

DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you to detail our end of term arrangements and the arrangements for the start of the new academic year 2024-25. We will shortly be publishing our final parent newsletter of the year; "1894". This will describe the many activities, opportunities, and successes of our school community this year.

Recently we hosted our 240 +Year 6 cohort for their taster day. What a great bunch of kids! They all had a great day – leaving with their own coats of arms, a Vale water bottle and students from the winning House – Curie with a huge slab of dairy milk each. We look forward to seeing them all in September to begin their school experience at Vale. Start dates and times for different year groups are listed below.

In the short term I would like to thank parents for your support this academic year. This week has been a busy one even by Vale standards. Our students have undertaken their GL assessments (a nationally standardised test in English, Maths and Science). Students have also enjoyed their annual Sports Days. The focus of these has been on active participation over elitism! Students have had opportunities to compete in dodgeball, rounders, basketball and netball, athletics, and relay. The activities have been spread across Monday to Thursday with year 7 starting the ball rolling on Monday and concluded with year 10 on Thursday.

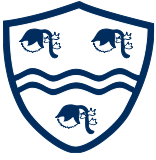
In the final week students will enjoy their "Rewards Day" with Vale students visiting the Trafford Centre, Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Blackpool Zoo and participating in a range of exciting school-based activities.

We will close to students on Thursday 18th July at 12.30pm. A text was sent out on 9th July confirming that any student who requires a packed lunch as part of their free school meal allowance should have ordered a "grab bag" at the canteen by lunchtime Thursday 11th July. If any student hasn't done this yet, please email ckenyon@darwenvale.com

We are really excited about the addition of our key stage 5 provision in the shape of D6. Students from Darwen Vale now can continue their education at Vale after year 11. We are offering A levels in History, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths, and for students who wish to pursue other options we are working in collaboration with DACA and DAES. We have really invested and D6 will have a designated area within Vale with a separate entrance, study suite with PCs and common room with pool table, table tennis and arcade games.

As an Academy we have decided to change the ties that students will be wearing to feature a coloured stripe of the House that they belong to. All students in current years 8 and 9 will be able to exchange their KS3 ties for a House Tie in September. House ties will only be available to purchase from school via Parent Pay. Please ensure that for September your child is fully equipped for learning, and in the correct uniform and appearance. Our policy on equipment and uniform can be found on our website.

Due to increased pupil numbers, we are making some slight changes to the timetable and creating some extra bands, to ensure that all students have access to every curriculum area and to ensure that class sizes remain small. There will therefore be band changes for a small number of students in Years 8 to 10. Students will be able to access their timetable on Student Portal from 1st September.



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We look forward to welcoming back students on Wednesday 4th September at the following times and line up location:

Year Group	Arrival Location	Arrival Time
7	STEM Garden	8:25
11	Peace Garden	8:25
12	DACA	8:25

On Thursday 5th September we will be looking forward to fully opening to all students and greeting students at their year group line ups:

Year Group	Arrival Location	Arrival Time
7	STEM Garden	8:25
8	Amphitheatre	8:25
9	Amphitheatre	8:25
10	STEM Garden	8:25
11	Peace Garden	8:25

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Little
Principal