

Academy Articles



DSLVA
Nurture | Aspire | Achieve

An E-ACT academy



Key Dates

Monday 11th April

Professional Development Day–
Academy closed to all students

Tuesday 12th April

Start of Term– all students back

Monday 2nd May

Bank holiday– Academy closed

Tuesday 5th May

Year 7 Parents evening 5pm-7pm

Friday 27th May

Last day of Term 5

**See back page for Year 11
GCSE Easter Holiday Revision
Dates**



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the Easter holidays, I am pleased to be able to look back on a very successful term. Despite our past difficulties, in January we were visited by Ofsted Inspectors who were very positive about developments at DSLV and were particularly complimentary about our young people and their involvement in school life. These comments arose from students, during the course of the term, taking responsibility for school operation in the form of: Prefects, School council, Daily bulletin team, Form competition leaders, Sports captains, Primary reading mentors, Fund raising teams and Citizenship community event leaders. Students being involved in decision making is a key part of DSLV becoming outstanding and I am pleased to see this becoming a reality.

In addition to pupil voice, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their comments this term. Please be assured that your suggestions for improvement are taken into account as part of our school improvement drive. It is our intention at some point in the coming term to run a parents forum meeting to support your involvement in school life, in the meantime however we would encourage you to register all of your views via Parent View (<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>) as a way of supporting DSLV's next steps.

From all the staff at DSLV we wish you a Happy Easter.

Mr Cotton
Principal

Fantastic Art Work by Year 8 Students

Our Year 8 students have been using a mixture of paper techniques to create book covers in Art this term. We have seen some brilliant examples, some of which are shown here.



Friends of DSLV

Friends of DSLV are a wonderful team of parents that came together in June 2015 and have been working extremely hard to raise funds for our Primary children. So far they have organised the Year 6 prom, Numerous discos, Christmas Fayres, cake sales, a uniform Swap shop and Bingo night for our parents. Monies raised so far has gone towards the Whole primary phase Pantomime trip and will be purchasing new playground equipment.

Even now, they are hard at work organising future events which will benefit our children.

Their face book page for information is: Friends of DSLV. Please take a look for updated information on events.

Nursery News

As part of our topic on pets we had a tortoise come to visit, we learnt about how we look after different animals and what sort of food they eat. We held an open morning for parents to come and join their children for a bear hunt and teddy bears picnic. The children brought their teddy bears from home hunted around the nursery to see how many different bears they could find and then acted out the story we had been learning in nursery, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' followed by a picnic with their bears.



Year 3 Clean for the Queen

As part of the nationwide 'Clean for the Queen' initiative, Year 3 children at DSLV were invited by Daventry Town Council and Daventry District Housing to take part in a litter pick in the local community around their school. The Mayor Cllr Wendy Randall, Cara Wilson who is the DDH Officer for Southbrook and Sharon Moore; Southbrook Community Champion all took part in the litter pick with the children. Cara Wilson spoke to the children first regarding the do's and do not's of litter picking. Then they all set off with Mr Cotton; Principal and Mrs Towers; Senior Vice Principal – Head of Primary.

The children were extremely enthusiastic and the weather was kind to them. They managed to collect a total of seven very full bags and did a great job of clearing up the area. Many children asked to do the activity again as they could see very quickly the impact they made on the local community.



World Book 2016 proved to be a huge success for DSLV!



Lots of students and staff rose to the occasion by dressing up for the day as characters from some of their favourite books! From Harry Potter to James and the Giant Peach, all of the costumes



were amazing and it was great to see so many making the effort for what is fast becoming one of the favourite dates in the school year for everyone involved!

Sports relief 2016

On Friday 18th March DSLV held a number of different events and challenges to help raise money for Sport Relief 2016. One of the most popular events was "Soak the Teacher!" and students queued in their droves to throw wet sponges at Mr Cotton, Mr Evans, Mr Reeves, Mrs Hadlow, Mr Harris and Miss Cleaver!



