

22 September 2023

Dear families

I would like to use this week's letter to celebrate the huge number of our pupils who have taken the challenge to '**Get off the bench**'.

This week Mrs Turner and I have had the pleasure and the privilege of interviewing the candidates to become Year 11 Student leaders. The quantity and standard of the applications was exceptionally high, so just getting through to the interview was a real achievement. During the interviews, I was struck by the confidence, eloquence and maturity shown by all pupils in such a formal situation. I was also fascinated to hear how so many of them are already making massive contributions to their local community through volunteering in charity shops, supporting extra-curricular activities within our own academy and local primary schools, or through caring responsibilities in their own families. I felt incredibly proud to be their Head of School. I look forward to sharing the names of the successful candidates with you next week.

The heavy rain during the middle of the week meant that several of our lunchtimes have been a wash out. Housing nearly 800 children during heavy rain can be a challenge; however, this was made far easier due to the incredible number of pupils who chose to go to extra-curricular clubs at lunchtime. This week I visited volleyball, dance club, science club and Samba band – All of which had great attendance. All clubs are now up and running and free for all pupils to attend. Please encourage your child to join one of the activities and if they have any ideas for a club or activity which does not currently run, please ask them to speak with Mrs Speed or Miss Perry.

On Thursday afternoon, we held an assembly for all Year 10 pupils about the skills required to succeed at Key Stage 4 prior to the Year 10 parental information session that we held in the evening. Between these two sessions, Year 10 pupils were invited to attend an afterschool workshop to support them with practical independent study strategies. Mr Wadsworth ran this session, and he was tremendously impressed with the number of pupils that attended and the way in which they applied themselves – Well done Year 10!

This is exactly what I mean when I say '**Get off the bench**'. A great start - let's keep it going!

Parent Forum – Wednesday 4 October, 4.30-6pm

Last week I shared with you the news about the first of our upcoming Parent Forums. The focus of this forum is Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and I asked parents to email in any questions or points that you would like to be discussed through this. The response to this was excellent, and has allowed us to create the following agenda:

- 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?

If you would like to attend and discuss any of these agenda points, please can you email mhackett@davidnieper.academy by Monday 2 October. I will look forward to seeing you there.

Year 7 & 12 – Tutor Review Evening – Monday 25 September

A reminder that this review meeting takes place on Monday and provides parents/carers of Year 7 & 12 pupils the opportunity to speak with tutors to discuss how they are settling into the academy. If you haven't already done so, please book your appointments via the parents' booking system <https://davidnieper.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Open Evening – Wednesday 27 September, 4.30-7pm (Appointment only)

On Wednesday 27 September we will be holding our Open Evening to give Parents/Carers of Year 5/6 children the opportunity to visit our fantastic academy. The evening will include tours of the academy by members of staff, together with interactive subject displays and the opportunity to meet some of our Employer Partners. To attend on the evening please book appointments by emailing Miss Li via wli@davidnieper.academy - the last appointment being 6.30pm. Please see our website for more information.

Please be aware that after-school Homework Club has been cancelled due to the Open Evening.

Child Safety Online

Please see the practical guide at the end of this letter, for all Parents/Carers whose children are using social media. This guide helps you understand the risks your children may need to deal with, suggesting practical tips and helpful information.

Year 7 lockers

The deadline for the payment and collection of locker keys for our new Year 7 pupils is Friday 29 September. Please remind your child to collect their key from the Main Office. After which time, lockers will be made available to other pupils.

David Nieper Academy Outstanding Governance award finalists 2023



We are delighted to announce that David Nieper Academy has been selected as a finalist for the Outstanding Governance Award for a Single School 2023 by the National Governance Association (NGA).

The NGA Outstanding Governance Awards are awarded to governing boards and governance professionals in England's state schools and multi-academy trusts who demonstrate excellent practice and achievement.

We are honoured to be nominated for this prestigious award that recognises the hard work and dedication of David Nieper Academy's school governors and is a testament to the positive impact that governors can have on the education of children and young people.

Mr. Christopher Nieper OBE, Chair of Trustees, commented that "it has been a pleasure to work with such a dedicated and hardworking group of Governors and staff. This nomination is a great testimony to the impact of this work which has seen David Nieper Academy go from strength to strength and to now be Ofsted Good and the sixth most oversubscribed secondary school in Derbyshire."

Dr Kathryn Hobbs, CEO of Christopher Nieper Education Trust, commented that "we are exceptionally proud to have been selected as finalists for this prestigious award. I am immensely grateful to all our Governors who have given up so much time and energy to support, guide, advise and oversee the dramatic developments at David Nieper Academy since our opening in 2016. Thank you to everyone who has supported us on our journey to this point. We are very excited for the future as we start to work much more closely with new schools joining the Trust."

