

Ref: KHO/049/21-22

21 October 2021



Grange Street  
Alfreton  
Derbyshire  
DE55 7JA

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to everyone for their support, enthusiasm and hard work this half term. While it has been lovely to start to see the academy returning to its regular routines and activities, we are very mindful that we do all need to continue to take additional precautions to ensure that we can work to keep everyone as safe and well as possible. This will become increasingly important as we find that more coughs and colds are circulating next half-term as well as keeping up with our current Covid precautions. In the last few weeks we have experienced some general illness with pupils and staff and I am very grateful to all of my colleagues who have stepped in to support where necessary. I do hope that everyone has a restful and relaxing half-term break.

### **Lateral Flow Tests – half-term**

Please can we remind all pupils to continue to test twice weekly as usual over half-term. The test on the evening of Sunday 31st October is very important and we ask that everyone ensures that they have tested prior to returning to the academy. If this test is positive pupils must undertake a PCR test. If pupils develop Covid symptoms prior to returning to the academy they must self-isolate and take a PCR test.

### **Academy closed - Friday 22 October and half-term**

Please be reminded that the last day of this half-term will be Thursday 21 October, usual finish time. The academy will be closed on Friday 22 October and will re-open to all pupils on Monday 1 November after the half-term break.

### **Staggered start and end to the school day**

With effect from Monday 1 November, the staggered start and end to our school day will be removed and the school bell will sound at 8.35am for all pupils and the day will end at 3.30pm for all pupils. The pupil gates at the bus park and front quad will be locked throughout the day and any pupil arriving after 8.35am will need to enter the building through Main Reception.

Our first assemblies back after half-term will re-focus on our expectations and our employability behaviours and attributes.

It is important for all pupils to arrive for the school day on time, smart and equipped for learning.

### **GCSE revision evening**

It was great to see many of our Year 11 pupils and their parents at the academy on Tuesday evening for our GCSE revision evening. Pupils were given a range of revision materials and top tips were shared along with everyone taking part in two practical revision activities. Many thanks to Mr White and Mr Ruddy for organising and leading this informative evening.

### **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](#)

The third of our virtual enrichment lectures takes place on Thursday 4 November, 3-4pm, on Game Development presented by Alexander Horowitz of Studio Gobo. Please note that it is important that pupils attending this event are able to stay until the finish time of 4pm.

## **Covid-19 Local Support Grant Update**

Since December 2020 families of children in receipt of benefit related free school meals have received food vouchers to support them during the school holidays through the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Covid Winter Support Grant (CWSG) which was replaced by the DWP Covid Local Support Grant (CLSG). Please note that as per DWP guidance, the Summer extension of the DWP CLSG was the final extension of this particular funding stream. The Derbyshire County Council (DCC) website has been updated [Helping you through autumn - Derbyshire County Council](#)

During the summer holidays DCC worked alongside the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver a Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) funded by the Government to help support families who are eligible for benefit related free school meals, and issued food vouchers using the COVID Local Grant Scheme funded through the Government's DWP. The local authority are currently working on plans for the Winter HAF programme which will be delivered during the school Christmas holidays.

We welcome the recent announcement of a £500m Household Support Fund to support vulnerable households over winter, to be distributed through local councils. This funding will be available to support households who would otherwise struggle to buy food or pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs or housing costs (in exceptional circumstances of genuine emergency) as the economy recovers. The County Council is reviewing the guidance and consulting with key stakeholders to develop plans for distributing this funding to support families through the winter months. In the meantime, there is a range of existing support available for the October half-term including financial and benefit support, the Derbyshire discretionary fund and support through local food banks.

For more information about the 'Household Support Fund' please see the press release. [Government launches £500m support for vulnerable households over winter - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Covid-19 Procedures**

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

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@davidneiper.academy](mailto:info@davidneiper.academy) including over the half-term break.

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)

## **Covid-19 Lateral Flow Tests**

Testing kits for pupils will still be available from the academy but they can also be ordered directly for delivery to your home address - please visit <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

## **Upcoming Trips and events**

Thursday 4 November      Enrichment Lecture 'Game Development'  
Wednesday 10 November      Year 11 Parents Evening, 4-6pm (see separate letter)

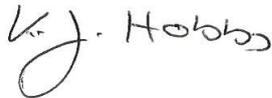
**Academic Year 2021/2022**

22-29 October	Half-term (including Friday 22 when the academy will be closed)
Tuesday 16 November	Early close for pupils at 2pm (Staff training)
Wednesday 22 December	Last day of term
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.

Enjoy the half-term break and we look forward to welcoming all pupils back to the academy on Monday 1 November.

Yours faithfully



Dr K Hobbs  
Headteacher