



Academy Articles



DSL V

Nurture | Aspire | Achieve

An E-ACT academy



December 2016

Key Dates

Thursday 5th January 2017

Start of Term 1

Monday 23rd January 2017

Year 10 Vaccinations

Thursday 26th January 2017

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Fri 10th to Sat 18th February '17

Ski Trip to Italy

Friday 10th February 2017

Last day of Term 1



Children In Need

We are pleased to announce that the Non-Uniform day held in aid of Children in Need raised the following amount:

£1137.25



Dear Parents\Carers,

We have come to the end of a long term and the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned break. We are pleased to say that we have been inspired this term by the students and our colleagues and all that they are doing together to make DSLV special, unique and outstanding. In particular, it has been a privilege to be part of the school Pantomime, Nativity, KS2 production and Christmas fayre. These activities in particular have helped us showcase our students' many qualities and positive attitudes which are helping to make DSLV a successful place to learn.

As with all things we would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their time and support for these and other events.

As 2016 closes we say goodbye to the following staff:

Years N-6

- Mrs H Jones
- Mrs S Souter

Years 7-13

- Mrs J Beswick
- Mrs L Leventhal
- Ms D Ratchford
- Mrs C Yates

We are sure that you would like to join us in thanking all of the staff and AAG members at DSLV for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to the students of the school during the year. On behalf of everybody at DSLV, we wish you, your family and the students a peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

Mr S Cotton
Principal DSLV

Mrs Katie Towers
Senior VP – Head of
Primary

HMI Inspection Visit October 2016

DSL V OFSTED

Monitoring visit report – Oct 2016
Headlines

Overall

The HMI is of the opinion that:

Leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of the serious weaknesses designation.

The quality of teaching

Bullet points from the HMI report indicate that Academy leaders.

- ***continue to take effective*** action to address the issues identified in the Ofsted report.
- *have reviewed and, if necessary, revised all of the academy's systems and processes.*
- *have increasingly **used a range of effective systems** and processes to improve both the quality of teaching and the outcomes of the pupils.*
- *evaluation of teaching indicates that the profile of teaching **has improved** and leaders now **judge most teaching good**.*
- *information shows that where leaders have improved teaching, pupils have made better progress and achieved well*

Leadership

Bullet points from the HMI report indicate that Academy leaders.

- *have continued **to improve the leadership** and capacity of the academy by recruiting new staff and providing effective professional development.*
- *have **managed the performance of staff well**, using a range of effective processes and strategies including a suitable programme of monitoring and feedback.*
- *have also provided teachers **with effective professional development***

Attainment

Bullet points from the HMI report indicate that Academy leaders.

- *information shows that pupils have made better progress and achieved well in **reading, writing and mathematics at key stage 1** and **writing and mathematics at key stage 2**.*
- *Pupils' achievement improved at key stage 4 in 2016 so that it was above the government's minimum expectations.*

Behaviour

Bullet points from the HMI report indicate that Academy.

- ***behaviour is good overall*** and that if there were any poor behaviour, including bullying, staff would deal with it well and promptly.
- *A very few pupils who told inspectors that they had been bullied previously are now confident that should it happen again it would be dealt with quickly.*
- *Pupils recognise **that teachers teach them to be safe at school** and in the wider community*

Areas for development

- *the progress of pupils in reading at KS2*
- *progress in some subjects where this has been slower because of the time it has taken leaders to improve the standard of teaching of some individuals*

Primary Harvest Festival



Our Primary Harvest Festival took place on Friday 21st October. It was extremely well attended and the children sounded wonderful singing their harvest songs.

The classes enjoyed making their scarecrows that decorated the hall.

Thanks to the kind and generous donations from parents and carers we were able to donate a worthy amount of non-perishable food to Daventry Food Bank.



Dave and Pauline Mussan from Daventry Food Bank

Citizenship Students



As part of their GCSE Citizenship Coursework, Emma Webb, Katie Print, Jasmine Caldwell and Katelynn Arnold organised a visit to the 'Happy at Home' café in Daventry on Tuesday 6th December.

Their aim was to challenge negative stereotypes of young people in the older generation. The girls organised and held a meeting with Nicola Toms from 'Happy at Home' to prepare for the session. At the café, they painted nails and massaged hands of some of the ladies. Nicola and the

girls were incredibly pleased with the session and are planning another visit in the New Year.

"The customers loved your coming and are thrilled at the brilliant job you have done with their nails." – Nicola Toms



Year 6 Residential Trip

On Monday 7th November a large group of our Year 6 children left school for a trip to the PGL Centre at Liddington near Swindon. What follows is an account of their 5 days and some photos of their time away.

We left DSLV in good spirits and arrived on time to be welcomed by our team leader, Kirsty, who was so enthusiastic. Children were amazed by the spacious rooms in King Edward's house and settled in very quickly.



Afternoon activity on our first day was outside on the Astro turf – Capture the Flag. A lot of energetic children had great fun. Even though it was a mighty cold day on day 2, the weather did not deter our spirits. Activities of Zip wire, Crate challenge, Archery and Survival took place.



