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About us

Da Vinci International College represents the culmination of many years hard work by a passionate team of educationalists to establish a truly unique concept in international education in France. Driven by a strong belief in the crucial role that creativity plays in the education and development of the whole person, Da Vinci International College has striven to find solutions to ensuring that the education we offer is given equal weight to academics, creativity and personal development. To this end, teaching and learning is personalised for each student. We believe that it is important to take into account the differences in how we teach different students. It also means providing flexibility within our curriculum so that in addition to what all students need to learn in common, there are opportunities for them to pursue their individual interests and strengths as well.

"Creativity is putting your imagination to work, and it's produced the most extraordinary results in human culture. The role of a creative leader is not to have all the ideas; it's to create a culture where everyone can have ideas and feel that they're valued."

Sir Ken Robinson

Imprint

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Philosophy

Da Vinci International College International believes that learning is an organic process that evolves at different rates and in various ways for each, individual student. In order to spark their curiosity, young people need to be exposed to as wide a range of academic, creative, personal and physical experiences as possible. By so doing, students are given the opportunity to discover their hidden talents, interests and potential and it is this realisation that truly motivates and drives their learning

Vision

Da Vinci International College aims to create an international community, which promotes life-long learning, creativity and global awareness, in a caring and supportive environment. We strive to provide educational experiences based on rich concepts of human creativity and intelligence, which nurture and develop the wide diversity of talents, interests and abilities within our college community. It is our mission to ensure students are provided with opportunities to realise their hidden talents and interests and excel as creative and motivated lifelong learners.

Core Values

AT DA VINCI COLLEGE

core values and the school culture are extremely important and inform the decisions we make, and the way teachers, colleagues, students and parents interact with each other. Adherence to core values gives rise to observable behaviours which in turn define the unique nature of our school and what we have to offer our parents and students. It is therefore essential that we constantly endeavour to promote our core values in everything we do.

Da Vinci College encourages all members of the school community to be:

- Collaborative
- Reflective
- Inspiring
- Flexible
- Positive
- Honest
- Nurturing

DA VINCI COLLEGE

aims to recruit and retain members of staff that clearly share the schools core values. By so doing, we hope to ensure that we have members of staff that possess the personal qualities and attributes to be a positive role model to both their students and colleagues. It is not unreasonable, therefore, for parents to expect certain standards of personal and professional conduct from our members of staff.

DA VINCI COLLEGE

expects all members of staff to support and respond positively to pupils' innate curiosity and support them in recognising their individual talents, interests and abilities. They should help students negotiate risk and avoid negatively criticising or chastising students for making mistakes. They should also strive to be fair and impartial in all relations with students regardless of race, colour, creed, gender or sexual orientation, economic situation, or social characteristics.

Ultimately, all members of staff should model, promote and assume responsibility for the decent and dignified behaviour of all students without resorting to use of overt actions, except where it is necessary for the safety and welfare of the students and/or teachers.



Our Campus

Da Vinci International College aims to provide the very best in international secondary education. Our beautiful campus is exactly what parents and students would expect of a world-class school. Our spacious Domaine de Montleuze estate, located on the French Riviera has amazing views from numerous terraces and gardens. The campus includes a beautiful and fully renovated chateau, nineteen villas for classrooms and accommodation, swimming pools, sports facilities and much more.

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER CARE

Da Vinci International College provides boarding students with a safe and caring home from home. Students share beautifully furnished villas with bedrooms holding between two to four students, a kitchen and common room. The boarding houses are on campus and adjacent to the main teaching blocks. This means that students do not have to travel from dormitory to school and they are secure within the school's gated campus.





The School Day

At 07:30 boarding students have breakfast in the dining hall. Day students may enter the school from 07:45 through the designated students' entrance and wait in the school canteen before going to classrooms at 08:00. The school's reception area is open to parents and visitors from 08:00 and parents are welcome to relax in the entrance hall. There are a number of parking spaces reserved for parents and a drop-off and collection point in front of the student entrance.

COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

are available in the canteen each morning and we hope that parents use this opportunity to bring their children to school early and get to know other parents and students. It is important to note that teachers may not be available to speak to parents at these times as they may need make final preparations for their lessons.

THE SCHOOL DAY

begins with registration between 08:15 and 08:30. Children should enter the classroom at any time during this fifteen-minute period. Students arriving later than 08:30 should report to the reception desk for registration.

IMPORTANT

No student may remain at school unsupervised at the end of the school day (with the exception of boarders); they must either be registered for an after-school club (see Extra Curricular Activities), join the Extended Day Programme (see below) or be released into the care of an adult. Some senior school students may have permission to go home unaccompanied; however, they may not remain on the school grounds without supervision.