We will be attending the award ceremony at the House of Commons in London on Thursday 28 September 28 – wish us luck!

Dates for the diary

Monday 25 September

Wednesday 27 September

Wednesday 4 October

Thursday 5 October

Wednesday 11 & Thursday 12 October

Wednesday 11 October

Monday 16 October

30 October-3 November

Friday 22 December

Year 7 & 12, Tutor Review Evening

Open Evening

Parent Forum (SEND)

Year 11 & Sixth Form – Parents Revision Evening

Year 8 Theatre residential trip, London

Sixth Form Open Evening

Early finish for pupils at 2pm

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 and a member of staff will be in touch.

Have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mr R White
Head of School

Child Safety Online:

Why children use social media

- Entertainment
- Belonging
- Confidence
- Popularity
- Self-esteem
- Expression



A practical guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media

Social networking is hugely popular. Many young people are sophisticated in the way they use social media apps and websites, tailoring their communication for different audiences, and accessing them from a range of devices including smartphones, tablets, and games consoles.

But social media, like all forms of public communication, comes with some risks. Not all of these risks turn into actual problems; and if children never face any risks, they never learn how to deal with them. By helping your child understand what the risks are, you can play a big part in preventing them from turning into problems.

Understand the risks children may need to deal with

What they could see or do:

- Seeing or sharing of violent, sexual and pornographic content
- Inaccurate or false information and extreme views
- Promotion of harmful behaviours including self-harm, anorexia and suicide
- Over-sharing of personal information
- Actively or unintentionally getting involved in bullying or hurtful behaviour

Who they might meet:

- People who might bully, intimidate or frighten
- People posing behind fake profiles for:
 - Mischief-making
 - Sexual grooming and stalking
 - Blackmail and extortion
 - Identity theft and hacking

How this could affect them

- Fear of missing out leading to excessive use or exaggeration
- Getting upset by things they have seen and being uncertain about what to do
- Engaging, or being pressured into engaging in more risky behaviour either by accident or by design
- Developing unrealistic, and perhaps depressing ideals of body image and gender
- Becoming subject to peer pressure or interactions that are intense or too difficult to handle
- Creating an online reputation that may create problems for them in the future



Practical tips to help minimise the risks your child might face

It's good practice for apps and websites to have safety advice and well-designed safety features which can make a real difference to how safe your child will be when using them.

Work through safety and privacy features on the apps that your child is using, or might use. Make sure they understand the point of these and how to use them. Don't be put off by believing your child knows more than you: the tools are actually quite easy to manage.

- **Ask them to show you** which social media apps they use and what they like about them. Talk about how they use them and what makes them so engaging.
- **Explain how you can use privacy settings** to make sure only approved friends can see posts & images.
- **Check if any of their apps have 'geo-location' enabled**, sharing their location unintentionally.
- **Show them how to report offensive comments** or block people who upset them.
- **Check 'tagging' settings** so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, your child's identity is not revealed. Also, get people's consent before sharing photos.
- Encourage your child to **come and talk to you** if they see anything that upsets them.

Keep talking and stay involved

In a mobile age, children can't be completely protected, even by the best privacy controls; another child may use different settings. So it's important to keep talking to your child about the implications of social media.

Getting a sense of what they think is a useful place to start; you may be surprised by how much thought they may have given to the issues. Encourage your child to think carefully about the way they, and others behave online, and how they might deal with difficult situations.

- People may **not always be who they say they are online**: how can this create problems?
- Why is it **unwise to meet** anyone in the real world that you've only ever met online?
- Even if you think your messages are private, remember that words and images can always be **captured and broadcast**.
- People **present themselves differently online** - do they really look like that? Are they always having that good a time?
- Be aware that screens, and especially being anonymous, can lead people to say things they **wouldn't say to someone's face**.
- What does **being a good friend and a likeable person** online look like?
- There can be **pressure to be part of a particular group** online or to be seen to be **following a certain set of ideas**. How can you take a step back and make your own decisions?

For more information

You can find out more about how children use social media, the apps they use, the risks they face, how to use privacy settings, and advice and tips about how to talk to your children at:

www.childnet.com/sns
www.internetmatters.org
www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety
www.parentzone.org.uk
www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/parents
www.askaboutgames.com

To make a report

Concerned about online grooming or sexual behaviour online? Contact CEOP: www.ceop.police.uk

If you stumble across criminal sexual or obscene content on the internet you should report it to the Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk

