



The Dukeries Academy

# HALF TERM 2 2024

END OF YEAR UPDATE FOR FAMILIES



## MESSAGE FROM MR BRETT, PRINCIPAL

We have now reached the end of this calendar year and begin the Christmas break. As always, it is important to recognise the strong partnerships between the Academy and our families, which is the foundation of our success. We have lots to celebrate this term, as the Academy continues to improve further and develop in all areas.

I would particularly like to thank families for their hard work and support of our approach to improving school attendance. Nationally attendance has increased 1.5%, and our Academy has improved attendance even more than that, with an increase of 2.2% on the same period last year. This means more pupils are accessing more opportunities, both academic and as part of their personal development, setting them up for greater success.

This year, we have also strengthened our approach to achievement further, and there is a greater focus on academic performance across all year groups. I hope you found our latest pupil reports useful and informative in detailing these changes. Our impact in achievement and outcomes is clear. Performance for 2024 has now been published and we are proud to be one of the most improved schools for pupil progress at GCSE in Nottinghamshire. Although we have more to do to improve outcomes and achievement, we are making significant progress.

There are many other areas to celebrate at the end of this term, including the development of pupil voice through the student leadership team and the growing presence of student leaders in the Academy.

We are also very proud of the growing 100% club, where pupils are rewarded on three weekly cycles for 100% attendance (including authorised absence) and 100% positive points. Almost 400 pupils have won their first two badges this year, with four more to collect.

There are many exciting plans for the new year, and I am already looking forward to our return. Have a happy, restful Christmas with loved ones.

*M. Brett*



## #GoodtoGreat



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#TransformingLives

# 100% CLUB SUCCESS

## ALMOST 400 PUPILS ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

The 100% Club was launched this year to recognise pupils who achieve consistently well here in the Academy, and demonstrate excellence through their high levels of attendance and outstanding behaviour.

Every six weeks, pupils have the opportunity to win a 100% Club badge, and across the year, there are six badges to win. Within each six week period, if any pupil can link together **three consecutive weeks of 100% positive points and 100% attendance (including authorised absence)**, then they win the badge for that cycle.

So far, **green** and **orange** badges have been up for grabs and there are four more to collect. Pupils who earn five of the badges will be a part of the end of year rewards trip and pupils who earn all six can exchange theirs for the prestigious **gold** 100% badge.

Almost 400 pupils, which is 45% of pupils in the Academy, have earned these 100% badges and we are very proud of them all. It is a real achievement to be celebrated both in the Academy and by families.





# CELEBRATING GCSE SUCCESS

## ONE OF THE MOST IMPROVED SCHOOLS FOR PUPIL PROGRESS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Performance tables for secondary schools were published in early December, and although we still have work to do to achieve our Academy vision, significantly improved results in 2024 mean **we are one of the most improved schools for pupil progress in Nottinghamshire.**

This shows the impact of family support at home, the hard work of pupils in school but also the improving quality of teaching in the Academy and the comprehensive achievement strategy we have developed.

We are proud of this movement forward and can build on our momentum as one of the most competitive Academies locally for pupil progress.



## MESSAGES FOR CURRENT YEAR 11

- Mock examinations continue after the Christmas break. Pupils have revision activities to complete over the holidays.
- Supporting Success Evening takes place on 5 February 2025 where Mock Results will be revealed!

## FIVE STARS FOR DUKERIES CATERING

This year we moved our catering team back in-house as we worked to improve our offer for lunch and break times. We have seen a huge improvement in the quality of meals on offer for pupils, helping them stay refueled and refreshed for lessons. Pupils voice has influenced the new menu offer and we are seeing increasing numbers of pupils opting for school meals.

In our first inspection by the food standards agency, the catering team were awarded five stars. We are very proud of the work that has been done to improve our food service.

Pupils continue to access our **free breakfast which runs every morning from 8.20am for every child** and then have access to our improved service during break and lunch time.



# EXCELLENCE IN ENRICHMENT

We have seen another outstanding term of Personal Development in action across the Academy.

Our Enrich lessons at Key Stage 3 have continued to develop and enhance further, and at the end of this cycle, our Enrich Superstars were awarded by Mrs Schrodell.

We have seen some fantastic events across the Academy, with almost too many to list!

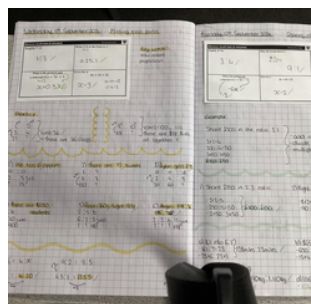
- St John's Ambulance came to deliver sessions with our First Aid Enrich group earlier in the term.
- Carols by Candlelight was a superb event at St. Paulinus where Academy pupils collaborated with pupils from local primary and infant schools to put together a performance of acting and singing for the community.
- Our Christmas Showcase was as popular as ever with a sold-out, full-house for our Christmas performances.
- We continue to run a variety of clubs across music, drama and sport which continue to grow in popularity.
- Nottinghamshire Music Hub visited the Academy to teach pupils how to play Taiko drums.
- A group of pupils will be attending the Hamilton rewards trip celebrating positive points and attendance.

