

Ref: KHO/091/21-22

26 November 2021



Grange Street  
Alfreton  
Derbyshire  
DE55 7JA

Dear Parents/Carers

During the week we welcomed Alice Wilcox, Head of Education & Secretariat of the APPG on school exclusions & alternative provision, and Gavin Rice, Policy Director, from the Centre of Social Justice to the academy. They were both very impressed with what they saw and were amazed at the variety of work that we do in relation to employability and careers. They met with a number of pupils from our Year 7 and 9 to discuss their Enterprise project work, visited a Year 12 Business BTEC class and were treated to a group Christmas performance by our Year 10 music pupils. Pupils also had the chance to ask our visitors lots of questions and to hear about their work and careers. The pupils were a credit to us all and the visit was a fantastic showcase for our academy. Thank you to all staff and pupils involved.

### **Alfreton Christmas Lights switch on**

Three musical groups from the academy are performing throughout the day in Alfreton Town Centre on Saturday. We hope to see you there.

- School Band in Severn square at 12pm
- DNA Voices at the Christmas Tree at 12.45pm
- Samba Band on the Main stage at 2pm.

### **'Grease' Audition Workshop**

We are holding auditions for any pupils in Years 7-10 who wish to take part in this year's school Musical 'Grease', which will be performed in the summer term. Pupils are invited to attend the Audition Workshop on Thursday 2 December in the Dance studio at 3.45pm. Pupils will take part in Acting, Singing and Dancing Workshops and should wear their PE kit.

### **Year 9 DNA Sustainable Fashion Challenge**

Year 9 students will be off timetable for two and a half days in December to take part in the DNA Sustainable Fashion Challenge. In groups, pupils will form a collection of 9 themed outfits, whilst developing knowledge on sustainable fashion and the current impact that the fast fashion industry has globally. This will be an exciting opportunity for pupils to think creatively outside the box, build on teamwork skills and to develop their knowledge of working with textiles. Employability links to the textile industry will be shared through our partnership with David Nieper fashion design team and machinists, who will be on hand to support students. On the final day, the group collections will be showcased on a catwalk to an audience of Governors and Trustees. The dates of the Fashion Challenge are:

- Tuesday 7 December
- Wednesday 8 December
- Thursday 9th December (half day)

We look forward to reporting on the event in the next edition of our academy Newsletter.

### **Academy Christmas Concert**

On Monday 13 December at 6pm in the Main Hall we will be holding our Christmas Concert. Tickets are £2 each and include a hot drink and mince pie during the interval. Tickets can be purchased from Main Reception. It will be wonderful to welcome you back into the academy for our concert this year.

### **Year 11 & Sixth Form – Mock Exams**

All Year 11 and Sixth Form students will be undertaking mock exams for two weeks, commencing Monday 6 December. Mock exams are a great opportunity to get a feel for what taking the real exams will be like; experiencing everything from what it feels like to be in the main exam hall, doing revision and what the exam paper looks like, so everything will be a little more familiar for students next summer. Please encourage students to prepare and

revise thoroughly for these mocks using all the materials that have been supplied and to speak to subject teachers if they need any extra support before the mock exams. The last two years have highlighted how important mock exams are and they are very useful in providing information for students about where they need to focus their attention as we work towards the final exams in the summer.

### **Presentation Evening**

On Monday 20 December our former Year 11 and Year 13 students have been invited to attend our Presentation Evening, which provides an excellent opportunity to collect exam certificates, visit the academy, catch up with staff and fellow students and celebrate a successful set of exam results. Our guest speaker this year is Rev. Paul Pritchard, and we are looking forward to a great evening.

If former students are unable to attend, certificates can be collected from school from Monday 10 January 2022 onwards. They will be available at Main Reception between 8am–4.30pm. If you would like someone to collect your certificates on your behalf, please print, complete and sign the candidate permission form which is available on our website <https://davidnieper.academy/pupils/examinations/> giving them permission to do so. They will also be required to produce photo ID.

### **CAMHS Event**

A reminder that the Academy is hosting an information event on 7 December at 4pm. The event will be led by a Specialist Community Advisor from CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services). The aim of the event is to provide general advice and information around worry and anxiety to parent/carers, including signposting to the appropriate support for this. We recognise that we are currently living through a very difficult time, and this has increased the worries that our young people have. We hope the event will be able to provide information that will build confidence in supporting young people.

Unfortunately, the Community Advisor is unable to discuss individual cases on the night, however our Family Support Manager and other pastoral staff will be available after the event and will be happy to arrange a time to follow up any individual issues. If you require any further information, please email Mr Matthews at [bmatthews@davidnieper.academy](mailto:bmatthews@davidnieper.academy)

Please use the link below to confirm that you will be able to attend.

<https://forms.office.com/r/MrihnwXmcU>

### **Enrichment Update**

A reminder to keep checking our website for the latest enrichment opportunities which is updated weekly and can be found by clicking here [Enrichment Opportunities](#)

### **PE**

Over the summer many parents have asked our uniform providers at the Schoolwear Centre for training leggings and a training top to be included in the academy PE range. We are happy to advise that we are now offering as optional items both girls and boys sports leggings, and a unisex fleece lined ¾ zip top. Prices will be available on our website once stock arrives in December.

### **ParentPay**

We have taken the decision that all trips and payment items going forward will be offered on ParentPay only, this is to reduce the amount of cash in the Academy and also makes any refunds much quicker to process. If you wish to pay by other means, please contact Mrs Gibson at [finance@davidnieper.academy](mailto:finance@davidnieper.academy)

### **Vaccinations for 12–15-year-olds**

If your son/daughter would like to have the Covid-19 vaccination and was unable to have this in school when the NHS Vaccination Team visited before half-term, appointments can now be booked online – please visit [Vaccination Appointments](#) for more information.

## Covid-19 Procedures

We continue to follow the Department for Education guidance for schools and will continue to update the guidance in line with Government and Public Health England advice.

Pupils will continue to receive testing kits to take home, but kits can also be ordered directly for delivery to your home address - [Order lateral flow tests](#)

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](mailto: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)

## Upcoming Trips and Events

Thursday 2 December	Auditions for 'Grease'
Tuesday 7 December	CAMHS information event, 4pm
Monday 13 December	Academy Christmas concert, 6-8pm
Monday 20 December	Former Year 11 & 13 GCSE & A level Certificate Presentation Evening, 6pm
Tuesday 21 December	Christmas Church Carol Service and Christmas lunch (During the school day for pupils and staff)

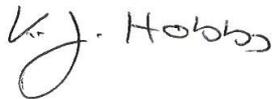
## Academic Year 2021/2022

Monday 6 – Friday 17 December	Year 11 & Sixth Form mock exams
Wednesday 22 December	Last day of term, 2pm finish.
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](mailto:info@davidnieper.academy) and a member of staff will be in touch.

Have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully



Dr K Hobbs  
Headteacher