

10 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back

It has been lovely to be able to welcome everyone back into the academy and to have all of the David Nieper Academy community back together. While the slightly staggered start was required by the necessity to complete the lateral flow testing it did allow staff to welcome back each year group in turn and to have the chance for an extended tutor time for an introduction or refresher of all of our processes and procedures. Mr White and I were delighted to be able to meet with each year group in turn in our first assembly. I used the example of the Olympics to link to our academy motto of *Aspire, Endeavour, and Succeed* and highlighted some of the amazing achievements of the GB athletics earlier in the summer. I also challenged our pupils to aim to take up some of the many opportunities that are available to them at David Nieper Academy. We will use this weekly letter to ensure that parents/carers are also aware of the upcoming opportunities. Mr White took the opportunity in the assembly to look at all of the expectations and requirements within the academy in terms of continuing to keep everyone safe in the current Covid pandemic and also to enable the smooth running of our growing academy. I have been delighted to see all pupils adapting very quickly to our routines and working together to ensure a very calm and focused start to the new academic year.

The new Sixth Form students have adapted very quickly and are setting a high standard and tone throughout the academy. Our new Year 7 pupils have coped very well with the very many changes required of them in moving to a secondary school. Many staff have commented on how polite they are and it is lovely to be greeted in the morning by so many welcomes and to hear pupils addressing staff so confidently.

Exam Results 2021

It was wonderful to see the Year 13 and Year 11 pupils in August when they came into school to collect their exam results. We remain very proud of how all of the pupils worked with staff to ensure that they were able to achieve the grades they were capable of and to enable them to go onto the next stage of their education. All Sixth Form students who applied to university gained their first-choice course and everyone secured an apprenticeship, employment or further training. All Year 11 pupils had progression routes planned with many returning to our Sixth form. We wish all of our students every success for the future and look forward to hearing about their continuing progress. Well done.



Flu Vaccinations

For this school year, the NHS will be continuing with the e-consent for the Flu Programme. This year they will be offering the Nasal Flu vaccination to children in **Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11**.

Currently they are unable to confirm the dates for the flu vaccinations, but these will be communicated to you as soon as they become available.

In the meantime, please complete the e-consent form, stating the year group your child will be in at the beginning of the school year September 2021. Please visit

<https://www.derbyshireandcityimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu> to complete the consent form.

Our unique school code for **David Nieper Academy** is **DD142405**

If you wish to decline the Flu spray due to the porcine element, the NHS may now be able to offer an alternative injectable Flu vaccine that does not contain porcine. Please complete the consent form as a decline (due to porcine) and the NHS will then contact you to arrange vaccination. For more information please contact the NHS team as below.

For more information about the vaccination please visit the NHS website:

<https://www.derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk/our-services/5-19-years/school-age-immunisations>

If you experience any problems, please call the School Age Immunisation Team:

Repton Health Centre: 01283 707178

Clay Cross Hospital: 01246 252953



Or email DCHST.immunisationteam@nhs.net

Covid-19 Procedures/Testing for September

We continue to follow the Department for Education guidance for schools and all pupils have attended assemblies where we have gone through procedures and expectations. As usual we will continue to update the guidance in line with Government and Public Health England advice.

As a reminder:

- Face coverings are no longer required to be worn in lessons or communal spaces but pupils who wish to continue wearing one are, of course, welcome to do so.
- Year group bubbles are no longer required. However, pupils will still have their own year group areas at breaks and lunchtimes.
- We will continue with our one-way system around the building.
- All pupils are encouraged to maintain the high standards of hygiene that we adopted by washing their hands and using the hand sanitizer available around the academy at very regular intervals. We will continue our enhanced cleaning regime.
- We will continue to ventilate all classrooms and areas within the school. We are also in the very fortunate position of having an air circulation system fitted in the academy and we will continue to ensure that this is in use throughout the day.
- We will continue to encourage all pupils to take breaks and lunchtimes outside the academy where the weather permits and so do advise on bringing coats on cooler days.
- School and public transport – we ask that all pupils when travelling to/from the academy on school/public transport continue to wear their face coverings.

Pupils have received testing kits to take home. 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 the test is positive, please do not attend school but book a PCR test and self-isolate until the result is confirmed. Please do contact school to let us know the situation via info@davidnieper.academy

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)

Enrichment Opportunities

Mr Burns will frequently be putting together a calendar of enrichment opportunities that may be of interest to pupils. The first list for this academic year is available on our website [Enrichment Opportunities](#)

Activities are identified for the age groups they are recommended for and range across all subjects as well as more general opportunities like an 'Introduction to University' or 'study skills'. Mr Burns will be updating the list on a very regular basis so please keep checking our website.

Early finish for staff training – advanced notice

David Nieper Academy is committed to ensuring that we provide outstanding curriculum experience for our students. This requires ongoing evaluation and training to ensure we are always improving our teaching and learning approach. To provide adequate time for our training plans, the school day will finish at 2pm on five occasions across the course of this academic year. School buses have been booked for this earlier finish. For your information and to aid your planning, the dates are:

- Monday 11th October 2021
- Tuesday 16th November 2021
- Wednesday 2nd February 2022
- Thursday 17th March 2022
- Tuesday 17th May 2022

We will of course issue reminders nearer to each date and speak to the pupils. If you would prefer your child to remain at the academy until the usual finish time on these days a supervised area will be provided.

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 and has to self-isolate for 10 days we can provide a 2-week food box (collection only).
- If after taking a lateral flow home test your child tests positive and you are waiting for the results of a PCR test, we can offer a daily Grab & 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.

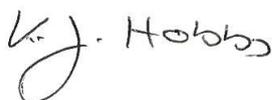
Academic Year 2021/2022

Monday 20 September	Year 7 & 12 Tutor Review Evening, 4-6.30pm (separate letter to follow)
Monday 11 October	Early finish for pupils at 2pm (full details to follow)
22-29 October	Half-term (including Friday 22 when the academy will be closed)
Wednesday 22 December	Last day of term
Wednesday 10 November	Year 11 Parents Evening, 4-6pm (separate letter to follow)
Thursday 23 December	INSET day – academy closed
Monday 10 January 2022	All pupils return

If we can help or support in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. Please email info@davidnieper.academy and a member of staff will be in touch.

Have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully



Dr K Hobbs
Headteacher