



DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

During the lockdown we have attempted to provide online “live teaching” for Year 11 and Year 10 initially and have recently extended that to year 9. Year 11 online teaching has ceased now, and we are in the final stages of submitting assessment grades to the exam boards

Students have really bought into online learning with some great statistics for engagement with the online lessons. We know that students have potentially missed over a term of “in school” learning and that is ground that we will need to make up.

It is not just year 10 students that will be competing with their peers nationally. As the period of closure grows longer we are acutely aware of the need for DVHS to provide online tuition for all our students. I shared recently some interesting statistics that are emerging about the gaps between state school pupils and their more affluent peers in private schools.

We are determined that Vale students will not be left behind and to that end we are preparing for Year 8 students to begin an online learning schedule from 22nd June.

We have had superb engagement from our students in years 7 and year 8 with the online work we have provided through the class charts platform. However, we recognise the need for these year groups to experience some “live teaching” and we have developed a plan to enable year students to access online learning with minimal training and have produced a timetable for students in Key stage 3.

The year 8 timetable is printed below. **Live online sessions are clearly labelled.**

Time YEAR 8	Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00 – 09:50	1	Maths- Live TEAMS session	Complete work for History, Geography and MFL	Maths- Live TEAMS session	Complete work for Create, Computer Science & Drama, Music and Dance	Maths- Live TEAMS session
10:00 - 10:50	2					
11:00 – 11:50	3	Science- Live TEAMS session		Science- Live TEAMS session		Science- Live TEAMS session
13:00 - 13:50	4	English- Live TEAMS session		English- Live TEAMS session		English- Live TEAMS session
14:00 – 14:50	5					

When your child logs on to ClassCharts, the links needed for each live session will be in their homework section (For example: ‘English Live Lessons’). A different link is needed for each session however these will

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be clearly labelled with the date. Your child simply needs to click this link, or copy and paste it into the internet browser, and the session will load. It will ask your child whether they want to view the session via the app (which is free to download) or view on the web. Both ways will work although the web view may be easier for pupils who are unfamiliar to TEAMS to navigate. A timetable containing the links will also be sent weekly via email to yourself and your child's school email address.

Before the live session starts it will display 'This live event has not started yet'. The session will commence at the time stated on the timetable. There will be two subject specialist members of staff in the session. Once delivering the lesson and one to answer any questions which students may have about their learning. Staff will talk through with your child how to submit work in each session.

If your child is unable to access the internet to view the live sessions for English, Maths and Science, work is continuing to be set for these subjects on Classcharts. Work for all other subjects is continuing to be set on Classcharts as normal. If your child is unable to access the work provided online for any reason, please contact Mrs Belham (lbelham@darwenvale.com) and a home learning pack will be delivered for your child. If your child accesses and submits work for the Live event session, **they will not be** expected to also complete the work set on ClassCharts for that subject although it is there for extra learning should they want it.

As much as these efforts to provide the best education we can during lockdown are important, we understand they are no replacement for school.

I look forward to seeing our young people back at school as soon as it is safe.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Little

Principal