



The Dukeries Academy

HALF TERM 4 2024

UPDATE FOR FAMILIES



MESSAGE FROM MR BRETT, HEAD OF ACADEMY

We now enter the Easter break, after another positive term in which many areas of Academy life have moved forward. Our Year 11s and Year 13s are excelling in their preparation for formal examinations, attendance has improved markedly, and the Year 7 Bridge continues to be an outstanding provision. More families recognise the journey we are on to be more than just a Good school (Ofsted 2016, 2021), so more than ever before have made us their first choice for secondary education for September 2024. We also have the excitement of our new building plans taking shape, which will provide state of the art facilities in the community for decades to come.

I would like to thank families for the strong partnerships we are developing, which are creating impact in improved attendance and rising standards term on term. The Senior Leadership Team, our wider staff and I, are working exceptionally hard to improve the school every day for the benefit of all our children. We know how much what we do here matters.

After the break, our attention turns firmly to formal examinations and ensuring every child gets not only the best possible chance at success, but also the very best possible support as they navigate what can be an anxious and important time.

I wish you all a very happy and enjoyable Easter break with loved ones.



#GoodtoGreat



@DukeriesAcademy



@dukeriesacademynews



M. Brett

#TransformingLives

YEAR 11 EASTER REVISION

Here at The Dukeries Academy, we are proud of our improving track record of GCSE results. We know that these are only one part of what we are here to do, but they are an important part nevertheless. In 2019, before the pandemic, we were the highest performing secondary school in the area. This year, our pupils have the opportunity to achieve some of the best GCSE results the Academy has ever seen. Our Year 11 pupils are hard-working, kind, and ambitious. We have made sure they have had the best quality teaching all year and provided further support and intervention to those who need it. We know that GCSEs are not the be all and end all, but we do know that children have more opportunities, more choices and better life chances with a good set of qualifications. This is the the commitment shared in our mission to “maximise opportunities” for every child.

As part of this, our teachers are offering free, high-quality intervention and revision in the Easter holidays. The timetable is displayed below for reference and we would expect, like in all high-performing schools, that these sessions will be very busy. We would ask families to ensure that their child attends these opportunities for carefully planned revision, intervention and support. At this final stage, everything we do in partnership can still make an enormous impact. By attending these sessions, your child can improve their knowledge and skills, prepare for exams in a supportive environment and reduce any anxiety that they might be feeling.

Our plans for the summer examination series, with a considered focus on pupil well-being, will be shared with all of you on our return.

Y11 Easter Revision 2024		
Date	Morning Session 09:30-12:00	Afternoon Session 12:30-15:00
Tuesday 2 April	Mathematics	Art
Wednesday 3 April	Sport Studies - Invite Only	Sports Studies - Invite Only
Thursday 4 April	Science Sports Studies	Sports Studies – Invite Only
Friday 5 April	History (10am -2pm) English Spanish	History (10am -2pm)
Monday 8 April	Year 10 Sports Studies	Year 10 Sports Studies
Tuesday 9 April	History (10am – 2pm)	History (10am – 2pm)
Wednesday 10April	Geography Health and Social Care	Health and Social Care
Thursday 11 April	Health and Social Care Science Higher and Triple	Health and Social Care
Friday 12 April	Drama	Drama

TRANSITION 2024 AND THE YEAR 7 BRIDGE

This year, more families than ever before have selected The Dukeries Academy as their first choice for secondary school. This is a testament to our improving reputation and our unique transition offer, which is like no other offer in the local area.

All families of Year 6 children who have successfully secured a place here have received a letter from Mr Brett, detailing the next steps on their journey to TDA.

Our Year 7 Bridge is an outstanding provision and pupils thrive in this high-performing environment. Our current Year 7s will be preparing for graduation in the summer and we are all very excited.

Transition 2024 Next Steps

- 1) Our Transition Booklet 2024 will be published to families with full information and plans for Transition Week in the first week in July.
- 2) Senior Leaders will visit our primaries, meet pupils and answer any questions they might have.
- 3) Transition for pupils with additional needs will start immediately, to ensure that they receive the best possible support.
- 4) Pupils will take part in Transition Week in July, involving school and off-site experience.
- 5) Families will attend Transition Evening to meet the Principal and learn more about preparing for September.

