



DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

June 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

RE: Year 10 into Year 11

I would like to take the opportunity to outline some of the key dates over the next few weeks and give you a flavour of our expectations and the support we will provide for your child's final year at Darwen Vale.

As I am sure we are all aware it is increasingly competitive in the world of further education and employment. For children leaving school it is vital that they are equipped with the knowledge and skills that will make them successful, but also that they have a broad suite of qualifications achieved at grades that reflect their ability. We also need to ensure that we provide them with effective guidance around their career aspirations.

Year 11 are coming to the end of their GCSE examinations and, as I am sure you are aware, these exams are incredibly challenging. More than ever these examinations are based on knowledge retention and recall of that knowledge in a final exam. In just English, Maths and Science your child will sit 13 formal examinations. That is without any of their option subjects.

The best way we can help them through this is to ensure that they are adequately prepared. Over the next two weeks we will be preparing them for their end of year 10 mock examinations. These will commence on the 18th June. I delivered an assembly on Thursday that focused on the revision strategies that have been proven to have the greatest impact on exam success. Year 10 students should be revising for these exams now. We will be delivering further assemblies this week on revision strategies in English, Maths and Science. These mock examinations will provide us with a baseline of where year 10 are now. What would they get if they sat the exam now? What can they do and what can they not? Year 11 will effectively be a gap filling exercise for the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to be successful in summer 2020. Therefore, it is vital that we have an accurate picture.

Following the mocks we will share this data with students and parents. You will receive a QLA (Question level analysis) for each subject that shows clearly for each question in each paper what mark they scored. This will enable you to support your child over the coming weeks and months. We will provide each child with a summer work pack. All the evidence suggests that children can stagnate or worse still regress during the long summer break so we want them to keep their minds active. This will be reasonable; we don't expect them to be working 9-3 every day!

Next year they will be expected to attend our year 11 period 5 session on three days a week. These will take place Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3.15 – 4.15. This is not optional it is compulsory. We have had almost 100% attendance this year from our Year 11 students and we are confident that the exam results this year will see a significant increase as a result.

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Darwen Vale High School is a member of the Aldridge Education family of schools.

Aldridge Education is registered in England & Wales number 05670663

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We will increase the number of parents evenings and progress evenings. These will take place in September, January and March. The purpose of these will be to provide parents and students with accurate and regular feedback about progress and resources and guidance on preparing for the examination.

Other initiatives will include developing confidence and overcoming anxiety workshops for groups of Year 10 pupils and leadership training for the new Prefect team.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Sterland, Mr Goulding or Mrs Cull if you have any questions regarding any of this information.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Little
Principal