

29 September 2023

Dear families

As you know, I like to keep you updated on any progress in the four areas that I have asked all pupils to do. These are:

- Be in school and be on time
- Participate in lessons
- Do your homework
- Get off the bench

**‘Do your homework’** – During tutor time this week, students have been receiving training on the use of Seneca. Seneca is a new online platform that the academy is using to provide high-quality homework, allowing pupils to practise using the skills and knowledge that they gain in lessons. Pupils have been shown how to log on and also how to make the most out of Seneca to help them with their learning. As Seneca is an online platform, we know that not all pupils have suitable devices to complete this on. For example, although smart phones can be really useful, the size of the screen can make it really difficult for pupils to complete their work. Therefore, if your child needs to borrow a laptop from the Academy, please encourage them to speak to Mr Endacott who will organise a long-term loan.

As parents, please can I encourage you to keep following the Satchell One App (formerly known as Show My Homework), as your involvement is so important in helping your children to be organised, stay on top of their independent study and ultimately succeed.

**‘Get off the bench’** - I would like to say a massive thank you to all of the pupils who stayed behind on Wednesday evening to support our Year 5 & 6 open evening. It was wonderful to see so many of you speaking confidently to the Year 5 & 6 pupils and their parents and supporting the younger children to get involved in the different activities. I know from experience of showing my own children around their secondary school, that it makes a real difference to the younger children when they are greeted by pupils in the school, many of which will be familiar faces. I had lots of very positive feedback from the parents who told me that you did yourselves, your school and your community proud – Well done! Equally, I would like to thank the NHS, Greenhatch Group, DFS, Derbyshire Police and David Nieper Limited who joined us to share information about employability links with our Academy and future career opportunities.

Also, well done to everybody who has got involved in the Maths Circles and Maths Olympiad events this week. Four of the academy’s Year 11 students took part in the Maths Olympiad for Girls this week. This encourages participants to get stuck into the problems, and hopefully encourages more girls, who are underrepresented, to sit the UK Maths Trust’s other challenges. It will be a few weeks before the results come in, but all the students could be found in maths at brunch discussing the questions with their teachers, which shows how much they enjoyed taking part.

Maths Circles Live was a chance for Year 7s to see our wonderful Maths Circles enrichment programme. Supported by the mentors from our established Year 8 and Year 9 Circles, students learned what Maths Circles are all about and got to stretch themselves with a couple of sample tasks. Some members of the current Circles also attended to offer advice. Every attendee wanted to join the programme permanently, which should make for a great start in a couple of weeks’ time.

More updates will follow in the coming weeks.

## House system

This week has seen the relaunch of our Academy house system. All pupils and all members of staff have been put into a new house as we have moved from a six to a four-house system. This has been done to develop a greater sense of house identity, ensure a balance of skills and abilities within the houses and to develop healthy competition between them. On Thursday we held our first house assemblies led by the four house leaders:

- Derwent – Miss Perry
- Erewash – Mr Lobosco
- Trent – Miss Gregory
- Amber – Mr Doohan

During these, house leaders spoke about opportunities for student leadership as house prefects, celebrated current house points for attendance and rewards, and gave details of upcoming house competition. The first of these being the Great British DNA Bake-Off which is happening on Monday 2 October. We are raising money for the Macmillian Coffee Morning by selling cakes, biscuits and slices at brunch time in the Main Hall. It would be amazing if pupils could bake over the weekend and bring their cakes to A01 by 8.30am on Monday, in named containers. Winners will be announced next week!



## Parent Forum – Wednesday 4 October, 4.30-6pm

A reminder that our Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) parent forum is happening next week. If you would like to join us to discuss any of the agenda items below, please email [mhackett@davidnieper.academy](mailto:mhackett@davidnieper.academy). I will look forward to seeing you there.

- What funding is the school able to access to support my child?
- How are passports reviewed and will parents be involved in this?
- What is the role of the BASE and when can children access it?
- How will my child be supported to increase their reading age?
- What support will my child receive in completing their homework?
- How can the academy encourage my child to get involved in more extra-curricular activities?
- How will the school support my child as they move to sixth form or college?

## Year 11 Revision and Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 5 October, 5.00-7pm

On Thursday 5 October we will be hosting our Year 11 Revision evening and our Sixth Form Open Evening. During the school day we will be discussing with Year 11 students the skillset required to be successful. After school, all Year 11 students are invited to stay behind for a further session on revision techniques and best practice, and refreshments will be provided. This session will run from 3.40pm until 4.30pm, followed at 5pm by a presentation and discussions in the Main Hall for Parents/Carers and students, where we will share vital information about how students can be supported throughout this crucial time.

Additionally, the evening will provide the opportunity to speak with academy staff and find out about the exciting A-level and BTEC courses which are on offer for enrolment in September 2024. Our new prospectus will be available on the night, detailing further the courses available which have the potential to open doors in a variety of career paths. All courses include the opportunity for employer engagement which allow students to apply their learning in a real-world context.

We do hope that you and your son/daughter are able to join us for this important evening. Please confirm your attendance by emailing Mrs Hackett [mhackett@davidnieper.academy](mailto:mhackett@davidnieper.academy)

## David Nieper Academy Outstanding Governance award finalists 2023



We are thrilled to announce that David Nieper Academy were highly commended in the Outstanding Governance Award for a Single School 2023 by the National Governance Association (NGA), at the awards ceremony yesterday in London.

It is a wonderful acknowledgement to our Governors for their hard work and dedication for raising the aspirations of pupils' and equipping them with the education and skills needed to reach their full potential Thank you to them all.

### Dates for the diary

Wednesday 4 October

Thursday 5 October

Wednesday 11 & Thursday 12 October

Monday 16 October

Tuesday 17 October

30 October-3 November

Friday 22 December

Parent Forum (SEND)

Year 11 Revision & Sixth Form Open Evening

Year 8 Theatre residential trip, London

Early finish for pupils at 2pm

Year 8 Fashion Challenge

Half-term holidays

Last day of term, 2pm pupil finish

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 great weekend.

Yours faithfully

Mr R White  
Head of School