

17 November 2023

Dear families

Thank you to those parents who attended the Parent Forum on Monday evening, where we discussed Improving Communication. It was really helpful to hear first-hand forms of communication that are effective but also ways in which we can improve. The agreed actions were that the academy would:

1. Explore ways in which Form Tutors could have input on our student progress reports.
2. To re-introduce sharing the extra-curricular with children during line-up.
3. To develop an area of the website sharing with parents' any updates on extra-curricular activities and frequently including this within the weekly letter.
4. Communicate with parents through text in the event of extra-curricular clubs being cancelled.
5. Investigate different options for providing more detailed information about consequences, rewards, homework, attendance, and punctuality, including App-based solutions.

When I introduced the Parent Forum, the hope was that we would be able to utilise parental feedback to support the ongoing improvements within the academy, so I was delighted that we were able to achieve so many actions in just our second meeting.

Our next Parent Forum will be on the important topic of Pupil Wellbeing, which takes place on Monday 29 January 2024, and over the coming weeks I will be asking you to contact us with items you would like to include as part of this agenda.

### **Building Effective Relationships Together**

The Academy is pleased to announce our participation in the BERT Award (Building Effective Relationships Together). The award celebrates a whole school approach to ensuring positive relationships are built, and maintained, by all members of the academy's community. Mental health, relationships, and sex education (RSE) and general wellbeing are some of the foci of this award and we look forward to updating you in due course. Please look out for a parent survey to complete about RSE provision at the academy, as parental feedback forms a vital part of shaping our provision.

Our RSE policy has been published for this academic year and can be found on our website; this is a document that is continuously updated, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please email these to [swilcockson@davidnieper.academy](mailto:swilcockson@davidnieper.academy)

### **Year 5 Art Day**

This morning I had the pleasure of visiting a group of pupils from Christ the King Catholic Academy, Fritchley Primary School, Leys Junior School, Shirland Primary School, South Wingfield Primary School, Stonebroom Primary & Nursery School and Woodbridge Junior School as they took part in our Year 5 Art Day. It was great to see the children creating so many varied interpretations and experimenting with different techniques as they shaped their clay puffer fish. Thank you to Miss Bingham for organising such a wonderful and memorable activity.





## Unifrog

All students in Years 7-13 have access to Unifrog our careers platform, which brings all the available information about careers, universities, apprenticeships, and all other post 16 and 18 pathways into one user-friendly platform. Unifrog are requesting consent to have parental email addresses to send you weekly summary email reports. Consent can be provided via ParentPay, the deadline for which is Friday 24 November. Thank you to everyone who has already provided consent.

## Year 10 Parents Evening – 23 & 29 November

Parents evening provides an opportunity to discuss your son/daughter's progress with subject teachers. To book appointments please visit <https://davidnieper.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

The dates are:

- Thursday 23 November – Held in the Main Hall, 4-6.30pm.
- Wednesday 29 November – Held online 3.45-5.15pm.

Appointments with our Careers Advisor, Marsha Johnson, are also available (on Thursday 23 November only), where you can discuss your son/daughter's post-16 options and obtain careers information and resources. To book an appointment with our Careers Advisor please book an appointment with Mrs Fawcett.

## Alfreton Town Lights Switch On – Saturday 25 November

A group of our students will be taking part in the Christmas lights switch on which takes place on Saturday 25 November. Entertainment is taking place in and around Alfreton during the day and our students will be performing at the following times:

- Market Hall: (DNA Voices) 12:15pm to 12.45pm
- Alfreton House: (School Band): 2.45 to 3.15pm

Family/friends are very welcome to watch and support the academy during these performances.

## Extra-curricular activities

The table below gives an overview of our different lunchtime and afterschool clubs and activities. Pupils can find out when they run by checking for details on the TV screens around the academy or by speaking with Mrs Speed. We do hope that all pupils will find at least one club or activity which they would like to take part in.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y10 Football</li> <li>• Dodgeball</li> <li>• Netball</li> <li>• Y7 Football</li> <li>• Volleyball</li> <li>• Y8 9 Football</li> <li>• Friday club</li> <li>• Girls' football</li> <li>• Inclusion Sport</li> <li>• Badminton</li> <li>• Indoor hockey</li> <li>• Cricket</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DNA voices</li> <li>• Y7 Dance</li> <li>• School Band</li> <li>• Y8 Dance</li> <li>• Drama Club</li> <li>• Y10 11 dance</li> <li>• Samba</li> <li>• Y9 Dance</li> <li>• Choreography</li> <li>• Song review</li> <li>• DNA dance company</li> <li>• Rock band</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maths Challengers</li> <li>• Artful Maths</li> <li>• Chess</li> <li>• Maths circles</li> <li>• Careers</li> <li>• Sociology</li> <li>• Spanish club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triple Science</li> <li>• Science club</li> <li>• Growing Crystals</li> <li>• Computer club</li> <li>• Art club</li> <li>• Film club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Craft</li> <li>• Homework</li> <li>• Harry Potter</li> <li>• Quiet Space</li> <li>• Board Games</li> <li>• Pom-Pom Club</li> <li>• Dungeons &amp; Dragons</li> <li>• Duke of Edinburgh</li> <li>• HOW</li> </ul>
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**Dates for the diary**

Thursday 23 & Wednesday 29 November	Year 10 Parents Evening (face-to-face & online)
Saturday 25 November	Alfreton Christmas Lights Switch On
Tuesday 5 December	Early finish – 2pm depart (due to staff training)
Friday 22 December	Last day of term, 2pm pupil finish
Monday 8 January 2024	All students return to Week B timetable
Friday 12 January 2024	INSET – academy closed to all pupils

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



Mr R White  
Head of School