

Ref: KHO/092/20-21

30 April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Despite some frosty mornings we have been treated to some lovely sunny days this week. Our grass banks are now getting some good use as a place to relax and enjoy time talking to friends at break and lunchtime. Our work on the Year 11 and Year 13 assessed grades continues and the pupils are continuing to work very hard as they work to complete their courses and final assessments.

### **World Book Day Winners**

Thank you to all pupils involved in this year's World Book Day celebrations. We received some excellent competition entries for the creative challenges and the Spot the Book Cover competition. Congratulations to Max Ingham, Ruby Bradford and Isabella Hunter, who will receive a book of their choice and a reading treat box.

Also, a quick reminder to pupils that they need to be completing their Accelerated Reader quizzes regularly to be in with a chance of winning this term's hot chocolate and doughnut prize from Mrs Mann. All pupils have access to our Sora app, which has thousands of e-books and audiobooks for them to enjoy. This app works on a range of devices, including mobile phones, which means they always have a book to hand. If pupils are unsure of how to log in, please ask them to speak to their English teacher.

### **Virtual Careers Fair – w/c. 10 May**

Our Virtual Careers Fair begins on Monday 10 May and will continue until Friday 14 May. This event is designed for all pupils – and their parents/carers – to (virtually) visit different employers, colleges and universities, with a view to deciding what their next steps will be after taking their GCSEs. We know that this can be a challenging time for pupils and their families, which is why we aim to provide as much information as possible to make these important decisions easier. At this year's Careers Fair, we have grouped the videos into three main categories: colleges, employers and universities, which should make it easier to navigate and find which category is of most interest. For example, if a pupil is interested in leaving school after their GCSEs and wants to be involved in a workplace environment, they may choose to look at 'employers' or colleges that offer apprenticeships. If a pupil knows they want to go to university and continue to study for A Levels, they may choose to look at 'universities' as well as 'colleges' if they wish to consider options for A level alongside the offer at David Nieper Academy Sixth Form.

The link to the Careers Fair will be sent to pupils' school email address and can be accessed at any time, including at home, therefore we are inviting parents/carers to also have a look around, to help support with decision making in the future.

We are very grateful to the companies and organisations that have volunteered to be a part of this year's Careers Fair and welcome more volunteers in the future. If your organisation would be willing to participate, please email [jshephard@davidnieper.academy](mailto:jshephard@davidnieper.academy) for more information.

### **Summer School**

This week we have emailed a letter to the parents of those pupils who we feel may benefit most from attending our Summer school provision. At this stage, we are just asking for an expression of interest, so that we can determine the level of demand. If you have received this, please can we ask that you complete the short survey to allow us to plan appropriately.

### **Mobile Phone Policy**

There has been a lot of conversation in the press recently about the use of mobile phones in schools. We would like to remind all parents about our mobile phone policy. Since 2018 we have operated as a mobile phone and electronic device free school – we have found that this has reduced greatly the number of mobile phone issues in school and allows pupils to engage

with each other face-to-face and to be undistracted by the constant interruption of messages received via phones.

All pupils know that mobile phones and other electronic devices should not be used on academy premises in school hours or during on-site extra-curricular activities and detentions, and items should be kept switched off and out of sight. Ideally mobile phones will not be brought into school at all, however we do appreciate that parents may wish pupils to have phones for the journey to and from the Academy. It is therefore very important that pupils, if they are bringing phones into school, turn them off as they arrive in the morning and place them ideally in their lockers or at the bottom of their schoolbags. Mobile phones should not be switched on during the day or carried in blazer pockets. If parents need to get in touch with their son or daughter during the day please contact reception and we will pass a message on. If pupils need to make an urgent phone call home this will be agreed by a member of staff and the office will contact parents on the pupil's behalf.

Devices will be confiscated until the end of the day if pupils are seen with them around the academy. Unfortunately, there has been an incident recently where a mobile phone was damaged. Please view our Mobile Phone policy which is available on our website [Mobile Phone Policy](#)

The academy cannot be held responsible for damage to items brought into school.

### Testing

All pupils in school have now received at-home testing kits, together with a step-by-step guide for self-testing. The following video about home testing has also been shown to our pupils <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo>

- The guidance states that pupils should use the test twice each week. We would like pupils to test on a Sunday and on a Wednesday
- If pupils get a positive result, as well as registering the result with the test and trace website, please telephone school immediately or email [info@davidnieper.academy](mailto:info@davidnieper.academy) to let us know
- If pupils get a positive result, they and the rest of your household must begin to self-isolate.
  - You must also book a confirmatory PCR test. This can be through a test centre or a postal test.
  - If the result of this is positive, you must continue to self-isolate in-line with national guidance. If the result of this is negative, please contact school as pupils will then be able to return.

Pupils must not attend school if they are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms. 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)

### Free School Meal Vouchers

If your child is eligible for free school meals and is sent home to self-isolate we can offer two options to parents/carers:

- **10 days self-isolation** – If your child either tests positive, or is sent home as a close contact of someone who has tested positive, and has to self-isolate for 10 days we can provide a 2-week food box (collection only).
- If after taking a home test your child tests positive and you are waiting for the results of a PCR test, we can offer a daily Grab and Go bag that can be ordered before 10.30am and collected after 12 noon. If the PCR test is also positive, we can then offer the 2-week food box for the 10-day self-isolation period.

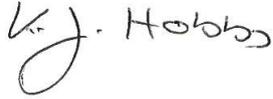
### Diary Dates

Reminder that the Academy will be closed on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 due to the Bank Holiday and our final two INSET days for this academic year will take place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.

We continue to offer help and support to all of our pupils, families, staff and community. If you do need to get in touch with us please email [info@davidnieper.academy](mailto:info@ davidnieper.academy) and someone will be in touch.

Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr K Hobbs'. The signature is stylized, with a large, looped initial 'K' and a cursive 'Hobbs'.

Dr K Hobbs  
Headteacher