“

**THE YEAR 7 BRIDGE IS SAFE,
HARD-WORKING AND
CARING. I AM HAPPY HERE**

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our extra-curricular and personal development offer has continued to develop this term. The personal development strategy in the Academy, including the extra-curricular activities that take place after school, our Enrich programme on a Thursday Period 1 and our approach to wider education are now exceptional. Pupils have access to a huge wealth of opportunities both inside and outside of the Academy day. This half-term, to highlight but a few of the many events and activities ran by our superb Perform Faculty we have seen:

Our rewards trip to see Shrek the musical.

The annual Body Rhythms Festival.

Volunteering in the local community and recognising Academy staff.

Cricket tournament at Trent Bridge.



We are very proud of the pupils who participate and get involved in all that we do beyond the classroom!

ATTENDANCE AND STANDARDS

We are very proud of the work that has been done to improve attendance over the Spring term. We are seeing very positive, improving trends. We care about attendance because we know that school is the best place for your child. Our mission means that their academic and personal development are critical and those gains can only be made here.

Reasons for your child to have **great attendance** at The Dukeries Academy are clear:

- If your child is here at least 95% of the time, **they will do better than national average in their GCSEs.**
- Doing well in school and growing in confidence **significantly improves mental health in the long-term.**
- Y11s last year on 95% attendance or higher **achieved progress of +0.11.**
- We offer **free breakfast for all pupils** from 8.20am every morning.
- We offer **over 17 different after school activities** and clubs.
- We offer an **outstanding enrichment** offer for all pupils.

Attendance = Achievement and Enrichment

I would like to thank all of our families for their hard work, alongside the exceptional support of the pastoral team in helping improve attendance. This means more children can grow in confidence, engage in enrichment activities, improve their academic results and achieve more in later life.

Behaviour Reset 15 April

We will be running our usual "Culture Reset" in the first fortnight of the new term.

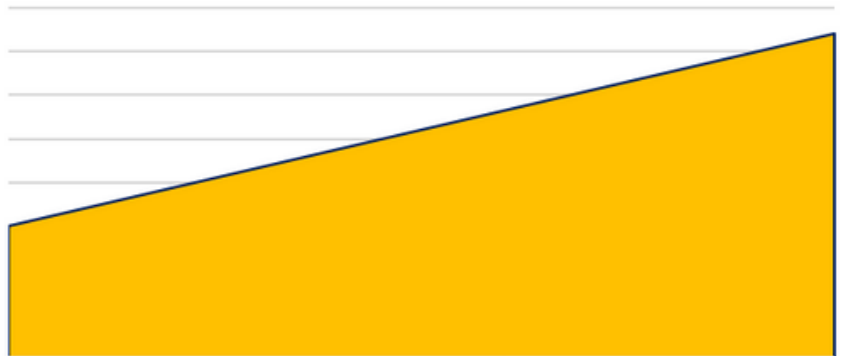
This means that we will revisit all of our foundational expectations and reteach our cultural norms to pupils. Pupils will revisit key expectations on behaviour, including those that apply in lessons, during social times and with a particular focus on how pupils speak to adults.

We have plans to communicate with you what we are focusing on in terms of behaviour, so that all parents are able to reinforce this messaging at home. Before we return, I would like to provide all families will clear guidance and expectations related to uniform and standards:

- Trainers are not allowed.
- Hoodies are not allowed.
- Only skirts and trousers detailed in Academy policy are allowed.
- False nails and false eyelashes are not allowed.
- Mobile phones are not allowed.
- Ear pods or earphones are not allowed.
- We expect all pupils in full Academy uniform.

Standards Gate operates every day from 8.30am, and we will continue to run this strategy as we help ensure all children are fully equipped and prepared for learning, including through being in the correct uniform.

