

Ref: KHO/100/20-21

21 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 11 – Final week on site

Next week is Year 11 students' final week on site. Students should attend school each day as we have a full programme in place ready for an exciting and productive week. The majority of students will take part in several Careers and Employability workshops that will focus on students' next steps and skills development. Students will also attend some normal timetabled lessons, working alongside their teachers to finalise their assessment portfolios or conduct practical assessments. All students have received a timetable for the week which they have discussed with their form tutor. We will write to you again next week about our remote provision for Year 11s which will commence after the half-term break. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Ruddy cruddy@davidnieper.academy

We are looking forward to seeing all Years 11s on Friday 9th July at 9am for our Leavers' assembly and shirt signing. An invite with full details will be sent to all Year 11 students and parents. The evening of the 9th July is also booked for our Year 11 Leavers' Prom.

Year 13 – Final week on site

Next week is also the final week on site for our Year 13 students. Students should attend school each day to ensure that all courses are completed and assessed work is ready to submit to the awarding bodies. A full timetable of events including the Leavers' assembly has been shared with the students. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Dixon cdixon@davidnieper.academy

Academy uniform clarification for September 2021

Visitors to the academy frequently comment how well our pupils wear their uniform, and this is therefore a constant source of pride for us. Likewise, we are very appreciative of the widespread support that our uniform has from pupils, parents and members of the community.

Our focus has always been on having a uniform which ensures that all pupils look smart and professional, but also that it remains affordable for families. To allow this, we have always offered a broad description of what is acceptable as a school shoe. This has always been '*Black school type, polishable or patent shoes only are allowed (no sports brands)*'. However, to support families who would prefer not to purchase additional black footwear, we have accepted the wearing of branded footwear provided that they do not have clearly visible logos.

Over the past two years, the footwear market has evolved, and there are now examples of footwear that do not have 'clearly visible logos', but are also very obviously trainers, which are of course not allowed. An example of these would be the Nike Air force trainer. Many of these examples of footwear are more expensive than non-branded school shoes and also carry the issues related to status and peer pressure that having a uniform seeks to remove.

Therefore, we wish to clarify that **from September**, no trainers or trainer-type shoes will be allowed to be worn as part of our academy uniform. This will include both branded and unbranded versions. Instead, we will be strictly adhering to our stated expectation of '*Black school type, polishable or patent shoes only are allowed (no sports brands)*'. Experience has shown us that the greatest confusion is over what is a boy's school shoe. Therefore, as guidance we observe that boy's shoes tend to have a small heel, whereas trainers do not.

We are clarifying our position now, so that parents can purchase the appropriate school shoes in time for the new academic year. As ever, your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Academy uniform

Please can we remind all pupils and parents of our academy uniform, particularly as you may be considering purchasing new items for the next academic year – the full details and description of which are available on our website. Click here [Academy uniform](#)

Our uniform consists of dark grey formal trousers (not leggings) or skirt (pleated not straight) not black. All uniform items can be ordered and purchased from our uniform provider School Wear Solutions <https://www.schoolwearsolutions.com/> We have worked hard to find a supplier that provides good quality items at an affordable price and indeed our uniform is standing the test of time with very few cases of the trousers or skirts wearing out. We do appreciate that the cost of uniform can be an issue and we have a small stock of good quality second hand items that can be purchased. Please contact info@davidnieper.academy for more information or please contact the relevant Pastoral Support Manager to have a conversation about possible support that can be provided for uniform.

Message from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority



We have been asked to share the following message with you from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue.

“Over the last half-term there was a sharp increase in fire incidents started by young people in the local area. If you, or your child, have any information on individuals starting fires please contact FireStoppers ANONYMOUSLY on 0800 169 5558, to help us prevent this type of incident in the future and protect our community.”

This type of incident not only endangers wildlife and stops others from enjoying the area, it also prevents Firefighters being available for serious incidents like house fires or road traffic collisions where there may be an immediate risk to life.”

Department for Education updated information on Covid guidance

The Department for Education have produced an updated information guide for parents and carers about the recent changes to Covid restrictions. Please click here to view [DfE - Guidance](#)

Face Coverings

Thank you for everyone’s support with the changes to the wearing of face coverings. We are very pleased that everyone is continuing to work together to keep our academy as safe as possible. Up until at least May half-term we will continue with our present procedures where face coverings are not compulsory in classrooms but are still required in communal spaces such as corridors and when entering, leaving and moving around the building. Of course, if pupils still wish to wear face coverings in classrooms they may do so.

National restrictions still apply to travel to and from school and pupils are still required to wear face masks on school and public buses.

We have also been advised that the situation will be kept under review at a national and local level and the requirements to wear face coverings may be reimposed if the situation changes. We will continue to let everyone know in good time of any future changes.

Testing

With the easing of some national restrictions it is even more important that all pupils and staff continue to test twice a week, including over half-term.

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 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 over Half Term

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) are running the COVID Local Support Grant Scheme over the May half term holiday and will provide every child who gets free school meals with a food voucher. DCC will contact parents and carers via text with the details on how to get the voucher, which can be used at Aldi, Asda, Morrison's, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, M&S or McColls. If you haven't received a voucher by the 18 April please report this via the DCC website [Local Support Grant Scheme](#) Instructions on how to access the vouchers can also be found on this page.

Diary Dates

Friday 28 May – final face-to-face in school teaching for Year 11 & Year 13 students

Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June inclusive – Half-term holiday

Monday 7 June – INSET day – school closed to pupils

Monday 8 June – pupils return

Monday 21 June to Thursday 1 July – Year 10 Mock Exams

Monday 21 June to Thursday 1 July – Years 7, 8 & 9 assessments

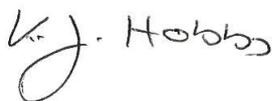
Friday 2 July – INSET day – school closed to pupils

Friday 9 July – Year 11 Leavers' assembly 9am

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 and someone will be in touch.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully



Dr K Hobbs
Headteacher