

# DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy



02 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we return from the Summer Break, I would like to take the opportunity to revisit our uniform expectations.

Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community, creates equality and helps students to feel pride in their school. It also helps prepare students for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for or wear a uniform for work.

With a new academic year ahead of us we believe it is time to clarify our expectations of uniform for parents/carers and students. Students will also be receiving these messages throughout assembly and tutor time in our first week back.

Our uniform policy is available on our website for further reference, but please see the guidance below:

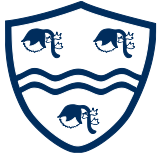
**Skirts** – Plain black, stitch down pleat (please ask uniform supplier for the official Darwen Vale skirt). **Please note an elasticated waist band, box pleat skirt is not acceptable.** As of August 2022, any newly purchased school skirt will feature our school badge which must be clearly visible at all times. **Waistbands must also be flat at all times.**



**Socks** – Students who are wearing a skirt are permitted to wear black, knee length socks due to the predicted hot weather in September. Parents/carers **will be notified when tights must be worn**. Students are not permitted to wear ankle socks, or socks with any ribbons or patterns. Any students choosing to wear socks must ensure they **always have their waistband flat**. Members of staff will be enforcing this, and your support at home in ensuring that this is not a difficult conversation is appreciated.

**Tie** – Official school tie must be always worn. Students must not remove any other students tie. Students in Year 7 and Year 10 will be wearing the new House Ties which are available to purchase on Parent Pay, and students in the remaining year group will be expected to wear their usual tie.

**Blazer and Jumper** – Official school blazer must be worn at all times, again as the weather is predicted to be warm throughout September students may remove their blazer in lessons and do not need to wear their jumper to school. Parents/carers **will be notified when jumpers must be worn**.



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**Shoes** – black leather or simulated leather, no branding and **no trainers**. Examples below:



**Make up, false eyelashes, false nails, nail varnish or jewellery** – must not be worn for school. Items of jewellery which are not in line with the policy will be confiscated. If ears are already pierced, only one small, plain gold or silver-coloured stud (no jewels) may be worn in each ear lobe. No other body piercing is allowed, e.g., nose studs, tongue piercings or other ear piercings. All studs should be removed for PE for health and safety purposes.

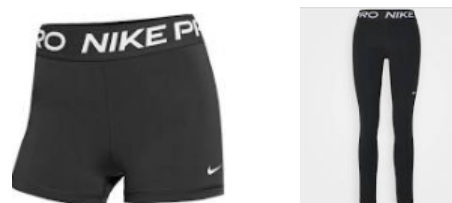
**PE kit** – The School Council recently designed a new Darwen Vale PE kit, which is more comfortable for students and cheaper for parents/carers. For Year 6 into Year 7 students this will be compulsory for September 2023. For existing students, they can continue to wear their current blue PE kit until they leave Darwen Vale High School. However, if existing students wish to purchase the new PE kit, or wear black shorts or tracksuit bottoms, they are more than welcome to. Going forwards, the only two items of PE kit which must be purchased from the approved uniform suppliers are the ¼ zip and the t-shirt which are shown in the images below. Students must then wear either black shorts or black tracksuit bottoms. **Not sports leggings, 'Nike Pro's' or cycling shorts of any kind.**

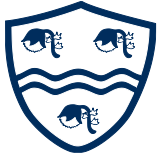


¼ zip



T-shirt





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If you are experiencing any financial difficulty in purchasing school uniform or PE kit, please do not hesitate to ask if we can be of any support by contacting your child's Head of Year on the details below:

- Year 7 – Claire McKenna [Claire.mckenna@darwenvale.com](mailto:Claire.mckenna@darwenvale.com)
- Year 8 – Jonathan Ainsworth [jonathan.ainsworth@darwenvale.com](mailto:jonathan.ainsworth@darwenvale.com)
- Year 9 – Annie Dixon [annie.dixon@darwenvale.com](mailto:annie.dixon@darwenvale.com)
- Year 10 – Traci Scott [TScott@darwenvale.com](mailto:TScott@darwenvale.com)
- Year 11 – Darren Adcroft [DAdcroft@darwenvale.com](mailto:DAdcroft@darwenvale.com)

The official Darwen Vale Uniform Suppliers are below:

- Whittakers School Wear - <https://www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk/product-category/blackburn/darwen-vale-high-school/>
- Grays School Wear - <https://www.graysschoolwear.co.uk/collections/darwen-vale>
- Snazzys - <https://snazzysschool.wixsite.com/snazzys>

We will be enforcing the uniform policy when we return on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September with zero tolerance of infringements. On the first day back, staff will check the uniform of all students at the gate and in the morning line up.

Any students not in the correct uniform will be asked to go home to correct the infringement where appropriate or be asked to borrow the correct uniform from our uniform store. Government guidance states that where there is a breach of the school uniform policy, either a headteacher – or someone authorised by the headteacher – can ask a student to go home to remedy the uniform breach. This is not an exclusion but an authorised absence unless the student continues to breach the policy to avoid school by being sent home or takes longer than necessary to make the change the students' absence may be counted as unauthorised absence.

We look forward to your support in ensuring all students are treated equally, present themselves fantastically in school and in the community and trust the guidance above makes things much clearer for everyone.

We look forward to welcoming back students on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at the following times and line up location:

Year Group	Arrival Location	Arrival Time
7	Peace Garden	8:25
8	Amphitheatre – Darwen Side	8:25
9	STEM Garden – Roadside	8:25
10	Amphitheatre – Blackburn Side	8:25
11	STEM Garden – School Side	8:25

Yours sincerely

Mr M Little

Principal