Well, what a day it was on day 3! I think we had all seasons. Despite some of the wet weather, the children have been so enthusiastic about their activities. Moral was very high.



It has been so wonderful to see many children challenging themselves, especially on the abseiling tower. The canoeing was such a laugh and the vertical challenge - well, it was extremely high and vertical. However, with the support from their teams, children pushed themselves to their limits without any fuss. Beaming smiles greeted us all when they got further than they ever thought possible. That evening we had a movie night which was enjoyed by all.



We woke up on our last morning to pack, off to breakfast and onto morning activities of trapeze and challenge course. Honestly I think even the SAS would be challenged by it!

The children were praised for their good manners by the staff at the centre which is a credit to them.



A huge thank you to Mr Cooper, Miss Smith and Mrs Connerty for giving up their own time to help and support the children and of course to Mrs Quay who organised this trip. They have been a fantastic team and contributed to the smooth running of the week.

The Year 6 Team

Christmas Fayre



Santa and three of his very best elves were special guests at the Academy Christmas Fayre that took place on Friday 9th December.

The atmosphere in the Junior hall was great and there were stalls galore providing gifts and competitions to take part in. All the Primary and Nursery classes took part in making colour themed Christmas Hampers which contained fabulous donations from parents/carers and staff. These hampers were then part of the Christmas Fayre raffle. There was a prize for the best Year group hamper and Mr Cotton awarded this to Nursery and Reception.



Thanks must go to The Friends of DSLV and Mrs Quy and all the staff involved for their hard work in organising this annual event.

We are pleased to announce that the grand total made from this event is £628.00.



Bin It! Roadshow for Year 7 and 8

On Friday 2nd December the Year 7 and 8 students watched a roadshow on litter called 'Bin It'.

The Bin it! roadshow is a free, award-winning educational event that tackles the issues surrounding anti-social littering, particularly chewing gum, and the correct disposal of litter. This fun and informative show is designed to help students understand their personal and social responsibilities towards their local environment. The Bin it! roadshow takes students on a whistle stop tour of anti-social littering in their school and local neighborhood. It encourages student participation throughout, while delivering key learning points.

The students enjoyed the performance by the two actors whilst learning an important message about keeping their school and neighborhood free from litter.



AQA Unlocking Potential Programme awarded to DSLV!

DSLV has been extremely lucky in gaining two student places on the AQA Unlocking Potential Programme.

AQA Unlocking Potential is run jointly with the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust. The programme motivates and inspires young people aged between 14 and 19 by providing them with eight months of dedicated support from high achieving athletes. As well as receiving in-depth mentoring, the young people plan and deliver a project in their local community.

Mrs Gerrard, Science teacher spotted an advert for the programme and applied on behalf of two of our students. We were then delighted to hear that Milly Hemley and Jake Bullock were both accepted for the Programme. Mrs Gerrard has outlined a little more information below:

'It's a national programme but there is a small number of places (80 children's places I believe) and we were really lucky to be granted places on the scheme.

We will meet our Olympian Jo Jackson, a bronze medal winning swimmer at Beijing games, who also swam (along with her husband Grant) for Team GB at the London 2012 games in the New Year. Both nominated students are very excited to have been accepted and look forward to the challenges ahead, including their organising of a community project.'

Watch this space!



Milly Hemley visiting AQA earlier this term.

Northants Consultation Statement

We have been asked by Northamptonshire County Council Schools Admissions Team to make you aware of the following information:

Consultation on admissions arrangements for Northamptonshire schools for 2018:

Northamptonshire County Council's School Admissions Team is leading a formal consultation on the admission arrangements for mainstream schools within the county for the 2018 entry. The consultation period allows parents, schools, religious authorities and the local community to comment on the proposed admission arrangements.

The consultation period runs from 16th November 2016 – 13th January 2017
Determined arrangements will be available by 28th February 2017
Please visit www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions

Staff Goodbyes

- Mrs J Beswick
- Mrs L Leventhal
- Ms D Ratchford
- Mrs C Yates
- Mrs H Jones
- Mrs S Souter
- Mrs S Hamer

Congratulations!

Well done to Sian Glover; Academy Support Officer who has successfully completed her Apprenticeship in the following; Intermediate Level Apprenticeship in Business Administration.

Congratulations also to Mrs Heffernan; Head of Science who gave birth to a baby girl named Amelia Elsie on Monday 12th December.

DSLVA Academy re-opens to all students on Thursday 5th January 2017.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



New Staff



Miss G Tabor
Academy Support Officer



Mrs N Roys
Teaching Assistant



Miss E Harrison
Year 5 Teacher



Mrs S Houghton
Nursery Nurse



Miss Dodds
BSA



Mr M Adams
Regional Facilities and
H&S Manager



Mrs C Ratcliffe
Senior Academy Support
Officer



Mrs S Esland
Lunchtime Supervisor

Nursery



Mrs J Gundlach
Lunchtime Supervisor
Secondary



Mrs Z Heath
Lunchtime Supervisor

Infants



Mrs S Oakley
Lunchtime Supervisor

