



DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

10th December 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I write to you at the end of the Autumn Term. I do hope you had the chance to read the 5th edition of our school newsletter, 1894. This was issued in November so I am conscious to avoid any overlap with that celebration of school events and achievements. It has been a whirlwind of a term and I can hardly believe it is Christmas already!

I must congratulate the whole school community on how well the students have readapted to mask wearing in recent weeks but it has been great to get back to some sort of normality from September. This allowed us to reintroduce many of our extra-curricular activities. We have seen the usual sporting successes that we come to expect from Vale students. Particularly successes have included our cross country, football and rugby teams. It has also been great to see a flourishing dodgeball club!

Our remembrance assembly was commended by all the local dignitaries who attended the school service and the wreath laying service at Darwen cemetery. Our students were impeccable, conducting readings and representing the school to pay our respects in a truly moving service.

It was fantastic to celebrate our student's success in the Key Stage 3 and 4 Awards evenings. Parents and students joined us to award subject prizes for all year groups from 8 – 11 from last year. Progress and attainment prizes were won and special service to the school awards also. At the KS4 evening it gave us a great opportunity to welcome back the class of 2021, present them with their GCSE certificates and see a brilliant video montage of their time at Darwen Vale with some great pictures of their time at the school – not so sure they would all agree!

As part of our festive Celebrations we will be having a Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 16th December. Should your child wish to partake in this they will need to bring £1 to wear a jumper. All the money collected will be donated to Blackburn Food Bank. Please be aware that this is only a Christmas jumper day and not a non-uniform day. All students taking part will still be required to wear school uniform from the waist down, those not taking part will be required to attend school in full uniform. Along with this our catering staff will be serving Christmas Dinner on the same day. This will be the only item served from the canteen at the cost of £2.20. Should your child not wish to have the Christmas meal they will need to bring a pack lunch.

For the final day of term (17th December) we will be closing at 12:30pm and attendance is mandatory. The final day will begin with form period, followed by periods 1 and 2. These lessons taught will be curriculum lessons. Period three will then be a celebration assembly delivered through TEAMS where your son/daughter could gain rewards for exceptional academic progress. There will also be an attendance prizes awarded as part of our 10 days of Christmas. There will be two £50 vouchers available and one lucky student will win an Amazon Fire HD Tablet.

Please note that all students will return to school at the usual time of 8.45am on Tuesday 4th January.

As part of current Government Guidance (subject to change), your child will be tested during the first week of return in January 2022. We would also like to encourage parents to ensure your child is tested at home

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Darwen Vale High School is a member of the Aldridge Education family of schools.
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throughout the festive period as per Government Guidance. The children who will be tested on site in the first week will be those who have already registered for Covid testing. Should you wish for your child to be tested in school or withdrawn from testing, please email contact@darwenvale.com.

Timetable for testing is below:

Tuesday 4 th January	Year 7 and 10
Wednesday 5 th January	Year 8
Thursday 6 th January	Year 9
Friday 7 th January	Year 11

May I take this opportunity to wish you a restful Christmas holiday.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Little
Principal