Schedule

THE SCHOOL DAY

07:30 - 08:00 Breakfast for boarders

08:15 - 08:30 Registration

08:30 - 09:15 Period 1

09:20 - 10:05 Period 2

10:05 - 10:30 **Snack Break**

10:30 - 11:15 Period 3

11:20 - 12:05 Period 4

12:10 - 12:55 Period 5

12:55 - 13:55 **Lunch Break**

13:55 - 14:40 Period 6

14:45 - 15:30 Period 7

15:30 - End of Day **Snack**

15:45 - 16:30 School clubs

15:45 - 17:00 Extended Day

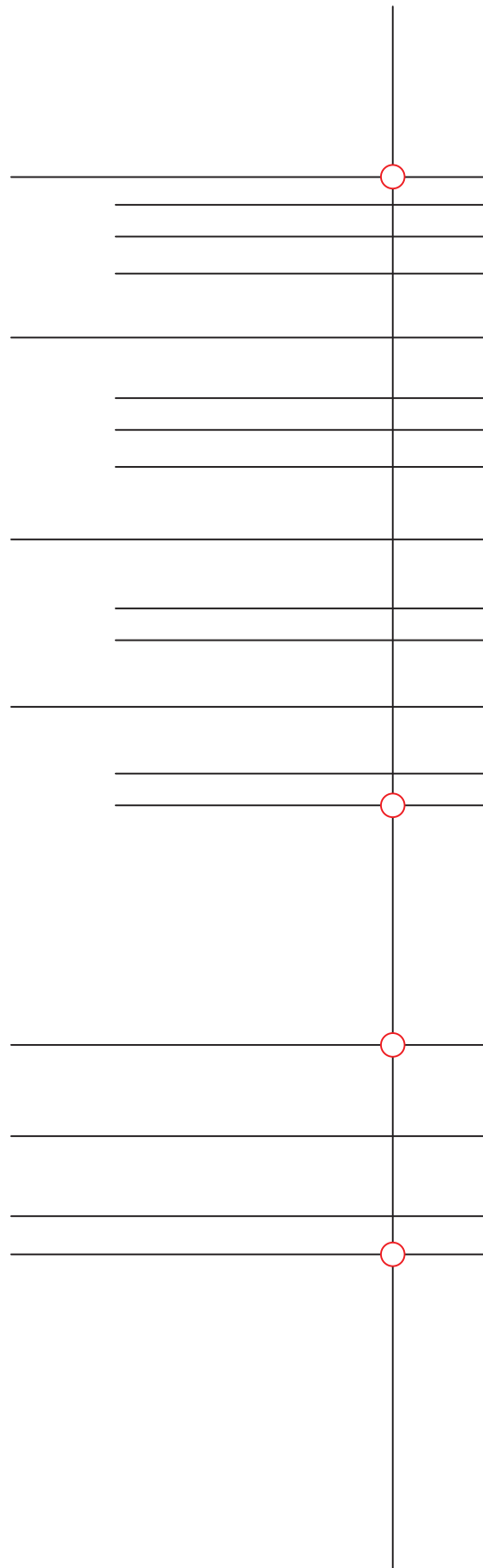
BOARDERS

18:00 Evening snack, after school activities, afternoon study, free time

19:30 Evening Meal in the main dining hall and activities

21:30 Supper and free time*

22:00 - 23:00 Bed and lights out



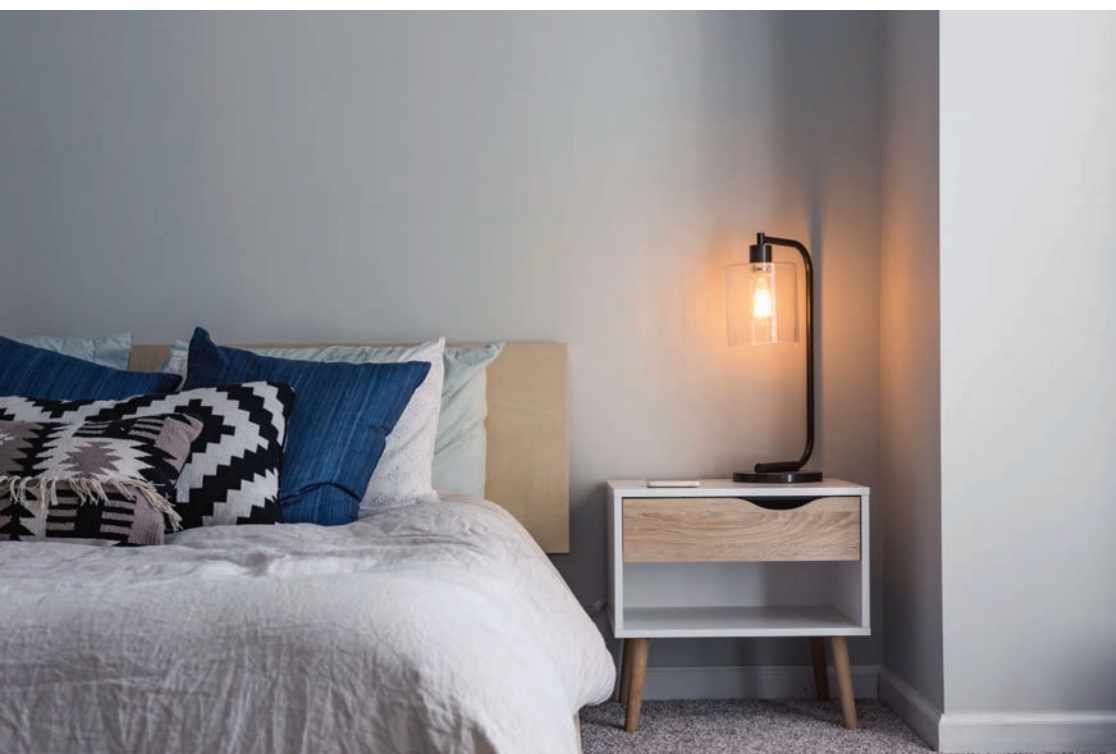
Boarding

Da Vinci International College provides boarding students with a safe and caring home from home. Students share beautifully furnished ensuite rooms for up to three students. Each room comes complete with study space storage and television.

The boarding facility is on campus and adjacent to the main teaching block. This means that students do not have to travel from dormitory to school and they are secure within the school campus itself.

The boarding facility is led by live-in house matron who is on call at any time from 16:30 to the start of morning lessons. Matron is supported by other residential and non-residential staff members such as teaching assistants, security staff, housekeepers and teachers.

Boarding staff share meals with the students, care for the students when they are ill and generally care for their needs. In addition, our boarding matrons organise evening activities and weekend excursions as well as maintain close communication with parents on a continual basis.



Curriculum

MIDDLE SECONDARY IGCSE

(Ages 14 to 16)

Students may choose up to study 10 IGCSEs examination subjects. These include mandatory core subjects:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
(either as a double award subject or a combination of single subjects from Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Students may then choose choice three or four other subjects from the following :

- Geography
- History
- RE
- MFL (Modern foreign languages)
- Business Studies
- ICT (Information and Communication Technology)
- English Literature
- Additional Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Art
- Design Technology
- Media
- Photography
- ... and perhaps a self-study first language





UPPER SECONDARY IGCSE

(Ages 14 to 16)

