils.
- Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening – Thursday 11th February 3.30pm-6.30pm
- Monday 15th-19th February – the academy is closed for all pupils for the half-term holiday
- 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

Have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully



Dr K Hobbs
Headteacher