

9 February 2024

Dear families

Following on from last week's excellent careers fair, I am delighted to announce that this week the Academy has successfully achieved **the national Quality in Careers Standard** using the **Career Mark** approach. On Monday, we were visited by a careers mark assessor who met with a wide range of staff and students from the academy. She was particularly impressed at how clearly all students could **articulate** their knowledge about future education, training and career options. As articulate is one of the attributes that we develop through our work on employability behaviours, I was incredibly proud that this hard work is having a noticeable impact.

Also, following the careers fair, we drew the prize draw for the 'Golden tickets' awarded to pupils who asked our exhibitors the best questions. The following five pupils were the winners, and each received a £20 Amazon voucher - Dolcie Munnellely (Y11), Gurav Singh (Y9), Ryan Marshall (Y9), Vicky Kalchuk (Y11), Emilie Soar (Y11). All other students who got a Golden Ticket, received either a chocolate bar, a packet of sweets, or pack of biscuits. Well done to all involved!

This has been an incredibly busy time for the careers team, and I would like to thank Mr Brankin, Mrs Wilcockson, Mrs Fawcett, Mrs Bradford, Mrs Shephard and Miss Li for their support and leadership of these two great events.

Passport to Prom update

Earlier this year I launched our 'Passport to Prom' through which I explained that this year the Prom tickets will be covered entirely by the Academy. In return, I explained that students would need to meet the following criteria:

- **Attendance** – a minimum of 94% (between Monday 15th January and Friday 24th May),
- **Punctuality** – to school and to lessons a minimum of 94% (between Monday 15th January and Friday 24th May),
- **Behaviour** – to receive no suspensions and a maximum of 3 referrals to our inclusion unit,
- **Exam preparation** – to attend a minimum of 20 interventions either at lunch, after school or throughout the holidays,
- **Achievement** – to complete all of their courses that they are studying and sit the final exams.

I am delighted to tell you that the response to this has been amazing as we have seen improvements in punctuality to school and to lessons, alongside a sharp increase in year 11 attendance. This is incredibly important, as there is a very clear correlation between attendance and achievement. Children learn better when they are in school more!

Also, I am delighted at the increase in engagement with the intervention sessions that staff are providing at lunchtime and after school. On Wednesday, I was amazed at how many pupils were having a working lunch with their friends in the English classrooms, as they made revision cards for their English Literature. When I went in to congratulate them, one pupil proudly showed me that he had already achieved the 20 teacher signatures for the interventions that he has attended – Well done indeed! I am confident that all pupils can do this and look forward to seeing them at the Prom later in the year.

Year 8 trip to Hampton Court Palace

On Wednesday and Thursday this week year 8 travelled down to London and visited the spectacular Hampton Court Palace. This was one of the many palaces belonging to Henry VIII, and it soon became one of his favourites. Students had a session led by the staff at Hampton Court which enlightened us about the Tudors global influences. Students were able to tour the palace and take in the beautiful gardens. Students and staff had an amazing time, and it was great to see lots of mini historians exploring such a wonderful historic building. Thank you to Miss Naylor who organised the trip and to those staff who supported on each day.



Year 5 Science Day

Despite the snowy weather, we were visited yesterday by year 5 children from Leys Junior, Shirland Primary, South Wingfield Primary, Stonebroom Primary and Woodbridge Junior schools. Mr Dinh had put together an exciting workshop about the main forces around a parachute, which are gravity and drag. The children created their own prototypes and were able to test them out in the Main Hall.



Year 7 Assessments

The first week of assessments has gone well and pupils have been working hard. Please encourage your child to continue to revise and if they have any questions or need support, they can speak with their subject teachers who will be happy to help.

Year 9 Parents Evening

Our Year 9 Parents Evenings take place on Wednesday 28 February or Monday 4 March. Both evenings provide the opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with subject teachers.

Wednesday 28 February – Held face-to-face in the Main Hall from 4pm-6.30pm

Monday 4 March – Held online from 3.45pm-5.15pm

To book your appointments with staff please visit our online booking system via <https://davidnieper.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

NHS Immunisation team – Year 9 vaccines, 29 February

The NHS Immunisation team will be in the academy on Thursday 29 February for the Year 9 Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio (Td/IPV) & Meningitis ACWY Immunisations. Please complete the e-consent form (link below). The link will close on Thursday 22 February. If you do not wish for your child to have the immunisation, please complete a No consent form.

<https://nhslmms.azurewebsites.net/session/49a3d5e0>

Most children have been immunised against Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio and Meningitis C as part of the childhood UK vaccination schedule. Guidance from NHS England recommends that your child now receives a booster dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio and Meningitis ACWY.

Information regarding these vaccines is available here:

[MenACWY vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

[3-in-1 teenage booster overview - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

You can also talk to your GP, Practice Nurse or contact the NHS Immunisation team on the below number. If your child is outstanding their MMR vaccination and you would like them to receive this, please contact them directly on 0333 3583 397 / Option 5

[MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Immunisation Team on 0333 358 3397 / Option 5 or immunisations.derbyshire@intrahealth.co.uk

Crossing Patrol, Grange Street

Following the recent campaign, Derbyshire County Council have agreed to fund another school crossing patrol. Thank you for your support with the petition. Please see link below to the advert if you know anyone who may be interested.

<https://jobs.derbyshire.gov.uk/education-non-teachingsupport-services-adult-social-care-and-health-school-crossing-patrol/40908.job>

Mock Exams

The Year 11 mock exams planned between Monday 4 to Wednesday 28 March have been cancelled. Exam practice within lessons will replace the mocks and take place March/April. Further details will be shared with students in due course.

Dates for the diary

Monday 5 to Friday 16 February	Year 7 assessments
Monday 19 to Friday 23 February	Half-term holidays
Monday 26 February	All pupils return to a Week B timetable
Wednesday 28 February	Year 9 Parents evening (face-to-face)
Thursday 29 February	Year 9 vaccinations
Monday 4 March	Year 9 Parents evening (online)

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