Da Vinci College would also like to give students the option of studying BTEC courses. In Years 12 and 13 (16 – 18 years), Da Vinci International College plans to offer A-Level courses with AS and A-Level qualifications, and BTEC in 5 subjects.

PARENT LED CLUBS

Some private activities and clubs are arranged on the school premises by parents. If parents wish, they can use the school premises for a club or activity such as guitar, piano lessons, English Language Support, French, Russian or other language teaching. All such activities must be approved in advance and run during official school times (15:54 to 16:30). Application forms should be sent along with clubs sign-up forms to the school office.

SCHOOL CLUBS

After School Clubs

Da Vinci International School aims to offer an extensive programme of after-school activities including art, dance, sport, gymnastics, choir, musical training, computer activities, design and technology, drama and much more. Clubs run from 15:45 to 16:30 after which students may attend the Extended Day programme until 17:00.

A clubs list and registration form will be sent to all parents at the beginning of the second week of each term and students may choose which age appropriate clubs they wish to join. Parents should sign and return the application form and as soon as possible as some clubs may be restricted to a small number of students.

If a student is unable to attend their club at any time and for any reason, parents should inform the school no later than 12:00 of the day of the club so that their child's name can be removed from the daily register.

Meals and Snacks

HEALTHY FOOD

Da Vinci College believes our children need, and deserve, healthy food. This does not mean that school food has to be boring or bland. We aim to offer a choice of foods that is 'student friendly' and appealing to young people while remaining a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, lean proteins and whole grains.

LUNCH

All students have one hour for lunch breaks and additional snack breaks. A choice of hot school lunches and fruit and vegetables are freshly prepared in the school kitchen and available to all students. The cost of school lunches and snacks is not included in general school fees. This allows parents the option of providing their children with a packed lunch prepared at home. The lunch times are staggered to avoid canteen congestion and to give children more space on the school field, courtyard or the large gym during bad weather. Teachers encourage students to eat but NEVER put pressure on them to do so. If a teacher has concerns about a child's eating habits, parents will be contacted to discuss the matter.

