



DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

30th November 2021

Dear Parent /Carer,

Along with this letter I am attaching the link from the news release from Blackburn with Darwen issued on the 17th November 2021: <https://theshuttle.org.uk/five-ways-we-can-all-keep-blackburn-with-darwens-covid-rates-low/>

If you are not familiar with this press release it details some of the statistics in the region relating to Covid transmission, hospitalisations and vaccination statistics. In brief Professor Harrison, the Director of Public Health for the region, is recommending that students in Secondary schools return to wearing face coverings.

Current Government guidance issued on Monday is that face masks are recommended to be worn by staff, pupils and adult visitors in communal areas. We at Darwen Vale want to ensure that we are doing all we can to protect our students and our community. As such I will be delivering assemblies throughout this week strongly encouraging students to wear a face covering in communal areas. These will include corridors and the dining areas. Pupils should also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and dedicated transport to and from school.

Students are expected to bring their own face covering. Where students forget or are unable to source one we will provide in the first instance. We do not, however, have an unlimited supply. Repeated failure to bring a face covering will be sanctioned like any other uniform transgression.

If your child has a reason to be declared exempt, please write a note to your child's form tutor, outlining why they are exempt. A pass will be issued to your child the same day. They must keep this pass on them at all times and show it to any member of staff who asks.

We will be ensuring that all other precautionary measures are in place. These include:

- Enhanced cleaning
- Access to hand sanitiser
- Encouragement of hand washing and social distancing where possible

If parents wish to discuss the matter in person please do not hesitate to contact school.

During October we facilitated COVID vaccinations as school, should your child have been unable to receive a vaccine at Vale and you now wish for your child to receive one you will need to book a vaccination appointment, online, for an appointment at a vaccination centre or pharmacy. We also have a supply of tests kits available at school. Should you have registered for testing in the past and have no further kits at home please ask your son/daughter to collect additional kits from school. If you did not register, but now wish to register for testing, please contact the school reception. You are also able to collect test kits for your local pharmacy.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Little
Principal

Darwen Vale High School, Blackburn Road, Darwen, BB3 0AL | Tel: 01254 223000 |

Darwen Vale High School is a member of the Aldridge Education family of schools.
Aldridge Education is registered in England & Wales number 05670663
Registered Address: 3rd Floor, 8 City Road, London, EC1Y 2AA
www.darwenvale.com | contact@darwenvale.com
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