



# 1894 NEWSLETTER - End of Term July 2023 Edition

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*We are pleased to present the eighth edition of our 1894 Newsletter. In this edition, you will read about some of the highlights of this term's subject activities and also a few of the exciting trips a selection of our students have taken part in. All articles have been written by students at Darwen Vale.*

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## In This Issue

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter which is full of the latest news and events from Darwen Vale High School.

### **This month will include:**

Principal's Message

### **Subjects:**

- Art
- Drama
- English
- Geography
- History
- Maths

- Sport
- Science

**Personal Development:**

- Access Project
- Parliamentary Talk
- Student Ambassador Scheme
- Bank of England Talk
- Brook Sessions

**Extra and Super Curricular:**

- Club Timetable
- Lego Club

**Endeavour and Aspire:**

- Community Park Volunteering
- Cricket Club Volunteering

**Special Events:**

- Sir Rod Aldridge Visits Vale

## Principal's Message



## Subjects

### Art



[Click to Browse Images of our Students' Work](#)





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Year 7 students produced some superb drawings and paintings based on the theme of Sweet Treats

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For their first taste of art at DVHS, the Year 7 pupils have focused on colour theory, observational drawing techniques and tonal shading this year.

Year 7 students produced some superb drawings and paintings based on the theme of Sweet Treats, which was also the theme to inspire Year 7 to create a range of stunning Textile Keyrings and to sculpt 3-Dimensional clay Biscuit Barrels.

Having already studied Art at Vale for a year, the Year 8 students were given a bit more of a challenge. The students were tasked with exploring the tricky skill of perspective drawing. To help them, they have studied the work of local artist L.S Lowry, to inspire their drawings and paintings of traditional mill town street scenes.

The 20th Century art movements such as "Pop Art" and "Op Art" were the focus for Year 8 creativity this year. The Swedish born, American sculptor Claus Oldenburg was the inspiration for a range of quirky ceramic can sculptures, whilst Op artists Victor Vasarely and Bridget Riley were the inspiration for textile cushions.

Year 9 students, fully fledged artists by now, were given the theme of Identity for the pupils to roll with this year. This theme has allowed Year 9 to explore a range of techniques in both 2D and 3D, as well as being able to explore themselves as individuals.

The pupils were encouraged to represent themselves using everyday objects in a series of Indirect Self-Portraits inspired by Michael Craig Martin and the formal elements of shape, colour, line and form.

Year 9 have further consolidated the ceramic techniques of modelling and carving whilst sculpting Pop Art Portraits. Using the influence of Pop artist Roy Lichtenstein pupils have made their own Pop Portraits of themselves or famous figures.

## Drama

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The Drama department have been hard at work developing their performances as part of their practical GCSE Drama exam.

Year 10 have undertaken Component 2 of their GCSE course. Developing scripted performances from page to stage has been quite the task for many of the aspiring artists.

Despite this, Mr Bebro commented that some outstanding performances were seen and that all the students worked incredibly hard in bringing their characters to life.

Year 11 completed their Component 3, they devised performances from a stimulus. This year the brief stated the performances must reflect the positive impact young people have on their wider community.

From the prompt provided by the stimulus, we saw students develop performances with themes of the butterfly effect, social media, the media and charity work. All groups went above and beyond researching aspects of their themes and creating original pieces of work using a range of theatrical styles.

A massive well done to Year 11 from Mr Bebro and a huge "Break a Leg!" from the rest of us at Vale.



1 - A massive well done to Year 11 from Mr Bebro and a huge "Break a Leg!" from the rest of us at Vale.

## English

Year 11 students went to a performance of the Willy Russel play: Blood Brothers at Blackpool's Winter Gardens. This was fully paid for, and all students and staff had an incredible time!

In KS3, a group of students were able to go to an AIM Higher writing workshop at Pleckgate, where a writer delivered the session. This was a great experience for our students who might not otherwise get this kind of cultural exposure.

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**World Book Day 2023** - students in KS3 enjoyed various activities throughout the day relating to their teacher's favourite 'author'. These included: Rowling, Orwell, Fitzgerald, Ishiguro, Austen, Bronte and Dahl. Activities included creative writing, book cover designing and poetry.



## Geography



*2 - Sunny Hurst Woods - Geography Field Trip - March 2023*

In March our Year 11 Geography students completed some academic fieldwork at Sunnyhurst Woods. Visiting a local ecosystem was a great opportunity for Vale students to relate the subject they enjoy and study to an environment they are more familiar with (a local park).

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Visiting a local ecosystem was a great opportunity for Vale students

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They utilised their geographical (and some mathematical) skills measuring the depth and breadth of the stream.

They were also given the opportunity to do an air quality survey on the way, demonstrating their ability to utilise many physical skills that can't be taught in any classroom (not even at Vale!).

## History

In January, our Year 9 cohort were able to hear from Holocaust survivor Ruth Posner BEM.

Ruth gave a fascinating talk to students about her life in the deprived Warsaw ghetto, experiences after the Second World War and some heart-warming memories of her childhood.

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The historians of DVHS know how important the skill of empathy is, so we give a great big thank you to Ruth for sharing some of her harrowing experiences with us, so we can better understand the mindsets of those who suffered as a result of the Holocaust.



*3 - Holocaust Survivor - Ruth Posner BEM*