SCHOOL KITCHEN

Lunches are prepared by in the school kitchen and the college will invoice parents directly. Similarly, any issues regarding lunches and snacks should be communicated directly to the the school. This is also the case for parents of children with special dietary requirements who wish to ensure their child's needs are catered for.

MENU

A menu with a choice of lunches is emailed to parents and a reminder posted in the school's newsletter.



Reporting

Da Vinci College provides students and parents with regular progress reports. These reports range from mini reports containing simple levels of expectation to detailed reports based on standardised test results. Our grading system may seem complex at first sight, but it is designed to align international levels of attainment.

REPORTING PROGRESS

Towards the end of September, parents are invited to an informal meeting to discuss how their child is settling into the new academic year. In February and June, parents are given a comprehensive report prior to a more formal meeting with class/subject teachers. The report details a child's attainment and progress made throughout the term/year and the focused targets for the next learning phase. Student levels will be reported based on the Da Vinci's curriculum (see above).



Dress Code

NO HARD AND FAST RULES

Da Vinci College does not have hard and fast rules regarding the way our students dress. As we wish to promote individuality, creativity and self-expression, we choose to avoid implementing an over prescriptive dress code. Despite this, we believe our students should learn to make reasonable, well considered choices when deciding what to wear at school.

01

Consider what the real purpose of being at school is. Clothes that you would normally choose to wear to a party or nightclub might not be suitable.

02

Chose looser-fitting, comfortable clothing that allows freedom of movement. Constrictive clothing such as tight jeans can be very uncomfortable to wear for a long period of time - such as an eight-hour school day.

03

Try to wear comfortable shoes, trainers or indoor shoes such as clogs. High heel shoes are less than ideal for walking on different surfaces or up and down stairs.

04

Consider showing some degree of modesty. School is not really the place to make a fashion statement or attract attention.

05

Think about safety issues related to the wearing of jewellery. Long, hanging earrings and necklaces can catch on objects or hair and are easily ripped out.

Communication

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

At the beginning of the school year, an academic calendar is sent, giving the schedule for parent meetings, examinations, events and the dates on which progress reports are to be issued and so on.

HALF-TERMLY OVERVIEWS

Parents of children in Primary and Lower Secondary Years are sent a half-termly overview at the beginning of each half-term (roughly each six to eight weeks) indicating the areas of study and general activities that their children can expect to be taught during the following six to eight weeks.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Detailed information about life in school is communicated via the School Newsletter on Sunday afternoons. Parents are welcome to contribute to the newsletter and submissions should be sent to the school office on the Thursday prior to publication. School trips are announced in the newsletter at least a full week in advance of the trip so that it appears in two editions. Detailed information concerning trips are also sent separately to the parents of students taking part in the trip (see School Trips).

An additional newsletter is sent to parents whose children board at the school.

QUICKSCHOOLS

Quickschools provides parents with the following services:

- 01 Parent Portal to track students' progress
- 02 Homework Management
- 03 Student Information
- 04 Attendance Information

PARENT PORTAL

The parent portal enables parents to be connected to their student's classroom and teachers 24 hours a day. This feature keeps parents involved and actively participating in their child's education. The information available to parents in the parent portal is completely customizable by the school and includes attendance records, grades, classroom assignments, calendars, a message board, basic student and parent information and much more.

TRACKING PROGRESS

With the Parent Portal, parents don't have to wait and hope that their students will give them the materials they need in order to stay informed. Instead, parents can get the information they want from their own computer and that information comes straight from the teachers and school. Information in the portal is always up to date.

OPEN COMMUNICATION

Sometimes, parents and students have questions that must be addressed before the start of the next school day, especially if they are questions regarding homework, testing, and projects due the next day. Parents may also want to touch base with their student's teachers if they have questions, suggestions, or comments regarding classroom activities, attendance, discipline issues, or grades. The Parent Portal includes a communications feature which enables parents to send private messages directly to their child's teachers.



Joining

DA VINCI INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Students considering joining the college will be offered a 1 to 5 day trial period to assess whether the college is a good fit for them and to allow them to experience life at Da Vinci. Following the trial period, prospective students will be asked to complete an entrance test, the results of which may determine whether he or she is offered a place at the college. The test is computerised and tests a student's aptitude for learning rather than previous learning and knowledge. To this end, the test

assesses aspects such as non-verbal reasoning, phonics awareness, visual and auditory memory and so on. The assessment provides a diagnostic tool which allows us to implement strategies to best suit the student's learning style while highlighting any specific learning difficulties that the student may have. If the college feels that a student has specific learning difficulties, or other special educational needs that cannot be adequately catered for at Da Vinci, an offer of placement may be declined.

The results of entrance tests are shared with parents, together with a printout of the results, conclusions and any recommendations.





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