



DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

INFORMATION ABOUT DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

Darwen Vale High School is situated in Darwen, East Lancashire and became an Aldridge Academy in December 2014. The Academy serves the areas of Darwen and Blackburn and nearby districts and is located on the site of the old Darwen Grammar school. We moved into our brand new accommodation in September 2012. The rebuild combined historic aspects of the old grammar school with state of the art modern facilities, including open learning environments, a dedicated sports centre and a 3G Astroturf. Our current workforce totals ninety-nine teaching and support staff.

Although we are a non-selective school, catering for children of all abilities, the MAT and our own Local Governing committee intend that Darwen Vale High School will be known for its academic rigour and commitment to excellence. Our vision is to provide an outstanding and enjoyable education, ensuring that all pupils achieve beyond their personal expectations and prior attainment.

Ethos and Values

Darwen Vale High School is open on equal terms to children of all denominations and faiths and those with no religious background. No faith criteria will be applied either in admissions or in staff recruitment. The Academy's values of entrepreneurial qualities including passion, determination, problem solving, risk taking, teamwork, creativity underpin all its activities and are threaded through its policies, procedures and codes of practice. There are high expectations of all pupils as the Academy establishes itself as an inclusive and safe community with a strong culture of learning. All staff are expected to model pro-social behaviour.

Strong links are being established with parents and the local community. Darwen Vale High School is particularly keen to narrow the achievement gap between children from disadvantaged homes and those from more affluent backgrounds and there is a strong emphasis on raising literacy and numeracy skills. The highest standard of pastoral care is a priority, in order to secure the best possible outcomes for all our pupils.

The curriculum

The Academy's curriculum is innovative and designed to stimulate and stretch pupils. (see curriculum policy on website) It is delivered within the context of strong pastoral support, via a model that is nurturing and caring and aims to ease the transition and bridge the gap between primary and secondary school. An enrichment programme will provide additional opportunities for all pupils to extend their learning and engage in new activities. Educational visits and Out of School activities contribute to the delivery of the curriculum.

The Academy day

The Academy day operates from 8.45am to 3.15pm from Monday to Friday. A Breakfast Club is available from 8am, with lunch at 1.30pm. Year 11 students are encouraged to attend a period 6 for three days each week. The purpose of this is to allow more time for embedding learning and provide opportunities for additional interventions.

Staff terms and conditions

Darwen Vale operates national teachers' terms and conditions. However, we are committed to recruiting the highest quality staff and, in return for commitment to the Academy day and our ethos, we offer a positive

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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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approach to employee wellbeing as well as more tangible benefits. A high priority is given to Continuing Professional Development and staff are encouraged to take advantage of appropriate opportunities.

All offers of employment are subject to satisfactory references, an enhanced DBS check and the successful completion of a six-month probationary period.

Further information about Darwen Vale High School can be found at www.darwenvale.com