

8 December 2023

Dear families

This week has seen the build up to Christmas in the academy. I was really flattered (and also slightly nervous) about recording a Christmas message for our school podcast – DNA wafflers. Thanks to the support of Amelia Harrison in Year 8 and Mrs Bacon from our school library, I managed to overcome my nerves and put together a short message on the first take! If I can do it, anybody can; so please encourage your children to take the opportunity to get involved with the DNA wafflers podcast.

On Monday evening, our Year 7 Christmas disco was a great success and a rewards trip to Meadowhall for Christmas shopping took place last night for a group of our Key Stage 4 students. Thank you to Miss Perry and Mrs Turner for organising these enjoyable activities.

As Christmas fast approaches we are looking forward to our planned events, including our now traditional visit to St Martin's Church for our carol service, followed by Christmas lunch on our return from church. We also have our Christmas concert which takes place on Thursday 14 December and tickets are on sale from our Main reception. We do hope that you can join us for this wonderful evening to celebrate Christmas.

However, we must remember that there is still a huge amount of work yet to do. Not least for pupils in Years 11, 12 & 13 who are about to begin their second week of mock exams. I am sure that you will join me in wishing them the very best of luck.

Assemblies

On Tuesday I led assemblies for Year 7 to 11, to provide them with an update on the progress made towards each of the four challenges that I set them at the start of the year:

1. Be in school and be on time.
2. Participate in lessons.
3. Do your homework.
4. Get off the bench.

For each of these, I was able to share examples of how these were being achieved, and we also discussed areas to improve in the weeks ahead.

I also used this opportunity to remind pupils of the importance of behaving well. In doing so, I continued the clear language of the four challenges, to extend it to a fifth:

5. Follow the instructions of staff.

Good behaviour supports the creation of a safe environment in which children can all learn and make progress without disruption. This is something that our pupils value, so it is therefore essential that staff and pupils work together to create the climate in which children can succeed. Your support in this is greatly appreciated.

Consultation on admissions arrangements for David Nieper Academy

Christopher Nieper Education Trust are consulting on the admissions arrangements for David Nieper Academy. Please see separate consultation letter and admissions arrangements information.

Visit to Denby Pottery

A small group of pupils had the opportunity to visit Denby Pottery today to paint a mug, which they will then sell on a market stall in school as part of their Geography project on Local Economy. Our pupils really enjoyed getting creative and producing some lovely pieces of pottery.



Christmas Tree Festival – St Martin’s Church

A small group of our students visited the church today to hang our handmade Christmas decorations on our Christmas tree as part of the festival. Our extra-curricular craft clubs have been busy making traditional decorations and the tree looked wonderful. It is a lovely time of year to visit the Church and the festival takes place:

- Saturday 9 December, 10am-3pm
- Sunday 10 December, 11am-2.30pm (Songs of Praise at 3pm)
- Monday 11 December, 10am-3pm

Dates for the diary

11-15 December	Mock Exams, Year 11 & Sixth Form
Thursday 14 December	Christmas Concert
Friday 22 December	Last day of term, 2pm pupil finish
Monday 8 January 2024	All students return to Week B timetable
Thursday 11 January	Sixth Form Parents Evening, 4-6pm (face-to-face)
Friday 12 January	INSET – academy closed to all pupils
Monday 29 January	Parent Forum, Pupil Wellbeing
Tuesday 30 January	Careers Fair

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

Mr R White
Head of School