There was also a penalty shoot-out, cake sale, table tennis tournament, and a netball shoot-out. Students were also sponsored to run 1 mile in their PE lesson and we were amazed at how much some students manage to raise!

Mr Reeves in the PE department organised the activities that took place over the week and said "The week was a huge success and I am really proud of the pupils for their sponsored runs and involvement in the activities on Friday. I would like to say a massive thank you to all staff that helped organise and participate in the various events that took place to help raise lots of money for sport relief 2016".

Cummins Raspberry Pi Project Year 8 ICT

This half-term a group of year 8 students have been working with Cummins on computer programming using a Raspberry Pi.



The aim of the project was to develop students' understanding of programming and how to combine these skills with a practical task – moving a 200 tonne dump truck without a driver!

The staff from Cummins provided support where necessary but were delighted with the enthusiasm and skills of our students, they were a real credit to themselves and DSLV. It was great to see our students using new found skills and working with Cummins' experts to complete the challenges set during the project.



We are so pleased to announce that we have raised a record amount of £1700, please take a look at our website for more photos from the day:

www.dslv.org.uk. Well done to all students and staff that took part, you really did DSLV proud!

Year 11 Mock Exam Results

On Friday 11th March, Year 11 students received their mock exam results. This was done very differently from previous years and aimed to be as close to the actual results day would be in August. The morning provided our students with the latest picture of how they are progressing towards their GCSE outcomes. The whole year group started the morning with an assembly from Mr Cotton and were told that the results they were about to be given in envelopes; just as they will be in August, would show them what the outcome of their efforts during the Mock exams were.

Members of staff from English, Maths and Science were on hand to offer advice.

There is always the concern that people can be disappointed with their mock results. However, we feel it is really important that any issues they face are dealt with now and clear strategies of how to take the next steps to improve are shared with everyone. Prior to the Easter holidays each child will receive revision packs from their subject areas in order to support home learning. Year 11 students are also encouraged to attend the Easter Revision sessions put on by staff in order to support the learning that is taking place in the classroom.



Sixth Form Drama trip to London

On Tuesday 15th March, Year 13 A-Level Drama Students attended a trip to London to see Twelfth Night at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. The day started well with Miss Cleaver and Mr Tibbles accompanying students on their trip.



It was a fantastic experience for all with the open-air theatre providing an authentic performance with some contemporary gems thrown in - a crowd favourite being their short interlude of the infamous 'Wip Nae Nae' song! As a reward for their extremely hard work, Year 13 students were then treated to an evening performance of The Book of Mormon at the Prince of Wales Theatre. There were screams and tears of laughter - mainly from Mr Tibbles -

and everyone left the theatre reeling and singing the songs for the journey home.

The trip was a great success with students not only developing their knowledge of the world of theatre for their final exam, but also a chance to treat the Year 13's for all their hard work and success.

Netball

Congratulations to both the Year 8 and Year 9 Netball Teams for their fantastic wins against Caroline Chisholm School last Tuesday, where the Year 8's fought hard throughout the whole game to win, 17-14 and the Year 9's won their game convincingly 19-7.

A Musical Term for Year 4

All Year 4 children have had the opportunity to learn to play the clarinet, each for a term. 4LN worked hard from September until Christmas to learn everything needed to put on a performance for their parents. 4JT have been working hard since January and have recently performed to their parents as well as the rest of KS2.

"It was really fun learning to the play the clarinet because I have always wanted to play an instrument and I got the chance to do it." (Jenna Freezer - 4LN)

"I really enjoyed playing the clarinet because I had music to learn to play at home as well" (Jack Webber - 4LN)

"It has been an amazing opportunity for us and we will never forget it" (Paul Wood - 4JT)

I am sure all the children in year 4 will agree that it has been an amazing experience playing the clarinet! A number of children have now asked to continue having lessons in school, which is fantastic!