We are also building up to our next Academy show...

There is so much to look forward to in 2025.



## AMBITIOUS LEARNING



In classrooms, teachers have been working hard to develop their practice as part of our on-going mission to deliver great lessons.

Teachers have been developing strategies for feedback to pupils, to make sure that everyone knows how to improve their work and progress quickly in their learning.



We have seen beautiful pupil work across the Academy and lots of progress being made in all Year Groups, with pupils achieving well in end of term assessments.

We have also continued to develop our Morning Meetings, with all Year Groups learning foundational knowledge, led by experts from each Faculty.



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP

This term, our Student Leadership team have continued to develop and build their influence in the Academy. They have been increasingly involved in leading pupil voice to influence changes to Academy policy, and are playing an active role in Academy life. They have played a key role in Year 6 into Year 7 Transition, supported Academy events and are linked to the Senior Leadership Team to support Academy improvement. We are looking forward to seeing what they achieve next!



## UNIFORM, EQUIPMENT, ATTENDANCE AND CULTURE

### Culture Reset 6 January

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

We do this to make sure that every child is meeting our expectations for uniform, equipment, attendance and behaviour expectations.

We will be reteaching our Academy values of Integrity, Ambition and Excellence and reflecting on how these apply to daily life both in and out of lessons. **I would like to remind all families of some basic expectations before we return.**

- 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. No parent should be communicating with their child without the support or knowledge of the Academy.
- 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.



School shoes should be **ALL BLACK**. There should be no white, or coloured logos present on them.



Shoes should be polishable and **MUST NOT** be made of fabric, suede, canvas or other fabric materials.



Skirts should be **knee length and pleated**. They should not be worn with leggings.



Pencil skirts, tube skirts, bodycon skirts and mini-skirts are **not permitted** at TDA.

# AMAZING ATTENDANCE

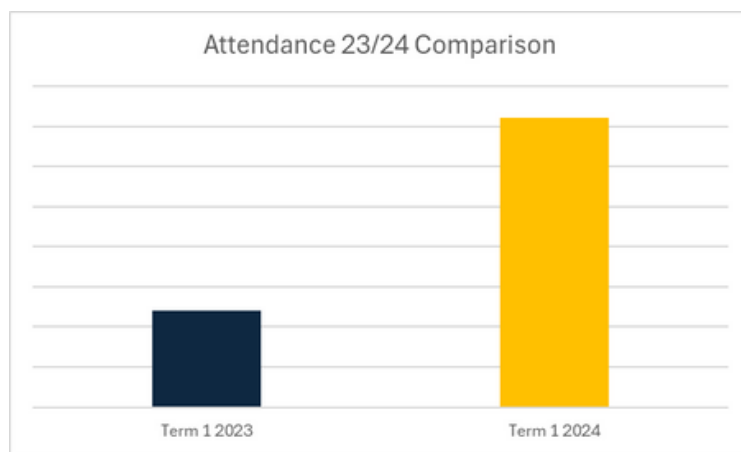
We are very proud of the progress we are making on strong school attendance. Our attendance is up 2.2% on this time last year. **This means compared to the same time last year, pupils have been in school for 3230 more days of learning.**

This means that more pupils are going to achieve the progress they deserve and experience the development and character opportunities open to them here at the Academy.

Attendance is so important because **every child who attends our school 95%+ of the time, achieves above national average for progress.**

We would like to remind all families that Mr Snowden and the rest of our attendance team are always on hand to provide support and meet with you to explore and remove barriers to great attendance.

Below are all the reasons we believe strong school attendance in 2025 will make a big impact for your child.



## 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	

# TDA Attendance

## What does *Excellence* in attendance (95%+) mean for you?

- Better GCSE results than the national average.
- Better employment prospects post-16.
- Access to exceptional enrichment and extra-curricular.
- Improved long-term emotional and mental health.
- Free healthy breakfast every day.



# ACADEMY TERM DATES 2024-2025

August							September							October						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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							30													
November							December							January						
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25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
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February							March							April						
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May							June							July						
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26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							30													

School Holidays

Public Holidays

Inset Days

**Autumn Term**  
2 September – 18 October – 7 weeks  
4 November – 20 December – 7 weeks

**Spring Term**  
6 January – 14 February – 6 weeks  
24 February – 4 April – 6 weeks

**Summer Term**  
22 April – 23 May – 4 weeks 3 days  
2 June – 29 July – 8 weeks 2 days

3 September – Y7, Y11, Y13 return  
4 September – All year groups in

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We would like to wish all families and stakeholders a wonderful Christmas break this year. We have made enormous strides as a community in 2024 and there is so much more to look forward to in 2025. Thank you for continuing to support and work with us.

THANK  
YOU



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