

DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

July 2022

Dear parent/carers,

I am writing to inform you about changes to the school calendar, school day and start dates for September.

As stated in a previous letter, from September the school is launching a brand new and improved management information system called BROMCOM which will replace our current systems (e.g. SIMS, Classcharts, parent communication). As this is a mammoth task, that will require significant time spent on training all staff, we have made the decision to deliver this through INSET days in September. School will open for all pupils on Thursday 8th September 2022 at 8:40am for student line up. The year groups will line up in the following areas. Please ensure you have checked our uniform and equipment expectations as listed on our website so your child is fully compliant.

Year group	Line up area
7	STEM Garden (Blackburn Side)
8	STEM Garden (Blackburn Side)
9	Amphitheatre (Rear of building)
10	Amphitheatre (Rear of building)
11	Peace Garden

There will also be two additional training days next academic year which I would like to give you advance notice of – 30th September 2022 and 17th April 2023. These are INSET days delivered by Aldridge Education. We will be sending further communication regarding this before September.


I am also writing to inform you about a very slight adjustment to our school day. On 23rd June I wrote to you proposing a 5-minute reduction in the break period. I encouraged stakeholders to feedback their views on this. In total we received only three adverse opinions on this proposal and given that our student number is well over 950 now and soon to be closer to 1100 we believe that parents have given us the mandate to push forward with this change.

Breaktime will be reduced from 20 minutes to 15 minutes in line with most secondary schools. The time will be added on to our tutor time with the aim of improving our pastoral care and developing form tutor/student relationships. This additional time will give us an additional 25 minutes each week to deliver our Vale Values programme. This is our course to deliver statutory citizenship, PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) SRE (Sex and Relationships Education and FBV (Fundamental British Values).

Finally, I would like to remind parents about our end of year arrangements. Thursday 21st July is the last day of the summer term. School will be closing to students at 12:30pm, should your child be eligible for free school meals please ensure they have ordered a *grab bag* for dinner from their form tutor should they require one.

The last day of term is non-uniform day, this will cost the students £1 which should have been paid before Thursday. Clothing worn on non-uniform day needs to be school appropriate. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your child a safe and restful summer break and look forward to working with you all in the autumn team (School restarts at 8:45am on Thursday 8th September).

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Little
Principal