Primary students take part in "Voice in a Million"

25 children from the primary phase attended the "Voice in a Million" concert at Wembley Arena on Thursday 3rd March.

As part of the preparations for the concert, they organised a couple of fundraising events to cover the extra costs for the event. They completed a sponsored silence which raised £270 and a cake sale raised another £130. As a result of this money raised, the choir are now able to get a uniform t-shirt specifically for events they are involved with. The trip couldn't have run without the help of Miss East, Mrs Connerty, Mrs Dicks. & Miss Norman.



FIGHT FOR EVERY HEARTBEAT
bhf.org.uk

FANTASTIC DONATION TO BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION FROM DSLV!

We are pleased to announce that our last day of term mufti day raised a total of **£776.88** which has been donated to the British Heart Foundation. Thank you to everyone for your support.



GCSEPod is a unique service, designed to tap into the learning potential of smart phones and handheld devices through a combination of clever technology and high quality, award winning content, to ensure equality of access, high usage and the best possible impact on GCSE results.

Students access GCSEPod content via a link on our school VLE and website. Each mini-podcast provides students with relevant, easy-to-digest information in a tiny file format, ensuring students can add learning content onto their mobile devices. Log into GCSE Pod now at: <http://www.gcsepod.com> and follow the instructions below.

Student login instructions

When your school has informed you that you have been registered with GCSEPod, simply follow these steps to activate your account.

- 6) Go to www.gcsepod.com and click "login"
- 7) Click "[Click here if you are new to GCSEPod](#)"
- 8) Enter your name, date of birth and choose your school
- 9) Select a username and password (to be used when you next login) and select the subjects you study

Year 11 Citizenship Project

This term year 11 Citizenship students have been carrying out their final projects for their coursework:



In February, Alex Jackson organised a trip for 25 year 9 girls to attend a day at GE Energy in Rugby. This day was aimed at encouraging more girls into engineering as the boys recognised the huge discrepancy in numbers of boys and girls at GCSE level. Sam Hennessey attended and led the trip on the day, taking part in the workshops and encouraging the girls in their activities.

Charley Rose,
Morgan Clark

and Connie Kinghorn organised an event for Year 5. This event was aimed at tackling racism in DSLV. The year 5 students were given the opportunity to sample food from countries linked to DSLV staff and students, enabling them to see our learning village as a global community. The year 11 students also gave presentations about the countries that the food came from.



Connie Kinghorn also attended a town council meeting with the Mayor to put forward her findings about public attitudes to the safety of Daventry subways. The council are acting upon her findings to continue looking into subway safety and public perceptions of this. If you have any further comments that you feel Connie, or the town council would benefit from regarding this, please contact Mrs J Tibbles jenny.tibbles@dslv.org.uk.

Harry Byron, Aaron Carlton, Jack Raeside and Tom McKay went to visit residents at Evelyn Wright House in town. The students were concerned about stereotypes held by both the old and young in society of each other and their visit was aimed at challenging these. The students joined the residents for lunch and helped carry boxes for the staff. Jenni Cory, the Quality Assurance Manager from Olympus Care Services, sent an email following the visit describing the students as "a credit to the school".



As you know, Zarabella Ahmadi and Katie Jordan have been asking for donations for the Northampton Hope Centre. They are very grateful for all of your donations, which have been delivered to the Hope Centre. The students received an email from the centre thanking them for the donation: "Thank-you, Katie and Zarabella very much for your kind donation brought into the Northampton Hope Centre this year, your support and generosity for our work is very much appreciated."



Katie and Zarabella with help from Fawaz Zak, have also designed and created a display on A floor (for all secondary students to see) to challenge racism, by informing students of the global nature of our student body.



Fantastic news for our Sixth Form Students!

