

Ref: KHO/093/21-22

3 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire

We were delighted to welcome the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Elizabeth Fothergill, to the academy on Monday. The Lord Lieutenant is the representative in Derbyshire for Her Majesty the Queen and arranges visits by members of the Royal Family to the county, presents medals and awards on behalf of the Queen, takes part in civic, voluntary, and social events, and liaises with local units of the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and their associated cadet forces.



The visit included a tour of the academy with our Head Girl and Head Boy, joining an A level Maths lesson and a visit to a Year 8 Art class. Mrs Fothergill also visited a Year 10 Drama class to see extracts of Physical Theatre from *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. This was followed by a working lunch and discussion with a group of Year 11 student leaders and Sixth Form students, discussing how students can look to develop the skills necessary for a public facing role. Mrs Fothergill was very complimentary of the pupils and standards of work that she saw. Thank you to everyone who took part in this visit.

Face Coverings

Further to the recent Government announcement, all pupils, staff and visitors must now wear face coverings when in communal areas within the academy and when entering and leaving the building. Face coverings must also be worn on public transport and in shops. We have been very pleased with how the pupils have responded to these changes. Please ensure that all pupils wear a face covering and carry at least one spare, we do only hold limited emergency supplies. We will keep you updated as the guidance changes.

Alfreton Christmas Lights switch on



Despite the bitterly cold and windy weather, three musical groups from the academy performed in Alfreton Town Centre on Saturday for the Alfreton Town Council Christmas lights switch on.

The band performed in the square, the choir round the Christmas tree and the samba band on the main stage. Well done to all participants – a magnificent effort in exceptionally demanding conditions. Thank you to Miss Pell and Miss Rennie and all staff and parents who supported the event, and especially to those pupils who took part.

'Grease' Audition Workshop

We held auditions earlier in the week, for this year's school Musical 'Grease' which will be performed in the summer term. As part of their auditions, pupils took part in dancing, singing, and acting; the variety of different performances was wonderful to see. Miss Pell, Mrs Turner, Miss Gregory and Miss Rennie were so impressed by the level of quality within the auditions and would like to reassure all pupils who attended the auditions that they will be given a role within the production. In some cases, there are pupils we wish to see more from before deciding on the final cast list and these pupils will be invited to a call-back on Wednesday 8 December 3.30-4.30pm. If pupils are invited for a call-back, they will receive an email to their academy accounts on Friday afternoon and receive a paper copy of this information on Monday morning.

The final cast list will be announced within school on Tuesday 14th December. We very much look forward to starting rehearsals when we return after the Christmas break.

Christmas Tree Festival

We are taking part in this year's Christmas Tree Festival at St Martin's Church, Saturday 4th to Monday 6th December. Our Christmas tree theme is 'All together Again'. Everyone is welcome to visit the church this weekend to view all of the Christmas trees which will be on display as part of the festival.

Year 9 DNA Sustainable Fashion Challenge

A reminder that our Year 9 students will be off timetable for two and a half days next week to take part in the DNA Sustainable Fashion Challenge. This will be an exciting opportunity for pupils, and we look forward to sharing details of our prize winners and photos of the wonderful creations with you next week. We are very grateful to the academy staff who have worked so hard to plan and prepare this event and to the staff at David Nieper Limited who are supporting the event.

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. We are limiting the number of tickets on sale to keep everyone safe, and tickets will not be available to buy on the door, so please ensure that you buy tickets before the event, and these are available from Main Reception. It will be wonderful to welcome an audience into the academy for our concert this year.

Academy Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 21 December

Following our Carol service at St Martin's Church we will once again be sitting down to enjoy a full Christmas lunch together. The two course Christmas lunch is priced at our usual £2.50. Next week we will be asking pupils to indicate if they would like a Christmas lunch or to order a grab bag (sandwiches) to enable us to cater for the correct number. Please note that on this day the food options will be Christmas lunch or sandwiches and we will not be serving hot snacks. If pupils do not wish to purchase the lunch options from us, they will need to bring a packed lunch on this date.

Year 11 & Sixth Form – Mock Exams

All Year 11 and Sixth Form students will be undertaking two weeks of mock exams, which commence on Monday, and all students have a copy of the timetable. Please encourage them to continue to revise and prepare for these exams. The canteen will be serving hot food at break time if any Year 11 or Sixth form students would like to have something to eat prior to an 11.45am exam. If any student needs additional guidance or support during the mock exams staff are always available.