Whole Academy Attendance Trend October 2023 - March 2024



Every Day Counts



175 NON SCHOOL DAYS EACH YEAR		175 days spent on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and appointments.			
Arrival after our registers close at 9.10am counts as an unauthorised absence mark for the morning.					
190 school days each year	10 days absent	19 days absent	29 days absent	38 days absent	47 days absent
180 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education	143 days of education	
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
GREAT	GOOD	WORRYING	SERIOUS CONCERN		
You are living our Ambition value and giving yourself the best chance of success. You will excel in examinations and will be able to access a full curriculum of core and extra-curricular activities.		You have a lower chance of success. You will find it more difficult to make great progress.		You will have limited chance of success. Persistent absence is a significant barrier to great learning and progress. You are missing out on great opportunities and are unlikely to fulfil your potential.	
INTEGRITY		AMBITION		EXCELLENCE	

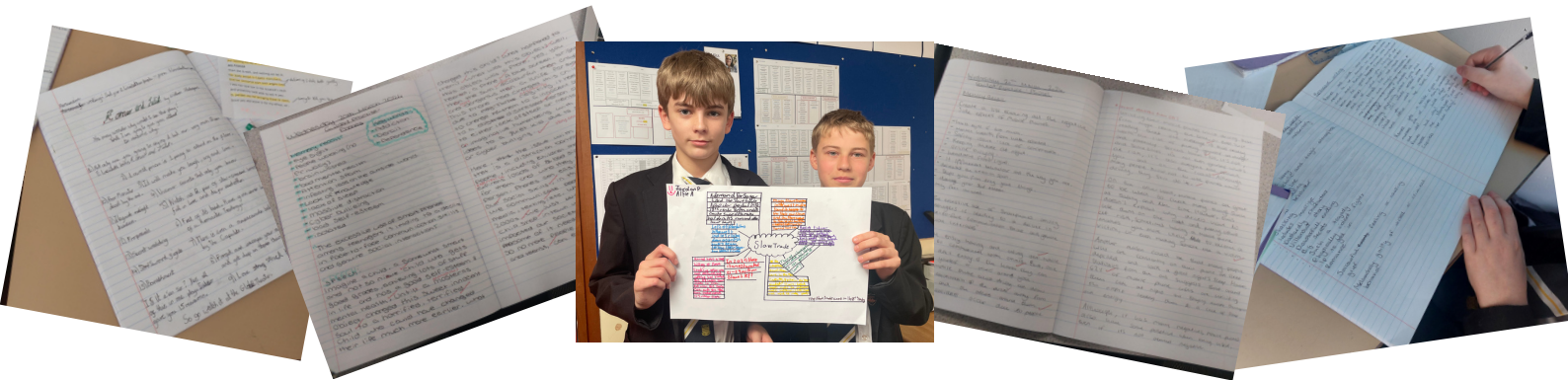
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND AMAZING WORK



This term, we have seen further improvement in what pupils are achieving in lessons. We love when parents and other visitors have the opportunity to walk the Academy to see the excellence being shown every day. Lessons with our specialist teachers are free from disruption and pupils are able to work confidently and make progress. This term we have seen many highlights:

- In Humanities, lessons are of a high standard and pupils are making superb progress in both Geography and History, especially as we see the impact of the new Humanities curriculum over time.
- In English, behaviour for learning is exceptional and changes to the curriculum are ensuring that pupil experience is continually improving. We are pleased with improvements emerging in extended writing and in reading.
- Science has become a real strength of the Academy, with high-quality teaching and great learning the norm.
- Pupil performance in Mathematics continues to improve, with brilliant GCSE results predicted this year as a result of superb work from our Year 11 pupils.
- Further outstanding work in the Perform faculty, both inside and outside of the Drama and PE classrooms.
- Positive impact in our Design and Create faculty where pupils continue to succeed and improve in Construction, Art and our other design-based subjects.
- Excellent small group work with our Reading Mentor and with our team from Think for the Future, who are working on behaviour mentorship with select groups of pupils in Year 8 and Year 9.

The standards across the Academy are high and rising and we are very proud of our hard-working pupils!



KEEPING IN TOUCH

You can stay up-to-date with all that's happening by reading our newsletters and by following us on

Facebook and Twitter



@DukeriesAcademy



@dukeriesacademynews

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