We are very proud of our Sixth Form students who have been offered places from so many prestigious Universities. The diverse range of subjects that students are going to study reflects the wealth of talent that there is among our sixth form students. Congratulations to the following students:

- * Wasiaq Sajjad – Medicine at Pembroke College, The University of Cambridge
- * Chelsea James – Study of the Tenor Horn at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
- * Lizzie Barker - Drama and Performance and English Literature at the University of Worcester.
- * Hannah Barnes - Physical Geography at University of Portsmouth
- * Rhian Bellis - Sociology Nottingham Trent University
- * Oliver Cadle - Sport and Exercise Science Liverpool John Moores
- * Teleisha Coulson - Biomedical Science Royal Holloway University of London
- * Meghan Davies - Psychology at The University of Manchester
- * Katrina Goffin - Geography at The University of Hull
- * Ben Harris - Music Performance at Academy of Contemporary Music
- * Aimee Lewis - Archaeology The University of Bradford
- * Hayley Lock- Civil Engineering Nottingham Trent University
- * Charlie Trippett - Chemistry (with a year in industry) The University of Sheffield
- * Luke Wilson - Chemistry (with a year in industry) The University of Sheffield

DSLIV and The Parker Academy Sixth Form

We are pleased to be able to announce that we currently have over 50 applications from DSLV students who want to study in the joint DSLV and The Parker Academy in 2016-2017. Students have been enthused by our new curriculum including A levels, Level 3 BTEC and Level 2 BTEC.

The improved curriculum offer that is now available due to collaborative working between both academies means that the young people of Daventry have a wider range of subjects available to them and everyone should be able to find a course to meet their needs. Watch this space for more news on the new Sixth Form.

Staff Leavers

Jo Cartledge –
English Teacher

Lisa Haynes – Maths teacher

Chris Dickinson –
Assistant Vice Principal

Rob Gater –
Senco for Primary School

Claire Hynes –
Reception class teacher

Jane Trelvellick –
Sixth form manager

Christine Drinkwater –
School nurse

Lucy Colbourne –
School nurse

Joanne Jones –
Attendance officer

And Linnie Freed who has
retired.

New staff joining the school after Easter:

Adam Crawte– Vice Principal

Gareth Thomas–
Assistant Vice Principal

Emergency Contact Details for Parents/Carers

It is extremely important that we have the correct contact details for you in case we have to contact you in an emergency regarding your child. Therefore, if there is a change to your address or telephone numbers, please let our Main Reception Office know as soon as possible.

Community Hub English Skills Course

If any Parents/Carers are interested in improving their English Skills in reading, writing, speaking or listening then please get in touch with our main reception office. The Family Language Learning course will be returning back to the Community Hub in April and there are spaces available should anyone be interested.

DSLVL Soul Band

On Sunday 20th March, the DSLVL Soul Band "Soul Machine" performed in the regional round of the National Festival of Music for Youth. This was held at the Cripps hall in Northampton, and pitted our performers against the best school and county groups from around the country. "Soul Machine" performed Crazy In Love by Beyonce and The Power of Love by Huey Lewis (from Back to the Future). The adjudicators loved our performers, saying that the performance "Oozed class" and incorporated a sense of "power and style" that creates "a party atmosphere". We are now waiting to find out if we will be invited to perform at the finals in Birmingham.



DSLVL Website

Please don't forget to take a look regularly at the DSLVL website: dslv.org.uk where you will find up to date news of all the exciting things going on in the Academy and of course lots of relevant information such as letters that have been sent home, revision classes etc.

YEAR 11 EASTER REVISION SESSIONS - 10AM TO 2PM

29th March - English
30th March - Geography
31st March - History
1st April - Business
4th April - Maths

5th April - Science
6th April - English
7th April - GCSE PE/Drama Rehearsal
8th April - Music Creative Task/Drama Rehearsal

Students are encouraged to attend these sessions

There is a Professional Development Day for all staff on
Monday 11th April — Academy is closed for students.
Start of term and all students back on Tuesday 12th April.