CAMHS Event

A final 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

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

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

Presentation Evening

On Monday 20 December our former Year 11 and Year 13 students and parents 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. Please ask former students to RSVP to their invitation if they have not already done so.

January staggered start to allow for Covid testing

Further to recent Government announcements, each pupil (currently with parental consent) will be tested in school at the start of the new term in January. As before, our intention is to allow this to take place in the least disruptive manner to allow a smooth start to the new term and we ask that:

- Year 10 & 11 and Sixth Form - arrive for 8.30am on Monday 10 January 2022 – tests will take place and normal lessons will begin
- Year 7, 8 & 9 - arrive for 8.30am on Tuesday 11 January 2022 (they should not attend on 10 January). Testing will take place and normal lessons will continue.

If you have previously provided consent, you do not need to provide this again. However, if consent was not provided and you wish for your son/daughter to be included in the process, please click on this link [Testing Consent Form](#) Can we please ask that all pupils test the evening before returning to the academy in January and we advise to test prior to attending any gatherings or events over the Christmas holidays to help keep everyone safe and well.

We will return to a Week B timetable.

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 next of our virtual enrichment lectures takes place on Thursday 9 December, 3-4pm. This lecture will be hosted by Kate Woodcock from the University of Birmingham and looks into understanding young people's emotions in challenging situations and how to work together to support well-being. Please note that it is important that pupils attending this event are able to stay until the finish time of 4pm.

Data Collection

May we remind everyone that it is important that contact details for all pupils and parents are kept up to date. Please inform the main office or email info@davidnieper.academy to provide an update for any of your personal contact information.

Vaccinations for 12–15-year-olds

Please see the poster with this letter which provides details about Covid-19 vaccination catch up appointments for those that missed their vaccination in school. The poster lists the vaccination sites available in Derbyshire, but if children live close to the border there may be a centre closer in another county. The national booking system will show you which is closest based on your postcode. Please note that the vaccination centres are not part of the NHS service, so they are unable to help with arranging appointments. However, if anyone has any queries, they will do their best to help. At this time, we have not been provided with any further information regarding a second dose for 12-15-year-olds. As soon as anything is confirmed, we will let you know.

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

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

Monday 6 – Friday 17 December	Year 11 & Sixth Form mock exams
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)

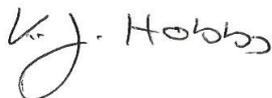
Academic Year 2021/2022

Wednesday 22 December	Last day of term, 2pm finish
Thursday 23 December	INSET Day – academy closed
Monday 10 January 2022	Year 10, 11 & Sixth Form pupils return
Tuesday 11 January 2022	Year 7, 8 & 9 pupils return
Monday 28 February 2022	INSET Day – academy closed

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

COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN AGED 12-15

Joined Up Care
Derbyshire

COVID-19 vaccination clinics are now available for children aged 12-15 who have not had their first dose.

Please note, if your young person has had a positive COVID-19 test, they need to wait 12 weeks before attending a vaccination clinic. The 12 weeks start from the date they had their PCR test. Please pre-book their vaccination via the links below at your preferred location. They will be given one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccination resources for children and young people are available on the government website in a variety of languages, Braille and Easy Read. These [resources](#) are to help children, young people and their parents or guardians make an informed decision about whether to take up the offer of the COVID-19 vaccination.

Vaccinating children can help stop the spread of COVID-19 to other people, including within schools. COVID-19 is usually mild in most children, but it can make some children unwell. One dose of a COVID-19 vaccine gives good protection against your child getting seriously ill.



COVID-19 Vaccination clinics

- **Midland House**
1 Nelson St,
Derby, DE1 2SA
- **Walton Hospital**
Whitecotes Lane,
Walton,
Chesterfield, S40 3HW
- **North Wingfield Resource Centre**
Whiteleas Ave,
Nth Wingfield,
Chesterfield, S42 5PW
- **Stubley Medical Centre**
7 Stubley Drive,
Dronfield Woodhouse, S18 8QY

How to book

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www.bit.ly/covid19derbyshire

The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines are safe and effective. If you have any questions, please speak to a clinician at the vaccination centre.